

**NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE**

**Press release**

*Images: <https://we.tl/t-jlVUIpaVOX>*



### **Spot willow sculptures at Priorwood Gardens**

The National Trust for Scotland's Priorwood Garden in Melrose is now home to 11 willow sculptures that will be on display until the end of October.

The new creatures are nestled around the walled garden and orchard, which is owned and cared for by the conservation charity.

Designed by artist Anna Turnbull, the sculptures have been inspired by Scotland's rural landscape and were created by weaving her own grown willow with other locally grown materials. The figures represent some of Scotland's most enchanting animals and captures their unique personalities, including battling stags, deer, a hare, a fox and swallows.

Anna said: "Each concept starts with drawings, where I closely observe the animal's movement, shape, form, flow of muscles, directions, lines and tensions. My husband, Richard, constructs a metal skeleton, which is the starting point for the weaving, and gives the sculpture strength and durability for outdoors. I weave the willow in bundles, creating strong lines which echo the contours of the creature's muscles. Building the willow up step by step really brings each animal to life."

John Baxter, Visitor Services Manager at Priorwood Gardens, added: "These sculptures have brought even more character to our gardens, which are already buzzing with nature's sights and sounds. They really spark the imagination and we're very excited to have them on display for visitors to enjoy – they're only here until the end of October and shouldn't be missed!"

With views of the medieval Melrose Abbey, Priorwood Garden is home to Scotland's only dedicated dried flower garden, with an impressive display of flowers and herbs. There's also an ancient orchard that cultivates over 90 apple varieties as well as plums, pears, damsons and greengages.

Priorwood Garden is part of the 'We're Good to Go' scheme, which means an official COVID-19 risk assessment has been carried out to check everything is in place to operate safely. Please note that while there are no toilet facilities on site, there are public toilets very nearby.

The National Trust for Scotland celebrates Scotland's heritage and 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. Find out more at [www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk). The willow sculptures are also available to buy and Anna creates bespoke pieces, welcoming commissions at [www.biteabout.co.uk](http://www.biteabout.co.uk).

**ENDS**

**Issued on behalf of National Trust for Scotland by Frame PR. For media enquiries contact: Mamta Kakaiya, 07876 835 744, [Mamta.Kakaiya@framecreates.co.uk](mailto:Mamta.Kakaiya@framecreates.co.uk) Katie Brunsmann, 07944 429 213, [Katie.Brunsmann@framecreates.co.uk](mailto:Katie.Brunsmann@framecreates.co.uk)**

**Editor's Notes:**

The National Trust for Scotland can also be referred to as *the Trust* or *NTS*.

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

