



For Immediate Release:
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Leeds Castle Foundation Receives £225,700 Grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Shaping Its Vision for The Future



Leeds Castle, one of England's most cherished historical landmarks, is thrilled to announce the receipt of a generous grant of £225,700 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. This is the first grant Leeds Castle Foundation has received from the Heritage Fund. This funding will pave the way for several transformative initiatives aimed at enhancing sustainability, accessibility, and the overall visitor experience. It will also contribute to the development of a comprehensive vision for the future of Leeds Castle and its estate.

Helen Bonser-Wilton, Chief Executive of Leeds Castle Foundation, commented: "Receiving this generous grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund is a true testament to the enduring value of Leeds Castle as a cultural treasure. With this funding, we can shape a sustainable future that embodies our commitment to preserving history, promoting accessibility, and providing outstanding experiences for all. We extend our deepest gratitude to National Lottery players for their vital support in making this vision a reality."

One of the key focuses of the grant will be to undertake a mechanical and engineering audit that will look into options of how we improve the ecological impact of Leeds Castle. With the findings of the audit we plan to incorporate renewable energy sources and invest in energy-efficient technologies supported by external funding. The Castle aims to significantly reduce its carbon footprint without compromising its historical integrity. This endeavour aligns perfectly with the Castle's commitment to preserving its treasured heritage while embracing sustainable practices.

Additionally, Leeds Castle will conduct a thorough access audit of the estate. The resulting outcomes will allow us to leverage additional funding to create accessible visitor experiences, ensuring that individuals with diverse mobility and sensory needs can enjoy the attraction to the fullest.

The grant will also facilitate audience development initiatives to attract and engage diverse audiences. This work will establish an audience strategy blueprint for future activities, and inform decision-making processes regarding programming and outreach efforts. As part of this project, a green transport strategy will also be implemented to make public transportation a more convenient option for accessing Leeds Castle, ultimately reducing congestion and environmental impacts.



Furthermore, the fund will appoint a hospitality consultant to review existing services and facilities, broadening their reach and offering guests new and exciting experiences.

Leeds Castle's unwavering dedication to preserving its rich history and providing an exceptional experience for visitors will be exemplified by these exciting initiatives. The grant from the Heritage Fund serves as a staunch endorsement of the Castle's significance as an iconic site, treasured by both locals and tourists alike. This funding will play a pivotal role in shaping the long-term sustainability and vision for Leeds Castle.

Leeds Castle extends its heartfelt gratitude to the players of the National Lottery and the Heritage Fund for their unwavering support, belief in the castle's mission, and their commitment to preserving and enhancing our shared cultural heritage.

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About Leeds Castle Foundation

Leeds Castle is considered a national treasure, providing a window onto over nine hundred years of British history. It is a haven of tranquillity and offers a wealth of discovery and enjoyment for all ages.

Situated five miles southeast of Maidstone in Kent, Leeds Castle's rich and riveting history, including serving six of England's medieval queens, to its elaborate transformation into a glamorous 1930s country house retreat for the influential and famous by Anglo-American heiress, Lady Olive Baillie, secures its place as one of the most visited historic attractions in Britain.

The Castle and its estate is preserved and maintained by the Leeds Castle Foundation, a not-for-profit charity.

For more visitor information, please visit www.leeds-castle.com

- Leeds Castle, Broomfield, Maidstone ME17 1PL
- Telephone 01622 765 400 or email enquiries@leeds-castle.co.uk

About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

As the largest dedicated funder of the UK's heritage, The National Lottery Heritage Fund's vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future as set out in our strategic plan, Heritage 2033.

Over the next ten years, we aim to invest £3.6 billion raised for good causes by National Lottery players to bring about benefits for people, places and the natural environment.



We help protect, transform and share the things from the past that people care about, from popular museums and historic places, our natural environment and fragile species, to the languages and cultural traditions that celebrate who we are.

We are passionate about heritage and committed to driving innovation and collaboration to make a positive difference to people's lives today, while leaving a lasting legacy for future generations to enjoy.

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