



FARNBOROUGH AIR SCIENCES TRUST (FAST) is awarded an £89K grant by The National Lottery Heritage Fund to preserve valuable heritage from The FAST Aviation Historic Film Archive.

FAST has received support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the FAST Historic Film Archive it was announced today. Thanks to National Lottery players, the project aims to preserve and digitise a selection of films which depict much of the groundbreaking research and development that took place at the Royal Aircraft Establishment throughout most of the 1900s. After the MOD left the site at Farnborough in 1991, the successor Defence Research Agency identified key important documents, archives and artefacts and helped safeguard them for the future. Fortunately, **FAST**, which was created almost 30 years ago, initially to campaign to save the historic wind tunnels, managed to negotiate with DERA (later QinetiQ), to provide these, and other items, with a new accessible home. This included thousands of old 16mm and 35mm films, and along with many other important artefacts which were later transferred to FAST with the support of the National Archives. The restored films will now be able to share more of this valuable heritage with schools, the local community, and the wider public.

“The Heritage Lottery Fund’s decision to award this grant is truly fantastic news as it will enable us to accelerate our work on restoring and digitising many of these films”, said **FAST** Chairman, Andrew Lloyd.

FAST has partnered with **Farnborough College of Technology** to give their Media students the unique opportunity to work with the archive footage as part of their course work producing programmes that will be included in some new AV installations in the **FAST** Museum; serve as educational resources for Aero Engineering students and Apprentices at the college. and feature on the `FAST Aviation Archive` YouTube Channel. They will also be mentored by media industry professionals, and learn about possible routes to employment that they were previously unaware of. “Working with the archive footage will provide an interesting context for our learners when producing documentaries as part of their course work”, said Josh Sparkes, Programme Manager in Media at the college. “It’s a great opportunity for them, and I am certain it will be a very beneficial learning experience.”

FAST is very grateful to Rushmoor Borough Council and Farnborough College of Technology for supporting our bid, and we look forward to working with them in taking the Project forward.