



PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE USE

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THE YORKSHIRE ARBORETUM WINS HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND SUPPORT

The Yorkshire Arboretum has received initial support* from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for its project 'If Trees Could Talk' it was announced today. The project aims to tell the story of the arboretum's trees, its historic site and rich natural biodiversity to a wide audience. Thanks to National Lottery players, development funding of £44,400 has been awarded to help the Yorkshire Arboretum progress plans to apply for a full grant at a later date.

The arboretum aims to develop an exciting series of trails, activity areas and interpretation materials that will make the realm of trees and their rich cultural and biological stories come alive, as well as introducing people to their beauty and diversity through an enhanced education programme for all ages.

Located near Castle Howard, the arboretum occupies 120 acres of the historic landscape on the estate, and was designed and laid out by the landscape architect and plantsman James Russell from 1979. Currently with over 6000 trees from around the world, including countries such as Chile, Kenya and Mexico, it's a continuously developing collection of significant scientific and horticultural importance. Amongst the trees native wildlife flourishes, with wild orchids, rare bees and birds such as barn owls all occurring on the site.

John Grimshaw, Director of the Yorkshire Arboretum, said: "We're absolutely delighted to receive this endorsement and support from the Heritage Lottery Fund. It gives us an opportunity to work towards the project we dream of, making this lovely place more accessible and more interesting to very many more people, promoting our values of inspiration, education and conservation."

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For further information, images and interviews, please contact:

Dr John Grimshaw, Director of the Yorkshire Arboretum on 01653 648598 or director@yorkshirearboretum.org

Photograph

Attached

Caption: Yorkshire Arboretum Main Vista View © Tony Bartholomew

Notes to editors

***A first-round pass** means the project meets HLF criteria for funding and HLF believes the project has potential to deliver high-quality benefits and value for Lottery money. The application was in competition with other supportable projects, so a first-round pass is an endorsement of outline proposals. Having been awarded a first-round pass, the project now has up to two years to submit fully developed proposals to compete for a firm award. On occasion, an applicant with a first-round pass will also be awarded development funding towards the development of their scheme.

About the Yorkshire Arboretum

The Yorkshire Arboretum is run by the Castle Howard Arboretum Trust, an independent charity (registration number 1044931) established to maintain and protect these unique collections. Founded in 1997 as a partnership between the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Castle Howard, the Trust's patron is HRH The Prince of Wales.

The Yorkshire Arboretum is located adjacent to Castle Howard and is open from 10am – 5pm every day from March – November. In addition to the 120 acre garden of trees there's a children's woodland playground, a café offering delicious home-cooked seasonal food and drink and a gift shop. Well-behaved dogs are welcome. Admission is £6 for adults, £3 for juniors (12-16) and £15 for families. Under 12s are admitted free. Find out more at www.yorkshirearboretum.org

The arboretum's annual event programme includes a wide range of family and outdoor activities, botanical and horticultural education, and arts and crafts workshops. Full details are available at www.yorkshirearboretum.org

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. www.hlf.org.uk @heritagelottery @HLFYandH