

6 October 2025

TRUST STARTS WORK TO REFURBISH AND RESTORE NO 5 CHARLOTTE SQUARE

Conservation charity the National Trust for Scotland has confirmed that a programme of repair and refurbishment has commenced at No 5 Charlotte Square, one of Edinburgh's most prestigious addresses.

The works will include repairing the external fabric of the building in the World Heritage Site, improving accessibility with the installation of a lift, and sustainability with the fitting of solar panels.

Inside, the building is being fit out to function as an office for the conservation charity. It will be used as a main office as part of its network of flexible workplace hubs for staff and volunteers, with entry expected in late 2026.

Stuart Maxwell, Regional Director for Edinburgh & East is leading the project. He said: "This is an ambitious refurbishment project of an incredibly important heritage building, designed in the 18th century by Robert Adam, and in the heart of the World Heritage Site of the New Town. Our works will create a modern and functional workspace that preserves and highlights the building's historic significance and charm and adheres to exemplary heritage and building conservation standards."

A series of repairs will also be carried out at the National Trust for Scotland's Georgian House, at No 7 Charlotte Square. This historic property is open to the public and provides an insight into the lavish lifestyle of a wealthy family, living at one of the most fashionable addresses in Edinburgh in the 18th century. It will remain open and accessible to the public throughout the works.

Contractors Morris & Spottiswood Group will deliver the project. Paul Beaton, Development Director at Morris & Spottiswood said "This appointment reinforces our position as a leading heritage contractor. Working on such an iconic building in Charlotte Square, while managing the many facets of a project of this scale and profile, showcases our expertise in complex listed building projects."

ENDS

Notes to editors

The National Trust for Scotland owns no 5, 6 and 7 Charlotte Square. The buildings were transferred to the National Trust for Scotland in 1966 by the Marquess of Bute. No 7, known as the Georgian House is open to the public, providing an insight into life as it would have been soon after the square was built. No 6, also known as Bute House, is the official residence of the First Minister.

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.

About the Morris & Spottiswood Group

Founded in Glasgow in 1925, the Morris & Spottiswood Group has a portfolio of nine businesses, operating across the UK, with offices in Glasgow, Livingston, Armadale, Warrington, London, Carlisle, Leeds, Whitstable, Huntingdon and Bristol. As a multi-skilled, end-to-end services provider, the Group offers a broad range of built environment services including fit-out, retro-fit, refurbishment and M&E services, as well as in-house architectural services; maintenance, space development and furnishing and a full range of carbon reduction solutions.

The nine businesses of Morris & Spottiswood Group are as follows:

- Morris & Spottiswood – Fitout, Refurbishment, Retrofit and Construction
- Livingston – Mechanical & Electrical Specialists
- McLennan Partnership – Architectural and Interiors
- crbn solutions – Built Environment Carbon Reduction Solutions
- Inspire Spaces – Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment
- LLED – Maintenance and Small Works
- Builders Station – Building Materials and Supplies
- Crosbie Developments – Private Residential Developments
- JB Engineering – Specialist Engineering Services