

# **Leicester Museums & Galleries**

## **Development Update**

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# Leicester Museum & Art Gallery

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- Leicester Stories Gallery – new gallery opens Spring 2022
- Staff welfare / office space – relocated to facilitate gallery
- Dinosaur interactives - to be launched early 2022
- Arts Council MEND Museum Estate and Development Fund bid £766k submitted. Decision pending. For essential maintenance to museum building



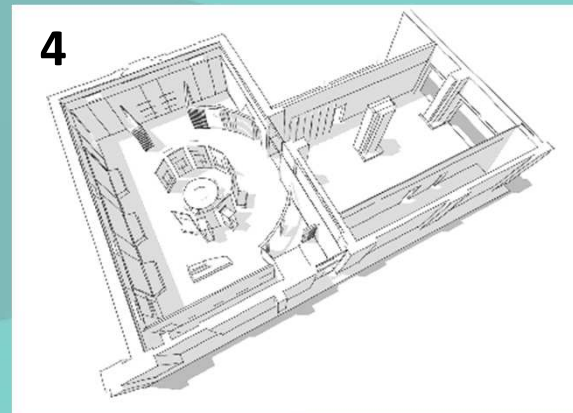
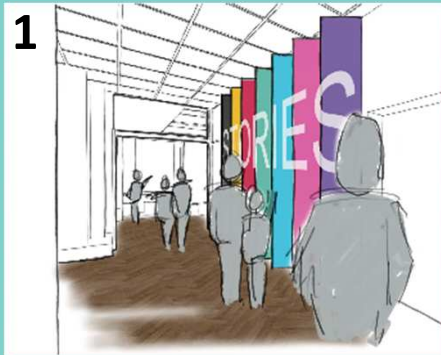


## Leicester Stories Gallery

- New 183sqm Gallery
- Cost £350k
- Telling the Stories of Leicester's people
- Includes Community Exhibition area
- Opens Spring 2022



# Leicester Stories Gallery - Overview



## Design Concepts

- 1 – Gallery Entrance
  - 2 – Central Interactives
  - 3 – Modular Timeline
  - 4 – Gallery Layout
- © Creative Core 2021



## Staff Offices & Welfare (First Floor)

- New Ways of Working Office Space
- Meeting Room
- Staff Welfare
- Operations Office
- Exhibitions & Design Workshop





# Staff Office



Previously Design Studio  
First floor Lord Mayor's Building  
Completed October 2021

- Supports New Ways of Working
- 16 Desks – 28 Staff
- 8 Flexible Hot Desks
- 8 Fixed PC's (due to specialised software requirements)
- Informal Meeting Space

# Staff Welfare



Previously the Conservation Studio  
First floor Lord Mayor's Building  
Completed October 2021

- Kitchen & Mess Room
- Staff Lockers
- Informal Meeting Space
- Confidential Booth
- Ops Office
  - Cash Handling
  - CCTV
  - Staff 1-2-1's







## Dinosaur Interactives

- Augmented Reality
- Upgrades gallery installed in 2011
- Gallery interactives x 5
- Mobile App to 'take home' a dinosaur



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# Dinosaur Gallery Interactives



## Meet Leicester's Dinosaurs Project

- Arts Council England - NPO funded project. Cost: £40k
- Highlighting fossils discovered locally – The Rutland Dinosaur (Cetiosaurus) and The Barrow Kipper (Plesiosaur)
- Uses augmented reality to put 'flesh on the bones' of the fossil displays using bespoke 3D rendering
- In accessibility testing stage
- On Gallery early 2022

# Dinosaur Gallery Interactives



## Meet Leicester's Dinosaurs Project

- A 'take home' version of the app will be available publicly through mobile app stores
- Visitors can use their personal devices to interact with Leicester's Dinosaurs
- Users encouraged to post photographs and videos on social media with the dinosaurs
- Features Museums branding



# LMAG – Next Steps / Longer term

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- Ambitions for a significant upgrade throughout building including
  - Relocate current café and shop to 'Wildspace' area
  - Revamp vacated entrance gallery to showcase collections, including dinosaurs
  - Re-open old Ancient Egypt gallery on the ground floor
  - Replace 'Wildspace' with new first floor gallery, focus on 'environment' issues
  - Consolidate the 'art' offer and improve connectivity on the ground floor
  - Develop Leicester Stories gallery, focus on social history
- Being costed. Requires additional budget to complete.





