

2 April 2024

National Trust for Scotland commemorates Culloden 277 years on

- **Conservation charity to mark 277th anniversary with in-person and online events**
- **Events include unveiling of Culloden Memories exhibition and virtual battlefield tour**
- **Gaelic Society of Inverness will lead annual service at memorial cairn**

This April, people from across the world will come together with the National Trust for Scotland to mark the 277th anniversary of the Battle of Culloden with a series of events. For those who cannot attend in person, there will content online as well, including a virtual tour of the battlefield.

The anniversary weekend, on 14-16 April, will include the annual commemoration service led by the Gaelic Society of Inverness at the memorial cairn. The services first took place at the memorial cairn in 1925 and have continued, in one form or another, to this day. This year's service, at 11am on 15 April, will include wreaths being laid and a piper.

The Battle of Culloden, which took place on 16 April 1746, was part of a civil war that would decide the ruler of Great Britain and ultimately have a global impact. It saw over 1500 lives lost in the space of an hour. The anniversary service and commemoration events organised by the conservation charity this year will bring people together in-person and online to commemorate the fallen on both the Jacobite and Government sides.

Gail Cleaver, Operations Manager for the National Trust for Scotland's Culloden Cluster, commented, "Culloden is a powerful and evocative historic site, and the story of the battle and its aftermath have global relevance and interest. We look forward to welcoming our visitors to the site for our commemoration weekend and exploring the story of Culloden together – mindful not just of the events and legacies of the battle, but of the impacts of war and civil war on the lives of people around the world today."

The events planned for this year's commemoration will include in-person seminars, livestreams and a digital tour of the site, in addition to the Gaelic Society of Inverness service. They include the launch of an exhibition, Culloden Memories, which has seen people from all over the world sending in their memories, photographs, and mementos of the site and will cover the social history of the battlefield since 1746.

Other events and livestreams running across the commemoration weekend will include:

- Keynote lecture with National Trust for Scotland's Head of Archaeology Derek Alexander and historian Dr Darren Layne on Landscapes, Legacies and Traitors, including research on turncoats and new evidence from recent archaeological digs at Culloden.
- Leading Jacobite scholars from Scotland, Canada and the United States of America , including Professor Murray Pittock of the University of Glasgow, discussing the diaspora after Culloden and the legacy of the Jacobite rising.
- An immersive virtual visit to the battlefield to 'walk' around Culloden Moor

Gail Cleaver continued: "We welcome the growing interest in Culloden and its stories, and look forward to extending people's knowledge of and sense of engagement with the battle, the events that preceded and followed it, and people's memories of it over the course of our commemoration events on 14-16 April. As at all times of year, we would ask all visitors to the commemoration service events to show respect to the site, and in particular to the graves area of the battlefield, remembering that over 1500 people lost their lives here.

"We will ask all visitors to the commemoration to help us care for this special place, by giving space to areas that shown signs of high footfall or damage. We're grateful for people's support and co-operation in this, as well as for the support from National Trust for Scotland members, donors and visitors. This is vital in enabling us to care for Culloden and our other special places in support of our conservation and engagement objectives and our vision of nature, beauty and heritage for everyone."

For more information about the Culloden 277th anniversary events and speakers, and to book your place, you can visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/cc/anniversary-of-the-battle-of-culloden-1744149>

More information about Culloden and how to visit is available at:
<https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/culloden>

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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.