

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

8 March 2018

Countdown to opening for Newhailes storybook playpark

Weehailes Playpark, Musselburgh's newest family-friendly visitor attraction is gearing up to welcome its first visitors over the Easter weekend.

Set in the grounds of the National Trust for Scotland's Newhailes House and Gardens, the playpark looks like it could have emerged from the pages of a fairy tale.

Inspired by the story of the historic East Lothian house and its important role in the Scottish Enlightenment, the playpark has a book-related theme, with the 'library', complete with stained glass window taking centre stage. Turrets, slides and high-level walkways provide lots of opportunities for younger visitors to explore.

The playpark is the centrepiece of a £2.4 million project by the conservation charity to revitalise the Newhailes landscape which is of international importance for its designed features and fell into disrepair after World War II.

General Manager for Edinburgh and East, Linda Wigley said:

"We've been working really hard over the winter months to add new features and restore old ones. These changes are all part of our plan to breathe new life into Newhailes and we can't wait to share these with our visitors. Weehailes looks wonderful and is sure to go down really well with our younger visitors. We can't wait to welcome them over the Easter weekend."

Important features around the estate including the Doocot, Ha-Ha (a traditional field enclosure technique with ditch and wall) and the Flower Garden wall are being repaired as part of the restoration work. A community garden is also being created.

Visitor facilities have also been improved, with a new catering facility placed next to the playpark, new interpretation and more parking.

The new facilities open on Good Friday, 30 March, when the Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt also begins.

Assessments on the impact of a leak within Newhailes House continue. Currently the Trust also plans to open the house on Easter Friday when visitors can experience Conservation in Action as part of their guided tour.

For more information, visit www.nts.org.uk.

A Palladian house fit for a baronet, originally built in the 17th century, Newhailes brings three centuries of history to life. The house was owned by the Dalrymple family and featured prominently in the Scottish Enlightenment and has been in the care of the National Trust for Scotland since 1997.

- ENDS -

Images: General Manager Linda Wigley and Project Manager Dora Nemeth monitor the progress of the works at Newhailes House and Gardens - <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/w56301>

