

5 June 2024

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND COMMEMORATES 710TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN

- **Conservation charity marks anniversary of battle 710 years on**
- **A variety of events including re-enactments, talks and tours to inform visitors of important battle in Scotland's history.**

In June, there will be a significant opportunity to mark one of Scotland's best known and most historically consequential battles: the National Trust for Scotland will be commemorating the 710th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn with a series of events to inform and entertain.

The conservation charity, which cares for and protects the battlefield to preserve this iconic landmark for the access and enjoyment of all, is staging events on the site on the outskirts of Stirling where Robert the Bruce, King of Scots took on and decisively defeated the numerically superior English army led by Edward II over 23rd and 24th June, 1314.

Among the events there will be re-enactments and displays by Britannia XIV showcasing medieval life, including armoury, combat skills and typical crafts from the period – these are free for the whole family to enjoy.

There's also an opportunity to retrace the steps of the opposing forces via a Battlefield Walk led by the Trust's expert tour guides, who will also regale visitors with fearsome stories of combat, chivalry, triumph and defeat. An evening talk will also be delivered that will shed light on the early years of Robert the Bruce, focusing on his upbringing and the experiences that shaped the future King of Scots, as his 750th birthday approaches in July of this year.

Cara Stewart, Operations Manager for Bannockburn, said: "The legendary Battle of Bannockburn has a special place in Scottish history as the site where the Scots beat their English rivals and helped to ensure the nation's future. Tales about the battlefield and the formidable leaders of the Scots army still provoke powerful emotions at home and abroad and we're looking forward to welcoming visitors from far and wide to our commemoration so that we can share these stories commemorate the brave fighting men from both sides.

"Our events take place on 16th, 23rd and 26th June when visitors can immerse themselves in the full Bannockburn experience. From battlefield walks that trace the progress of combat, to living history demonstrations, including the equipment and tactics used by the combatants, there is much to see that will provide insight into the circumstances and importance of the battle, as well as the lives of the people caught up in it. It's thanks to the continued generosity of our members and donors that we're able to

continue to care for, protect and share Bannockburn now and for future generations to enjoy.”

At the Battle of Bannockburn Robert the Bruce faced down Edward I's English army. Edward's objective was to secure the nearby stronghold of Stirling Castle, and he led his huge army through Scotland to break the Scots' siege of his garrison at the castle. Achieving this was vital to Edward's hopes of re-establishing his grip on the country, but he was stopped short by the Bruce's forces. Over the two days of battle, Edward was repeatedly thwarted by the Scots' stubborn resistance and tactical superiority before his army was finally trapped within the surrounding terrain with no room to manoeuvre and suffered enormous casualties leading to complete and utter defeat.

To book a place at one of the Bannockburn 710th anniversary events, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/the-battle-of-bannockburn-33769165975>

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

The Bannockburn anniversary events 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:

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.