Hampshire Cultural Trust was established as an independent charity in 2014 to promote Hampshire as a county that offers outstanding cultural experiences to both its residents and visitors.

From museums to galleries to arts centres, we manage and support 23 attractions across the county that were previously operated by Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council.

We run a huge variety of workshops, classes, events and projects for both young and old, in schools and in communities, with particular emphasis on reaching people who are vulnerable or disadvantaged and would not normally be able to access arts and culture. In addition, we care for 2.5 million objects that relate to Hampshire’s rich and internationally important cultural heritage.

**Project Title:**

‘Where is my pickled spider?’ – a real life challenge in information management and logistics

**Background:**

As a charity, we look after an estimate 2.5m historic objects that form the combined collections of Hampshire and Winchester local authorities. This includes anything from a tiny bone fragment of a prehistoric skeleton to full-size working steam engines - and ‘yes’ including a collection of spirit jars which hold preserved animal specimens, aka ‘pickled spiders’.
The biggest challenge in our centralised programme team is knowing what is where. We have inherited a myriad of different systems that have evolved over decades. For the first time, management of our stores is now brought together and coordinated by a single team. That is why we need your help.

**Business Issue or need:**

We need you to review the current situation, understand the circumstances within which we operate and then design a solution that will allow us to reach our overall aim, which is to make information about all our objects accessible within the organisation to help our disparate teams understand what is where.

**Project Aims:**

This is a challenge in designing a solution to a complex problem within the constraints of the charitable sector. You will need to bring plenty of curiosity to learn about the world of museum management as well as a razor-sharp mind to cut through the issues.

At the end of the project, we would like you to present in person and as an accompanying written report a costed project proposal that tells us how you think we should improve information management and logistics within our central stores to help more people within our organisation find the fabulous objects from our collections. We would expect your proposals to be realistic and responsive to our current operational context, and to be deliverable as part of our 5-year strategic plan.