



21 August 2023

NEW TRUST AMBASSADOR SHARES HER LOVE OF SEAS

Conservation charity the National Trust for Scotland has appointed Dr Cal Major, vet, adventurer and advocate for the oceans and nature, to a new volunteer role of 'ambassador' today.

Cal spends much of her time on and in the sea around Scotland and is based in Ullapool. She speaks passionately about the positive impact that the sea has on her own mental health, as well as strongly promoting the need for improved protections for the seas and marine environments.

She has recently visited the Treshnish Isles, the newest property to come into the care of the conservation charity and has made a video of the experience (available [here](#)).

The role of ambassador will help the National Trust for Scotland raise awareness of and support for its conservation work, especially the coastlines, islands and marine environments in its care. These stretch from Rockcliffe in Dumfries and Galloway to Unst in Shetland, include more than 400 islands and islets such as Iona, Staffa, Mingulay, Pabbay and Berneray, Canna and important marine environments, including the dual World Heritage Site, St Kilda.

Over recent months, the charity has joined other environmental organisations to raise concerns over the Berwick Bank offshore windfarm, set up a citizen science project to encourage the public to send images of seabirds with food to contribute to the understanding of feeding patterns, and implementing biosecurity processes on its islands to help keep them safe from invasive species and disease.

Chief Executive Philip Long OBE said: "Scotland's seas and marine life are facing major challenges as the impacts of the climate and biodiversity crises are becoming ever more evident and it is so important that we speak up for our heritage that doesn't have a voice. Cal's love of Scotland's seas and our nation's environment comes through in all she does. In her new role, we know she will speak passionately about Scotland's nature, beauty and heritage and help our charity to gain even greater support for our work to protect and share it all with everyone."

Dr Cal Major said: "I'm a proud supporter of the National Trust for Scotland and I am beyond delighted to have been asked to be an ambassador for them and the work they do."

“It feels like such a privilege to be part of a community of people who care just as much as I do about Scotland's wildlife and heritage. Developing personal connections to nature through first-hand experiences of its powerful impact are a core part of my work in ocean conservation.

“I hope that through my love of the sea, I can help the National Trust for Scotland to do even more to protect these special places and to inspire more people to support the work they do, for the love of Scotland.”

For more information on the National Trust for Scotland visit www.nts.org.uk.

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Notes to editors

Accompanying high resolution imagery can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/CalMa>.

About Dr Cal Major

The role of ambassador is voluntary and holds no operational or governance role within the National Trust for Scotland.

Dr Cal Major was the first person to stand-up paddleboard the length of the UK from Land's End to John O'Groats. She is an award-winning ocean advocate, veterinary surgeon and founder of the Seaful Charity. Cal went on to paddle around the whole coast of Scotland to highlight the vital importance of the ocean in the climate and biodiversity crises. Her epic 800-mile journey around Scotland's coastline, which was inspired by COP26 in Glasgow, features in a captivating docuseries Scotland: Ocean Nation, streaming now on STV Player - <https://player.stv.tv/summary/reelsoul-scotland-ocean-nation>. Filmed across 10 gruelling weeks, the series sees Cal battle through wind, waves and weariness to discover more about Scotland's waters, both above and below the surface.

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.