

SALISBURY  
MUSEUM  
*for future  
generations*



PAST

*forward*



# WELCOME *to the future*



Welcome to the future of Salisbury Museum. **Past Forward** is the culmination of our plans to redevelop the museum; delivering new, permanent galleries, a flexible learning space and events venue, along with new activities and the staff to run them.

The project completes what we set out to do with the opening of the Wessex Gallery in 2014 - to create a high-quality offer across the museum that will attract more visitors, introduce new income streams and provide increased opportunities for getting involved, thus building a stable platform for the future.

**Past Forward** will be transformational. By 2024 we will not only have an outstanding museum that will appeal to Salisbury's visitors, but we will be working in new ways with the local community to ensure we truly reflect the wide-ranging history of our incredible city.

*Adrian Green*

ADRIAN GREEN  
Director, The Salisbury Museum



Alice Roberts at Salisbury Museum, 2014, Image © Inside Wiltshire

‘ I’ve spent a huge amount of time in so many museums, doing my research and making television programmes about archaeology, and I have to say - Salisbury is my favourite. It’s not only the rich and diverse collections it holds, of national and international importance, it’s the way those collections are used and presented to the public - with such careful thought put into making exhibitions relevant, exciting and accessible. The Wessex Gallery is such a beautiful example of how to present archaeology in an inspiring way. This new bid for funding would enable the museum to make the most of its other collections - including wonderful ceramics and fascinating fossils.’

ALICE ROBERTS

## *from the* PAST



The Salisbury Museum dates back to 1860 when a group of local people bought a haul of medieval objects that had been discovered in the city’s water courses during the creation of a new sewer system. **The Drainage Collection**, as it became known, spurred the group to create the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum.

The museum moved in 1981 to the King’s House, a Grade 1 listed building in Salisbury Cathedral Close, when it outgrew its previous premises in St Ann Street. Its avid curators had obtained new finds and artefacts which culminated with the acquisition of the Pitt-Rivers Wessex Collection in 1975. Those collections, particularly in archaeology, have been designated by Arts Council England as being of national and international importance.



Students outside the teacher training college, the King’s House, circa 1905

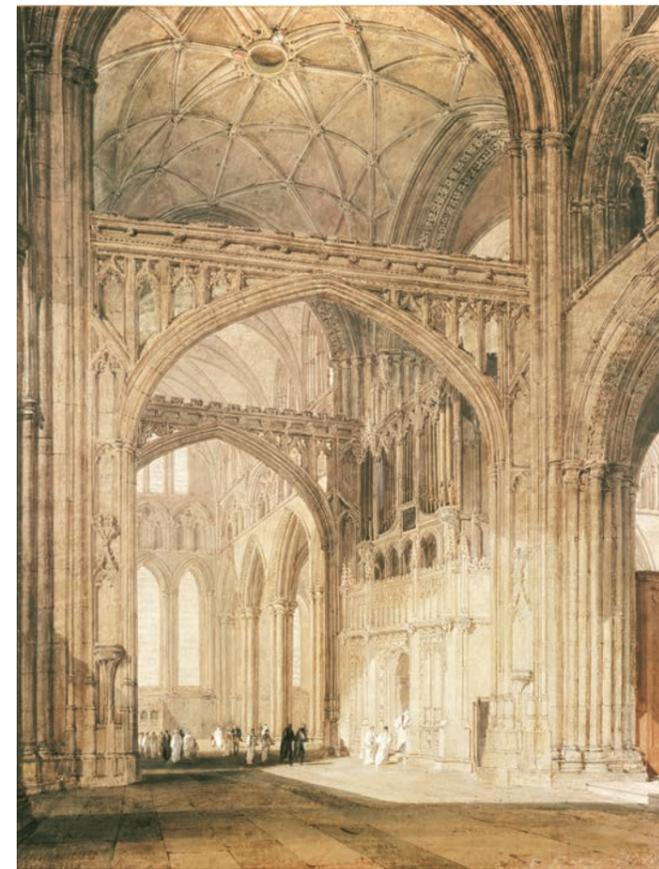


The Salisbury Giant outside old museum in St Ann Street, 19th century

# looking FORWARD

The museum's collections, its situation at the heart of The Close, and the beauty and fascinating history of the King's House, draw visitors from across the UK and from overseas. However, this is also a very local museum – here to inspire, serve and reflect the people of Salisbury past, present and future. With each generation, improvements have been made in how the collections are looked after, and the way in which their stories are told. The most recent such improvement was the creation of the Wessex Gallery in 2014.

