



Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands

Invitation to Tender (ITT)

South Georgia Heritage Assets Baseline Review

1. Introduction and Background

The Government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI) invites suitably qualified and experienced external agencies to submit tenders to undertake a baseline review of its fixed and movable heritage assets¹.

The purpose of this commission is to establish a robust and up-to-date evidence base approach that will support future heritage management, governance, and resourcing decisions. The review will consolidate existing information, assess condition of assets and identify priorities for Heritage management intervention.

This work will build upon existing understanding and research and will be delivered in phases with milestone deliverables, ensuring value for money.

2. Objectives of the Commission

The aim is to produce an authoritative, comprehensive, and standardised baseline record of GSGSSI's fixed and movable heritage assets, detailing their extent, condition, significance, and associated risks. This will provide a clear and consistent foundation for future decision-making, strategic planning, and investment.

The commission will aim to deliver:

- An up-to-date and consolidated register of fixed and movable heritage assets
- A preliminary assessment of heritage significance to support prioritisation of management actions
- A standardised condition survey and risk categorisation
- Clear, proportionate recommendations for management and intervention
- A credible evidence base to support future governance and resourcing choices

3. Scope

The review will encompass:

- Historic buildings and structures (eg Grytviken, Stromness, Leith etc)
- Vessel hulks and maritime industrial remains at Grytviken
- Scientific and whaling era objects housed in the Museum
- Movable objects held in situ and in off-site locations such as Discovery Point Dundee

The appointed contractor will be expected to undertake the following tasks:

3.1 Heritage Asset Register

- Consolidation and review of existing asset records
- Establishment of an up-to-date register covering both fixed and movable heritage assets
- Clear documentation of data sources, assumptions, and gaps

3.2 Preliminary Significance Assessment

- Development of a proportionate approach to preliminary heritage significance assessment
- Categorisation of assets to support prioritisation of management actions

3.3 Condition Survey and Risk Categorisation

- Development of a standardised condition grading framework
- High-level condition assessment of assets, through desk-based review
- Identification and categorisation of key risks affecting the assets

3.4 Recommendations and Priorities

- Clear recommendations for:
 - Urgent interventions
 - Medium-term actions
 - Long-term strategic management
- Recommendations should be pragmatic, proportionate, and clearly aligned with the heritage asset's significance, condition, and risk.

3.5 Evidence Base and Reporting

- Preparation of a clear, well-structured report setting out findings, methodology, and recommendations
- Provision of supporting data in accessible and reusable formats
- Recommendations on how the baseline can be maintained and updated over time

4. Methodology and Phasing

Tenderers should note that the **methodology** is expected to focus on:

- Desk based consolidation of asset lists
- Preliminary condition grading
- Use of existing information
- Review and consolidation of all existing documentation and past surveys
- Use of standardised recording templates and digital tools
- Engagement with internal and external subject matter experts where needed
- Alignment with best practice in remote site industrial and maritime heritage management

Tenderers are invited to propose:

- A phased methodology, and milestone payment plan set against deliverables

- Optional extensions or later phases for more detailed assessments, if required
- Opportunities for efficiencies and value for money
- Assumptions regarding data access and approvals

5. Deliverables

GSGSSI will expect this project to be completed with 12 months of contract offer. The expected deliverables include, but are not limited to:

- A consolidated heritage asset register inventory with unique identifiers and GIS-linked locations
- A standardised condition survey for each asset (using a simple, scalable scoring approach)
- A preliminary significance assessment framework and results, drawing on international heritage criteria
- A risk assessment and categorisation, including structural integrity, environmental exposures, and visitor pressures
- A prioritised schedule of recommended management interventions
- Recommendations for future management, including implications for resource planning
- A final baseline review report
- Supporting datasets and documentation

6. Timescales and Payments

Tenderers should propose a clear and realistic timeline for delivery, including:

- Key task milestones deliverables and to include costs for each milestone completed
- Scheduled payment will be made on successful milestone achievement

7. Project Governance

The review will be overseen by the GSGSSI Director of Operations.

- A phased programme over 6 months from contract award
- Interim updates will be provided to the GSGSSI Director of Operations at agreed milestones
- Final outputs will be delivered in a written report, with accompanying datasets and inventories

8. Tenderer Requirements

Tenderers should demonstrate:

- Proven experience in heritage asset management, surveys, or baseline reviews
- Experience working with fixed and/or movable heritage assets
- Ability to work effectively with existing datasets and desk based evidence
- Appropriate professional qualifications and expertise
- Capacity to deliver work proportionate to scale and risk

9. Tender Submission Requirements

Tenders should include the following information:

- Understanding of the brief and proposed methodology

- Proposed programme and phasing
- Project team and roles
- Relevant experience and case studies
- Cost proposal, including breakdown by milestone / phase
- Assumptions, exclusions, and risks

10. Evaluation Criteria

Tenders will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- Quality and suitability of the proposed methodology
- Relevant experience and expertise
- Value for money
- Understanding of the scope and objectives
- Deliverability within proposed timescales

The contract will be awarded based on the most economically advantageous tender, balancing quality and cost.

11. Further Information

Tenderers may submit clarification questions in writing to Bernice Hewitt bernice.hewitt@gov.gs

Bids should be received to bernice.hewitt@gov.gs no later than 16:30 hrs on 10th July 2026.

¹South Georgia heritage is primarily defined by its industrial, exploration, and natural history prior to 1982, focusing on the sealing, whaling, and early exploration eras. Key heritage sites include abandoned whaling stations (notably Grytviken), sealer camps, and historic sites from the "Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration," such as Shackleton's grave, largely frozen in time following the industry's collapse in the 1960s