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MOTH MAVEN BRINGS EXPERTISE TO RANGER ROLE AT GREY MARE'S TAIL IN DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

- **Ishbel Hayes joins National Trust for Scotland as seasonal ranger at nature reserve**
- **Role encompasses visitor engagement and nature conservation including rare alpine plant monitoring**
- **New role supported by funds raised by players of People's Postcode Lottery**
- **Trust welcomes new ranger ahead of World Ranger Day on 31 July**

The National Trust for Scotland has welcomed a new ranger to its ranks to support the charity with its nature conservation work at Grey Mare's Tail, near Moffat in Dumfries and Galloway.

Ishbel Hayes joined Scotland's largest independent conservation charity at the nature reserve in May after recently completing a Phd studying the impact of light pollution on moth populations. Ishbel brings her expertise in ecology to assist the Trust's vital work to care for, protect and share the biodiversity of the beautiful landscape at Grey Mare's Tail for the benefit and enjoyment of everyone.

After completing an undergraduate degree in Ecology at the University of Aberdeen, Ishbel caught the conservation bug and developed her skills further by volunteering and undertaking work placements with various nature conservation organisations. Ishbel volunteered with the National Trust for Scotland at Ben Lawers National Nature Reserve to assist with species monitoring and visitor engagement events, contributed to seabird monitoring on Skokholm island, a bird observatory off the Pembrokeshire coast, managed by the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales, and also completed a work placement to identify best practice in large scale species monitoring with Butterfly Conservation during her Phd.

Ishbel Hayes, National Trust for Scotland seasonal ranger at Grey Mare's Tail, said:

"Growing up in a rural area of Scotland and spending holidays in remote parts of the UK, I have always loved nature, so I feel incredibly privileged to be joining the National Trust for Scotland to help them with their important work to care for and protect our country's natural heritage. Having previously volunteered with the Trust at Ben Lawers National Nature Reserve in Perthshire, I have witnessed the valuable contribution the charity makes to nature conservation in Scotland so I'm keen to get stuck in and lend my support and expertise to the cause. I'm excited to spend the season as a Ranger at Grey Mare's Tail where my role will include welcoming visitors to the nature reserve and also contribute to the monitoring and conservation of the flora and fauna within this stunning landscape.

“With the ongoing challenges presented by climate change that is contributing to a reduction in biodiversity and loss of habitats, the work I will be doing to monitor plant and wildlife species is increasingly important. A personal goal during my time as seasonal ranger at Grey Mare’s Tail is to carry out moth monitoring on the reserve. This will provide additional data and knowledge on the insect species present within the landscape which can be a good indicator of environmental change and the impact of habitat management as insects respond more rapidly than other groups.

“Volunteering with the National Trust for Scotland and Butterfly Conservation has shown me how effective targeted intervention can be to conserve important habitats and the species within them, a practice I hope to contribute to throughout my career. It is thanks to the continued generosity of our members, alongside the funds raised by players of People’s Postcode Lottery, that have supported my role and enabled the charity to protect and promote the wildlife, nature and landscapes in its care for the benefit of everyone, now and into the future.”

Players have supported the conservation charity’s Love Our Nature project since 2022 which benefited from £900k last year. Further funding will support conservation work at Grey Mare’s tail and across a variety of different habitats including coastal and marine areas, peatlands, wetlands, woodland, and eight National Nature Reserves cared for by the Trust.

Head of Charities at [People’s Postcode Lottery](#), Laura Chow, said: “We’re delighted funds raised by our players are being used to support the recruitment of skilled and knowledgeable staff like Ishbel. We’re sure she’ll make an important contribution to the Trust’s nature conservation work and wish her well.”

Players of People’s Postcode Lottery have now raised over £3.4m since 2014 to support the National Trust for Scotland. The funds are awarded through Postcode Earth Trust.

The National Trust for Scotland welcomed Ishbel’s appointment ahead of World Ranger Day on 31 July, an International Ranger Federation (IRF) initiative to celebrate the achievements of rangers across the globe.

The Love Our Nature project supports the National Trust for Scotland’s vision to care for, protect and share Scotland’s nature, beauty and heritage for everyone, as outlined in its 10-year strategy, launched in 2022. For more information on the National Trust for Scotland, visit www.nts.org.uk.

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Notes to editors:

Images: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/64M70F5299>

[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.