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PERTSHIRE BEAUTY SPOTS' SCARCE BUTTERFLIES SURVEYED BY RETURNING RANGER

- **Pearl-Bordered Fritillaries (PBFs) butterflies were spotted in Perthshire's special places cared for by the National Trust for Scotland**
- **Butterfly surveys carried out to support wider project by Butterfly Conservation**
- **Seasonal Ranger Angus Todd returns to his role supported by funding raised by players of People's Postcode Lottery**

Perthshire native Angus Todd has been on the hunt for an elusive butterfly species at some of the region's most picturesque spots after returning to his role as seasonal ranger with the National Trust for Scotland.

Angus grew up in Perthshire and as a child visited many places in the area protected by the Trust, such as Killiecrankie and Linn of Tummel. In his role, he has been assisting with a wider conservation project to find Pearl-Bordered Fritillaries (PBFs) butterflies in support of Butterfly Conservation. The project aims to halve the number of threatened butterfly and moth species in the UK, improve the condition of 100 important landscapes for these insects and transform 100k wild spaces to make them more appealing to butterflies, moths and people.

PBFs have been identified as one of 27 Partnership Priority Species in the Trust's Plan for Nature. The conservation charity's policy, which sets out its ambitions to conserve the nature in its care, also highlights the partnership priority species. When the Trust is in a tactical position to contribute 'on the ground' partnership work at its places, the team supports partner organisations undertaking wider conservation programmes to protect these species.

The butterfly surveys have been made possible thanks to Angus' role as seasonal ranger with the Trust supported by funds raised by players of People's Postcode Lottery. Alongside his other duties such as patrolling sites, leading events and visitor engagement, Angus has relished the opportunity to support nature conservation at some of his old haunts.

Angus Todd, National Trust for Scotland Seasonal Ranger in Perthshire, said: "It's been fantastic to return to my role at the Trust and such a privilege to be able to support nature conservation at some of my favourite places in Perthshire. I have fond memories of exploring sites across the region as a kid and it is a huge honour to return and lend my support to help protect their biodiversity.

“The annual surveys have been carried out at the Trust’s places in Perthshire, such as Killiecrankie and Craigower Hill and I’ve identified some new sites for Pearl-Bordered Fritillaries in Linn of Tummel too. These butterflies are quite scarce and hard to correctly identify which makes the surveys quite challenging, but rewarding, nonetheless. These sites provide the ideal habitats for the butterflies, who like well-drained areas with a mosaic of vegetation and deciduous woodlands where there is an abundance of warm bracken stands for shelter and open meadows with native dog violets; the preferred food plant for the PBFs’ caterpillars.

“In total we were able to spot 10 PBFs, and the surveys also uncovered a marked increase in speckled wood butterflies too. Whilst these numbers were higher than our previous surveys, sadly, the national population trend has seen a downwards pattern. By carrying out the surveys earlier in the year during the main flight season for the butterfly species we have been able to capture data to support Butterfly Conservation’s project that helps them monitor trends and informs us on any conservation action needed.

“It is thanks to the continued generosity of our members and supporters, including players of People’s Postcode Lottery, that we’re able to continue our vital work to care for and protect Scotland’s natural heritage at these special places for everyone to enjoy, now and into the future.”

Players of People’s Postcode Lottery have supported the conservation charity’s Love Our Nature project since 2022 which benefited from £900k last year. Further funding will support nature conservation work across a variety of different habitats including coastla and marine areas, peatlands, wetlands, woodland, and the eight National Nature Reserves cared for by the Trust.

Head of Charities at [People’s Postcode Lottery](#), Laura Chow, said: “Players of People’s Postcode Lottery will be thrilled to know that they are contributing to the vital work of the National Trust for Scotland and its partners to protect the rare insects at some of our country’s most spectacular locations. By protecting and enhancing the biodiversity of these important habitats, we are helping to ensure the longevity of these species for future generations.”

The Love Our Nature project supports the National Trust for Scotland’s vision to care for, protect and share Scotland’s nature, beauty and heritage for everyone, as outlined in its 10-year strategy, launched in 2022. For more information on the National Trust for Scotland, visit www.nts.org.uk.

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Notes to Editors:

Images: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/jYkz90mrQ0>

Players of People's Postcode Lottery have raised more than £4 million for the National Trust for Scotland. Funds are awarded by the Postcode Earth Trust.

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.

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.