# Abbey Pumping Station



## Recent & Upcoming Developments

- Improve Entrance to site, via Public Realm works to the Wallingford Road / National Space Centre entrance
- Increase Visitor Number capacity via Fire Evacuation Improvements to the boiler house and beam engine house



# Public Realm Improvements. Completed Spring 2021

Before



After



## Abbey Pumping Station. New Main Entrance and Increased Capacity

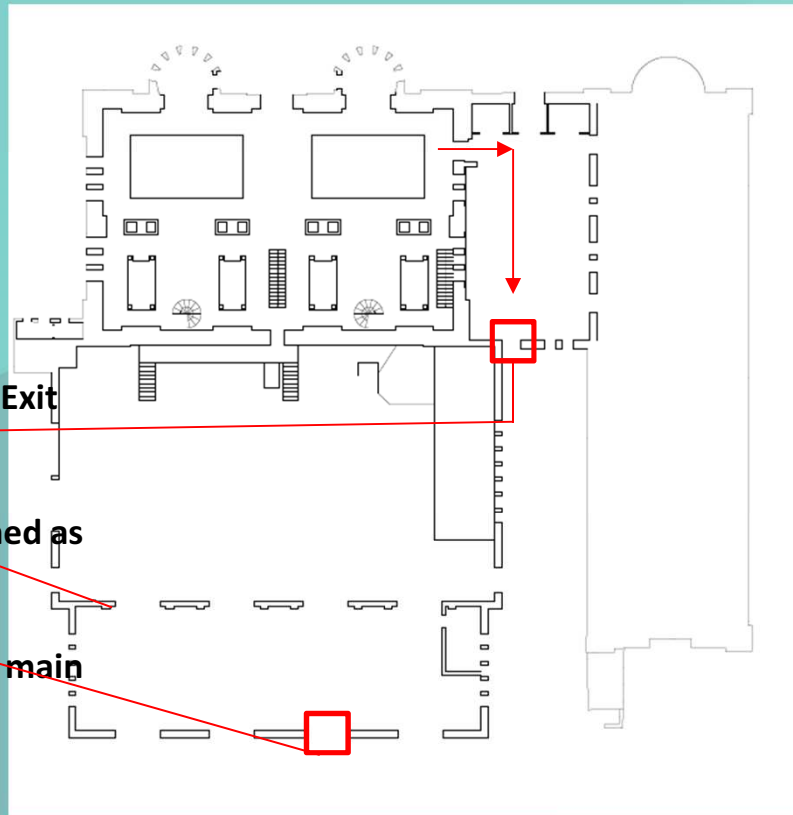


- New Main Entrance
- New Fire Escape Route
- Landscaped to create Levelled access



# Abbey Pumping Station

Leicester's Industrial Museum



**Create Visitor Route and Exit  
via the Switch Room**

**Old Main Entrance retained as  
Fire Evacuation Route**

**New Entrance created as main  
entrance to the museum**



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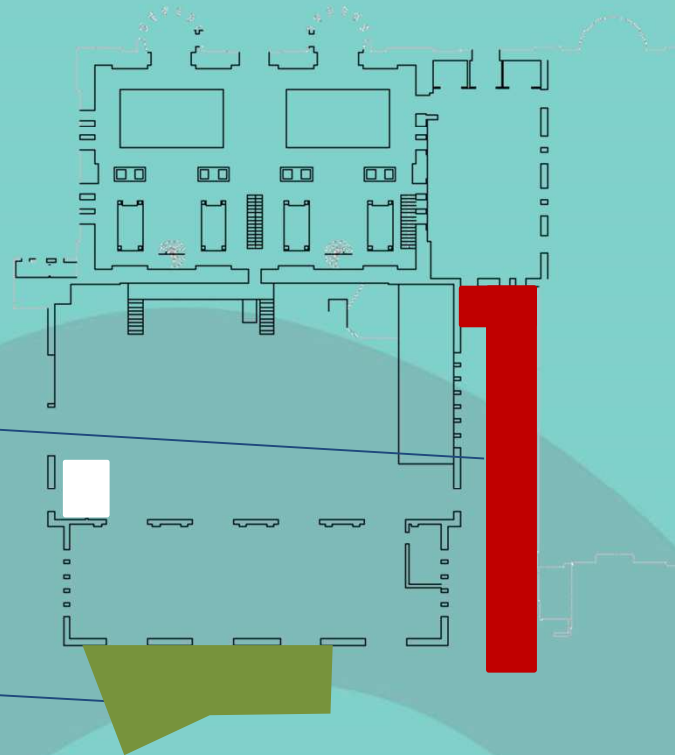


