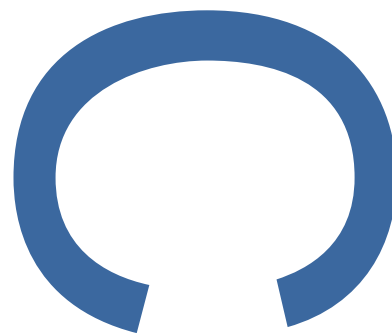


**LAND AT
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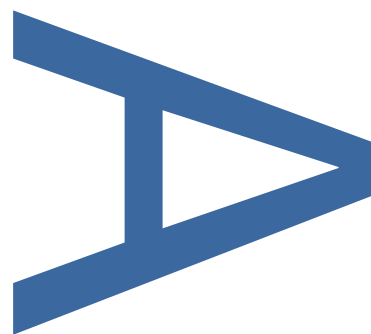
**REPORT ON AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
OBSERVATION**



**Planning Authority:
Newark & Sherwood District Council
/ Historic England**

Planning Reference: N/A

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September 2019

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

**LAND AT
RUFFORD ABBEY,
RUFFORD, near OLLERTON,
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE:**

**REPORT ON AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION**

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
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Report Number	R13829

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Land at Rufford Abbey, Rufford, near Ollerton, Nottinghamshire: Report on an Archaeological Observation

Site Code: RARL19
Local Planning Authority: Newark & Sherwood District Council
Museum Accession Number: TBC
Planning Application: N/A
Central National Grid Reference: SK 6436 6484

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September 2019



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SUMMARY

This report describes the results of an archaeological observation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, on land at Rufford Abbey, Rufford, in Nottinghamshire. The work was commissioned by Parkwood Leisure Holdings Ltd

The archaeological observation took place intermittently between 4th and 29th July 2019. The observation of the overflow parking lot in Area 1 was shallow, as only the turf and a small amount of topsoil were removed. Area 2 (which was to be lightly raked) was inadvertently not monitored and Area 3 comprised of dispersal of topsoil which was brought in to build up the area.

The aim of the work was to monitor the development groundwork, investigate and record any archaeological deposits or features revealed in the development area. The site is within the Scheduled Monument of Rufford Abbey medieval Cistercian Monastery.

The observation identified the remains of a late post-medieval stone structure which possibly represents the remnants of a flue for a furnace and a possible modern wall remnant. Groundworks were shallow and no other archaeological remains were revealed.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd was appointed by Parkwood Leisure Holdings Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological observation (an archaeological watching brief) as a requirement of Scheduled Monument Consent (Ref: S00216889), during development on land at Rufford Abbey, Rufford, near Ollerton, Nottinghamshire.
- 1.1.2 The work was carried out intermittently in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by Gary Taylor (PCA 2019) and approved by Historic England.
- 1.1.3 The aim of the observation was to identify and record any surviving archaeological remains and/or deposits that may be impacted upon during the proposed development.
- 1.1.4 The archaeological works sought to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition, and quality of any archaeological remains on the site and to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional, or national context as appropriate.
- 1.1.5 This report describes the results of the archaeological works. The site archive will be deposited with Newark Museum; The National Civil War Centre. An accession number will be issued at the time of archiving.

1.2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 1.2.1 The site is located on the eastern boundary of Sherwood Forest in present day Rufford County Park. The area of development is centered on National Grid Reference (NGR) SK 6436 6484 (Figs 1 & 2) within the Scheduled Monument of Rufford Abbey Cistercian Monastery: monastic precinct, water-management works, pre-monastic open field system and post-medieval building.

1.3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 1.3.1 The development works comprise (1) the remediation of areas of grassland within the scheduled monument, encompassing the Abbey Meadows, Woodland and Abbey Lawn, and (2) land within the scheduled monument used for temporary overspill parking for a maximum of 90 days per year.
- 1.3.2 The Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) has conditions for a programme of archaeological works during the development in accordance with a WSI (Taylor 2019) which has been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State, advised by Historic England. Specifically the SMC requires the archaeological programme of works in relation to ground disturbance in the areas of the remediation works. This included all groundworks for the carparking area, the relocation of wooden posts to delineate the carpark area and groundworks associated with light cultivation at the site.

1.4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.4.1 Solid geology at the site is Chester Formation pebbly sandstone of the Triassic period. No superficial deposits are recorded (British Geological Survey Viewer www.bgs.ac.uk).
- 1.4.2 The site lies at approximately 60m AOD on a gentle slope down to the east, towards the Gallow Hole Dyke watercourse.

