



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Hovercraft Museum secures a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant to plan for its sustainable future

The Hovercraft Museum is thrilled to announce it has been awarded a £115,512 grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to help secure the future of the world's only museum dedicated to the hovercraft.

Thanks to National Lottery players, this vital support will fund a major resilience project—*First Steps in Securing the Future of the Hovercraft Museum*—which will put in place the essential planning, research, and organisational work required to enable a future programme of redevelopment and conservation.

The project will deliver a full master plan for the Museum's future, detailed condition surveys of its nationally significant hovercraft collection and listed buildings, and vital legal and strategic work needed to secure a long-term lease on its historic HMS Daedalus site. These steps are necessary to unlock future funding and ensure long-term care for the Museum's unique assets.

Although this initial project will not involve undertaking any physical conservation work directly, it will ensure that all necessary preparatory assessments, strategies, and agreements are in place to enable a major capital development programme in the next phase.

Chair of Trustees, Louise Jenkins, said:

"We're enormously grateful to The National Lottery Heritage Fund and to all the players who make this possible. This funding allows us to put the foundations in place for the future of the Hovercraft Museum. Our collection tells a globally significant story of British innovation, and this project marks a critical milestone in protecting that heritage."

Based at the former HMS Daedalus site in Lee-on-the-Solent, The Hovercraft Museum is home to the world's largest collection of hovercraft and related archive materials. The Museum is an Arts Council England Accredited Museum and a registered charity.

The Hovercraft Museum houses over 55 hovercraft—including the immense cross-Channel SRN4 ‘The Princess Anne’—as well as the world’s largest hovercraft archive. The grant will support business and fundraising planning as well as public engagement research to ensure that future development is robust, inclusive, and financially viable.

Using money raised by National Lottery players, The National Lottery Heritage Fund supports projects that connect people and communities with the UK’s heritage. First Steps in Securing the Future of the Hovercraft Museum is made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Thanks to National Lottery players The Hovercraft Museum has been able to take a significant step in securing our museum’s long-term future.

Ends

Notes to Editors

About The Hovercraft Museum

Based at the former HMS Daedalus site in Lee-on-the-Solent, The Hovercraft Museum is home to the world’s largest collection of hovercraft, including five ships on the National Register of Historic Vessels and related archive materials. The Museum is an Arts Council England Accredited Museum and a registered charity.

About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

The National Lottery Heritage Fund is the largest funder for the UK’s heritage. Using money raised by National Lottery players we support projects that connect people and communities to heritage. Our vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future. From historic buildings, our industrial legacy and the natural environment, to collections, traditions, stories and more. Heritage can be anything from the past that people value and want to pass on to future generations. We believe in the power of heritage to ignite the imagination, offer joy and inspiration, and to build pride in place and connection to the past. www.heritagefund.org.uk
Follow @HeritageFundUK on social media with hashtags #NationalLottery #HeritageFund

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