

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

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Fundraising team walks over 800 miles in support of Culloden Battlefield

The team at National Trust for Scotland's Culloden Battlefield have reached over 800 miles in their worldwide fundraising drive which challenged people to follow in the footsteps of Bonnie Prince Charlie and his Jacobite army.

Taking place in the 275th anniversary year of the battle which ended the Jacobite rising of 1745, the Culloden Step Challenge has seen hundreds of supporters walk over 500,000 steps in six weeks, the same distance travelled by Bonnie Prince Charlie's army during the rebellion.

Money that has been raised will go into the Culloden Fighting Fund, which will help conservation charity the National Trust for Scotland protect and care for the land, and continue to challenge planning applications and developments which threaten the site where over 1500 Jacobites died in less than an hour of battle.

Supporters from the UK and across the world, including the USA, Denmark and Switzerland, have all taken on the 500,000 step challenge each, clocking up a total of over 15 million steps in support of the Culloden Fighting Fund.

Debbie Reid, Admissions and Membership Manager at Culloden Battlefield and Visitor Centre, took part in the challenge and explains that it's not too late to donate.

"We completed the Culloden Step Challenge on Sunday and would like to thank everyone who has supported us so far," said Debbie. "From fellow National Trust for Scotland members and four-legged friends taking part and clocking up the steps, to our wider volunteer community and visitor donations, each and every penny helps us to fight for and protect the battlefield here at Culloden.

"This challenge has not been an easy one and there have been a few aches and pains along the way, but it has been worthwhile, hugely rewarding and the team here at Culloden has loved hearing their updates along the way. That so many have got involved from all walks of life, and from all over the world, shows just how many people love this place and want to see it protected.

"Everyone who took part covered the same 500,000 steps that Charles Edward Stuart did during the 1745 Rising and the money that has been raised will help ensure that this battlefield is protected for generations to come."

To support the team in the Culloden Step Challenge a donation can be made at JustGiving <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/cullodenfightingfund>.

For more information on the Culloden Fighting fund visit <https://www.nts.org.uk/campaigns/cullodens-fighting-fund>.

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Picture 1: Dino the dachshund (two years old).

Picture 2: Culloden trio who have completed the Step Challenge, (L-R): Bethany Smith, Rebecca Macdonald and Debbie Reid.



Editor's Notes:

The National Trust for Scotland is the conservation charity that over 90 years has saved, maintained, and shared many of the country's most loved places, rich with history, heritage, nature, and culture. The charity celebrates Scotland's heritage and with almost 100 places in its care, there's a place for everyone to love.

The National Trust for Scotland relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work of caring for the natural and built heritage that people from Scotland and across the world all love, ensuring its future for everyone to enjoy.

From coastlines to castles, art to architecture, wildlife to wildernesses, the National Trust for Scotland protects the national and natural treasures we all love. Support the National Trust for Scotland and help them protect the places we all love Become a member at www.nts.org.uk.

We would be grateful if, when referring to the National Trust for Scotland that our name is not shortened to 'the National Trust'. We are an independent organisation, separate from the National Trust. The National Trust for Scotland is commonly shortened to NTS or 'the Trust'.

