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Robert Burns Birthplace Museum Project
Frequently asked Questions & Answers

- 1. What will the new museum be called?** The new museum, along with Burns Monument, Brig o' Doon, Alloway Auld Kirk, Burns Cottage with its smallholding, and the walkway which links all of these sites, will be called Robert Burns Birthplace Museum (RBBM).
- 2. What will happen and when?**

What	When
Temporary exhibition of Burns treasures, <i>A Star is Born: Robert Burns and Alloway</i> , at Rozelle House Art Gallery and Museum* (5min walk from Tam O'Shanter Experience; 2mins from Burns Cottage**) * drop off only; parking at nearby sports pavilion	26 January 2009 – Easter 2010
Construction of new museum	Feb 2009 – summer 2010
Closure of old museum	March 2009
Renovation of old museum and conversion into an education pavilion – also available for corporate hospitality	April – November 2009
Relandscaping of Burns Cottage site and building of new entrance kiosk	April – November 2009
Reinterpretation of Burns Cottage	October – November 2009
Reinterpretation of Burns Monument, Brig o' Doon, Alloway Auld Kirk, and the Link Walkway	September 2009 – summer 2010
Demolition of the Tam o' Shanter Experience	Summer / autumn 2010
Opening of Robert Burns Birthplace Museum – new name for the whole site	Summer 2010



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3. **Will Burns Cottage and the Tam o' Shanter Experience be open throughout the redevelopment?** The National Trust for Scotland will seek to minimise disruption during the building works. Burns Cottage will be closed briefly towards the end of 2009 to allow for the reinterpretation of the interior, whilst the Tam o' Shanter Experience will remain open until the new museum is ready.
4. **How much provision will there be for parking at the new museum?** There will be an approximate 20 per cent increase in the number of parking spaces at the new museum. There will be 78 spaces, 6 spaces for disabled badge holders, and 5 coach parking spaces. The car park will be situated next to the new museum.
5. **Will signage to RBBM and orientation within the village improve?** The National Trust for Scotland have a signage strategy and hope to work with South Ayrshire Council and Alloway & Doonfoot Community Council on enhancing road signage from the A77 and improving orientation within Alloway. These three organisations teamed up in December 2008 to institute boundary signage around the village incorporating the strapline 'Birthplace of Robert Burns'.
6. **What will be the relative size of the new museum compared to the Tam o' Shanter Experience, particularly in terms of the shop, restaurant and museum space?**

The area of the new museum building is approximately 1,600 m² compared to 960 m² of the Tam o' Shanter Experience. This will offer storage and exhibition space of 635 m² compared to approximately 200 m² currently available. Future shop space will be 108 m² compared with 100m² at present. The new restaurant will be 20 per cent bigger. In addition to this, there will be 270 m² of new education space.
7. **Will I still be able to see the museum gardens from the café in the new museum?**

Yes. Although the museum will be in a different location to the Tam o' Shanter Experience, the café will still look out on to the attractive gardens.
8. **How much will it cost for admission to RBBM?** Adult ticket price will be £8, £5 concession, £20 for a family (£16 for a one-parent family), £5.25 group rate, £1.50 for pupils attending a school with NTS Education Membership,



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£3 for pupils from non-member schools¹. Free to National Trust for Scotland members. Access to the café and shop will continue to be free of charge.

9. **What role will the Trust play in the Year of Homecoming?** The National Trust for Scotland is working with Homecoming Scotland, South Ayrshire Council and Alloway & Doonfoot Community Council to plan a series of events celebrating Burns during the year which marks the 250th anniversary of his birth. Burns Cottage will be the focus for celebrations early in the year, as will a new temporary exhibition of treasures from the museum collection (staged at Rozelle House Museum and Art Gallery) called *A Star is Born: Robert Burns and Alloway*.
10. **Will connections be made with other Burns sites and other National Trust for Scotland properties?** Yes. Burns National Heritage Park is the lead partner in the National Burns Collection partnership and it is the Trust's intention to make Robert Burns Birthplace Museum (RBBM) a national and international hub for Burns heritage. Branding for RBBM (the new name for Burns National Heritage Park) will be extended to include other Trust 'Burns' properties in Ayrshire: Souter Johnnie's Cottage and Bachelors' Club.
11. **Why won't the museum be ready for 2009?** The timing of the project has been, and will continue to be, dependent on a number of external factors, not least the need to raise £21m to create a state-of-the-art museum. The National Trust for Scotland is a charity, not a government department, and relies on generating income from membership, donations, legacies and sales. The Trust is committed to creating RBBM but is dependent on public support for a special Burns fundraising appeal. Pick up a leaflet or visit www.nts.org.uk/burns to find out more.
12. **How can I get involved?**
 - Tell us **your views** (fill in one of the cards provided and hand this to any member of staff)
 - Continue to use the **restaurant and shop**
 - Support the **fundraising appeal** by either visiting www.nts.org.uk/burns or calling **0844 493 2100**
 - Become a **member** of the National Trust for Scotland

¹ Anticipated ticket prices, Dec 08: may be subject to change



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- There are a variety of **volunteer opportunities** in the redevelopment project: register your area of interest and provide your contact details on the cards provided

** pls note there are no toilet facilities at Burns Cottage