



The Royal Ordnance Depot Visitor Centre Proposal

Thank you to those who participated in our focus group session on 17th March, your opinions and ideas were most gratefully received and have helped us to shape the plans. As we explained on the day, we plan to open a small visitors centre in the East Lodge House, pictured below:-



We are now in the process of writing the grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for assistance towards creating and opening the centre.

We're applying to HLF for a grant to fund the following items:-

1. Exhibition design and creation

The lodge house is to become a centre for the visiting public to view images, text, items and artefacts that tell the site's history. A specific exhibition designer will be employed to plan out the location of items and types of display.



We want to be able to offer as much information to the designer as possible as to what items and information we have available. Can you help with any artefacts, clothing, documents, models, photographs or film of the site over its 200-year history?

2. Document collection and storage

Over and above the items for exhibition, we want to start a campaign to local residents, and further afield if possible, to collect historical information, documents or items that relate to the depot, should the owner of those documents wish to share them. Any historical information that can be collected will be stored on site to start to build a bigger picture of actual people's real experiences of the depot.

3. Record local resident's memories of the site

We have been in contact with the East Midlands Oral History Archive who offer training to volunteers to learn how to record oral history. We have included this training within our application to HLF and are looking for volunteers.

4. Create a Royal Ordnance Depot Volunteers Group

To help to keep the visitors centre in good order on a regular weekly basis, it is intended that the centre be self-sufficient for visitors so it won't need to be manned at all times but it will need a few volunteers to keep it tidy and to report and issues to the site staff. This group, if they were willing, could also help with any events, open days or tours.

5. Create a Trust for The Depot for future funding purposes

In order for us to apply for larger future grants, we intend to set up a charitable trust who's role will be to oversee the protection of the site's history and its interpretation to the public and any public events. We will be looking to appoint trustees later in the year, if you would like to put yourself forward as a candidate please let us know.

6. Renovate and improve the existing WC's

The existing toilets are tired and in need of upgrade work to allow for accessible use and with a baby change facility.

7. Carry out necessary repair work to the historic fabric of the building

Some repair works will be necessary, a survey by a professional will be carried out to identify the works and a suitable contractor will be appointed to carry out that work.

Do you think that you can help us with items 1-5 above? If so please email Sarah@restorationlady.com or call me on 07879 840121.