



Invitation to Tender (ITT)

Aircraft Carrier Experience Upgrade

Fleet Air Arm Museum

The National Museum of the Royal Navy

RNAS Yeovilton

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Annex A5: Floor Plans and Summary

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Annex A 5 – Floor Plans and Summary.

1.0 Floor Plans and Summary.

1.1 - The Museum has created this Annex to hopefully show the various structural components and spaces included within the current gallery design. These spaces are broadly defined as **Arrival Corridor, Helicopter Transfer, Flight Deck Experience, Island Tour and Experience Chamber**. Our expectation is that development will be within the current layout and fabric of the existing buildings / displays. However, submissions showing innovation and challenge to this presumption are encouraged as part of the projects key aims. The overall experience is on three levels, with elements of the Island Tour spanning these levels. The three floor plans show each area and adjoining rooms / exhibition spaces.

1.2 – Entry to Carrier is via Hall 2 down a time line gallery. Following a journey through this alcove you arrive on the Flight Deck via a simulated helicopter transfer and can then explore the main flight deck. From this space users can exit the hall and experience or move via stairs lift to explore the Island and Experience Chamber.

1.3 - Partial public closure and reduced visitor experience during the preparation / build phase is a risk to short term operations onsite, public perception of the FAAM visitor experience and reputation overall. It is therefore deemed necessary that a phased build can allow elements such as the Island Tour to be subject to work separately to the Flight Deck, allowing visitors to see one or other even during the works phase (even if the flight deck is hampered or closed for only a day or two). This is some mitigation and would also allow us to build intrigue and potential return visits over and above the current 3 or 4% threshold (return percentage).

1.4 - The Flight Deck is also crucial in maintaining orientation and allowing visitors to explore the adjoining halls (2 and 4) as part of existing wayfinding and natural visitor flow. It is integral that the Museum retains access to the flight deck during the build, even if it is a simple as a path through the Hall directly from one end to the other. Mitigation of safety for staff and visitors would be paramount in this area, so any installation would need to acknowledge this as part of the build.

2.0 Island Tour

2.1 The Island Tour starts with the entrance staircase which is located on the far wall while in the flight deck experience. The current 'Island Experience' and 'Experience Chamber' remains closed following COVID restrictions.

2.2 The Island Tour encompasses three levels, all linked via a series of rooms. Access remains a challenge in manoeuvring people around this section of the tour. The levels are linked by an access lift which allows young families and wheelchair users to move between the three levels. Upon conclusion of the Island Tour, all visitors have the options to exit via the middle level, for the Experience Chamber, which in turn allows visitors to exit back onto the ground floor to continue around the wider Museum.

2.3 Any development plan should include the Island tour, but development does not necessarily need to include every level, nor every room / space shown on the current island footprint. We are open to design and creative uses of our space. The main consideration is that any development allows interpreted access to the experience chamber.

3.0 Experience Chamber

3.1 – The Experience Chamber is a staff operated lift experience that combines themed projection and storytelling with sensory experiences such as air flow to simulate helicopter downwash. The current performance is about 6 minutes and at the end, the lift lowers releasing visitors on the ground floor at the end of the overall Carrier Experience.

4.0 General Observations

4.1 - The Museum has limited ability to deconstruct and strip out much of the existing displays. This must be taken into consideration in order to prepare any area's for development.

4.2 - The Museum can advise extensively on alternative visitor routes and wayfinding to enable phases of the project to proceed.