



16 June 2023

ELUSIVE POLAR BEAR RHODODENDRON FOUND AT DRUM CASTLE, BANCHORY, ABERDEENSHIRE

This week, members of the Plant Listing at the National Trust for Scotland (PLANTS) team found the stunning 'Polar Bear' Rhododendron in early flower during their surveying of the Drum Castle grounds. The white flowering specimen was first spotted in July 2022 and the team were delighted to have captured the stunning images of it in full flower this year. (Accompanying images via link below)

PLANTS is the biggest horticultural audit project undertaken by the Trust. Running from June 2022 until March 2025, the regional project teams are recording an estimated 100,000 plants across 39 of National Trust for Scotland's major gardens and designed landscapes. The project will help the Trust celebrate, protect and better understand the flora and vegetation across the country, including many rare and important specimens.

Further information on the project can be found here: <https://www.nts.org.uk/what-we-do/gardens/plants-project>

ENDS

Editor's Notes:

Images of the Polar Bear Rhododendron at Drum: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAHZYf>
General Images of Drum Castle <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/FrxQqTX00r>

About the National Trust for Scotland

Established in 1931, the National Trust for Scotland is Scotland's largest conservation charity and cares for, shares and speaks up for Scotland's magnificent heritage.

Over the last 90 years the Trust has pioneered public access to and shared ownership of some of the most magnificent buildings, collections and landscapes in Scotland. It cares for more than 100 sites, from ancient houses to battlefields, castles, mills, gardens, coastlines, islands, mountain ranges and the plants and animals which depend upon them.

In March 2022 the National Trust for Scotland launched *Nature, Beauty & Heritage for Everyone*, its ten-year strategy which sets out the ambitions of the charity over the coming decade. From speaking up for Scotland's heritage which doesn't have a voice, to

improving the lives and wellbeing of people across the country, and responding to the climate and biodiversity crisis, the Trust will build on its work in recent years to grow its impact and conserve and restore more of Scotland's heritage, as it moves towards its centenary in 2031.

Scotland's largest membership organisation, the National Trust for Scotland relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work.

For more information on the National Trust for Scotland visit www.nts.org.uk.

The National Trust for Scotland is a charity registered in Scotland, Charity Number SC 007410.