## Abbey Pumping Station

Leicester's Industrial Museum

**Evacuation Visitor Route**  
Ramp installed from Switch Room  
to ground level

**New Entrance area landscaped**  
to create levelled access to/from  
NSS and Fire Evacuation Route



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## Abbey Pumping Station

Leicester's Industrial Museum

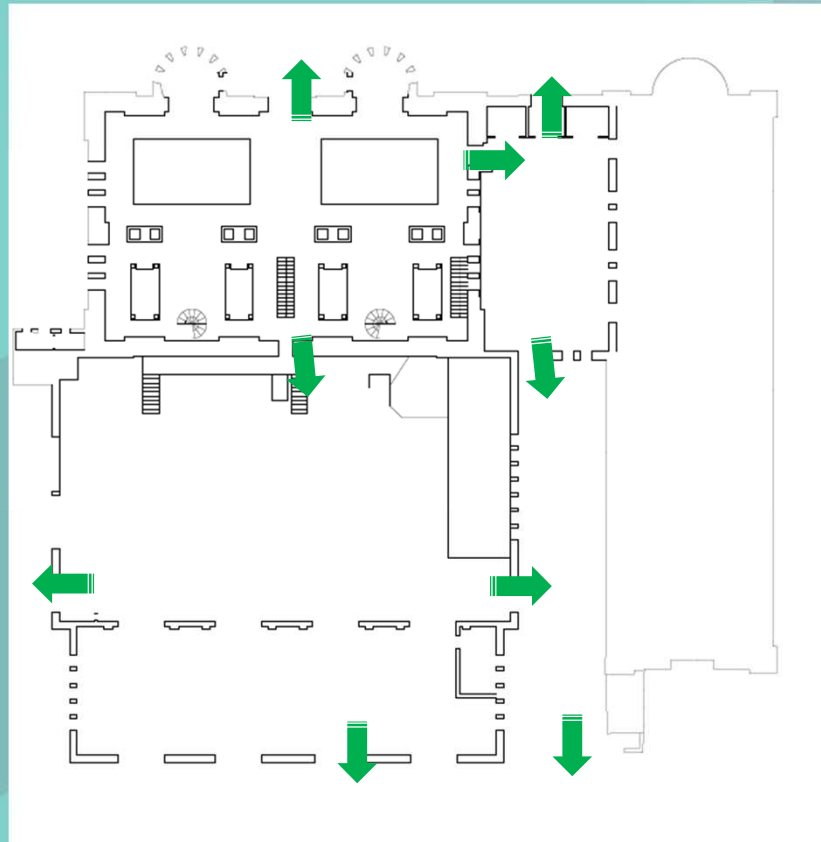
Creates new Fire Escape routes

Fully accessible access to both the  
Beam Engine House (top of sketch)  
& The Boiler House (centre of sketch)

Increases maximum capacity  
numbers significantly:

- Boiler house – from 60 to approx. 200 people
- Beam engine house – from 30 to 80 people

Budget circa 245k. Funds already  
secured







## Timescales and Next Steps

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- Car parking on site relocated to National Space Centre Car Park from Feb 2022
- New entrance and fire evacuation improvements complete by Spring 2022
- ACE Capital Investment Fund Application submitted December 2021 for further £500k Gallery upgrade package. Decision expected early in 2022

## Jewry Wall – Roman Leicester

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- Contractor working on Phase one gone into administration
- Recovery plan in place. New tender process near conclusion to appoint contractors to complete Phase one and Phase two (building works)  
Phase 3 contractors (museum fit out) appointed
- New programme being developed. Likely delay of few months but don't anticipate any cost overrun. Contingency and risk allowances adequate
- Updated application for Provisional Accreditation for museum to be submitted to Arts Council England by April 2022

