



Press release

Bayeux - July 9, 2025

The Town of Bayeux supports the loan of the Bayeux Tapestry to the United Kingdom

Following the announcement of the loan of the Bayeux Tapestry to the United Kingdom, which is on the agenda of the Franco-British summit to be held on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, the Town of Bayeux wishes to express its support for the legitimacy of the loan of this thousand-year-old work of art, which belongs to the French State and symbolizes a shared history and heritage on both sides of the Channel, and to recall the conditions required for such an event to take place.

The town of Bayeux has always maintained strong links with the United Kingdom, and is delighted that the piece of art, it has cared for for almost a thousand years, is to return temporarily to the place where it is said to have been created at the end of the 11th century. Listed in UNESCO's "Memory of the World" register, the 70-metre-long and 50-centimetre-high work is an embroidery of woollen threads on linen canvas, which depicts William, Duke of Normandy's conquest of the throne of England following his victory at the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

The Bayeux Tapestry, symbol of a history shared for a thousand years

Several centuries after the creation of the Bayeux Tapestry, an inscription on the pediment of the memorial to the largest military cemetery of the World War II, managed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, recalls that **Bayeux was liberated by British troops, who themselves had once been defeated by William the Conqueror** : 'We, defeated by William, have liberated the country of the victor'. Finally, every year around 6 June, commemorations linked to the Normandy Landings take place in Bayeux Cathedral in the presence of a member of the Royal Family.

"The loan of this work, which is unique in the world and embodies a heritage shared on both sides of the Channel, makes sense and its legitimacy is indisputable. An exhibition in London, where our Duke of Normandy was crowned, will be a historic moment in the long history of the Bayeux Tapestry. This event will also mark the year 2027, with the celebration of the millennium of the birth of William the Conqueror, organised by the Normandy Region" comments Patrick Gomont, Mayor of Bayeux and Vice-President of the Normandy Region in charge of Culture and Heritage

Following the announcement of the possible loan of the Bayeux Tapestry to the United Kingdom at the Sandhurst Franco-British summit in January 2018, an administrative arrangement was signed in June of the same year between the French and British Ministries of Culture, paving the way for exchanges between the two countries to commemorate a shared cultural history. It has therefore taken a few years to implement this arrangement, a time which has enabled **studies to be carried out with a detailed condition report of the work and engineering developpements to ensure its conservation, future display and handling methods that guarantee its integrity.**

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"In 2018, we did not know enough about the condition of the work, which is why the loan had to wait, even though we always believed in the evidence of its realisation. All the expertise we have developed and shared with the Ministry of Culture is now a major contribution to making the loan a reality," explains Loïc Jamin, deputy mayor in charge of museums and tourism.

Sharing resources and improving knowledge of a universal masterpiece

The loan of the Bayeux Tapestry has just been decided jointly by the French and British governments. The museum is the custodian of the Bayeux Tapestry and is responsible for promoting it to the public (see the deposit agreement signed with the French government in 2017). In recent years, links have been forged with major British museums, in particular the Victoria & Albert Museum, with which a partnership was signed in 2022. The Bayeux museum therefore welcomes this opportunity to **work closely with another cultural institution as prestigious as the British Museum, the future temporary exhibition venue for the Tapestry**

"We have had a close relationship with the British Museum for several years. We have already called on the considerable expertise of their conservation team, who have been part of our scientific committee since 2013 on the project for the future Bayeux museum. This loan is an opportunity to enhance the value of the work, and the sharing of resources will improve our knowledge of it, particularly in terms of understanding the context in which it was created. This partnership of historical and scientific expertise will also help to support and nurture the project for the new Bayeux museum, for example in its outreach to the British public, who account for 25% of the museum's overall attendance," explains Antoine Verney, Curator of Bayeux Museums.

A loan that can only be considered as part of the Bayeux Museum renovation project

The Bayeux Tapestry has only been exhibited twice outside Bayeux. The first was in 1803 at the request of Napoleon Bonaparte to show it to the whole of Paris, and the second was in 1945. The exhibition was seen as a tribute to the troops of the Liberation. **This new exhibition away from its usual setting is conceivable, as it could fit into a timetable corresponding to the closure of the Musée de Bayeux from 1 September 2025 for renovation and extension work.** The Bayeux Tapestry must be removed from the display case that has protected it since 1983 before the end of 2025 so that it can be stored in reserve during the construction work.

"This exhibition will undoubtedly be an opportunity to increase the reputation of the Tapestry, as a kind of prelude to its presentation in its future museum. It will also raise the profile of the Tapestry with the British and international public, and will encourage people to discover the work in its new setting in Bayeux from autumn 2027," explains Loïc Jamin, deputy mayor in charge of museums and tourism.

Images et videos available for media use

Download link :

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/krI0frg2czznmgbq5pj8/AMBfP0oYT6OarNyvXIgkaG0?rlkey=3kncqor0q7ybd15qejkkbxbue&st=xtw9kzcz&dl=0>

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