

(RE)CONSTRUCTED ANGLO-SAXON VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT LOT 1

TENDER BRIEF



Jarrow
Hall



Made possible with

Heritage
Fund

OVERVIEW

Groundwork South and North Tyneside is seeking to appoint a culture and heritage skills specialist to carry out renovations and improvement works to safeguard our (Re)Constructed Anglo-Saxon timber framed buildings. Working alongside staff and volunteers at Jarrow Hall, Anglo Saxon Farm, Village and Bede Museum to mentor and share skills.

Activities will include improvement works to three main (Re)Constructed timber framed buildings, stage and animal shelters, using traditional Anglo-Saxon timber construction methods and tools and locally sourced materials. The successful contractor will provide mentoring and training for staff and volunteers to ensure new skills are gained and embedded into the future management and delivery at the site and fulfil our long-term resilient heritage goals and outcomes.

Through this masterplan and associated work we will ensure the site is well managed and resilient to change. We will enhance lives through building skills, provide a return on historic investments and create an outstanding attraction of international significance, delivering robust educational and cultural projects, engaging the community and flourishing for years to come.

HISTORY

Groundwork South and North Tyneside is a charitable trust working towards a vision – Changing Places Changing Lives to create sustainable communities which are vibrant, healthy and safe, which respect the local and global environment and where individuals and enterprise prosper.

The Trust acquired the former Bede's World site in Jarrow after an approach from South Tyneside Council following its closure in February 2016.

The 11-acre site contains a museum dedicated to celebrating the life of the Venerable Bede and telling the story of Anglo-Saxon England with a focus on the importance of the Jarrow-Wearmouth double monastery and the Kingdom of Northumbria at the height of its power and importance on the world stage in the early Middle Ages. The site is dominated by a reconstructed Anglo-Saxon farm and the 18th Century Georgian building Jarrow Hall House.

With significant capital investment from GWSaNT and the support of South Tyneside Council, the site was successfully reopened on a soft-launch basis in October 2016 as Jarrow Hall – Anglo-Saxon Farm, Village and Bede Museum.

The site is incredibly important to the local community as well as academics and non-professional persons interested in history across the world. Our unique collection is of worldwide-interest to experts and specialists focused on the Anglo-Saxon period.

Since opening we have welcomed over 75,000 visitors, educated over 20,000 local schoolchildren, been supported by over 80 local volunteers and created new classrooms for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities in Jarrow Hall House.

OUR FUTURE

Funding granted from the National Lottery heritage allowed us to develop an overarching Jarrow Hall masterplan, setting out the direction of travel and vision over the next 15 years. The plan was endorsed by our Trustees in July 2019.

The vision for Jarrow Hall is supported by an overarching masterplan funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. A major fifteen-year development plan for Jarrow Hall, '1300 Years of Bede: A Climate Changed' places climate crisis at the heart of our work, alongside themes of environment, science and communication. We continue to increase the understanding of the importance of our history, taking care of our collection for future generations to enjoy.

The purpose of Jarrow Hall is to challenge the way people think about their place in history, to inspire a lifelong interest in the natural environment and to encourage individual reflection and action. Jarrow Hall aims to stimulate public debate about the past, present and future, and to equip audiences at every level with an understanding of the legacy of Bede, the golden age of Northumbria, the world and animals around us. Guided by a fifteen-year development plan, '1300 Years of Bede: A Climate Changed', Jarrow Hall focuses on three thematic ideas which inform all of our work:

- **Environment and Climate Change:** Linking with the established environmental work of the trust, Jarrow Hall explores change before, during and beyond the Anglo-Saxon period.
- **Science:** Inspired by the scholarship of Bede and the innovations at the Wearmouth Jarrow monastery, Jarrow Hall encourages the excitement of exploration and discovery.
- **Communication:** Inspired by the writings of Bede and the idea of a global community, Jarrow Hall provokes critical thinking and curiosity, and encourages debate and discussion.

