

Jarrow
Hall

Anglo-Saxon Farm, Village & Bede Museum

Jarrow Archaeological Mission (JAM)

Community Excavation



Archaeological Company Tender Brief



South Tyneside Council



Made possible with

Heritage
Fund



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Overview

Groundwork South and North Tyneside is seeking to appoint an archaeological company to support the re-opening of the excavations at Drewett's Park in Jarrow. They will work alongside staff and volunteers at Jarrow Hall, Anglo Saxon Farm, Village and Bede Museum to mentor and share skills.

We seek to re-open archaeological excavations at Jarrow, one of the most important archaeological sites in the Country, adding to Jarrow Hall's permanent collections, as we investigate potential areas of interest in Drewett's Park, South Tyneside. The successful contractor will provide mentoring and training for staff and volunteers to ensure new skills are gained and embedded into the future archaeological activity at the site, to fulfil our long-term resilient heritage goals.

Through this pilot excavation and associated work, we will ensure the museum is well managed, relevant to communities across Tyneside as well as national and international visitors 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.

You will hold archaeological workshops on the site of Jarrow Hall. We have a large and very diverse site which offers lots of different inspiration, including an Anglo-Saxon farm and (re)constructed buildings, as well as a herb garden; our Museum and Collection has national and international significance providing invaluable insight into the Anglo-Saxon period and Monastic life in the Northumbrian Kingdom.

There will be a series of archaeological excavation workshops for staff and volunteers for a total of 9 weeks of activities.

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, 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 Museum 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 150,000 visitors, educated over 40,000 local schoolchildren, been supported by over 2000 local volunteers and created new classrooms for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Our Future

Funding granted from the National Lottery Heritage Fund allowed us to develop an overarching Jarrow Hall masterplan, setting out the direction of travel and vision over the 15 years. The plan was endorsed by our Trustees in July 2019 and refreshed following the Covid-19 pandemic to aid Covid Recovery.

The 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. 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 opportunities to engage in practical workshops and be hands-on with the collection holds the biggest draw for many of our local communities. The pilot excavation provides a unique opportunity to open doors for people with an interest in archaeology, but without the means or circumstance to follow this ambition, ensuring that heritage is for all, no matter your background.

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 is working towards being carbon net zero in operations. 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.

Community Excavation Works

Groundwork SaNT Lead

The project manager (Research, Education and Learning Service Manager) supported by the Head of Business Development and Communications and Impact 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.

Alene Lee

Head of Business Development and Communications and Impact

Alene.lee@groundwork.org.uk

Marco Romeo Pitone

Research, Education and Learning Service Manager (Project Manager)

Marco.romeo-pitone@groundwork.org.uk

What we need from you:

Archaeology Skills Training Team

The successful contractor will supply a team to provide skills training. The team will include a point of contact who will report directly to the project manager. They will be responsible for the fulfilment of their contract by engaging wider staff and the volunteer team in appropriate training/mentoring to develop their archaeological knowledge and skills.

Background

Jarrow Hall museum was originally set up to care for and display nationally and internationally significant material from the site of the Jarrow Monastery, founded by Benedict Biscop in 681 AD; one half of the twin monastery of Wearmouth-Jarrow. The site of St Paul's Church was excavated extensively between 1963 and 1978 by Professor Dame Rosemary Cramp and her colleagues at Durham University and helps to tell the story of monastic life. However, we are missing part of our story and would like to explore the potential of finding out more about life outside of the monastery. This year we celebrate our 50 year anniversary of the museum and the 1,350th anniversary of the birth of St Bede, both of which can be used to elevate a new excavation. We have support from Newcastle, Durham and Northumbria University, local volunteers and community groups, sector stakeholders and the local authority. The project would help to deliver the Making Waves strategy, bringing culture and heritage to disadvantaged communities in South Tyneside. A timely excavation would also protect heritage from potential permanent loss, due to the inevitable future damage caused by the position of the site to the nearby riverside.

