



Media Release –August 2025

Brathay Trust secures support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to conserve heritage and build on its 80-year legacy

Brathay Trust has successfully secured a significant development grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for its **‘Brathay Blueprint: Boats, Buildings and Brighter Futures’** project, it was announced today. Made possible thanks to National Lottery players, the project will use Brathay’s 80-year heritage to build brighter futures for even more young people by conserving its historic estate, boat fleet and archive, and making them more accessible and relevant to people today.

The Heritage Fund award alongside a grant from the Francis Scott Trust will enable Brathay to progress its plans to develop a people focused future plan and apply for further funds in late 2026. This vital first step will enable Brathay to develop a comprehensive blueprint for the sustainable use of its heritage buildings and boats, while identifying opportunities for investment and adaptation that respect the site’s unique character and legacy.

Brathay’s heritage, nestled within a historic lakeside estate in the Lake District, includes Brathay Hall, Old Brathay, and two boathouses, a nationally significant archive dating back to 1946 charting the story of the Outdoor Learning Movement, and a rare fleet of traditional wooden Whaler boats which are regularly used on Windermere as part of the charity’s residential programmes. Without this investment, these assets, and the skills, stories and inspiration they embody, could remain hidden, underused, or at risk of being lost to future generations.

The project will conserve and celebrate these assets while creating new opportunities for people to engage with them. From protecting traditional craft skills and connecting people with the Lake District, to celebrating outdoor learning and uncovering Brathay’s pioneering past, the programme will ensure that Brathay’s legacy continues to inspire, include and transform lives, particularly for young people and underrepresented groups. Elements of the archive will be digitised and put on display for greater access and as a permanent record of the charity’s rich history to future generations.

Teresa Jennings, Chief Executive from Brathay Trust said: “We are absolutely delighted to have secured support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for our Brathay Blueprint project. This investment will enable us to preserve and share the rich heritage of Brathay in ways that inspire future generations and strengthen our work with young people and communities. My thanks also to those that helped support our bid, namely, the Francis Scott Trust, University of Cumbria, Institute for Outdoor Learning, Lakeland Arts and Tim Farron MP.”



Helen Featherstone, Director, England, North at The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said: “The lakeside estate of Brathay is home to some outstanding heritage relating to outdoor learning and traditional craft skills. The Brathay Trust does a fantastic job in linking this with young people who can carry on these traditions for future generations. Thanks to money raised by National Lottery players, we are thrilled to be supporting this project in Brathay’s 80th Year!”

Coinciding with Brathay Trust’s 80th anniversary, the project will culminate in a live outdoor celebration in 2026, where supporters and communities will come together to launch the completed **Brathay Blueprint**, setting out the future of Brathay for generations to come.

EDITORS NOTES:

About Brathay Trust

Brathay Trust is a national youth charity founded in 1946, it inspires over 7000 young people each year to build their brighter futures. Its historic estate provides life-changing outdoor residential experiences in the Lake District, where Brathay supports young people to realise their potential and grow into leaders within their communities. Thanks to funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund and Francis Scott Trust, Brathay Trust will be able to set out plans to conserve its historic estate, boat fleet and archive, making them more accessible and relevant to people today, which will ensure these transformative experiences continue for the next 80 years.

About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Our vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future. That’s why as the largest funder for the UK’s heritage we are dedicated to supporting projects that connect people and communities to heritage, as set out in our strategic plan, Heritage 2033. Heritage can be anything from the past that people value and want to pass on to future generations. We believe in the power of heritage to ignite the imagination, offer joy and inspiration, and to build pride in place and connection to the past.

Over the next 10 years, we aim to invest £3.6billion raised for good causes by National Lottery players to make a decisive difference for people, places and communities.

heritagefund.org.uk

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For Further Information



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