



## Project Enquiry Form

### Summary

**What is the title of your project?**

**In no more than 15 words, please choose a title which you think best describes your project.**

Explore, Discover, Learn - enhancing opportunities to access and celebrate Leavesden Country Park's rich heritage

**Reference number**

HG-14-08047

**Date received**

18/12/2014

**Section One - Your Organisation****1a Name and address of your organisation**

<b>Name of your organisation</b>	Three Rivers District Council
<b>Address line 1</b>	Three Rivers District Council
<b>Address line 2</b>	Three Rivers House
<b>Address line 3</b>	Northway
<b>Town / city</b>	Rickmansworth
<b>County</b>	Hertfordshire
<b>Postcode</b>	WD3 1RL

**1b Details of main contact person**

<b>Name</b>	Julie Hughes
<b>Position</b>	Principal Landscape Officer

**Is the address of the main contact person the same as the address in 1a?**

<b>Daytime phone number, including area code</b>	01923 776611
<b>Alternative phone number</b>	

<b>Email address</b>	julie.hughes@threerivers.gov.uk
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**1c Are you a not for profit organisation?**

Yes

**Please tell us the type of your organisation.**

Local Authority

**1d Where did you hear about the Heritage Lottery Fund? Please pick from list or specify below.**

Other

**Please specify**

We have had an initial meeting with Kate Brown about the project and previous experience of a successful HLF bid

## Section Two - The Heritage

### 2a What is the heritage that your project will focus on?

1. The Country Park was home to the 'Leavesden Asylum for Idiots and Imbeciles' built in 1867, one of the first such institutions for London in Victorian time and a unique facility. It was 90% self sufficient for 2,085 patients, 639 orphans and staff with school, nursing college, gas works, sewage treatment system, 42 acre farm and livestock.
2. The Mosquito Bomber plane and the Halifax bomber were manufactured at Leavesden Aerodrome as the nearby de Havilland site was at full capacity. Over 2000 planes were built and played a significant part in the successes of WWII.
3. The aerodrome was then taken over by Rolls Royce to manufacture engines and helicopters until its closure in 1994.
4. In 1995 the disused and empty Aerodrome became home to Leavesden Film Studios and the hangers became converted to studios, launching with the James Bond film, Golden Eye. The Star Wars prequel was made on site and over the next 10 years the 5 Harry Potter movies were made at the studios.
5. Warner Bros. purchased the site in 2010 and opened to the public in 2012.

Almost twenty years after the complex was converted from aerodrome to film studios, the newly refurbished studios are one of the largest and most state of the art secure filming facilities in the world.

Our work would celebrate the importance of this site and provide better interpretation and understanding of its significance. Through interpretation boards and sculptures we hope to teach people about the role of the asylum and the part both the Mosquito and the Halifax bombers played in WWII. Currently there is very little in the area that is easily accessible that records this part of history. The film studios have become known for iconic films such as James Bond and Star Wars and now the famous home of Harry Potter. Our wish is to capture the iconic images of the film industry through sculpture and bring this to life. It is important that the community understand the link between the aerodrome and the film studios and this will be explained through the interpretation boards.

## Section Three - Your Project

### 3a Is the address of your project the same as the address of your organisation?

No

Enter the address of your project.

<b>Address line 1</b>	Leavesden Country park
<b>Address line 2</b>	off College Road
<b>Address line 3</b>	
<b>Town / city</b>	ABBOTS LANGLEY
<b>County</b>	Hertfordshire
<b>Postcode</b>	WD5 0GN

**3b Describe what your project will do.**

1. Interpretation: An outstanding Sculpture Trail throughout the Country Park reflecting the heritage of the area including interpretation boards informing the community of the local historical and natural environment. This will also include improving accessibility through enhancing pathways. The trail will be throughout both sides of the park (approx. 27 hectares) and down to a new area of land known as the Horsefield, with 10 -12 statement piece sculptures using a variety of mediums and styles to reflect the history. All visitors to the park should have an enjoyable time experiencing the natural beauty of the park and the sculptures.
2. Park Ranger (Full time officer 3 year post): To enhance the community access to the park. Including walks & talks, activities, strengthening links with schools via the curriculum and creating a Community Outdoor Classroom. In partnership with: Friends Groups, Schools, Scout Groups, Probation Service, Youth Connexions, Young Offenders, Historical Society, Nurseries, Children's Centres, YMCA (already on site), this project should attract more volunteers. Through working with the young offenders and probation service this will contribute to a change in their attitude and behaviour as they develop a respect for the park and wildlife. The Park Ranger is also able to teach and transfer skills through their work with the Outdoor Classroom and local school groups including Duke of Edinburgh Awards.
3. Park Ranger Heritage Wildlife Centre and Amphitheatre: The Wildlife Centre would create a community and volunteer hub for information and events as well as a site for talks and a location to extend community usage. e.g. Historical Society delivering talks. Information boards will also be included. The amphitheatre would be used by community groups and the development team at Three Rivers will organise activities to maximise the use of the space. (e. g. Historical presentations, candle lit carol concert, Outdoor Classroom Initiative). It seems appropriate that the home of Leavesden Film Studios should have a woodland story telling platform.

Currently the Park is not a destination in its own right and is used primarily by local residents. The scope of this work (coupled with the resident YMCA installing public toilets and small cafe in the park), means that more people will access the area and will want to visit. Should all the enhancement projects be fully developed, the Park will become a destination in its own right , giving the local community a sense of pride. It will also serve as a secondary tourist destination for the Warner Bros. Harry Potter Tour. This in turn will increase the usage of the cafe and its financial success.

The park is a bounty of wildlife and natural habitats. With the introduction of a Park Ranger, the land will be better managed and cared for. The condition of the park will only improve and be of a greater attraction to a wider audience. The utmost care would be taken to minimise the impact of the work on the environment. All works would be sympathetic with the natural surroundings and inline with the Leavesden Country Park Management Plan.

**Section Four - Project Management****4a When do you expect your project to start and finish?**

September 2015 - December 2017

The softer side of the project will start first: wildlife talks, presentations depicting the heritage & history of the area, Outdoor Classroom and working with the probation service

## Section Five - Project Costs

**5a How much is your project likely to cost? If you know, tell us what the major costs are likely to be.**

Park Ranger Wildlife Centre and the Amphitheatre : £200K

Park Ranger (Full time officer for 3 years) : £120K

Activities budget : £80K (3 years)

Sculpture Trail: £500K

Pathways : £500K

Interpretation Boards: £30K (historical, environmental and relevant sculptures)

Total project cost: £1.4m

Section 106 contribution: £210K

Other partners (TBC): £120K

Three Rivers District Council : £20K

**5b How much are you likely to ask for from us?**

£1,050,000

**Please use the button below if you would like to attach any documents, such as images, to your form.**

**Once we receive this form we aim to contact you within 10 working days.**