

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO TO 00:01 MON 6 JULY 2020

Time is right to get back to National Trust for Scotland properties

- **New timed-entry access in place at certain properties**
- **Poll shows which Trust destinations members want to go to first**
- **Guidance for visitors planning on going to Trust places**

From Monday 6 July, around 30 gardens and estates around the country owned and cared for by the charity the National Trust for Scotland will reopen to the public for the first time since they closed in March due to the coronavirus emergency. Two of the most popular properties will also be introducing timed entry to manage numbers and maintain safe physical distancing.

Entry to Culzean Country Park in Ayrshire and Threave Garden in Dumfries & Galloway will be by booked timeslots, and visitors are advised not to travel to the sites without pre-booking. Bookings can be made on each property's websites. No other Trust properties require pre-booking at this point.

Timed entry has only been implemented at one Trust property before; when Mackintosh's world-famous The Hill House reopened last summer after the installation of its giant chainmail box. Within days of Culzean putting its tickets online this week, over 1,000 slots had been already filled.

The Trust has also opened-up many of its holiday cottages for rental over the weekend and is honouring existing bookings wherever possible as well as taking new bookings. Intensive cleaning arrangements have been put in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of holidaymakers.

Last month, the National Trust for Scotland asked its members for their 'must see' places to visit once lockdown relaxed. Culzean topped the chart with almost 20% of people putting it as their number one destination, followed by beautiful Inverewe Garden near Poolewe

Culloden was third, followed by Glencoe, Crathes Castle then Falkland Palace. Brodick Castle, Hill House, Threave Garden and Torridon completed the top ten of must-see places. 61 properties were named in the poll and the votes for the top ten places made up more than half of the vote.

Phil Long OBE, the new Chief Executive of the National Trust for Scotland said:

“It’s wonderful news that we’re able to start welcoming visitors back to so many of our properties around the country. Our team have been doing a phenomenal job in caring for these places over lockdown and I’ve been seeing for myself the incredible work that has been done to get ready for visitors once again. Sadly, we can’t yet bring people inside the castles, houses and visitor centres just yet but we’re hoping that we’ll be able to do so in the coming months and will make further announcements as soon as we are able.

“It’s an exceptionally challenging time for the Trust. Right now, we should be in the midst of our busiest period, with visitors from home and abroad returning to and discovering for the first time the magical places that we look after and finding out about the exceptional work done to conserve them. By opening now, our charity can start to make up for some of the income that we’ve lost this year, though this will not be enough to cover the charitable funds we’ve missed out on during the lockdown. Please, come, and see and enjoy these properties again and if you can, I urge you to donate to the Trust to help make sure these places can be cared for and visited for generations to come.”

The Trust has reviewed each property and implemented plans for each to ensure visitors’ safety. Those planning on visiting properties are asked to check ahead on the Trust’s web pages to see what facilities are available and then to look out for signage onsite and follow any directions given and to stay at least two metres (6 feet) away from other visitors and staff.

More time should be given for visits as it may take a little longer to get around properties due to the measures put in place to ensure physical distancing. Physical distancing will be introduced in car parks as well, and entry for parking may be restricted to avoid overcrowding.

As announced by the First Minister on 2 July, a five-mile travel restriction remains in place for the Annan, Gretna, Dumfries, Lockerbie, Langholm and Canonbie areas of Dumfries & Galloway. The Trust is respectfully asking residents in those areas not to travel to its properties if it entails a journey beyond the five-mile limit.

While a strict regime of cleaning is in place in Trust properties, it is recommended that visitors bring their own hand sanitiser with them, in case they need to touch parking meters, gates or stiles. Where possible, all litter should be taken home.

In some properties, as some paths are too narrow to allow social distancing, certain areas may have to be closed off and one-way systems may be introduced. This may involve ‘passing places’ that slower walkers can move into to let speedier visitors get past safely. Some facilities may be closed for safety reasons, such as greenhouses with fan ventilation.

Toilet facilities will be in place in many but not all properties and some locations may introduce managed queues to ensure physical distancing. As a precaution, hand-dryers are being switched off, with paper towels provided instead.

Some properties will have takeaway food and drink on offer and picnickers are welcome but are being asked to remember to take all their litter home with them.

