



£5m National Lottery funding boost for revamp of Hereford Museum and Art Gallery

- **Redevelopment of Grade II listed Hereford Museum and Art Gallery will go ahead thanks to £5m award from The National Lottery Heritage Fund**
- **Revitalised museum will provide a brand new home for the Herefordshire Hoard - one of the most significant early medieval treasures ever discovered in Britain**

Herefordshire Council has been awarded a £5million grant to redevelop the Grade II listed Hereford Museum and Art Gallery, significantly enhancing the city's cultural offer.

The project will see the introduction of a contemporary museum and exhibition centre to the cathedral city. The revamped museum will also provide a new permanent home for the Herefordshire Hoard, one of the most significant early medieval treasures ever discovered in Britain.

The dazzling collection of treasures comprises of a gold arm bangle with beast head clasp, a pendant made from a sphere of rock crystal mounted in gold, a gold octagonal ring with black inlay and twenty nine rare coins mostly of Alfred the Great of Wessex and Ceolwulf II of Mercia. It is thought to have been buried around 878, perhaps as part of a high-status Viking hoard.

The renovation plans include eight new galleries and display spaces, a temporary exhibition space, the restoration of the historic Woolhope Club Room and new commercial areas including a retail space, roof-top café and events and education space. A spectacular viewing beacon and roof terrace will be accessible from the fifth floor courtyard space providing 360 degree views over the city and surrounding Herefordshire landscape.

The redevelopment of Hereford Museum is the Council's flagship project in the town's investment plan, giving heritage-led regeneration and tourism a boost across the Midlands.

Damian Etheraads, Museum and Gallery Lead, Herefordshire Council said: "We are delighted to receive funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund thanks to National Lottery players.



“Through the generous support of our funders we will be able to breathe new life into the museum and art gallery. We are looking forward to building an institution for the 21st century that celebrates diversity, fosters creativity and sparks curiosity. The new museum and art gallery will transform Herefordshire’s cultural landscape by putting people, the environment and sustainability at the heart of what we do.”

Robyn Llewellyn, Director of Midlands & East, said: “I am delighted that The National Lottery Heritage Fund is supporting Hereford Museum and Art Gallery with its ambitious plans for its redevelopment. This funding, which has been made possible thanks to National Lottery players, will significantly enhance the city’s cultural offer, ensuring that heritage projects represent and reflect local communities.”

The project is funded by £5 million from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, £8 million from Herefordshire Council and £5 million from the Stronger Towns Fund.

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About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Using money raised by the National Lottery, we **inspire, lead** and **resource** the UK’s heritage to create **positive and lasting change** for people and communities, now and in the future. www.heritagefund.org.uk.

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Since The National Lottery began in 1994, National Lottery players have raised over £43 billion for projects and more than 635,000 grants have been awarded across the UK. More than £30 million raised each week goes to good causes across the UK.

About Herefordshire Museum Service

Herefordshire Museum Service has been safeguarding the cultural heritage of Herefordshire since 1874. The service run three sites across the county: Hereford Museum and Art Gallery and the Black and White House Museum and the Museum Resource and Learning Centre. The service is going through an exciting period of change as it transitions to being a social-engaged organisation.

About Hereford Museum and Art Gallery



Hereford Museum and Art Gallery is the country museum for Herefordshire. It opened in 1874 in spectacular purpose built Victorian Gothic library and museum building. Alongside permanent displays about life in Herefordshire there was until recently a regular programme of temporary exhibitions. Today, the Grade II* listed building is showing its age. Healthy and safety restrictions have limited access to large parts of the building making it increasingly difficult to operate as a public building.