**Past Forward** continues the journey of development, critical for people's enjoyment and understanding of the city's great stories and for the long-term protection of King's House and the museum. New galleries and event spaces, and restoration of the fabric of our wonderful building, together with an entirely new programme of engagement opportunities for local people, will create a museum of consistently high quality. These improvements are vital to the museum's ability to increase visitor numbers, recruit more and a wider range of volunteers, and to generate the revenue it needs to thrive.



North transept of Salisbury Cathedral by J M W Turner, watercolour, 1801-05



Our Lady of Tombelaine Pilgrim Badge, early 15th century



Bobbin used to make Downton lace, 19th century

‘We are all very excited by the scale and scope of this important project which will allow us the opportunity to share even more of the museum’s valuable collection within these beautiful new galleries, to deepen our community engagement, and to extend our education support and impressive schedule of temporary exhibitions.’

**JON TURNER**  
Chair of Trustees



Verwood money box, circa 1910



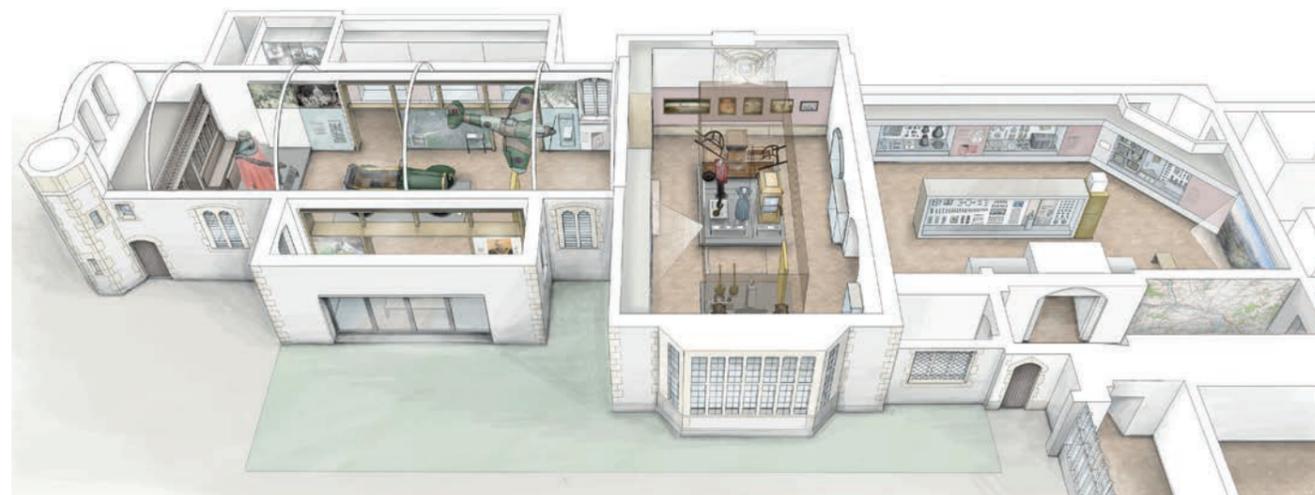
Laverstock pottery, 13th – 14th century

# PROPOSED *future development*

## Devenish Bradshaw Salisbury Gallery

Spanning three of the museum's principal ground floor spaces, this new gallery will tell Salisbury's story from 1220 to the present. The narrative will be told through items from the medieval archaeology, art, ceramics, costume and social history collections, curated with significant input from the local community. The gallery will be of Government Indemnity Standard, enabling us to display loans from national collections.

