

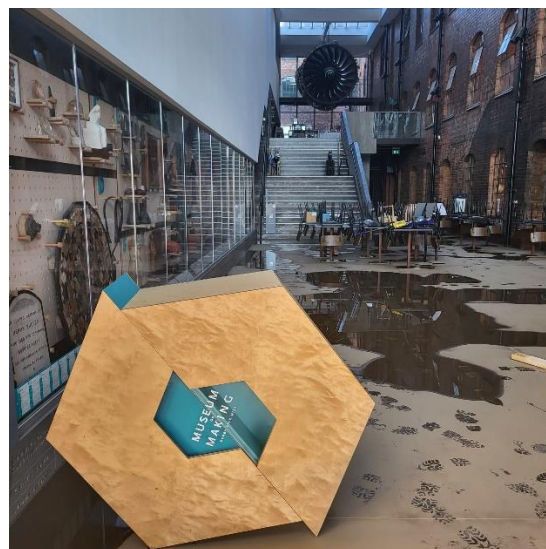
# PRESS RELEASE

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## Flooding causes significant damage to the Museum of Making in Derby

<https://derbymuseums.org/news/flooding-causes-significant-damage-to-the-museum-of-making-in-derby>



*Images showing the flood damage at the Museum of Making*

Derby Museums is sad to report that the recent severe weather conditions have exposed the Museum of Making to substantial flood damage. Whilst the building was designed to withstand an element of flooding, including movable displays on the ground floor and the installation of electrics above the ground, and staff had worked tirelessly to move as much as possible off the ground floor, water levels were higher than predicted and the damage is significant. As a result, the interruption to the museum's day-to-day activity is expected to be substantial.

An initial visual survey of the building by the Derby Museums team shows the ingress of approximately 50-70cm of flood water in the building. Despite the team's best efforts, there appears to be significant damage to equipment in the kitchen and workshop, and damage to all interior ground floor doors. Fortunately, the collections appear to be undamaged – this is largely due to the design of the building, which sees the majority



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of collections housed on upper floors with the Italian Mill space containing moveable displays which allows them to be relocated as needed.

The Museum of Making will be closed to the public whilst insurers are consulted, and the damage is further assessed. The building will also need to be checked for contamination due to the entry of flood water. Safety checks will need to be conducted on ground floor doors to ensure a safe fire evacuation strategy remains in place. Professional cleaners will be brought in to remove any contamination caused by the water. As a result, the Museum of Making will be closed until remedial measures can be instigated to repair the damage. As soon as the building has been made safe and insurers have assessed the damage, the museum should be able to reopen its doors.

A fundraising campaign was launched on Saturday 21st October, with significant support received as a result of this appeal. Derby Museums is now in conversation with insurers and are hopeful that they will cover the majority of the remaining losses. Donations can still be made and will be used to either support any unmet recovery costs, or to keep Derby Museums open for all.

Tony Butler, Executive Director of Derby Museums, said:

*“We were all devastated to wake up to the floods on Saturday morning. Our team worked hard to secure the Museum of Making and protect our collections which I am pleased to say are safe and undamaged. We are sorry to be closed to the public in the coming days. I’d like to thank our fantastic supporters, both individuals and the local business community; as always, we have been overwhelmed by your love and appreciation for Derby Museums.”*

For further updates, please check Derby Museums’ website: [derbymuseums.org](http://derbymuseums.org) and social media channels (@derbymuseums).

From the Derby Museums team, thank you for your support.

**-Ends-**

For more information, please contact Zoë Crew, Marketing and Communications Manager:  
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## Notes to editors



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## About Derby Museums

- Founded in 2012, Derby Museums is an independent charitable trust that manages three museums in the city, the Museum and Art Gallery, Pickford's House and the new Museum of Making at Derby Silk Mill and holds and curates all the art and collections within them, including the world's largest collection of paintings by Joseph Wright of Derby.
- Derby Museums inspires all generations to be makers, artists and thinkers. It aims to bring as many of the objects and treasures in the collections into the public domain as possible and to present them in ways that delight and inspire via education and learning programmes, events and exhibitions, in order to share knowledge and inspire creativity and making amongst the people of Derby.
- As a charitable trust, Derby Museums relies on funding and grants from organisations, as well as donations from businesses and the general public, all of which is gratefully received in order to ensure that admission to the museums remains free for all. It is also a National Portfolio Organisation supported by Arts Council England.
- Derby Museums' Museum of Making was nominated as a Finalist for Art Fund Museum of the Year Award 2022, the world's largest museum prize: [www.artfund.org/museum-of-the-year](http://www.artfund.org/museum-of-the-year).

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## Derby Museums' Endowment Campaign

- Derby Museums has been awarded a Heritage Endowment Grant by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. In August 2022 Derby Museums succeeded in reaching its £1 million Endowment target which, with match funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, provided a £2 million Endowment Fund that will be permanently invested to provide an income to help to support Derby Museums' long-term future.

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## About the National Lottery Heritage Fund

- 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). Follow @HeritageFundUK on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund
- The Fund has been supporting the Museum of Making and its activities programme since 2015, with a major grant of £10,695,000, including an initial £817,300 of Development Funding.

## About Arts Council England

- Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in Let's Create that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high quality cultural experiences. We invest public money from Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision.

[www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)



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- Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council developed a £160 million Emergency Response Package, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. We are also one of several bodies administering the Government’s Culture Recovery Fund and unprecedented support package of £1.57 billion for the culture and heritage sector. Find out more at [www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19)



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