1.5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.5.1 The site is within the extents of Rufford Abbey, a Scheduled Monument. The Scheduled Monument description details the remains thus:
- 1.5.2 The Rufford Abbey is situated on the eastern boundary of Sherwood Forest in present day Rufford Country Park. The monument includes the precinct and associated features of the twelfth century Cistercian abbey of St.Mary the Virgin, part of the ruins of a post-medieval manor house built after the monastery's dissolution and a remnant of the open-field system associated with the medieval villages of Rufford and Cratley, deserted prior to the monastery's foundation. The monastic remains consist primarily of the buried foundations of the buildings to the north, east and south of the cloister and the extant cellar, outer parlour and lay-brothers' frater (refectory) which formed the west cloister range. Partial excavations carried out by the then Ministry of Works between 1956 and 1957 revealed the typical ground plan of a Cistercian abbey, with the church forming the northern range of the cloister, the kitchen, monks' frater and warming house forming the southern range, and the sacristy, chapter house, inner parlour and monks' dorter (sleeping quarters) the eastern range. A drain running east-west to the south of the cloister indicates the most likely location of the reredorter or latrine. The surviving west range is an extremely well-preserved example of Cistercian architecture, being of typically plain construction with round and octagonal columns, a rib-vaulted ceiling and, in the frater, traces of the day-stair and cupboards for spoons and linen. The lay-brothers' dorter, with the night-stair leading out on the north side, lay above the cellar. A small late-fourteenth century window looks east over the cloister and indicates the conversion of the dorter to some other use at this time. The foundations of ancillary buildings such as barns, bakehouses, infirmary and gate-house, along with the remains of stock-pens and enclosures, will be located in the unexcavated areas of the monastic precinct beyond the claustral complex. Although the exact boundaries of the precinct are not at this stage known, a reasonable assumption can be made by analogy with other Cistercian sites. Of particular interest within the precinct at Rufford Abbey are the faint surviving traces of ridge and furrow cultivation, running north- south to the east of the claustral buildings, alongside Rainworth Water, and east-west to the west, where the formal gardens of the later manor house lay. This evidence of an open-field system is believed to pre-date the abbey's foundation and to relate to the two medieval villages which were abandoned to make way for it. North of the abbey complex, in a wooded area known as the Wilderness, a dry watercourse or leat can be traced north for c.200m before curving eastwards towards what is now Rufford Lake. For much of its

length through the woods, the leat is at least 2m deep and a similar distance wide. Two sub-rectangular depressions, located on the northern edge of the precinct and fed by the leat, were either late medieval fishponds dating from the time when fish was permitted in the Cistercian diet, or, alternatively, were wheel pits associated with one of the mills known to have belonged to the abbey. A shallower channel, flanking the path to the east of the ruins, is a later garden feature and not associated with the monastery although it lies within the precinct bounds. In addition to converting the outer precinct to gardens, the post-Dissolution occupiers of the abbey utilised the stone for new buildings and added living accommodation over the lay-brothers' quarters while the refectory was converted to a servants' hall and a fireplace added. A projecting wing was added to the north end in c.1610, to balance the new building work being carried out to the south. In 1679, a new north wing containing reception rooms and a long gallery was built on the site of the abbey church but has since been demolished. A Tudor-style entrance, with steps and balustraded causeway, were added to the west-front in the late 1830s. Further buildings were constructed to the south but do not form part of this scheduling. The manor at Rufford was granted to the monks of Rievaulx Abbey in 1146 by Gilbert de Gaunt, Earl of Lincoln. The construction of the stone buildings of the abbey appears to have been completed by c.1170, and few alterations seem to have been carried out between that date and the monastery's suppression in 1536. Never a prosperous abbey, Rufford was one of the first to be affected by the Dissolution and, in 1537, the entire estate was granted to George Talbot, fourth Earl of Shrewsbury. The transformation of the abbey into a country house was begun between 1560 and 1590 by George Talbot, sixth Earl of Shrewsbury and husband of Bess of Hardwick. In 1626, the estate passed to Sir George Savile, husband of Mary Talbot, the sister of the seventh and eighth earls. Rufford became the family home of the Saviles when William Savile, George's brother and successor and an ardent supporter of Charles I during the Civil War, burnt down the family's original seat at Thornhill to prevent it becoming a Parliamentary garrison. Most of the alterations and construction work carried out at the abbey date to the period immediately after the Restoration, with the now demolished north wing being added in 1679. The house was demolished in 1956 and the site of the abbey and the converted west range has been in state care since 1959. The west range is a Grade I Listed Building. Features excluded from the scheduling are the surfaces of paths and drives, fencing, all English Heritage and Nottinghamshire County Council fittings such as notices, benches, grilles and railings, the sheds etc. within the works compound and the outbuildings in the paddocks to the east of the ruins. The ground underneath these features is, however, included.

