

7737 Pontefract Castle Gatehouse Project Aims Compliance Matrix

Aim	Question	Completed	Comments
Aim 1 Identify the physical extent and character of the archaeological remains on the site with a programme of remote sensing	Q1: In light of current findings from projects at similar Castle sites, do any outstanding research objectives from the earlier unpublished 2016 watching brief still remain to be addressed?	Yes	
	Q2: Can the layout of the gatehouse and associated sub-surface archaeology be established by remote survey?	Yes	Aerial survey undertaken on 6th November. Layout in relation to extant structural remains of castle can be seen.
	Q3: Can we identify any phasing in the topographic or remote sensing anomalies indicative of an extended period of use?	Yes	Aerial survey undertaken on 6th November. No additional phasing observed that could not be identified during excavation.
Aim 2 Characterise the results of non-invasive survey, refining the chronology and phasing of the	Q4: What evidence is there for the use of the site pre-Norman Conquest, and how does this compare with remains recovered through recent archaeological investigations within the castle and the surrounding area?		Safe working conditions and time limitations meant that the base of the drawbridge pit was not found.

Purple text - 22nd October, Green text - 28th October, Orange text - 30th October, Blue text – 15th November

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site with a programme of trenching	Q5: Can we elucidate the plan, character, function, phasing, contemporary significance and chronological development of the gatehouse structures, with the aim of establishing the possible presence of bridge structures and/ or a barbican in front of the gatehouse?	Yes	Plan visible in excavated section; to be revealed fully when western fills of the pit are removed. Almost certainly a 14th/15th century drawbridge pit within a bridge. Phasing to be determined/confirmed when northern corner is excavated, revealing relationship between 'original' gatehouse tower and possible later addition. Drawbridge pit, bridge and gatehouse tower are a later addition to the 'original' tower – confirmed in northern corner of excavation.
	Q6: What are the specific characteristics of the apparent ditch / drawbridge pit, including its width and depth?		Width, length and depth (at northern end) established. Depth at southern end in the ditch is still to be determined. Void encountered at southern end of drawbridge pit indicates at least another 1.5m depth to go. Auger survey on 6th November indicates the drawbridge pit is at least 6.5m deep. The auger was refused 0.8m below the deepest part of the trench where it encountered burnt sandstone. It is thought this is not the base of the pit.

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	Q7: What is the date of the feature's original construction, and the date of its infilling?		Original construction 14th/15th century (from mason's marks). Robbed extensively in 19th century. Considerable infilling prior to 19th century robbing, suggestion of 17th century rubble backfill – full sequence still to be ascertained. Rubble backfill contained architectural fragments and is most likely 17th century demolition rubble. This sealed well-stratified 17th century layers of backfill. Now hitting the top of late medieval deposits. By the end of the excavation we feel like we were in 15th century layers.
	Q8: Can we identify and date the sequence and morphological development of archaeological remains encountered from the ditch through environmental sampling and scientific dating?		Targeted samples will be taken when the full sequence is visible and understood. Sampling has begun on all deposits below the rubble backfill of the drawbridge pit. Soil micromorph samples now being taken throughout sealed 17th century and earlier layers. Bulk and soil micromorph samples taken from the full excavated sequence.
	Q9: Is it possible for a comparison to be made between masonry styles / techniques found during excavation with those identified from other dated structural elements of the castle?	Yes	14th/15th century Masons' marks 40, 53, 22, 80, 69 (Roberts 2002: 150) 5 new marks Many more marks appearing, all of the same masons.

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Aim 3 Understand the site's archaeological and palaeoenvironmental conditions	Q10: What is the current state of the archaeological and palaeoenvironmental material across the site?	Yes	Appears to be good, but currently working in later deposits. Encountering waterlogged remains will be unlikely because of the well-drained soils and bedrock. Good preservation likely from 17 th century deposits. Preservation initially appears to be good from late medieval contexts.
	Q11: How well do deposits and artefacts survive, and how deeply are they buried?	Yes	Good preservation has been observed across all find types, including bone and metal objects – albeit from mostly coming from 19 th century deposits. Good preservation of 17 th century material. Good preservation from late medieval material.
	Q12: Can the palaeoenvironmental data recovered from sampling in the excavation inform us about the provision of consumable goods to a high-status residence, and any specialised food processing or industrial activities that may have taken place at the site?		Currently removing the last of the later deposits from the trench. When sealed deposits of an earlier date are encountered we expect environmental samples to help answer this.
	Q13: Can we increase our understanding of the local environment during the multi-period occupation of the site and the process by which the ditch was filled?		Significant 19 th century modifications to the site. Earlier deposits are just now being encountered, where sampling will tell us more. Bulk samples being recovered now from all stratified deposits.

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Aim 4 Making recommendations, analysis and publication	Q14: Following a comprehensive assessment of all archaeological material, how can the results of this work aid in our interpretation of contemporary regional sites?		
	Q15: In light of the evidence recovered from this and previous work, can we articulate a link between the multi-phased use of the site and its different areas?		
	Q16: Can we highlight any particular themes within the complete and stable archaeological archive that would benefit archives, local museums and education, improving regional accessibility?		

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