

## **NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Rare species set to thrive in new Inverewe glasshouse**

Inverewe's huge and unusual plant collections will blossom at the National Trust for Scotland garden for years to come, as a new glasshouse is now in operation.

The top quality facilities were installed over the winter at the Wester Ross garden on the edge of Loch Ewe is owned and cared for by the charity that conserves and promotes Scotland's heritage.

Glasshouses are essential at Inverewe because of its founder, Osgood Mackenzie's, pioneering approach to plant collecting, which included importing many tropical and half-hardy species which need the right conditions to propagate. The new facilities will ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy these rare and exotic plants.

The opening is being carried out by David Knott, D.H.E. (RBGE) Curator of Living Collections at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh. Trust Chairman Sir Moir Lockhead was also be in attendance.

Property manager Kevin Frediani said:

"The heart of a great garden is its nursery. Join us in celebrating the start of a new age in propagation of the living collection at the award-winning Inverewe Garden. We are rejuvenating a unique diversity of plants that have been in cultivation since 1863. This exciting and significant £500,000 investment will help to conserve the past and grow the garden of the future."

The Inverewe team welcomed colleagues from the horticultural world to the garden to see the new spaces and learn more about the important work that the charity that conserves and promotes Scotland's heritage will carry out there.

Located on Scotland's West Coast, Inverewe is home to thousands of important and unusual species from all over the world, from its large leafed rhododendrons and Olearias to its 'Savage Garden' of carnivorous plants.

The glasshouse, which cost £500,000 built by AJ Engineering, working in partnership with Smiemans.

The glasshouse has separate areas for potting, propagation, succulents and half-hardy plants. It incorporates computerised climate control, mist benches, automatic ridge ventilation and overhead shading systems, all supporting more practical, integrated and flexible working arrangements. There will be a small office for plant collection management (accessions, recording and labelling). Outside there is a rain-water harvesting set-up, collecting into an above-ground storage tank. Some of the new cold frames will be heated. With direct vehicle access, operational efficiency will be greatly enhanced. The new polytunnel has sides which can be opened up for ventilation. It will really be useful to store potted plants and harden off tender specimens before planting out.

Kevin Ball, Head Gardener said:

“These new facilities will create exciting opportunities for the way we garden in this remote area of the highlands. We are looking to reinvigorate the national plant collections we hold, re-establish the *Brachyglottis* collection and develop others for the future. Following Osgood Mackenzie’s pioneering approach of pushing the planting boundaries ever further, we will offer the visiting public the attraction of a wider range of vibrant half-hardy species and exotic plants. We are confident that it will help us to contribute strongly to Scotland’s, and the Trust’s horticultural heritage, and take forward Inverewe’s tradition of ‘gardening on the edge.’”

This was the latest development at the garden which has benefited from more than £2 million investment in recent years. Inverewe House threw open its doors to visitors for the first time in September 2016 after a major refurbishment and restoration project aimed at sharing and celebrating the story of the garden and its pioneering founders to life for visitors.

Inverewe Garden is a lush oasis perched on a peninsula at the shores of Loch Ewe amid the rugged landscape of Wester Ross. This world-famous historic garden is one of Scotland’s most popular botanical attractions. Inverewe’s diverse plants flourish here, despite the northerly latitude, thanks to the warm currents of the Gulf Stream and the foresight of its founder, Osgood Mackenzie, who planted over 100 acres of woodland to shelter the garden.

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**Editor’s Notes:**

**Images from the opening event, photo credit Alison White:**

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