- 1.5.3 Previous investigation at the site comprise geophysical survey, topographic survey and a desk-based heritage assessment. The geophysical survey of the field (Abbey Meadows) incorporating the site indicated the southern half of the area, in particular, contained magnetic anomalies possibly relating to military huts known to have been constructed during the Second World War (Cotswold Archaeology 2017, 15). The abbey and its grounds were requisitioned for military use in 1939 and a series of huts constructed in 1944 (ibid. 23). These Nissen huts were part of a World War II Prisoner of war camp.
- 1.5.4 Other past investigations at the abbey have revealed parts of the medieval drainage system, artefacts of medieval and later date (mostly pottery) and modern wall footings.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

2.1 PROJECT AIMS

2.1.1 The project was ‘threat-led’ with potential to disturb or destroy important sub-surface archaeological remains, if present. The primary aims of the investigation were:

- to record the nature, extent, date, character, quality, significance and state of preservation of any archaeological remains affected by the development
- to assess where appropriate any ecofactual and palaeo-environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features from within the site

2.1.2 Additional aims of the investigation were:

- to analyse and interpret the site archive and to disseminate the results to promote local and national research objectives
- to deposit the site archive with Newark Museum; National Civil War Centre for long-term storage and conservation

2.1.3 A further aim was to ensure adherence to the remediation methodology accepted by the Scheduled Monument Consent, and prevent development impact to the monument.

2.2 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

2.2.1 The on-line *East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework, Interactive Digital Resource* was referenced for specific research criteria, along with *The Archaeology of the East Midlands, An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Leicester Archaeology Monograph **13**, ed. N Cooper (2006), and *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*, ed. D. Knight, B. Vyner & C. Allen (2012).

2.2.2 The archaeological investigation addressed the following objectives:

- to set the site and any archaeological remains into the context of the wider landscape
- to confirm the presence or absence of any medieval activity relating to the historic monastic establishment of Rufford Abbey
- to identify any evidence of the pre-monastic open field system
- to confirm the presence or absence of any post-medieval activity that may relate to the post-medieval house

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

3.1.1 Fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the WSI (Taylor 2019) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists document *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (CIfA 2014a). PCA is a CIfA registered organisation (number 23) and operates within the Institute's 'Code of Conduct' (CIfA 2014b).

3.1.2 The archaeological observation was undertaken during groundwork associated with the scheme in the scheduled area.

3.1.3 The monitoring and recording observed aspects of the remediation works consented by the SMC. This included all groundwork for the carparking area and provided for the archaeological recording of any remains revealed by the remediation works.

3.1.4 Due to a miscommunication, one of the areas, Area 2 - Woodland, was not monitored. Works in this area were removal of surface debris and light raking to a maximum depth of 20mm.

3.1.5 When necessary, exposed deposits/layers were cleaned using hand tools and recorded as set out in the PCA fieldwork manual (Taylor and Brown 2009). Contexts were recorded according to PCA's fieldwork manual approved for use in Nottinghamshire, including written, photographic and drawn records.

3.1.6 When archaeological deposits/features were located, no further groundwork took place until they were adequately recorded.

3.2 RECORDING METHODOLOGY

3.2.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and any archaeological features (if present) were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.

- 3.2.2 Manual plans and section drawings of archaeological features and deposits were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20 or 1:50).
- 3.2.3 Deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded utilising PCAs printed pro forma sheets.
- 3.2.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the investigation. Digital photographs were taken of all archaeological features and deposits.
- 3.2.5 All finds encountered were collected by hand and assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from the site.

3.3 POST-FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

- 3.3.1 Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide* (HE 2015) was used as the framework for post-excavation work.
- 3.3.2 The stratigraphic data for the project comprises written, drawn and photographic records. A total of 8 archaeological contexts were recorded in the area under investigation. Post-excavation work involved checking and collating site records and phasing the stratigraphic data (Appendix 2). A written summary of the archaeological contexts was then compiled, as described in Section 4, with discussion and chronological sequencing of the site appearing in Section 5.
- 3.3.3 Artefactual material recovered during the watching brief consisted of glass, iron, slag, cinder, and Ceramic Building Material. Specialist examination of the finds was undertaken and relevant comments integrated into Section 4, with a report in Appendix 3. Finds determined to be of archaeological significance or of further research will be retained.
- 3.3.4 No other categories of organic or inorganic artefactual material were represented. None of the material recovered during the evaluation required specialist stabilisation or an assessment of its potential for conservation research.
- 3.3.5 The complete site archive will be packaged for long-term curation. In preparing the site archive for deposition, all relevant standards and guidelines documents referenced in the Archaeological Archives Forum guidelines document (Brown 2007), the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) document (Walker 1990), and the relevant ClfA publication (ClfA 2014c) will be adhered to. The depositional requirements of the body to which the site archive will be ultimately transferred will be met in full.

