

"PA" NEWS

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Museum Passes First Stage of Lottery Funding

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Bovington Tank Museum in Dorset has passed stage 1 in its bid for £8.55m lottery funding.

The South-Dorset charity submitted the bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund in June last year as part of its At Close Quarters development scheme – set to be the biggest development of a tourist attraction in the history of Dorset.

Tank Museum Director John Woodward said: "We are delighted to have passed this critical stage, and we can now look forward to developing our plans supported by the HLF.

"The development grant will enable us to improve the displays and help our visitors gain more enjoyment and knowledge from our globally unique collection."

The At Close Quarters project features a number of ways to improve the visitor experience, including increased live action and tank displays throughout the year.

Billy Bragg, local singer, song writer and political activist, welcomed the news of support for his favourite museum.

He said: "The Tank Museum has the greatest collection of fighting vehicles in the world. Each has a story to tell, from the very first tanks ever built to the most recent hi-tech developments.

"The award of this grant will at last allow the whole collection to be displayed in a way that is accessible to all."

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