

11th September 2025

KELLIE CASTLE'S HISTORIC GARDEN RECEIVES ORGANIC STAMP OF APPROVAL

- **The historic garden at the Trust's Kellie Castle in Fife has been granted full organic status from the Soil Association.**
- **The Soil Association Organic Standard outlines the organic principles and criteria required for produce to meet the highest standards.**
- **Kellie Castle is the first of the National Trust for Scotland's gardens to receive the official accreditation.**

The historic garden at the National Trust for Scotland's Kellie Castle in Fife has officially been accredited with full organic status from the Soil Association.

The Arts & Crafts garden received its first organic accreditation from the Soil Association in 2023 for its annual vegetable crops, followed by the certification of the garden's top fruit, ranging from apples, pears, and plums, in 2024. The garden has now achieved full organic status this year, following the two-year project. The Soil Association is the leading certification organisation for organic products in the UK, and its Organic Standard outlines a series of organic principles, providing a rigorous set of criteria that ensures produce meets the highest standards.

The garden, which has been managed organically for three decades, surrounds the castle with its impressive walled garden, backyard, and polytunnels, featuring herbaceous borders and filled with an array of fruit, vegetables, and flowers. The castle was saved in the late 19th century by the Lorimer family, who are largely responsible for the garden's design and structure, which the Trust gardeners work with today.

Mark Armour, Head Gardener for East Fife at the National Trust for Scotland, said: "We are absolutely delighted to have received the organic stamp of approval from the Soil Association. Applying organic principles creates a sustainable and balanced ecosystem and allows the garden to flourish with little intervention. The garden has now reached an equilibrium where nature looks after itself without the use of any artificial chemicals or fertilisers, which fits with the Trust's environmental strategy."

Catriona Peattie, the Trust's Operations Manager for Kellie Castle, said: "This official certification will be the first within the National Trust for Scotland and is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the garden team at Kellie Castle. We're really pleased that this iconic garden has received the Soil Association Organic Standard and that visitors to the garden can enjoy its fantastic organic produce firsthand."

For more information about Kellie Castle and its organic garden, visit <https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/kellie-castle>.

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Notes to Editors:

Images: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/pk13jHQ28m>

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.

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.