

## Introduction and background

- A.1 Following a successful application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the NMRN is looking to appoint Icon-accredited conservation services to undertake the conservation of three figureheads in the museum's collection. The figureheads are those of HMS Queen Charlotte, HMS Seaflower, and HMS Martin.
- A.2 The conservation of these three objects forms part of a wider 'Dynamic Collections' project which aims to better manage and reinterpret the national collection of naval figureheads. The project will additionally implement a digitisation-first and community co-curation approach to the collection, in conjunction with protecting those objects which are at most risk.
- A.3 The figureheads of HMS Martin (1890, Figure 1) and HMS Seaflower (1873, Figure 2), constructed from painted wood, have been displayed prominently on the front façade of HMS Nelson, Portsmouth since 1906. They were removed in March 2023 due to condition and safety concerns and are currently in storage at HMNB Portsmouth. Both depict a white-painted  $\frac{3}{4}$  length female figure.



*Figure 2: The figurehead of HMS Seaflower, in its current location at HMNB Portsmouth.*

- A.4 The figurehead of HMS Queen Charlotte (1810, Figure 3), also constructed from painted wood, is currently stored indoors at HMS Excellent, Whale Island. The figurehead was moved inside in March 2023 following a condition survey, after spending an unknown period on open display outdoors. It depicts a half-length representation of Queen Charlotte.

A.5 Condition reports are available upon request.



*Figure 3: The figurehead of HMS Queen Charlotte, at its current location on Whale Island, Portsmouth.*

## Requirement

- A.6 The NMRN requires the above listed figureheads to be scanned, conserved, and painted to a stable and displayable standard. Conservation works should follow Icon's ethical guidance and principles.
- A.7 The conservation of all three figureheads should be completed by May 2025.
- A.8 Suppliers are asked to provide documentation to the NMRN during and prior to conservation works. This should include an initial condition report and treatment proposal, to be approved by the NMRN, and treatment reports and photography detailing each stage of the conservation treatment. Digital recording and 3D scanning should also be employed within treatment records prior to and following conservation.
- A.9 The NMRN expects conservation treatment to include, but may not be limited to:
- A.9.1 **Packing and transport.** The NMRN does not have a suitable space in which to carry out this work, and so suppliers must provide packing and/or support for movement and transport to and from their own workshop/studio. All three figureheads should be delivered to HMNB Portsmouth following conservation.
  - A.9.2 **Sonic tomography.** Conservation treatment proposal to be informed by tomography scan.
  - A.9.3 **Timber identification and paint analysis.** Paint analysis to identify all paint layers present, to inform repainting scheme.
  - A.9.4 **Consolidation of decayed timber and/or gap filling.**
  - A.9.5 **Replacement/re-carving of decayed timber where necessary.**

- A.9.6 **Paint removal and re-painting.** To be informed by paint analysis and archival records held by the NMRN. Final paint scheme to be approved by the museum prior to painting.
- A.9.7 **Preparation for mounting.** The creation of mounts is not a requirement of this tender; however, conservation works must consider potential mounting requirements for free-standing display.
- A.10 Suppliers may submit a tender response for the conservation of fewer than three figureheads. This must be explicitly stated within tender responses, and the specific objects should be referred to.
- A.11 Responses to this tender must include a methodology for recording and treatment, along with a price breakdown, itemising the costs of:
- Packing and transportation
  - Conservation treatment (including conservation works, photography and documentation, and tomography)
  - Digital recording (photogrammetry/3D scanning)
- A.12 Costs must not exceed the below:

<b>Packing and transportation (to and from studio)</b>	<b>£19,875</b>
<b>Conservation treatment, tomography and digital recording</b>	£96,900
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>£116,775</b>

- A.13 Site visits must be requested at least 2 weeks prior to **29<sup>th</sup> November 2023** due to security requirements. Valid photocard ID will need to be provided by anyone wishing to attend site. Site Visits may be booked by emailing [jenna.taylor@nmrn.org.uk](mailto:jenna.taylor@nmrn.org.uk) and [emma.callaghan@nmrn.org.uk](mailto:emma.callaghan@nmrn.org.uk)
- A.14 Suppliers are also invited to include a cost option for the creation of free-standing bespoke mounts and mounting arrangements for all three figureheads. This cost option, if provided, should be separate within your price breakdown and it may be followed up dependent on the final mounting requirements. Mounting requirements are currently dependent on several factors, and therefore it is not guaranteed that mounting will go ahead.
- A.14.1 Providing a cost option for the creation of mounts will not be evaluated within the price criteria of the tender evaluation. However, the provision of a cost option and methodology for mounting will be considered as providing added value and evaluated as such under Criteria 1.
- A.14.2 The tender evaluation criteria can be found as Annex B.
- A.15 Suppliers must make clear whether any of the above requirements will be subcontracted, and detail how they propose to appoint and manage and subcontracted work.