



5 June 2023

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK AS NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MARKS THE START OF VOLUNTEERS' WEEK

- **Staff from National Trust for Scotland and People's Postcode Lottery volunteered at Ben Lawers National Nature Reserve**
- **Volunteers assisted with preparation for conservation project at the reserve to mark the start of Volunteers' Week from 1 - 7 June**
- **Celebration of vital contribution made by volunteers to the conservation charity throughout the year**

The National Trust for Scotland celebrated the start of Volunteers' Week on Thursday 1 June by welcoming volunteers to Ben Lawers National Nature Reserve to assist with preparation for a new conservation project.

Members of staff from the conservation charity alongside the communications team from People's Postcode Lottery, based in Edinburgh, visited the nature reserve near Killin, to help remove fencing in preparation for a new conservation project. This project, inspired by the successful use of GPS software in the collars of cows for conservation grazing at the Trust's Threave estate, will see cattle grazing an area of the nature reserve, to benefit open ground habitats and promote natural regeneration of woodland and scrub.

Members of the team from People's Postcode Lottery showed their support for the National Trust for Scotland by joining the Trust's Volunteers' Week activity at Ben Lawers. This comes after it was recently announced that Postcode Earth Trust would continue to support the Trust's vital conservation work at the National Nature Reserves in its care through additional funding, thanks to players of People's Postcode Lottery, who have now raised more than £1.1 billion for thousands of charities and local good causes. This includes a total of over £2.5m for the National Trust for Scotland to support its work to enrich and protect Scotland's natural heritage, since 2014.

Funding from the Love Our Nature project by People's Postcode Lottery has been confirmed for 2023/24 that will support conservation at Ben Lawers National Nature Reserve including the appointment of two seasonal staff, an ecologist, Lewis Donaghy, who will monitor mountain plant life on the reserve's seven Munros, and a ranger, James McGurk, who will engage with visitors, carry out vital maintenance work on footpaths to protect the landscape and contribute to the pioneering habitat restoration.

Helen Cole, National Trust for Scotland Property Manager at Ben Lawers, said: "As a conservation charity we benefit from the generous support of a host of volunteers who give up their time to help us care for and protect some of Scotland's most important natural and cultural heritage. Over 2000 volunteers work alongside members of the Trust's staff throughout the year at our historic properties and countryside places, like Ben Lawers, to assist with collections care, visitor engagement and important habitat restoration and conservation work. Volunteering provides a great opportunity to give something back while also having positive benefits to health and wellbeing, with volunteers learning new skills and boosting self-esteem.

"Alongside the support of our members and donors, the additional funding provided through the Love Our Nature project by People's Postcode Lottery enhances the work of the Trust and helps us to advance our charity's species monitoring, habitat restoration and regeneration work, allowing us to preserve Scotland's landscape and wildlife for future generations to enjoy. This funding has also enabled the Trust to leverage further support from our donors by unlocking funding from a wider supporter base, for which we're very grateful. Conservation projects at our National Nature Reserves support our objectives to improve the condition of our estate, enrich Scotland's protected heritage and enable nature to flourish, outlined in our 10-year Nature, Beauty & Heritage for Everyone strategy."

Head of Charities at [People's Postcode Lottery](#), Laura Chow, said: "We're delighted that members of our team were able to assist the Trust by volunteering their support to the team at Ben Lawers in preparation for their new conservation project. This is thanks to funds raised by players across Britain who have raised over £2.5 million for the National Trust for Scotland. This support enables their vital work in maintaining and protecting our natural landscape now and into the future."

The National Trust for Scotland provides a variety of opportunities to volunteer at its places across the length and breadth of the country. Those wishing to lend their support can find further details about volunteering opportunities at their local National Trust for Scotland property or by visiting <https://www.nts.org.uk/volunteering-jobs>. Volunteers' Week is the national awareness week to celebrate the contributions made by volunteers across the UK and the wider benefits of becoming a volunteer.

The work at Ben Lawers National Nature Reserve is one of many projects contributing to the National Trust for Scotland's 10-year Nature, Beauty & Heritage for Everyone 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 and the National Nature Reserves in its care, visit www.nts.org.uk.

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Editor's Notes:

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.