

5 August 2025

LANDSLIP ON ST KILDA AFTER STORM FLORIS HITS

Heavy rainfall associated with Storm Floris has caused a significant landslip on the St Kilda World Heritage Site.

The remote archipelago off the west coast of is cared for by the National Trust for Scotland and is the UK's only dual UNESCO world heritage site designated for both its cultural and environmental significance.

Tons of mud and stone were swept down the hillside damaging some of the unique cleits and demolishing drystone dyke enclosures at the bottom of the slope.

A full assessment of the damage will be undertaken by St Kilda Archaeologist, Clare Henderson when it is safe to access the area later this week.

Property Manager Susan Bain said: "Landslips like this are rare on St Kilda and we have not seen anything on this scale in recent decades. Sadly, as we continue to see the impacts of changing weather patterns through climate change, heavy summer rainfall events are predicted to increase in frequency and intensity, so it may be something that happens more frequently. We will work with our partners, including Historic Environment Scotland, to repair damage and investigate future mitigation."

Almost all National Trust for Scotland properties were closed yesterday due to Storm Floris. Today, teams are clearing up after trees have come down, with some sites without power. The charity is reminding visitors to check www.nts.org.uk and property social media before travelling.

Donations to support the charity's work to care for St Kilda can be made at <https://www.nts.org.uk/campaigns/caring-for-st-kilda>.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

Images: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/8Hk2Z63vX2>

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, 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.