



British Motor Museum to receive new funding to improve accessibility to arts and culture

Published: May 8, 2026

Author:

Online version:

<https://www.wheels-alive.co.uk/british-motor-museum-to-receive-new-funding-to-improve-accessibility-to-arts-and-culture/>



Above: Cowley factory Morris Motors 1947. Working on a clay model of the Morris Oxford MO next to a completed model of the Morris Eight.



WHEELS-ALIVE!

www.wheels-alive.co.uk





Above: Archive image.

The Museum tells us...

(All words and photographs from The British Motor Museum).

The British Motor Museum is one of 24 museums that have received a share of £4 million through the DCMS/Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund 2025-27. The Fund brings together £2 million in match funding from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and independent, grant making charity, the Wolfson Foundation.

£147,700 has been allocated to the British Motor Museum which will be used to develop and deliver *Grasping the Image: digital accessibility to heritage images* - a project that will enhance accessibility to heritage photographs held in the British Motor Industry Heritage Trust (BMIHT) Archive. The project will run from Spring 2026 to early 2027.

The project will provide unprecedented access for visually impaired visitors and wider audiences to a historically significant collection of 20th century photographic negatives. Conservation-led, public-facing and co-created, this digital accessibility project will produce digital twins of a currently inaccessible collection using advanced digital imaging and create innovative tactile/audio models.

This project, led by the BMIHT Archive, will bring together partners including the Centre for Print Research, University of the West of England, digital heritage company Mnemoscene and community organisations including the charity MyVision Oxfordshire and local schools which specialise in providing support for children with special educational needs.

Cat Stuart-Yapp, Head of Fundraising at the British Motor Industry Heritage Trust, said, "We're delighted that we have been successful in our application to receive this funding. Using advanced digital capture solutions, the project will use our extensive collection of photographic negatives to generate 3D images, which can in turn be used to create tactile models with sensors to generate audio. This means that more people will be able to encounter, experience and enjoy our collections, in more ways".

The project will help the Museum provide practical solutions to audience exclusion from ocular-centric collections and enable more multisensory access to the BMIHT's heritage collections for audiences who do not use sight as their primary mode of engagement and learning. The project will also enable the creation of a specially created display space onsite at the British Motor Museum, and allow the Museum to reach out to schools, community groups and organisations through bespoke travelling interactive displays.



This funding also covers the procurement of new digitisation equipment and staff training, to enhance the Trust's digital capacity and improve the discoverability and accessibility of the archival collections.

The Wolfson Foundation is an independent grant-making charity with a focus on research and education. Its aim is to contribute to civil society by supporting high-quality projects in science, health, heritage, humanities and the arts. Since it was established in 1955, the Wolfson Foundation has awarded some £1 billion (£2 billion in real terms) to more than 14,000 projects throughout the UK, all on the basis of expert review.

To find out more information about the Museum, please visit the website at <https://www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk/>

Follow The British Museum on social media

Twitter @BMMuseum **Facebook** www.facebook.com/BritishMotorMuseum

Instagram www.instagram.com/britishmotormuseum

About The British Motor Museum

- The British Motor Museum houses the collections of the British Motor Industry Heritage Trust – over 400 cars spanning the classic, vintage and veteran eras and a fabulous archive of film, photographs, personal papers and business documents.
- The British Motor Industry Heritage Trust (the Trust) is an independent educational charity formed in 1983. The Registered Charity Number is 286575. Its mission is to collect, conserve, research and display for the benefit of the nation, motor vehicles, archives and ancillary material relating to the motor industry in Great Britain and to provide a world-class motor museum and major visitor attraction providing a broad based academic and educational facility coupled to an entertaining and attractive display.
- As a registered charity, the British Motor Industry Heritage Trust operates a number of fundraising schemes from 'Adopt a Car' to Payroll Giving and is registered with the Fundraising Regulator.
- In December 2014, the Trust gained the coveted designated status from Arts Council England which



confirms that its collections are of national significance. The Designation Scheme is a mark of distinction, identifying and celebrating pre-eminent collections of national and international importance in non-national institutions. British Motor Museum is a National Portfolio Organisation supported by Arts Council England providing funding for a 3-year programme of exhibitions, engagement and learning activity from 2023 to 2026. Arts Council England is the national development body for arts and culture across England, working to enrich people's lives. It supports a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries. Between 2023 and 2026, it will invest £446m per year to help create these experiences www.artscouncil.org.uk

- The British Motor Museum delivers a range of educational packages which support the National Curriculum - science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects at KS1 to KS4. A wide range of family and lifelong learning activities also take place in the Museum during school holidays.
- Each year the Museum hosts a number of highly successful and varied motoring Shows and Rallies as well as family events, lectures and workshops. For full details please visit the website www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk
- The address is British Motor Museum or British Motor Industry Heritage Trust, Banbury Road, Gaydon, Warwickshire CV35 0BJ.

DCMS/Wolfson Museums & Galleries Improvement Fund

The DCMS/Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund provides capital funding for museums and galleries across England to improve displays, protect collections and make exhibitions more accessible to visitors. For 2025-27, DCMS and the Wolfson Foundation have each contributed £2 million to the Fund, which has benefitted more than 440 projects in its more than 20-year history.