*Drawings by Metaphor Design*



*Devenish Bradshaw Salisbury Gallery*

## Ceramics Gallery

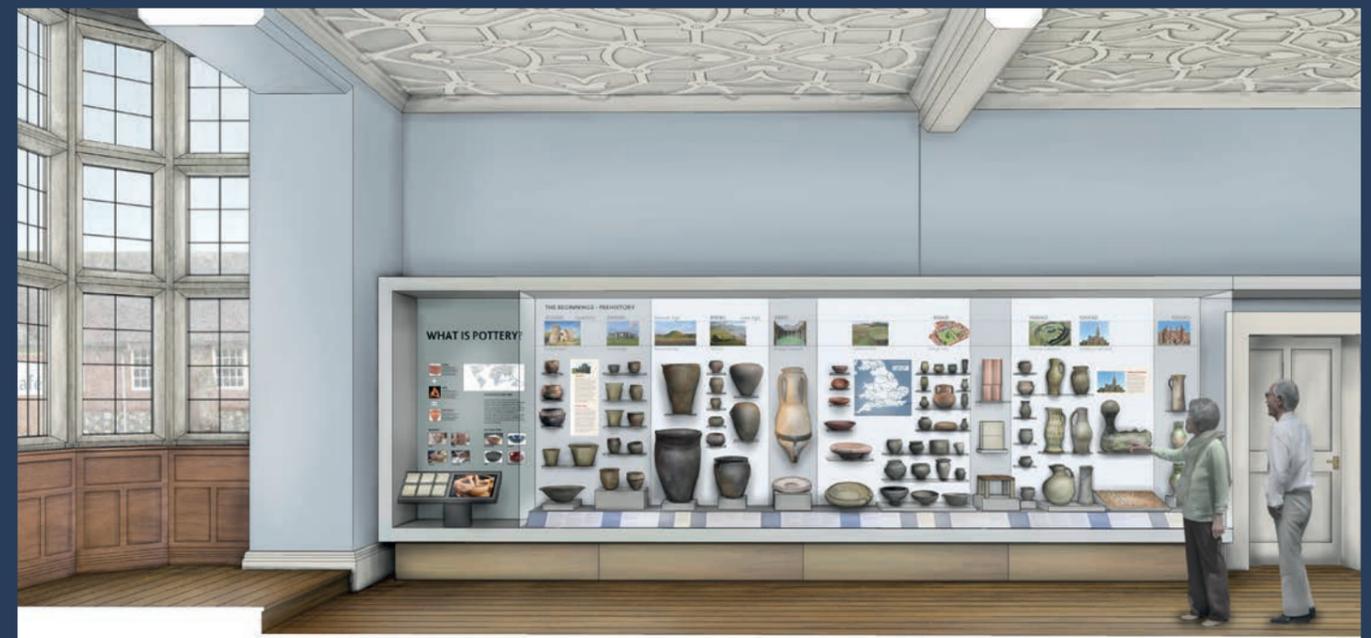
The King's Room on the first floor is the finest room in the building and a fitting one for display of the museum's exceptional collection of ceramics. The gallery will be refurbished and the collection used to tell a 'potted history' of Britain, covering the story of ceramics from the earliest pots found in Britain to our Wedgwood collection.

## Natural History Gallery

The museum has an extensive natural history collection including 19th century taxidermy and chalk fossils. All of this collection will be brought out of long-term storage to explore issues of bio-diversity and climate change.



*Natural History Gallery*



*Ceramics Gallery*



Devenish Bradshaw Salisbury Gallery



Event Space



New door to Devenish Bradshaw Salisbury Gallery into rear courtyard

## Learning Space

With capacity for up to 30 children, this will be the hub for learning at the museum and for activities ranging from object handling to craft workshops.

## Event Space

Accessed by a new lift, a reconfigured first floor gallery will become a superb venue for lectures, courses and community meetings seating up to 90.

## Restoring the building

The project gives us the opportunity to address the most urgent building conservation issues at the King's House.

‘to inspire, serve and reflect the people of Salisbury past, present and future’



Section through north side of building when project is completed



## *activities* FOR ALL

**Past Forward** is even more than splendid new galleries, versatile spaces for events and learning, and restoration of the building. It's about exploring new ways of involving the community in the museum, through learning programmes and thematic activities such as storytelling, reminiscence and oral history collection, as well as expanding existing programmes to meet the needs of particular groups, including the elderly and those with learning difficulties.

A highlight of the project will be 'My City, My Salisbury', designed to closely involve 15,000 local people a year with the curation of new displays and other aspects of the museum. This includes a 5-year programme of targeted activities aimed at giving Salisbury's disadvantaged communities a voice in the displays, in partnership with local organisations such as care homes, mental health support services, youth groups and residents' associations, as well as Salisbury City Council, Wiltshire Council and Salisbury Cathedral.



# *making it* HAPPEN



The total cost of **Past Forward** is **£4.4million**.

We were delighted to pass the first round of a major application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and have now submitted a second round application. We have requested a grant of £3.2m. However, this grant will be dependent on the Heritage Fund having confidence that the museum can raise the remaining funds when the project is reassessed in September.

Project cost	<b>£4.4m</b>
NLHF grant	<b>£3.2m</b>
Donations and pledges received to date	<b>£665k</b>
Remainder to be raised	<b>£535k</b>

This is an ambitious target, particularly in these turbulent times, but we have been positively encouraged to continue with our plans by the Heritage Fund and all those we have talked to about the project. The outcomes that the project promises to deliver are important and much needed, particularly as the museum seeks to play an active role in Salisbury's recovery from recent events.

We hope you will want to know more about the project and might consider making a contribution to its cost. For further information please visit: [salisburymuseum.org.uk/support-us/past-forward](https://salisburymuseum.org.uk/support-us/past-forward) or contact:

## **ADRIAN GREEN**

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## KEY *dates*

JUNE 2021	Final application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, including confirmation all match funding can be raised
AUTUMN 2021	National Lottery Heritage Fund final decision
LATE 2022	Work starts on site
EARLY 2024	New galleries open

The Salisbury Museum  
The King's House  
65 The Close  
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