

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

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IMAGES: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/JYT622>

NEW TRUST CHIEF EXECUTIVE STARTS TODAY

Philip Long OBE starts his new job as Chief Executive at the National Trust for Scotland today (1 July).

He dropped in to explore the garden at Kellie Castle, Fife, as it prepares to reopen to visitors after months of closure due to the coronavirus pandemic.

St Andrews-based Philip popped in to Pittenweem to see how the dedicated team have been continuing to care for the stunning garden during lockdown.

The conservation charity that cares for Scotland's national and natural treasures is beginning to reopen grounds and gardens across the country from 6 July, as lockdown restrictions ease.

Philip Long said: "The National Trust for Scotland cares for so much that is important to Scotland and I am both proud and, on my first day, perhaps a little overawed at my new responsibility!

"From wonderful gardens, to impressive castles, the UK's largest nature reserve and a World Heritage Site, hundreds of thousands of artefacts, animal and plant species and more, it is a collection that is critical to our culture, our wellbeing and who we are.

"I join the Trust at a time of challenge, perhaps the greatest in its 90-year history, yet I am confident that we will find a way to continue all we do for the love of Scotland, now and in the future. I am looking forward immensely to being part the team caring for it all."

The Trust has been heavily impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, losing millions in income this year. The charity has implemented emergency cost

cutting measures and is running a major fundraising campaign, Save Our Scotland, to help ensure it can continue its vital conservation work, now and in the future. Find out more at www.nts.org.uk/donate.

The grounds and garden at Kellie Castle, Pittenweem open to the public on 6 July. The castle remains closed until Spring 2021. For more information on property openings, visit www.nts.org.uk.

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Notes for editors

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.

