



## **NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE**

**3 December 2021**

### **National Trust For Scotland Creates New Culloden Podcast**

A new five part podcast that takes a fresh look at the Battle of Culloden has been created by the National Trust for Scotland, the conservation charity that owns and manages the battlefield.

Researched and written by volunteers at the historic site's visitor centre, The Road to Culloden has been recorded by veteran broadcaster Clare English and tracks the 1745 Jacobite Rising from the West Highlands, across Scotland, down into England, and back up to the Highlands again.

It follows the deadly game of cat and mouse between Government and Jacobite forces concluding with the final conflict at the Battle of Culloden, the last pitched battle fought on British soil, the impact of which still resonates today.

Four volunteers - Peter Cowe, John Easson, Ewan MacNiven and Emma Tautscher - spent months piecing together information from a variety of sources. The script was then checked by the National Trust for Scotland's own historians before being given the seal of approval from Professor Murray Pittock, the charity's historical advisor and a world expert on Culloden.

The Road to Culloden podcast has been supported by many experts and members of the public, passionate about the history of place and people, both before and after the battle. The charity are deeply grateful to those who shared their expert knowledge and donated to make this series possible, including eminent military historian Christopher Duffy, NTS Foundation USA, donors to Culloden's Fighting Fund, and Professor Murray Pittock, the charity's historical advisor and a world expert on Culloden.

Each 15 minute episode takes a different point of the story as its theme, and a new one will be released every four weeks between now and April, marking the end of the commemoration of the 275th anniversary of the battle. It also begins Culloden's programme of 'war stories' which will run over the next two of years, tying in with VisitScotland's 2022 year of storytelling.

Raoul Curtis-Machin, Operations Manager at Culloden oversaw the project and believes that even those who think they know the story of the battle will find new elements to discover.

“There will definitely be material that will surprise people,” he says. “There’s so much to the story that going in to depth like this gives the chance to reflect more. The skill in putting together the podcast has been to keep the story moving and to bring the drama in, almost like a newspaper report saying what was happening where and who was doing what. It’s a pretty high octane story.

“For me, the most fascinating parts are the secretive political machinations that went on behind the scenes. That side of the history is fascinating.”

As well as unpicking the knotty history of the battle, the podcast hopes to draw attention to the need to preserve the site, and calls for the public to support [Culloden’s Fighting Fund](#).

Raoul explains: “We’re asking people to donate to our Fighting Fund as battlefields are under more threat than ever. It takes up a huge amount of our time trying to fight development threats. Yes, there’s a planning system but it’s reliant on people having the time, resources and expertise to try and fight and protect the sites. That’s why we need help to safeguard this extraordinary, emotive place.”

The first episode of the Road to Culloden podcast is available to download from all major providers including Apple, Spotify and Amazon.

[www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/culloden](http://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/culloden)  
[www.nts.org.uk/campaigns/cullodens-fighting-fund](http://www.nts.org.uk/campaigns/cullodens-fighting-fund)

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Free use images show the Culloden Battlefield and visitor centre  
- <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/C2KgD5>

### **Editor’s Notes:**

The National Trust for Scotland is the conservation charity that over 90 years has saved, maintained, and shared many of the country’s most loved places, rich with history, heritage, nature, and culture. The charity celebrates Scotland’s heritage and with almost 100 places in its care, there’s a place for everyone to love.

The National Trust for Scotland relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work of caring for the natural and built heritage that people from Scotland and across the world all love, ensuring its future for everyone to enjoy.

From coastlines to castles, art to architecture, wildlife to wildernesses, the National Trust for Scotland protects the national and natural treasures we all love. Support the National Trust for Scotland and help them protect the places we all love Become a member at [www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk).

We would be grateful if, when referring to the National Trust for Scotland that our name is not shortened to 'the National Trust'. We are an independent organisation, separate from the National Trust. The National Trust for Scotland is commonly shortened to NTS or 'the Trust'.