



20 December 2023

HISTORIC MILL VISIT LED TO £2.4 MILLION DONATION FOR NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND

As Christmas approaches, conservation charity, the National Trust for Scotland has received a major gift of £2.4 million from a donor after a visit to Barry Mill, Carnoustie.

The donor, from Fife, visited the historic B Listed mill earlier this year. He was impressed by the recent restoration work already carried out to the structure of the mill and by the knowledge of the team who welcomed him. Following the visit, he made an immediate five figure donation to facilitate further major repair work needed to the large mill wheel.

Subsequently, he has delivered a significant Christmas gift of £2.4 million to the National Trust for Scotland which is one of the largest single donations from a living donor in the history of the charity's 90 plus years. This transformational gift recognises the Trust's work to protect Scotland's heritage and will be used to support the conservation charity's activity, particularly in Fife, Angus, Perthshire and Aberdeenshire.

Restoration work at Barry Mill is already underway and visitors will be able to experience this first-hand when it re-opens to the public on 21 March. The mill is the last water-powered mill to have worked in Angus. Historical records show that there has been a mill on the site since at least 1539, though it ceased milling oatmeal and animal feeds by 1982. It is one of only very few extant mills powered by water. It was rebuilt after a fire around 1814 and is a fine example of its type of grain mill.

Chief Executive Philip Long OBE said: "All at our charity are incredibly grateful for this wonderful, generous gift which is so vital as we work to protect and share Scotland's nature, beauty and heritage. It is especially heartening that it was the powerful combination of our special places and people which inspired this substantial signal of support."

The gift comes during a record year for charitable donations to the conservation charity which cares for and protects special places all over Scotland from Rockcliffe in the south to Fair Isle in the north, with more than £10.8 million raised so far in 2023. £5.1 million of this has come from gifts in wills and £5.7 million has come from donors and supporters responding to appeals, members of its Patrons Club and Founders Circle, corporate supporters and grant funders.

Mr Long continued: “During this festive season, we want to say thank you to everyone who has supported our charity in 2023. Whether responding to our appeals for seabirds or for footpaths, playing our lottery, dedicating a tree, or leaving a gift to the National Trust for Scotland in your will, every contribution, large and small, is appreciated, and together with the support of our loyal members, enables our charity to continue conserving and protecting Scotland’s heritage for everyone to enjoy.”

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Notes to editors

Images: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/WX1Ngw15dT>

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. The Trust’s Gardens Strategy ‘Connecting People, Plants and Places 2023-32’ sets out the Trust’s ambition for its gardens during the Corporate Strategy period.

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.