We wish to open a pilot excavation, using mapping from the original excavation undertaken in the 1960/70s at St Paul's and Jarrow Slake, and surveying carried out by Turner, Semple and Turner (2017) we have identified a location within Drewett's Park in South Tyneside, bordering the monastery. Throughout the project we wish to:

- Reopen the archaeological excavations at Jarrow, one of the most important archaeological sites of the Country, enhancing Jarrow Hall's permanent displays.
- Engage local communities and create opportunities for volunteers and students from local universities (Durham and Newcastle).
- Through our "Access for All" theme make activity relevant to local people/groups and empower disadvantaged individuals to access linked vocational training, Level 3 Certificate in Archaeological Practice, removing barriers for future archaeological careers.
- Save heritage/record archaeology from inevitable damage caused by the position of the site near the river side.
- Build staff and volunteer skills, expertise and confidence in opening and operating an excavation. This is designed as a pilot, building staff and volunteer skills and strengthening partnerships before potentially developing into a larger excavation behind St Pauls at a later date (Phase 2).

Background

We wish to appoint a commercial archaeological firm with expertise in Community and public archaeology to join this exciting project and help us deliver training in archaeological excavation skills. The archaeological firm's main tasks would be:

1. Supporting the development of a written scheme of investigation (WSI)
2. Training for staff on the practicalities of a community excavation for JH staff (1 week in early Summer 2025)
3. Setting up the initial phase of Jarrow Archaeological Mission trenches to investigate designated area (including possible paleochannel) in Drewett's Park in South Tyneside
4. Delivery of 3 excavation sessions (dates tbc: 2 weeks in July, 2 weeks in August, 1 week in September 2025) training volunteers from different backgrounds
5. Delivery of 1 week workshop on community post-excavation training JH staff (dates tbc: Oct/Dec 2025)
6. Delivery of 2 weeks sessions on community post-excavation training volunteers (dates tbc: Oct/Dec 2025)
7. Support the supervision of volunteers on excavation and post-excavation

The project aims to engage 70 volunteers over the lifetime of the project and 3 staff. Volunteer groups will include young people, older people and people with disabilities and special educational needs, therefore inclusivity should be considered throughout.

Budgets

The overall value of this tender is **£36,000 (VAT included)**

Training for staff on the practicalities of a community excavation, supporting the development of (WSI) and setting up of initial phase of JAM: £4000 (VAT included)

Delivery of 3 excavation sessions (5 weeks) training volunteers: £20,000 (VAT included)

Delivery of 3 post-excavation sessions (3 weeks) training staff and volunteers: £12,000 (VAT included)

Delivery Phase Requirements

- To deliver the initial phase of the JAM project on time and within budget.
- To deliver a programme of publicly accessible archaeological excavation workshops and volunteer skills development sessions during the first phase of the JAM project.
- Liaise with the Groundwork SaNT Research, Education and Learning Service 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 an archaeology company to lead on the opening of an excavation within Drewett's Park, neighbouring Jarrow Hall, Anglo-Saxon Farm, Village and Bede Museum.

Expression of Interest (DEADLINE: 30th June 2025, 12:00pm)

Your Eoi should include:

- A summary of your company's 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 community archaeology projects undertaken during this period, detailing outcomes and value
- References as appropriate for such projects
- A detailed proposal for fulfilling the brief, including measures implemented to comply with health and safety regulations, reduce environmental impact and increase social value
- A detailed work programme
- A detailed proposal for fees breaking down time allocations, pro-rata hourly rates.

In line to support small and medium business, partnerships and subcontracting would be permitted, the same information listed above will be required for partners and subcontractors.

Expressions of interest can be sent to marco.romeo-pitone@groundwork.org.uk.

Evaluation Criteria

The Eoi will be evaluated using a combination of price and quality.

- Capability of bidder to undertake commission of this scope and value

Weighting 25%

- Experience of undertaking practical community archaeology work in the culture and heritage sector and/or other relevant work

Weighting 30%

- Experience of delivering training and mentoring, working with volunteers and communities

Weighting 30%

- Cost

Weighting 15%

Schedule

- Commission Advertised 05/06/2025
- Deadline for application 27/06/2025
- Shortlisting completed by 01/07/2025
- Interview/presentation 03/07/2025
- Successful tender bidder Planning meeting with Jarrow Hall Staff 08/07/2025
- Workshops to be delivered between Summer and Autumn 2025

For any further questions, please contact
Dr Marco Romeo-Pitone at
marco.romeo-pitone@groundwork.org.uk