

'Huge demand' for new Heritage Horizon Awards

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The first stage has now closed, with initial interest showing a huge appetite for National Lottery funding for heritage.

The [Heritage Horizon Awards](#), launched in June 2019, are designed to revolutionise the UK's heritage through investment of £100million over three years in ambitious, innovative and transformational projects.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund asked for Expressions of Interest – a light-touch way of identifying proposals with strong potential – for the first £50m investment. In total, 146 expressions of interest have been received, with a total ask of £1.3bn.

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Ros Kerslake, The National Lottery Heritage Fund CEO, said: "The high level of interest shows that, despite us investing £8bn over 25 years in the UK's heritage, there's still a huge amount of

demand for our funding. This is really encouraging – it suggests widespread awareness of the value of heritage to [tourism](#), jobs, economic prosperity and wellbeing.

“We have asked in particular for ambitious, innovative and transformational projects, substantial proposals for recognising the contribution of The National Lottery and a particular focus on our strategic priorities: [landscape and nature](#), heritage at risk and [inclusion](#). Early indications are that we are seeing some very interesting and exciting ideas.

“It’s great that our new, light-touch Expressions of Interest stage has encouraged so many organisations to put forward their ideas. With such a high level of interest, we will inevitably have to make some difficult decisions but ultimately we will be funding and providing guidance to a group of major projects that will set a new benchmark for what can be achieved through investment in heritage.”

What next

Ideas that show strong potential will be invited to present to a panel of decision-makers in late 2019. Those that are shortlisted by the panel will be invited to submit a development phase application by September 2020.

The Heritage Horizon Awards

The Heritage Horizon Awards are each worth a minimum of £5m. A total of £50m has been made available in the first year (2020-2021).

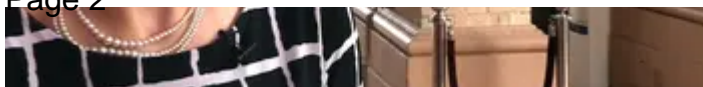
Find out more about the [application, development and delivery phases](#).



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