

**NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE
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Images: Robert Smail's Photography

TRUST REOPENS PLAYPARKS, CAFES AND VISITOR CENTRES

- Playparks, visitor centres and cafes at certain Trust properties are now open to the public
- Booking system in place for Robert Smail's Printing Works

Conservation charity, the National Trust for Scotland has reopened playparks, cafés and visitor centres at several properties across the country, including Robert Smail's Printing Works.

Entry to the 'living museum' in the Scottish Borders will be by booked timeslots. This is in place to manage visitor numbers and maintain safe, social distancing. Bookings can be made on the property's website. Visitor numbers will be limited on each tour and booking is strongly advised.

As the oldest working commercial letterpress printers in the UK, visitors can immerse themselves in a living museum of Victorian history. Tours take visitors through the working printers to understand how newspapers, posters and stationery were printed before the digital age.

Phil Long OBE, the new Chief Executive of the National Trust for Scotland said: "Many of our gardens and estates have been open since the start of July and it's fantastic that we're now able to reopen more centres, including Robert Smail's Printing Works.

"At this time of year, our visitor centres are usually packed with tourists learning about Scotland's fascinating history and while we won't be expecting many international visitors, we do hope to see people from across the country discovering our places and learning about the work we do to care for them.

"With the threat of Covid-19 still very much at the forefront of our opening strategy, our teams have worked extremely hard to make the necessary adjustments at properties to keep visitors and staff safe. We ask anyone visiting to please stick to the latest guidance on hand hygiene and social distancing.

"It's a late start to the summer holidays for many, but we're really looking forward to welcoming back visitors of all ages. We hope to be making further announcements on our built places reopening as soon as we are able to open them safely and would like to thank all our members and donors who have continued to support us during this crisis."

The National Trust for Scotland has been badly hit by the coronavirus pandemic, creating a £28 million loss in essential income. The charity is running the Save Our Scotland appeal to raise £2.5 million to help the Trust continue its vital work to protect Scotland's built and natural heritage.

Check www.nts.org.uk for latest information on all properties and to donate to the SOS appeal, go to www.nts.org.uk/campaigns/emergency-appeal.

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Editor's Notes:**

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.

