


By Email

5th February 2020

Dear **RE: Additional Archaeological Excavation – Pontefract Castle Gatehouse**

Following consultation with  at Historic England, we have reviewed the provisional results of the Gatehouse excavation and have itemised costs for the complete excavation of the drawbridge pit in the table below.

This includes investigation of the complete sequence of archaeological remains by a team of three archaeologists (Item 1) over the course of 15 working days (3 weeks). Following consultation with deep excavation professionals and having taken advice on working in confined spaces, we have established a project methodology to undertake the work safely. The team will need mobilising with specialist equipment (Item 2) to allow for the safe and practical recovery of remains at depth. This includes use of a Davit Arm System to facilitate removal of spoil from the pit and to act as a secondary backup should personnel require lifting in case of an emergency. Members of the team working in the confined space will also be required to wear a gas monitor at all times. In addition, remedial action will be required to stabilise the trench edge adjacent to the footpath to the south.

Although the previous excavation area is currently in a stable condition, exposure to the elements will result in the degradation of the upstanding walls of the trench. In time this may compromise the integrity of the surrounding area and therefore we would recommend that any work be undertaken at the earliest opportunity. The methodological approach will need to be agreed with Historic England prior to any work being undertaken.

Results of this additional phase will be incorporated into the fully illustrated archaeological report produced for the Gatehouse Project (Item 3). We have included a rate for post excavation analysis, which is subject to some contingencies dependant on the survival of archaeological material. These are outlined with the table of costs below.

I trust this provides you with the information you require. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries and require additional information. I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Best Regards,



Pontefract Castle Gatehouse

Additional Archaeological Excavation

Table 1

Item	Description	Cost
Archaeological Evaluation		
1	Three Archaeological Site Staff x 15 days @ [REDACTED] per day	[REDACTED]
2	Team mobilisation, including additional safety/deep excavation equipment (Davit Arm System, gas monitor etc)	[REDACTED]
3	Post-excavation assessment ([REDACTED]% of fieldwork costs)	[REDACTED]
	Sub Total	[REDACTED]

CONTINGENCY

- Recovery of exceptional archaeological finds, such as human remains or unexpected survival of waterlogged remains, may incur additional costs for scientific sampling, analysis, conservation, preservation and archive (see table below)

Bulk finds Timber: prepare/assessment/recording/database entry	[REDACTED]	Each
Excavation, recording, storage and reporting of human remains	[REDACTED]	Each
Conservation of artefacts	[REDACTED]	Day rate
Geoarchaeological samples	[REDACTED]	Each
Freeze drying of leather objects	[REDACTED]	Each
Provision of X Ray investigation of objects including all materials required	[REDACTED]	Each

THE ABOVE EVALUATION QUOTATION ASSUMES THE FOLLOWING:

- That access to the relevant areas of the development will be made readily available to facilitate excavation and recording.
- That Item 2 is based on discussions and site visits with deep excavation professionals, and the ability to achieve a pragmatic programme of work undertaken with a single mobilisation.
- That Item 3 is a realistic estimate on the basis of encountering archaeology at depth within the excavated area. If significant archaeological remains are discovered requiring the mobilisation of an additional excavation team (such as the discovery of human remains), or unexpected archaeological material is recovered, this will be charged as additional costs in line with the information presented in contingency items above.
- The site is not contaminated, and no special Health and Safety measures will be required in respect of contamination, and any plans pertaining to the identification of services on the site will be provided in advance.
- Any additional site work or consultation beyond the scope detailed here will be calculated on the basis of our usual day rates, with travel and accommodation billed at cost.
- Invoices will be issued on completion of each item and subject to the usual payment terms.

All costs are exclusive of VAT, which will be charged at the prevailing rates

All costs are valid for 90 days

All work will be subject to standard terms and conditions

DigVentures 05/02/2020