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HAPPY CHILDHOOD MEMORIES AT TRUST'S SPECIAL PLACES INSPIRE PERTHSHIRE LOCAL'S CONSERVATION CAREER

- Perth native Angus Todd joins National Trust for Scotland as seasonal ranger
- Role at Killiecrankie will support nature conservation and visitor engagement
- New role supported by funds raised by players of People's Postcode Lottery
- Trust welcomes new ranger ahead of World Ranger Day on 31 July

Fond memories of days spent exploring the special places cared for by National Trust for Scotland as a child, inspired Perthshire local, Angus Todd, to follow a career in nature conservation.

After studying Geology at Edinburgh University and spending two summer seasons as a ranger in the Scottish Highlands alongside working in an outdoor shop during the winter, Angus joined the National Trust for Scotland as a seasonal ranger at Killiecrankie, near Pitlochry, to help it protect Scotland's natural heritage.

Angus, grew up in Perth and spent his childhood visiting the local properties Scotland's largest independent conservation charity protected. He developed a love for the countryside during this time that inspired him to pursue a career in nature conservation and become an environmental advocate to share his passion for the outdoors.

His new role as Ranger at Killiecrankie will see him engaging with visitors, carrying our habitat monitoring including surveying butterflies and searching for endangered orchids to uprooting non-native invasive species, as well as maintaining the network of footpaths to ensure access for the public. The knowledge and data collected will help the Trust and inform management and conservation of the site in the future.

Angus Todd, National Trust for Scotland Seasonal Ranger at Killiecrankie, said:

"I have always loved the countryside and being outdoors. It brings me an enormous sense of joy working outside and sharing this passion with other people. Growing up in an age where the growing threat of climate change and its visible impact on the environment is more prevalent than ever before has instilled a great desire in me to do 'my bit' to safeguard these spaces and protect these delicate habitats and ecosystems to encourage our wildlife to thrive.

"Having grown up in Perth, I was always visiting the National Trust for Scotland's places in Perthshire. I have many happy memories exploring the Hermitage as a kid, being amongst the gigantic trees and remember the feeling of how exciting it was going into Ossian's Hall and seeing the waterfall. Another favourite was the woods of Killiecrankie,

and its wealth of flora and fauna that has always stuck in my mind, so I feel truly privileged to be able to spend time here each day and call it my place of work.

"With such powerful memories and positive connections to these places, I admire and appreciate the work of the Trust in keeping them well-maintained and open to the public. When the seasonal ranger role came up with the charity and the chance to contribute to its work to protect these outdoor spaces and share my passion for nature with the public it was too good an opportunity to miss. Working with like-minded people and learning from those who have a genuine care for the outdoors is something I'm really looking forward to.

"One of my main goals during the season is to inspire others and help to create connections between people and the environment. By working as a ranger, I want to encourage the public to explore, experience and learn about the environment and the history of the area. I hope this will help to instil a love for nature that motivates them to spend more time outdoors, that will not only benefit their health and well-being, but also support the work of the National Trust for Scotland to continue to protect our natural heritage, now and for future generations to enjoy.

"By engaging with the public and inspiring visitors of all ages, I hope to encourage long term support of the Trust by sharing an understanding of the importance of its conservation work and vital environmental stewardship efforts to provide access and enjoyment to Scotland's nature, beauty and heritage for everyone. It is thanks to the continued generosity of our members alongside the funds raised by players of People's Postcode Lottery that have supported my role and enabled the charity to protect and promote the wildlife, nature and landscapes in its care for the benefit of everyone, now and into the future."

Players have supported the conservation charity's Love Our Nature project since 2022 which benefited from £900k last year. Further funding will support conservation work at Killiecrankie and across a variety of different habitats including coastal and marine areas, peatlands, wetlands, woodland, and eight National Nature Reserves cared for by the Trust.

Head of Charities at <u>People's Postcode Lottery</u>, Laura Chow, said: "It's always great to hear how the funds raised by our players are helping to support the work of the National Trust for Scotland. I'm sure Angus will be a true champion for nature, and we wish him the best of luck in his new role."

Players of People's Postcode Lottery have now raised over £3.4m since 2014 to support the National Trust for Scotland. The funds are awarded through Postcode Earth Trust.

The National Trust for Scotland welcomed Angus' appointment ahead of World Ranger Day on 31 July, an International Ranger Federation (IRF) initiative to celebrate the achievements of rangers across the globe.

The Love Our Nature project supports the National Trust for Scotland's vision to care for, protect and share Scotland's nature, beauty and heritage for everyone, as outlined in its 10-year strategy, launched in 2022. For more information on the National Trust for Scotland, visit www.nts.org.uk.

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Notes to editors:

Images: https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/W97D7G7603

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.