



TOP TEN 'TREASURED PLACES' REVEALED BY RCAHMS

A parish church, an old colliery, a 'new town' centre and a Neolithic settlement are among the Top Ten of Scotland's 'Treasured Places', according to the results of a public vote revealed today.

Treasured Places, which was set up by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) to help celebrate its centenary in 2008, asked the public to vote for their favourite image of a treasured place from a longlist of one hundred from RCAHMS' national collection. The images represent places and spaces that are 'treasured' for many reasons, both on a personal and national level. They are also interesting images in their own right as they show different perspectives and views of well-known places and of Scottish life throughout history.

Over 9,000 votes have been counted, and the resulting Top Ten reflects the strength of feeling for places which are locally important, as well as those which are well-known everywhere. Over 200 comments posted on the website reveal a deep connection between the Scottish people and their built environment.

The Top Ten, in order of number of votes, is:

1. Lady Victoria Colliery at Newtongrange, Midlothian
2. Glasgow School of Art
3. King's College, Aberdeen
4. St Meddan's Church, Troon, Ayrshire
5. The Falkirk Wheel, Falkirk
6. Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow
7. Skara Brae, Orkney
8. The Standing Stones of Stenness, Orkney
9. Cumbernauld Town Centre, Strathclyde
10. Rosslyn Chapel, Midlothian

Siobhan McConnachie, Treasured Places project manager for RCAHMS, commented:

The public have voted into the top ten a mix of places that really reflects the variety of our initial list of 100. It goes to show that all sorts of places are treasured by people for many different reasons. The results were changing throughout the vote, with a number of front runners at the beginning not even making it into the top ten by the end. We had no idea at the start what would capture the public's interest and I don't think there can be many polls that include such diverse sites as the Rosslyn Chapel and The Falkirk Wheel.'

The public vote was launched on 19th September, and has been conducted on a specially created website, www.treasuredplaces.org.uk, and via postal vote. Voting was suspended at 12 noon on Thursday 25th October, and resumes at 12.01 on Saturday 27th, when the public can vote for their favourite from the Top Ten.

The image with the most votes from the Top Ten will be announced on 12th December, and will be celebrated by a poem written by the Edinburgh Makar, Valerie Gillies.

The Top Ten images are guaranteed a place in a major Treasured Places exhibition at the Edinburgh City Art Centre at the end of 2008 and in a touring exhibition around Scotland.

**For further information please contact:
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Tel 0131 558 8851 email Rebecca@colmangetty.co.uk**

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Siobhan McConnachie, project manager of Treasured Places for RCAHMS, is available for interview.
2. Images of the Top Ten (and longlist of 100) are available electronically from Colman Getty on 0131 558 8851 or Rebecca@colmangetty.co.uk
3. **Treasured Places** is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Scottish Government, and run by RCAHMS. The public vote is online at www.treasuredplaces.org.uk and by post to 'Treasured Places', RCAHMS, John Sinclair House, 16 Bernard Terrace, Edinburgh EH8 9NX.
4. RCAHMS is the national record of Scotland's built environment, whose mission is to identify, survey and interpret the archaeological, architectural and historical environment of Scotland, to preserve and add to the collection, and to promote public understanding and enjoyment of items in the collection.
5. RCAHMS was established by Royal Charter in 1908 and has been collecting and commissioning information, drawings and photographs of Scotland since then, documenting Scotland's places past and present. It is now one of Scotland's National Collections and celebrates its centenary in September 2008.

6. The images for **Treasured Places** were selected by RCAHMS experts from the national collection.
7. Comments on sites from the **Treasured Places** website:

On the Red Road Flats:

'I spent over 4 years of my life helping to construct these flats, and I told my children I would need no gravestone'

On Lady Victoria Colliery, Newtongrange:

'Most people probably wouldn't have a mine on their treasured list, but they should think again. It wasn't that long ago that 1/5 of the population of the UK worked in mining! Now the Lady Victoria is the only one left in Scotland that people can see.'

On St Meddans Church, Troon:

'I have been a member here for over 20 years and never tire of looking at this window. It is magnificent. A truly beautiful work of art - a real treasure and should be cherished. Inspirational and uplifting - just what you need when the woes of the world are pressing in on you.'

On King's College, Aberdeen (from a blogger in New Zealand)

'Treasured memories of (gulp) forty years ago when I first laid eyes on this elegant piece of architecture. Absence only makes the heart grow fonder.'