We know through extensive consultation and feedback that the village has the potential to bring history to life and provides a significant draw for visitors. The living history and immersive nature of the village experience attracts those less likely to traditionally engage with museums. "The highlight has to be the farm and reconstructed Anglo Saxon village" "Absolutely loved walking around the village...fun for both the adults and children"

The unique Anglo-Saxon reconstruction buildings afford us the opportunity to enrich lives of the users described above, engage the local community in traditional heritage skills and tell the breath-taking story of English ingenuity and craftsmanship, inspiring people to continue this legacy today.

Guiding Values

- We will invest in the places and people that need us most – prioritising our resources to bring about lasting change by building skills and capacity within the local communities where we can make most difference.
- We will work with local leaders and listen to local voices – ensuring our work is fully informed by those it is designed to benefit and adds value to the assets that exist in local areas.
- We will grow a culture of equality and inclusion – operating transparently and with integrity and seeking out a diversity of viewpoints, both in the work we do and the people we employ.
- We will be committed to collaboration – forging strong partnerships, contributing to a thriving community sector and helping others lead where this will achieve greater impact.
- We will act as environmental exemplars – championing practical action to combat the climate and nature emergency and measuring and reducing our own environmental impact.



OUTCOMES AND FUNDING

The project is being funded with support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and as such the following outcomes must be ensured:

Outcomes for heritage:

With investment;

A wider range of people will be involved in heritage

People will have greater wellbeing

People will have developed skills

Heritage will be identified and better explained

Environmental sustainability requirement

Groundwork has set ambitions to be carbon net zero in operations by 2030. The successful organisation must limit any potential damage to the environment, make a positive impact on the environment and particularly for nature. In addition, any environmental measures must not have a negative impact on our heritage.



IMPROVEMENT WORKS

Groundwork SaNT Lead

The project manager supported by the Head of Communities and Culture is tasked by Groundwork SaNT to lead on the direction and development of the Jarrow Hall site. During the development and delivery phases of the project this person will act as the lead and key contact for Groundwork SaNT.

Rebecca Maw

Head of Communities and Culture

Rebecca.maw@groundwork.org.uk

Marco Romeo Pitone

Project Manager - Archaeology

Marco.romeo-pitone@groundwork.org.uk

Heritage Skills Lead

The successful culture and heritage contractor will report directly to the Project Manager (Archaeology) and will during the fulfilment of their contract engage the wider staffing and volunteer team in Heritage Skills training and mentoring as appropriate to impart knowledge and build heritage skills.



BACKGROUND

During the original development of (Re)Constructed “village” in the 1990’s, the northern sector of Gyrwe was set aside for the experimental construction, using only appropriate technologies and materials so far as is possible, of buildings based on excavated sites from 700 AD, located within the Kingdom of Northumbria.

Three buildings from three different sites were chosen: Building A from Thirlings a few kilometres to the north-east of Yeavinger (O’Brien and Miket 1991), a grubenhaus (sunken featured building) from the site of New Bewick (Gates and O’Brien 1988) and the so-called Hartlepool VIII, a small timber building from the site of Church Close, Hartlepool, Cleveland (Daniels 1988).

The construction of the first two buildings started in April 1994 and ended around May 1997, while the third building was ultimated in the Summer 1999 (Fowler and Mills 2004, p. 120, 123).

The re-constructions were realised by an in-house team (Michael Hayes and Mark Stuart under the direction of Susan Mills, formerly Curator at Bede’s World) aided by external advisors (Richard Darrah, Robin Daniels, Colm O’Brien, Heather Clements, Professor Dame Rosemary Cramp, Professor Peter Fowler, Peter Hill, Professor Martin Millet, Dominc Powlesland).

In 2013, the award of a Heritage Lottery Found of £311,700 allowed the construction of a non-experimental reinterpretation of the so-called “Grandstand”, a majestic odeon-like structure from the royal site of Yeavinger, north-west of Wooler in north Northumberland (Hope-Taylor 1977).

The re-constructions and demonstrations which form the Gyrwe experimental collection represent a valid attempt to preserve not only an interpretation of Anglo-Saxon architecture, but also the intangible Heritage of the construction techniques and process recorded as part of the experimental work.

BACKGROUND

Since the reopening of the open-air museum in 2016 by Groundwork South and North Tyneside under the name of Jarrow Hall Anglo-Saxon Farm, Village and Bede Museum, it was noted that the experimental re-constructions were in need of some conservative interventions (the Thirlings Hall is almost thirty years old).

