

13 October 2025

## **TRUST TAKES STEP FORWARD WITH PLANS FOR GEILSTON HOUSE**

The National Trust for Scotland has submitted a planning application for a major programme of work at Geilston House, in Cardross. The £2.5 million project will involve extensive repairs and refurbishment to the house which is set in the beautiful Geilston Garden.

The house will be brought back into use as part of the conservation charity's portfolio of holiday accommodation. There will also be some space for small-scale events and exhibitions.

The National Trust for Scotland's Regional Director Ian McLelland said: "I am sure many people will be pleased to hear that this project to repair and refurbish Geilston House will now progress at pace.

"There is a lot of work needed to ensure that the house is presented to the high standard that is required for holiday accommodation these days and we expect the works to take around 12 months. The garden will follow its usual opening hours while the work is underway.

"As you would expect, we are taking great care to ensure that as much historic fabric as possible is being retained as part of the refurbishment and that the different phases of building development are visible.

"Where we are having to make more significant changes, these are to make safety improvements to the building, and we will still try to be as sympathetic as we can to the house and how it has developed over the years.

"We are all looking forward to seeing the house back in regular use and giving more people the chance to experience the nature, beauty and heritage of beautiful Geilston Garden."

Chris Moore, Chair of the Friends of Geilston welcomed the commitment of the National Trust for Scotland to invest in refurbishment of the house and bring it back to life. He said: "The group has been campaigning for some time to restore the house so it can contribute to the long term future of the garden. We look forward to the next stage of the project . We also appreciate the designation of space within the plans for community use and will work with the Trust to achieve a good functional resource within the plans for the house."

Geilston House and Garden have been in the care of the National Trust for Scotland since 1989, and the house has been uninhabited since 1997. Geilston Garden Geilston is typical of the small country estates on the banks of the Clyde and has offered a tranquil haven for over 200 years. It is celebrated for its landscaping, which harmonises nature

and cultivation. At the centre is the walled garden, dating back to 1797, dominated by a mammoth wellingtonia tree. It welcomes around 14,000 visitors annually and has recently featured in the Apple TV + series, The Buccaneers. The garden closes to visitors on 31 October and reopens in March 2026.

## **ENDS**

**Images:** <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/8349t1R6iP>

## **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](http://www.nts.org.uk).

The National Trust for Scotland is a charity registered in Scotland, Charity Number SC 007410.