



## Press release – June 2023

### Title

***Selby Abbey is awarded a £150K grant by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to implement the development phase of The Origins Project***

### Main text

Selby Abbey has received initial support\* from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for the Selby Abbey Origins Project, it was announced today. Made possible by National Lottery players, the project aims to be based around the St Germain window in the North Transept and will tease out stories of the Abbey's monastic past. Development funding of £150,000 has been awarded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund to help Selby Abbey PCC and the Selby Abbey Trust progress their plans to apply for a full National Lottery grant at a later date.

Selby Abbey's Expression of Interest was completed in April 2022 resulting in a submission application for a potential total of nearly £1.1million. This includes development work, capital restoration and a community-based activity programme.

The project is a partnership application between Selby Abbey PCC and Selby Abbey Trust to allow shared workload and mutual benefit from development work. North Yorkshire Council are also key partners in the development and potential delivery of this project.

Selby Abbey is one of the relatively few surviving abbey churches of the medieval period, and although not a cathedral, is one of the largest.

Founded by Benedict of Auxerre as the centre of a monastic community three years after the Norman Conquest, and added to over time, it is a key historical building illustrating the transition from Romanesque (or 'Norman'), to a fully developed Gothic style. It is also significant for surviving intact the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 1530s.



## Quotes

Commenting on the award, the Abbey's vicar, Canon John Weetman said: "We're delighted that we've received this support thanks to National Lottery players. Selby Abbey has been at the centre of the life and work of the people of Selby for more than 950 years and it's great to know that we are a step closer to preserving it for another millennium and finding new ways for people to enjoy and explore all that it has to offer both local and wider communities."

North Yorkshire Council's executive member for culture, Cllr Simon Myers, said: "This project moves the Abbey to the next logical stage in its development, telling the founding story, which is one of the most important heritage narratives in the district and enabling more of our communities to connect with their heritage and develop new skills. The Abbey's iconic place in the townscape, and the importance of its heritage story, makes it a significant visitor economy driver for the town and wider district, as well as having a deep-rooted place in the hearts of the community."

The former Selby District Council contributed £10,000 towards the project.

## Notes to editors

### About Selby Abbey

Selby Abbey, The Crescent, Selby Tel 01757703123 Web [selbyabbey.org.uk](http://selbyabbey.org.uk)

### About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

\* National Lottery Heritage Fund grant applications over £250,000 are assessed in two rounds. 'The Origins' project has initially been granted round one development funding of £150,000 by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, allowing it to progress with its plans. Detailed proposals are then considered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund at second round, where a final decision is made on the full funding award of £1,075 million.

Using money raised by the National Lottery, we **Inspire, lead** and **resource** the UK's heritage to create **positive and lasting change** for people and communities, now and in the future. [www.heritagefund.org.uk](http://www.heritagefund.org.uk).



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Since The National Lottery began in 1994, National Lottery players have raised over £43 billion for projects and more than 635,000 grants have been awarded across the UK.

### **Further information**

For further information, images and interviews please contact John Weetman at Selby Abbey via telephone 01757703123 and email [office@selbyabbey.org.uk](mailto:office@selbyabbey.org.uk)