Appointed professionals will plan the conservative interventions and deliver a specific training in Experimental Palaeoarchitecture and Traditional Thatching aimed to Jarrow Hall's staff and volunteers. This will not only allow the professionals to be supported and assisted in their work on the experimental buildings, but it will also facilitate the resilience of the entire project, preparing the Museum staff and volunteers to monitor the experimental buildings according to specific protocols.

Activities will include specialist heritage skills e.g. thatching, woodwork including shaping beams, bark stripping, log splitting, joints, coppicing, wattle and daub, blacksmithing, coppersmithing, alongside the development of personal goals e.g. reducing isolation, building confidence, team work, improving health and wellbeing, independence and networks of support.

Using the "Village" as an engagement tool for skills development through practical site improvements with "train the trainer" heritage skills sessions to include repairs and (re)constructions of period appropriate buildings.

Two lots of "train the trainer" heritage skills sessions have been established:

LOT ONE

LOT 1 (Value: up to £22,500.00 ex VAT)

Thirlings Hall (structure and decorative apparatus)

- 1 Renovation/Training Workshop (x2 weeks for volunteers, x1 week for staff)
- The general structure of TH needs to be consolidated with the installation of a series of “raking posts” on both long sides of the building, following the archaeological data found onsite.
- Construction of a wooden floor (planks) to replace the current beaten-earth floor
- Construction of a mezzanine in the West portion of TH, to create a ground-floor room used as storage, and a top floor space.
- 1 Renovation/Training Workshop (x2 weeks)
- Walls’ surfaces (internal and external) need to be given a new layer of daub and limewash, obtaining a new smooth surface.
- Decoration of internal walls with patterns inspired by the archaeological record and using Anglo-Saxon techniques
- Creation of new furniture for TH: 1 firebox, 2 chests, 4 benches

Monk’s Cell

- 1 Renovation/Training Workshop (x2 weeks)
- Creation of new furniture for Monk’s Cell: 1 table for calligraphy, 1 chair, 1 bed, 1 chest
- Construction of a wooden floor (planks) to replace the current beaten-earth floor

Grandstand

- 1 Renovation/Training Workshop (x2 weeks)
- Construction of new “stage” (planks) and screens (wattle and daub or planks) for the Grandstand, according to the excavator’s interpretation, following research phase carried out by project-team.

DELIVERY PHASE REQUIREMENTS

- To deliver the approved improvements on time and at or within budget.
- To use traditional heritage skills techniques to safeguard three buildings as outlined in the condition report, making safe and historically reflective of the Anglo-Saxon era.
- To deliver a programme of publically accessible workshops and volunteer skills development sessions during the phased improvement works.
- Liaise with the Groundwork SaNT Project Manager and provide information required in a timely manner.
- Report robust costings to Groundwork SaNT



TENDER REQUIREMENTS

Groundwork South and North Tyneside is seeking to appoint a culture and heritage skills specialist to lead on the improvement works on (Re)Constructed Anglo-Saxon timber framed buildings with the "Village" at Jarrow Hall, Anglo Saxon Farm, Village and Bede Museum.

Tender Response

Deadline: Monday 17th October 2022, 5pm

Please detail the following as a response and return to marco.romeo-pitone@groundwork.org.uk by the deadline above.

- A summary of practice including a critical business summary detailing years in business, numbers of employees, staff turnover and ethical practices.
- An overview of work undertaken in the last 5 years
- Specific examples of culture and heritage projects undertaken during this period, detailing outcomes and value
- References as appropriate for such projects
- A detailed proposal for fulfilling the brief
- A detailed work programme
- A detailed proposal for fees breaking down time allocations, pro-rata hourly rates.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

All tenders received will be evaluated using a combination of price and quality.

Capability of bidder to undertake commission of this scope and value
Weighting 30%

Experience of undertaking practical heritage skills work in the culture and heritage sector and/or other relevant work
Weighting 15%

Experience of delivering training and mentoring, working with volunteers and communities
Weighting 15%

Cost
Weighting 40%

