

Heritage Lottery Fund pledges support for Astley Castle

Astley Castle in Warwickshire is one step closer to being saved following the news (25 June) that the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has given a pledge of support for a grant of £1.47million. The pledge is stage one of a two stage process and plans for the project are being developed further by Landmark and it is hoped that confirmation of a grant from the HLF will be announced in Spring 2009.

Peter Pearce, Director of the Landmark Trust said, *"For the past 30 years the castle has*



gradually deteriorated to the sad state we see it in today. This marvellous news from the Heritage Lottery Fund brings us closer to our vision of giving the building a future and allowing many thousands of people each year to experience it. This site has witnessed events over the past 1,000 years. We must find a way to save it and will work closely with the HLF to make this a reality."

This week English Heritage confirmed a grant of £300,000 towards emergency stabilisation work which will be started later this year to stop the building deteriorating further. The project to save Astley Castle will cost a total of £2.2 million and the Landmark Trust must raise the remaining £408,000 before work can start. Landmark is urgently seeking donations towards the project so that restoration work can start as quickly as possible before the building deteriorates further.

25/06/2008 The Landmark Trust website

(<http://www.landmarktrust.org.uk/news/index.htm#Astley1>)