

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

***** EMBARGOED: NOT FOR PUBLICATION OR BROADCAST BEFORE 0001 HOURS ON SATURDAY 17 April 2021 *****

New image of Culloden revealed on battle's 275th anniversary

Electronic mapping creates previously unseen picture of Jacobite's last stand

The most detailed map created so far of Culloden Battlefield is being shared by conservation charity, the National Trust for Scotland at events to mark the 275th anniversary of the battle.

The electronic maps use the latest Geographic Information Software and LIDAR (light detection and ranging) analysis that mean maps and information can be layered on top of each other.

This provides an unrivalled insight into the topography of the site of the battle and allows historians to consider the events of 16 April 1746 in a whole new light.

The maps are being unveiled to the public for the first time at an online event on Saturday 17 April from 11am, as part of an online programme to commemorate the battle. Find out more about the full programme at www.nts.org.uk/culloden275

The Trust's Head of Archaeology, Derek Alexander said: "These maps give us the most detailed understanding currently possible of how the landscape looked in 1746. Thanks to 21st century technology, we can use these to get a feel for what soldiers on the battlefield would actually have been able to see of their opponents, their positions and their weaponry. In terms of understanding the tactics and the outcome, it's a really powerful tool."

The maps have been created by AOC Archaeology, and also include layers that show where archaeological excavations have happened over the years and the objects that have been found there.

Raoul Curtis-Machin, Operations Manager at Culloden said: "These maps aren't just for the past, they'll also help us to protect Culloden for the future. Their detailed information gives us a clear understanding of how the site has been altered through building and development over the centuries, all of which is invaluable as we strive to retain all that is special about this site that is of such significance to Scotland's story."

The battlefield is under greater threat than ever from developments, and there will be interactive debate and discussion about how it can be better protected through Culloden 300, a Trust initiative which seeks to establish how people would like the site to look in 2046, 300 years after the battle.

To help the conservation charity respond to the ongoing challenge of protecting and preserving the site of the UK's last pitched battle, it is launching Culloden's Fighting Fund - <https://www.nts.org.uk/campaigns/cullodens-fighting-fund>.

Raoul adds: "As a charity, we rely on voluntary income and a donation to Culloden's Fighting Fund will help us conserve and protect the moor for future generations."

Donations will:

- Enable the Trust to continue to fight future development proposals that would encroach on the battlefield, ensuring we can protect this significant place for Scottish heritage. Culloden Battlefield is regularly threatened by residential and commercial developments and the Trust has recently objected to three residential housing plans.
- Help educate children across Scotland and beyond about the importance of the Jacobite Rising and how Culloden changed the course of European history.
- Help care for the animals who graze the battlefield to ensure the moor doesn't become overgrown. A small herd of goats, ponies and Highland and Shetland cows keep the grass short, just as they would have done years ago, ensuring that the site looks as it would have in the 18th century.

The Battle of Culloden

On 16 April 1746, the final Jacobite Rising came to a brutal head in one of the most harrowing battles in British history. Jacobite supporters, seeking to restore the Stuart monarchy to the British thrones, gathered to fight the Duke of Cumberland's government troops. It was the last pitched battle on British soil and, in less than an hour, around 1,600 men were slain – 1,500 of them Jacobites.

Culloden Battlefield is accessible to local visitors in line with current Scottish Government restrictions. The visitor centre is planned to reopen on 30 April (restrictions permitting).

For more information on the battle, and the centre, visit www.nts.org.uk

- ENDS –

MAPS being used in talks:

- General: <https://arcg.is/Oe9iTG>
- Side-by-side with historic maps: <https://aocarchaeology.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Compare/index.html?appid=b48cbdb7d78548f5a6bb8a82044ec968>
- 3D model: <https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/culloden-battlefield-2e48c02d35aa49f68ad8b113bf6e72ec>
- General images of Culloden battlefield: <https://we.tl/t-mkacs7LhcO>

ENDS

Issued on behalf of National Trust for Scotland by Frame PR. For media enquiries contact: Mamta Kakaiya, 07876 835 744, Mamta.Kakaiya@framecreates.co.uk Katie Brunsmann, 07944 429 213, Katie.Brunsmann@framecreates.co.uk

Editor's Notes:

The National Trust for Scotland is the charity that celebrates and protects Scotland's heritage. It relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work of caring for the natural and built heritage of Scotland for everyone to enjoy.

From coastlines to castles, art to architecture, wildlife to wildernesses, the National Trust for Scotland exists to protect the national and natural treasures we all love. To plan your visit today, enter your postcode at 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'.

