

**MEDIA RELEASE: NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND
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Trust properties across Edinburgh and East Lothian reopen The tales and treasures visitors can expect to experience

Conservation charity the National Trust for Scotland has confirmed that built heritage across Edinburgh and the Lothians will reopen for visitors this month, in line with the easing of lockdown rules. The Georgian House, Newhailes and Preston Mill will all reopen on 30 April, with many hidden tales and treasures throughout the collections for visitors to discover.

The Georgian House at the heart of Edinburgh's New Town will be reopening from Wednesday to Sunday. Inside the grand townhouse, there's plenty for visitors to experience.

A highlight, is a rare educational children's musical game, with only three other versions made. The game was designed to teach and test musical theory for children as young as eight years old, with several versions of the game to play depending on players' ability. The inventor, Ann Young, goes down in history as the only woman to receive a patent from King George III in 1801.

Newhailes will open the Palladian Villa for the first time in two years to members of the public. The house has undergone a programme of conservation work and visitors can admire the spectacular rococo designs inside the villa, discover the 'most learned library in Europe' and enjoy woodland walks in the 18th-century designed landscape with views across the Forth.

Weehailes Playpark is open daily, visitors are advised to pre-book sessions. The new Stables Café at Newhailes will open on 5th May whilst the new Dairy is currently offering a takeaway service for ice creams, coffee, cakes and traditional sweeties.

Preston Mill will be reopening the mill and shop on 30 April, welcoming visitors between Thursday and Monday. Pre booked guided tours will allow visitors to take a step back in time and hear the mill mechanism in action and learn about the demanding nature of the miller's job, from the manual labour, floods, mice and dust.

Stuart Maxwell, General Manager for Edinburgh and East Region said: "We're really looking forward to welcoming visitors back to the places that they love. We're very grateful to be in the position to reopen and share our treasures from our extensive collection again, thanks to the support of many, including local communities.

“All of our properties across Edinburgh and the Lothians have been preparing to make your visit as safe as possible. Pre-booking is in place at a few sites and there are smaller groups for house tours. We’d highly recommend booking your slot in advance to avoid any disappointment.”

The Trust is urging anyone planning to visit to check the latest opening information on www.nts.org.uk before travelling, as some properties have different opening patterns this summer.

The website also contains information for visitors on the safety measure that will be in place for visits - <https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/what-to-expect-when-visiting-our-places> , as well as sharing its top tips for visiting responsibly - <https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/top-10-tips-for-visiting-our-countryside-places>.

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Notes to Editors

The National Trust for Scotland is the conservation charity that over 90 years has saved, maintained and shared many of the country’s most loved places, rich with history, heritage, nature and culture. The charity celebrates Scotland’s heritage and with almost 100 places in its care, there’s a place for everyone to love.

The National Trust for Scotland relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work of caring for the natural and built heritage that people from Scotland and across the world all love, ensuring its future for everyone to enjoy.

From coastlines to castles, art to architecture, wildlife to wildernesses, the National Trust for Scotland protects the national and natural treasures we all love. Support the National Trust for Scotland and help them protect the places we all love Become a member 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’.