

For immediate release: 1 September 2020



Local street artist commissioned to cover graffiti tags at Inveresk Gardens

A gate along the River Esk is now home to a colourful kingfisher mural after the National Trust for Scotland commissioned a street artist from Kilmarnock to cover up graffiti tags. The kingfisher bird can be spotted nesting alongside the river during summer months.

The National Trust for Scotland owns and cares for Inveresk Lodge Garden in Musselburgh and approached artist, Tragic O’Hara, to create a piece of artwork that could be enjoyed by walkers and cyclists using the Esk Walkway.

Artist Tragic O’Hara, added: “When the team at the Trust got in touch, I was really excited to hear that they wanted me to cover up some graffiti tags with artwork. I work a lot with youth groups, encouraging young people to develop their graffiti skills as art, I hope seeing this wall will inspire youngsters to be more creative.

“The path along the river is buzzing with nature and greenery, and I was careful to make sure the kingfisher blended in with its surroundings. It took me a total of eight hours to complete and I’m really happy with how it has turned out. It was great to get positive feedback from people passing by - it was just a shame that we didn’t spot any actual kingfishers on the day.”

Claire Grant, Operations Manager at Inveresk Gardens, said: “The Esk Walkway is a well-used path and with people enjoying their local outdoor spaces more than ever, we were conscious that the graffiti was a bit of an eyesore. Tragic O’Hara has covered it with bright graffiti-style art and we love that there’s a nod to the kingfisher – you’re lucky if you spot one along the river but they’re such a beautiful species.”

Watch Tragic O’Hara create the mural at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFBKBd5gomY>.

The National Trust for Scotland celebrates Scotland's heritage and relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work of caring for the natural and built heritage of Scotland for everyone to enjoy. Find out more at www.nts.org.uk

ENDS

**Issued on behalf of National Trust for Scotland by Frame PR. For media enquiries contact:
Mamta Kakaiya, 07876 835 744, Mamta.Kakaiya@framecreates.co.uk
Katie Brunsmann, 07944 429 213, Katie.Brunsmann@framecreates.co.uk**

Editor's Notes:

The National Trust for Scotland can also be referred to as *the Trust* or *NTS*

The National Trust for Scotland is the charity that celebrates and protects Scotland's heritage. It relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work of caring for the natural and built heritage of Scotland for everyone to enjoy.

From coastlines to castles, art to architecture, wildlife to wildernesses, the National Trust for Scotland exists to protect the national and natural treasures we all love. To plan your visit today, enter your postcode at www.nts.org.uk.

