**NEWS RELEASE**

For immediate release

**[Name of site / organisation] has received [£XX] National Lottery support to help address the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on heritage**

[Name of organisation] has received [amount of funding] from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to [briefly explain what the funding will do].

Since the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown began [name of organisation] has been [brief explanation of the impact of the lockdown and what the organisation has been doing so far]

**[Name and position of spokesperson] at [name of organisation]** said: “Thanks to the National Lottery and its players we can now [comment on the impact the funding will have for you]. We’re grateful that The National Lottery Heritage Fund is supporting us at this crucial time – it’s a lifeline to us and others who are passionate about sustaining heritage for the benefit of all.”

The funding, made possible by National Lottery players, was awarded through The National Lottery Heritage Fund’s *Heritage Emergency Fund*. £50million was made available to provide emergency funding for those most in need across the heritage sector.

The UK-wide fund aimed to address both immediate emergency actions and help organisations to start thinking about recovery.

**Ros Kerslake, Chief Executive of The National Lottery Heritage Fund**, said: “Heritage has an essential role to play in making communities better places to live, supporting economic regeneration and benefiting our personal wellbeing. All of these things are going to be even more important as we emerge from this current crisis.

“Thanks to money raised by National Lottery players we are pleased to be able to lend our support to organisations such as [organisation name] during this uncertain time.”

Like [organisation name], other charities and organisations across the UK that have been affected by the unprecedented impact of the coronavirus outbreak are being given access to a comprehensive package of support of up to £600 million of repurposed money from The National Lottery. This money is supporting some of the most vulnerable people in our communities and span the arts, community, charity, heritage, education, environment and sports sectors.

Thanks to National Lottery players, £30 million is raised every week for good causes, including heritage of local and national importance. By playing The National Lottery, people up and down the country are making an amazing contribution to the nationwide-response to combatting the impact of COVID-19 on local communities across the UK.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund’s Heritage Emergency Fund is now closed for applications. To find out more about how The National Heritage Emergency Fund is supporting the sector at this time please visit: <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/responding-coronavirus-covid-19>

To find out more about the National Lottery Good Causes , visit: [www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/coronavirus-pandemic-response](http://www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/coronavirus-pandemic-response)

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors**

For further information about [project name], images and interview opportunities, please contact: [contact name] via [your contact email/telephone].

**About [organisation name]**

[paragraph about your organisation]

**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 change for people and communities, now and in the future. [www.heritagefund.org.uk](http://www.heritagefund.org.uk) #NationalLotteryHeritageFund

The Heritage Emergency Fund is now closed for applications. Extra advice and support and longer-term skills and capacity building initiatives has also been made available for the heritage sector. [Read more about The National Lottery Heritage Fund’s response to the Covid-19 emergency](https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/responding-coronavirus-covid-19).

**About the National Lottery**

* Since The National Lottery’s first draw took place on 19 November 1994, more than £40 billion has been raised for good causes in the areas of arts, sport, heritage and community.
* National Lottery players contribute around £30 million to good causes every week.
* The National Lottery has made more than 5,500 millionaires but its primary purpose is giving to good causes - over 565,000 individual grants have been awarded across the UK, that’s the equivalent of 200 life-changing projects in every UK postcode district.