

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

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Specialists move in to remove asbestos from historic building

As part of a decade-long programme of investment called 'The Newhailes Revival', conservation charity the National Trust for Scotland has called in specialist contractors.

Their task will be to remove asbestos used in past renovations of the stables at Newhailes, near Musselburgh ahead of their conversion to provide new facilities at the historic property.

This is the latest in a series of stages that have so far led to investment of £2.4 million and creation of the 'Weehailes' play area, a 'mothbusting' programme in Newhailes house and landscaping of the grounds and gardens.

The stables will be converted to provide new visitor and catering facilities, as well as offices for the Trust's regional team.

The preparatory removal of asbestos from the stables will begin on 12 August and should be completed by 23 August.

The National Trust for Scotland's General Manager for Edinburgh & East, Stuart Maxwell said:

"Our regular visitors to Newhailes shouldn't be disturbed if they see masked, suited and booted individuals walking around as they are there for their safety and wellbeing.

"Although the stables date back to the 18th century, heating and insulation was retrofitted in the 19th and early 20th centuries, and asbestos was routinely used for lagging.

"It's perfectly harmless if it's not disturbed but, clearly, we need to remove it before we proceed with the major works we have planned. The removal will be conducted by properly equipped specialists and the stables will be out of bounds to the public for the duration, so we can assure complete safety.

"Once all asbestos is gone, our other contractors and conservationists can get on with the main works and we anticipate these will be complete by Easter 2020."

- ENDS -

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Editor's Notes:

Newhailes is a Palladian mansion which was once home to the influential Dalrymple family, who gave the house its important library, superb rococo interiors and fine collections of paintings, ceramics and furniture, along with the significant 18th-century designed landscape.

<https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/newhailes>

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. Visit today. Enter your postcode at www.nts.org.uk.