# King Richard III Visitor Centre Development Plans

- Opened over 7 years ago. Impact and initial excitement of the discovery of the remains has lessened over time
- Need to refresh the exhibition and develop the proposition further to enhance the story and give it renewed relevance for a new, broader audience
- Since opening, the Greyfriars site has been designated as a Scheduled Monument by Historic England
- Ambition is to expand the subject of the story told on the ground floor through a complete redesign of the visitor experience providing more focus on, and interpretation of, the Greyfriars site
- Will have a Leicester focus in the detail but with broader stories and interests for wider appeal. Haley Sharp Design developed initial ideas
- Requires new resource. Heritage Lottery Fund bid pending.



# The Friary's part in the story of Medieval Leicester

The re-design will take advantage of further research and understanding not available seven years ago, reflecting the importance of the scheduled monument and the friary.



## Aims:

- Extend the appeal and relevance of the Visitor Centre to a wider audience
- Make it more engaging and interactive for young people
- School Visits –Strengthen curriculum links



# Augmented Reality

- Adds an immersive augmented reality view of the medieval friary, as seen from the first floor viewing area. Provides an immersive contrast to the present day view, enhances the visitor experience.
- Cost circa £110k. Budget already secured. Install by summer 2022
- November 2021 a Gold Accolade by Visit England was awarded to recognise and celebrate excellence within the visitor attraction sector, showcasing businesses that 'go the extra mile to provide a high-quality day out'
- Development plans aim to build on this success and maintain the high standard of visitor experience for which the Visitor Centre is known





## **Leicester Museums & Galleries**

**Arts Council England  
(ACE)**

**National Portfolio  
Organisation (NPO)**

**Funding 22-23**



## National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) Background

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- Delivering first NPO business plan (covering 2018-22) as funded by Arts Council England - £1.6m total received (circa £400k pr year)
- Due to Covid -19 a one year temporary extension was offered to cover 2022-23. £407k was bid for and has now been confirmed
- Further new funding processes for a new NPO bid for the period 2023-2026 is pending. Is critical for future museum service revenue budgets that we secure further support
- Extension year supports existing 6.5 staff posts 2022/23. Details of activity supported in 2022/23 follow

## Audience Development & Engagement (£75,800)

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- Gallery access resources – 3D replicas, audio guides, large print resources
- Leicester with Pride – LGBTQ+ co-curation exhibition
- Unearthed: Forgotten Histories – African and African Caribbean community co-curation
- Sound chairs - 1 @ LMAG, 1 @ APS

## Audience Development & Engagement – cont'd.

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- Quilting Conversations – engaging women in creation of textile display
- Library exhibitions and pop-up museums
- Artist sector support – Q&A sessions, portfolio reviews
- Caring for carers project



## Children & Young People (£35,000)

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- **Engaging in the climate emergency debate:**
  - Schools resource pack
  - Arts awards sessions
- **Engaging Every Primary Schoolchild**
  - New learning sessions
  - New loan boxes
- Takeover the Museum' day at LMAG in partnership with Spark Arts
- Development of black heritage touring exhibition

## Collections & Exhibitions (£16,410)

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- New LMAG environment gallery - consultation with children & young people
- Contemporary collecting of objects from city centre businesses
- 'Decolonising' the collections
- Store tours

## **Service Development & Marketing (£8,750)**

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- Staff training
- Happy Museum Champions
- Marketing
- Engaging volunteers
- Evaluating our work

## Fund-raising

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- To support these ambitious development plans we will pursue external funding that complements council investment
  - Heritage Lottery Fund for both Leicester Museum & Art Gallery and KRIII Visitor Centre
  - ACE Capital Investment Fund for Abbey Pumping Station
  - ACE MEND programme for Leicester Museum & Art Gallery
- The service is working closely with the independent City of Leicester Museum Trust (COLMT) to transform it into a broader fund-raising vehicle for the service. Currently COLMT is restricted to only purchasing objects for the collections.
- The new vehicle could make other applications e.g. for the new environment gallery proposed for Leicester Museum & Art Gallery. Some funders don't accept applications from local authorities so this would broaden our reach. Hoped the new Trust will be in place in 2022.