



**South West Heritage Trust
Chew Valley Hoard Project**

Invitation to Tender

**Design, Prototyping, Fabrication, Supply and Installation of Large Bespoke Showcase
The Museum of Somerset, Taunton**

Tender Submission Deadline: 5pm on Tuesday 1 September 2026
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1. Introduction

The South West Heritage Trust (the Trust) requires an experienced museum showcase supplier to undertake the detailed technical design, prototyping, fabrication and installation of a large bespoke showcase for the permanent installation of the Chew Valley Hoard at the Museum of Somerset.

The work is part of the Trust's Chew Valley Hoard project, which is being principally funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF).

Please refer to the plans, concept details and Employer's Requirements document in the tender pack for full details and the specification required.

2. Project Background

Discovered in 2019, the Chew Valley Hoard consists of over 2,500 coins mostly from the reigns of Harold II, the last Anglo-Saxon king, and his Norman successor, William the Conqueror. It is the largest such hoard ever found that relates to the immediate aftermath of the Norman Conquest and the highest-value UK Treasure acquisition on record.

The Trust has raised over £4.3 million to acquire the hoard and is now delivering a major project to create a permanent home for it at the Museum of Somerset in Taunton.

The project includes creating a dedicated new gallery for the permanent display of the entire Hoard in a large feature showcase, and a high-profile, year-long temporary exhibition opening at the museum in March 2027 that will display around 250 of the coins, along with nationally significant loan objects from project partners including the British Museum.

3. Outline of Work

We require:

Detailed technical design, prototyping, fabrication and installation of a large bespoke showcase for the permanent installation of the Chew Valley Hoard at the Museum of Somerset. Please refer to the **Employer's Requirements** document in the tender pack for full details and the specification required.

The intention is for the prototype to be used for the display of the 250 coins in the temporary exhibition that opens at the Museum of Somerset in March 2027.

4. Budget

For guidance, the total costs to provide the goods and services outlined above, including all professional fees, associated costs and expenses, are expected to be in the region of between £80,000 and £100,000 (excluding VAT).

5. Delivery Timescales

The supply of the final agreed prototype is required by no later than **31 December 2026** for the temporary exhibition that opens in March 2027.

The supply and installation of the large custom-built showcase in the new permanent Hoard gallery is scheduled to take place in May 2027.

6. How to Apply

Applications should take the form of a Tender proposal (maximum 20 sides of A4) to include:

- Suitability to undertake this work, with examples of relevant previous work of a similar type and scale.
- Methodology for designing, prototyping, manufacturing and installing the permanent Hoard showcase, identifying how you would approach the assignment, key delivery stages, milestones and dates.
- An indicative method statement/risk assessment for undertaking the site installation of the permanent Hoard showcase.
- Your fixed price to deliver the contract, with an itemised breakdown of costs, including all expenses and VAT.
- Evidence of professional indemnity and public liability insurance showing extent of cover.

7. Tender Evaluation

Tender scoring criteria will be on the basis of:

- 40% for price
- 40% for quality/experience/methodology
- 20% for added value.

In the event that interviews are held these will be assessed separately.

8. Decision and Award

The Trust reserves the right to negotiate with the preferred bidder and to award all, part or none of the contract.

9. Tender Timetable and Process

- ITT Issued: 24 July 2026
- Deadline for Clarification Questions: 14 August 2026
- Tenderer's Responses to Clarifications: 21 August 2026
- Tender Submission Deadline: 5pm on Tuesday 1 September 2026
- Interviews, if required: w/c 7 September 2026
- Tender Acceptance: by 18 September 2026
- Contract Award: w/c 21 September 2026

Tender responses to be submitted by email to Sam Astill (sam.astill@swheritage.org.uk) and Hannah Schwieso (hannah.schwieso@swheritage.org.uk) **by 5pm on Tuesday 1 September 2026.**

10. Contact Details

If you have any clarification questions or other queries in advance of submitting a tender, please contact:

For technical/product/specification queries:

Claire Fear, Design Team Lead Consultant (claire@a-thread.co.uk)

For tender process queries:

Carrie Blogg, CVH Project Heritage Consultant (cblogg@btinternet.com).