Not all play parks will be able to open immediately (such as at Culzean) and each property's web pages will give information about what is available. Where play parks are open, the Trust may need to limit numbers to avoid overcrowding.

Some properties are planning on opening their gift shops with one-way systems, limited numbers of people inside at any one time, hand sanitisers at the entrance/exit and floor markings. Every penny the charity makes from sales goes back into conserving its properties.

It is hoped that selected castles, houses and visitor centres will open in mid-August.

ENDS

Issued on behalf of National Trust for Scotland by Frame PR.

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

- To donate to the National Trust for Scotland, go to: <https://www.nts.org.uk/donate>
- For more information on how the Trust is getting properties ready to open go to: <https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/gardens-and-grounds-get-ready-for-visitors-again>
- To book for Culzean, go to: <https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/events/advanced-booking-culzean-country-park>
- To book for Threave Garden, go to: <https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/threave-garden-reopening-new-booking-system>

The National Trust for Scotland is the charity that celebrates and protects Scotland's heritage. It relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work of caring for the natural and built heritage of Scotland for everyone to enjoy.

From coastlines to castles, art to architecture, wildlife to wildernesses, the National Trust for Scotland exists to protect the national and natural treasures we all love. To plan your visit today, enter your postcode at www.nts.org.uk.

Gardens and estates reopening for access on 6 July

(Please check the website for opening hours and be aware that toilet facilities may not be available at all places)

Aberdeenshire

[Castle Fraser](#) – garden & grounds

[Craigievar Castle](#) – grounds

[Crathes Castle](#) – garden & grounds

[Drum Castle](#) – garden & grounds

[Fyvie Castle](#) – garden & grounds

[Haddo House](#) – garden & grounds
[Leith Hall](#) – garden & grounds
[Mar Lodge Estate](#) – car parks only
[Pitmedden](#) – grounds only (garden reopening spring 2021)

Angus

[Barry Mill](#) – grounds
[House of Dun](#) – garden & grounds

Argyll

[Arduaine Garden](#)
[Crarae Garden](#)
[Geilston Garden](#) (Thursday–Monday)

Ayrshire & Arran

[Brodick Country Park](#) – garden & grounds (Thursday–Monday)
[Culzean Country Park](#) – garden & grounds (Thursday–Monday)

Dumfries & Galloway

[Threave](#) – garden & estate (Thursday–Monday)
Edinburgh and the Lothians
[Inveresk Lodge Garden](#) (Monday–Friday)
[Malleny Garden](#)

Fife

[Culross Palace](#) – garden (Thursday–Monday)
[Falkland Palace](#) – garden
[Kellie Castle](#) – garden & grounds (Thursday–Monday)

Glasgow

[Greenbank Garden](#) – garden & grounds (Thursday–Monday)

Highlands

[Brodie Castle](#) – estate and garden
[Culloden](#) – battlefield
[Inverewe](#) – garden & estate (will reopen on 15 July due to essential maintenance work)

Perthshire

[Branklyn Garden](#) (3 July)

Scottish Borders

[Harmony Garden](#)
[Priorwood Garden](#)

Places that are already open

(Please check the website for opening hours and be aware that toilet facilities may not be available at all places)

Ayrshire & Arran

[Goatfell](#)

Dumfries & Galloway

[Rockcliffe](#)

Edinburgh and the Lothians

[House of the Binns](#) – grounds only

[Newhailes](#) – grounds only

Fife

[Hill of Tarvit](#) – garden & grounds

Highlands

[Balmacara Estate](#)

[Corrieshalloch Gorge](#)

[Falls of Glomach](#)

[Glencoe](#)

[Kintail](#)

[Torridon](#)

[West Affric](#)

Loch Lomond, The Trossachs, Stirling & Forth Valley

[Bannockburn](#) – grounds & monuments

[Ben Lawers](#)

[Ben Lomond](#)

[Dollar Glen](#)

[The Pineapple](#)

Perthshire

[The Hermitage](#)

[Killiecrankie](#)

[Linn of Tummel](#)

Scottish Borders

[Grey Mare's Tail](#)

[St Abb's Head NNR](#)

In line with Scottish Government advice, travel to our islands is for local access only.