

## National Trust Press Release

10<sup>th</sup> February 2010

Images are available from the press office

### National Trust to give Britain a spring bonus

The National Trust is giving everyone in the country a bonus this spring by opening its doors for free on the weekend of 20-21 March 2010.

The 'Bonus Time' initiative, launched today by the Trust's Director General, Fiona Reynolds and Chairman, Simon Jenkins, is a spring gift to the nation and offers everyone the perfect excuse to get out in the fresh air and discover the great outdoors.

From exploring the 300 special places cared for by the Trust, which include many of the country's most spectacular gardens, to striding out into the vast swathes of countryside and 1000kms of coastline, the free weekend offers the chance for everyone to visit somewhere special.

"You are never more than 40 minutes away from a place looked after by the National Trust, wherever you are in the country," said Fiona Reynolds, Director General of the National Trust.

"This is the perfect excuse to discover what's on your doorstep, perhaps re-visit somewhere you pass regularly or explore somewhere totally new."

"However people decide to use our 'Bonus Time' gift; from taking a stroll in some of the most glorious gardens our country has to offer, to walking our dramatic coastline and breathing in the unforgettable views, we can promise it will be time well spent."

People wanting to make the most of the 'bonus time' weekend need to download a voucher from the Trust's website at [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/bonus](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/bonus).

Visitors to areas of countryside looked after by the Trust will also benefit from free parking at all of the car parks which give access to hundreds of miles of coastline and thousands of acres of the most amazing countryside that England, Wales and Northern Ireland have to offer. All visitors will need to do is display a copy of the 'Bonus Time' voucher in their vehicle.

For the Trust's 3.8 million members – who already get free entry and parking – this initiative is the perfect time to share the Trust with their friends and families.

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#### For further press information and images please contact:

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#### An ISDN audio line is available – contact the press office for details.

- The National Trust cares for over 300 of England, Wales and Northern Ireland's greatest historic houses and gardens, 1,000 km of coastline and vast swathes of our most beautiful countryside. From former workers' cottages to the most iconic stately homes, and from mines and mills to theatres and inns, the stories of people and their heritage are at the heart of everything we do. People of all ages

– individuals, schools and communities – get involved each year with our projects, events and working holidays and over 56,000 volunteers help to bring the properties alive for the Trust's 3.7 million members and many more million visitors. Find out more at: <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk>