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Partners' statement on the development of *Scott's Last Expedition*

Nearly 100 years after its infamous conclusion, the Natural History Museum, London, Antarctic Heritage Trust (New Zealand) and Canterbury Museum, New Zealand launch a landmark exhibition to tell the story of Captain Robert Falcon Scott's *Terra Nova* expedition to Antarctica.

For the first time, rare scientific specimens collected on the expedition are on show with real artefacts used by Scott and his team, combining the historical, scientific and polar expertise of three internationally renowned cultural organisations.

Louise Emerson of the Natural History Museum comments, 'Working on *Scott's Last Expedition* has been a fantastic experience. From the first conversations on why we felt it necessary to re-evaluate the *Terra Nova* expedition, it was clear there was a unique story to tell. As discussions between partners progressed and we realised that collectively we had an unrivalled selection of Scott artefacts and specimens to draw upon, the exhibition really came into its own, with the context, analysis and narration being played out by an international and expert team of curators. This is no small feat. Scott is a very public character and his is a very public legacy, one that has been reviewed perpetually by academics and enthusiasts alike over the past 100 years.

'Further to potential sensitivities surrounding Scott's legacy, there were also logistics around overcoming international time zones, the movement of specimens and artefacts, getting permits and working to tight deadlines. However, united by a passion for the Scott story, and through dedicated research of the specimens and scientific records we all hold, the team has developed and curated a unique and emotive account of Scott's final expedition.

'Working with Museum partners to produce joint projects and exhibitions is an approach that opens up a massive range of opportunity. The breadth of knowledge and the various expert perspectives we have been able to elicit has enabled us to produce a rich, inspiring and exciting exhibition that we are tremendously proud of. We look forward to working in partnership in the future to bring the greatest benefit to the public and visitors to Museums across the world.'

Executive Director Nigel Watson of the Antarctic Heritage Trust comments, 'Both museums are long standing partners of the Trust and a joint collaboration seemed natural when planning an exhibition of this size and scale. The exhibition represents an exceptional opportunity to remind people of Scott's contribution to the heroic era of exploration and to inspire future generations with the qualities of discovery, adventure and endurance.'

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**For more information please contact the Natural History Museum Press Office:
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