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NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MOVES FORWARD ON UNST PROJECT

The National Trust for Scotland has appointed an Unst Project Development Manager to steer the next phase of its Halligarth project over the next 18 months.

Shetland-based construction specialist Stewart Douglas will take on the role with the conservation charity, working closely with the local community on Unst, and contractors, conservators and stakeholders, to renew the conservation activity and visitor experience at Halligarth House and Gardens.

The concept for the refreshed project is to use the concept of Halligarth's citizen scientists, the Saxby and Edmonton families. This local dynasty of physicians and natural scientists wrote and published works on the birds of Shetland, as well as pioneering conservation work.

New manager Stewart Douglas has lived in Shetland for over a decade, working with many local businesses and organisations on construction/civil engineering design; project management; and health, safety, quality, and environmental management projects throughout Shetland and beyond.

Sheona Leonard, the National Trust for Scotland's Operations Manager for Canna, Fair Isle and Shetland Isles, said: 'With Stewart appointed as our new Project Development Manager on Unst, the National Trust for Scotland looks forward to moving forward with our plans to conserve Halligarth House and the wider estate, engaging with the local community and other stakeholders as part of that process. Moving this project forward will support our conservation objectives but also improve interpretation of the wider estate. We are excited about the next phase of our work to protect it and look forward to sharing it with locals and visitors to Unst.'

Stewart Douglas added: 'As a regular visitor to Unst, it's a privilege to be able to contribute to the island's development through this new role, helping to protect its cultural and natural heritage and make it relevant to more people. With a career spanning almost 45 years in the construction industry, it's exciting to use my expertise to work with the National Trust for Scotland to conserve this historic house and its surrounding landscape.'

Halligarth House and Gardens, and other properties in the estate, lie on the edge of the rural community of Baltasound and were gifted to the National Trust for Scotland in

2000 by the Sandison family. The estate includes the British Isles' most northerly woodland.

ENDS

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.