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JACKIE BIRD JOINS THE TEAM AT GLENCOE TO HELP PROTECT THE ICONIC NATURE RESERVE

- **National Trust for Scotland President Jackie Bird joined the ranger team at Glencoe National Nature Reserve to support vital conservation work**
- **Jackie became a ranger for a day to experience the important work taking place at Glencoe made possible thanks to funding raised by players of People's Postcode Lottery and others**
- **Jackie helped the rangers to care for this special landscape by assisting with a camping patrol, litter picking, invasive species removal and visitor engagement**

Braving heavy rain and Met Office weather warnings, National Trust for Scotland President Jackie Bird joined the team at Glencoe National Nature Reserve to become a countryside ranger for the day to experience the important work they do to care for this iconic Scottish mountain landscape.

The conservation charity's President joined members of the ranger team at Glencoe to help with the vital work they carry out on the nature reserve, renowned for its scenery, nature and geology, to manage the impacts of increased visitor numbers and effects of climate change.

Glencoe is one of Scotland's busiest National Nature Reserves, with over 2 million vehicles driving through on the A82 each year. The National Trust for Scotland's visitor centre here has seen a 30% rise in visitors compared to 2022, welcoming over 270,000 people since the beginning of this year. This growth in visitors makes the rangers' work even more crucial.

Balancing nature conservation with responsible enjoyment and access is at the heart of the National Trust for Scotland's activities in Glencoe and Glen Etive. Keen to lend her support, Jackie Bird put on her waterproofs and got stuck into various tasks to assist Glencoe's rangers including a camping patrol, litter picking, invasive and non-native *Rhododendron ponticum* and Sitka spruce removal, and engaging with visitors on its Land Rover Safari experience.

Jackie Bird, National Trust for Scotland President, said: "The opportunity to experience the wet, wild and wonderful landscape of Glencoe National Nature Reserve from the perspective of the rangers who do amazing work to care for this special place was too good to miss – even in some very real-life Scottish weather conditions. I've really

enjoyed getting to know the team here who work tirelessly to protect Glencoe's natural assets from increased visitors and changes to our environment. It demonstrates the need for this vital conservation work to continue and the importance of the generous support provided by National Trust for Scotland members and donors, as without that, none of this would be possible.

"In addition to the invaluable support of our members, the work taking place at Glencoe has been strengthened by generous funding, including support from players of People's Postcode Lottery. Since 2014, players of the lottery have raised over £2.5 million for the National Trust for Scotland to support its work to enrich and protect Scotland's landscapes and wildlife. At Glencoe, support has helped with habitat restoration projects as well as expanding the team to bring in additional rangers like Lindsay Warner. Lindsay's role is important to ensure that visitors experience the glen's stunning scenery and wildlife without leaving a negative impact behind, while also entertaining and educating them about Glencoe's history and nature on the Land Rover Safari Experience.

"NatureScot's Better Places Fund, together with many private individuals, has also supported wider conservation work at Glencoe with funding used to employ seasonal rangers. These bolster the team during the busy season to assist with daily duties carried out on the nature reserve, such as camping patrols and visitor engagement."

Figures from the ranger team show an 18% rise in 2023 in the number of tent campers and a 10% rise in the number of campervans/motorhomes stopping overnight and the Ranger team has engaged with around 600 people this year, chatting with campers and sharing useful advice on how to "leave no trace". Although this helps reduce the amount of littering and irresponsible behaviour the team encounter, visitors still leave their mark, with Trust staff and volunteers carrying out over 200 hours of litter picking earlier this year, collecting more than 200 bags of waste.

Emily Bryce, National Trust for Scotland Operations Manager at Glencoe, said: "It's been great to welcome Jackie to Glencoe and have her experience life as one of our rangers. Their work is essential to our mission of balancing sustainable tourism and access alongside conservation of the flora and fauna that call this special place home. Whether picking up litter, clearing firepit damage or helping us remove invasive Rhododendron and Sitka spruce, Jackie was up for anything, while enduring some very dramatic Highlands weather, and we can't thank her enough for her time and support."

Head of Charities at [People's Postcode Lottery](#), Laura Chow, said: "We're thrilled that players are able to support organisations like the National Trust for Scotland in their efforts to care for some of our country's most important and iconic landscapes. Scotland's National Nature Reserves are home to a diverse range of rare and remarkable plant and wildlife, so it's great to see the benefits of player support in action. Funding is supporting vital projects such as habitat restoration, species

monitoring, and visitor engagement, and is helping to protect these incredible locations for future generations to come.”

Support from players of People’s Postcode Lottery’s Love Our Nature project and other organisations, visitors, members and donors ensure the delivery of the National Trust for Scotland’s vision of nature, beauty and heritage for everyone. These projects contribute to its 10-year strategy, launched in 2022, and supports its conservation objectives to stabilise and improve the condition of its estate, enable nature to flourish and enrich Scotland’s protected heritage.

For more information on the National Trust for Scotland or the National Nature Reserves in its care, visit www.nts.org.uk.

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Notes to editors

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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.