4 RESULTS

4.1 LATE POST-MEDIEVAL TO MODERN DEPOSITS

AREA 1

- 4.1.1 The groundworks associated with the overflow parking lot in Area 1 were shallow, as only the turf and a small amount of topsoil (**001**) were removed (**Plate 1**). However, just below the turf at the western end of Strip 1 were the remains of a stone structure which possibly represents the remnants of a flue for a furnace (**Plate 2**). The base of the possible flue comprised very firm, sandy clay (**004**) which had been affected by heat, giving it a reddish brown colour. This deposit extended 0.18m in width and 1.6m in length and was bounded on either side by limestone fragments which probably formed the walls of the flue.
- 4.1.2 The limestone deposit on the eastern side of the base of the flue comprised a partial wall and spread of rubble (**003**) with stones varying in size from 0.1m to 0.38m in length. The dimensions of this deposit measured 1.8m long by 0.7m wide, with the densest concentration of stone abutting the basal deposit of the possible flue.
- 4.1.3 The limestone deposit on the western side of the flue (**005**) was similar to (**003**) and measured 1.3m long by 1.2m wide, with the densest amount of stone abutting the possible flue, forming what may be the remnants of the flue wall.
- 4.1.4 To the east of limestone deposit (**003**) was a dumped layer of loose dark greyish brown sandy silt and vitrified slag (**002**). To the east of limestone deposit (**005**), a loose dark grey sandy silt (**006**), containing occasional vitrified material was recorded. The slags from (**002**), (**003**) and (**006**) are likely to be late post-medieval.
- 4.1.5 Further east along Strip 1, a possible stone wall (**007**) (**Plate 3**) was identified just below the turf. Dimensions as seen measured 0.8m long by 0.15m wide, with stones averaging 0.14m by 0.13m in size, with a white to light grey colour. The possible wall remnant was straight in plan and oriented on a northwest to southeast alignment.
- 4.1.6 Immediately northeast of possible wall fragment (**007**) (**Plate 3**) was a slab of modern concrete.
- 4.1.7 Topsoil comprised friable, loose dark greyish brown sandy silt (**001**), containing rare sub-rounded pebbles. Part of an anti-tank shell and a 1942 cartridge was found in the topsoil and were dealt with by the necessary agencies.

AREA 2

- 4.1.8 Area 2 was not monitored due to miscommunication.

AREA 3

- 4.1.9 No groundworks took place in this area, as topsoil was brought in to build up the area. Monitoring consisted of obtaining a photographic record (**Plate 4**).

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 NATURAL SUB-STRATUM

5.1.1 Natural deposits at the site was not exposed at the time of the archaeological observation

5.2 LATE POST-MEDIEVAL TO MODERN DEPOSITS

5.2.1 Toward the western end of Strip 1, were the remains of a probable late post-medieval stone structure which possibly represents the remnants of a flue for a furnace with associated flue walls was identified. Artefacts were recovered from the eastern partial wall and rubble spread (003) and comprised of late post-medieval vitrified and smithing slag and coal. No artifacts was recovered from the western wall (005).

5.2.2 Toward the eastern end of Strip 1, a possible modern stone wall was also identified, perhaps related to the military huts which were identified by previous geophysical and topographic surveys. They are known to have been constructed during the Second World War.

5.2.3 A small assemblage of finds were retrieved from the topsoil (001) indicating military and agricultural usage. A bullet part of an anti-tank shell and a 1942 cartridge was uncovered and dealt with by the necessary agencies. A sparse concentration of demolition and domestic waste was retrieved and is indicative of agricultural manure spreading.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1.1 The aims and objectives of monitoring the ground-works at Rufford Abbey were fulfilled; the stripping of turf layer and small amount of topsoil were monitored and archaeological remains were recorded. The dispersal of topsoil in Area 3 was also monitored.

6.1.2 As the groundworks were shallow natural deposits were not exposed at the time of observation.

6.1.3 The investigation revealed the remains of a stone structure which possibly represents the remnants of a late post-medieval flue for a furnace with associated flue walls. A possible modern wall fragment was also identified, perhaps related to military huts known to have been constructed during the Second World War.

6.1.4 Dating evidence ranged from late post-medieval to modern.

6.1.5 No further archaeological finds or features were identified during the observation.

7 PERSONNEL

The observation was managed by Gary Taylor of PCA Newark and was carried out by the fieldwork team at PCA Newark. Figures accompanying this report were prepared by Diana Valk of PCA's CAD department. Gary Taylor and Alex Beeby reported on the finds.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Parkwood Leisure Holdings Ltd for commissioning the work.

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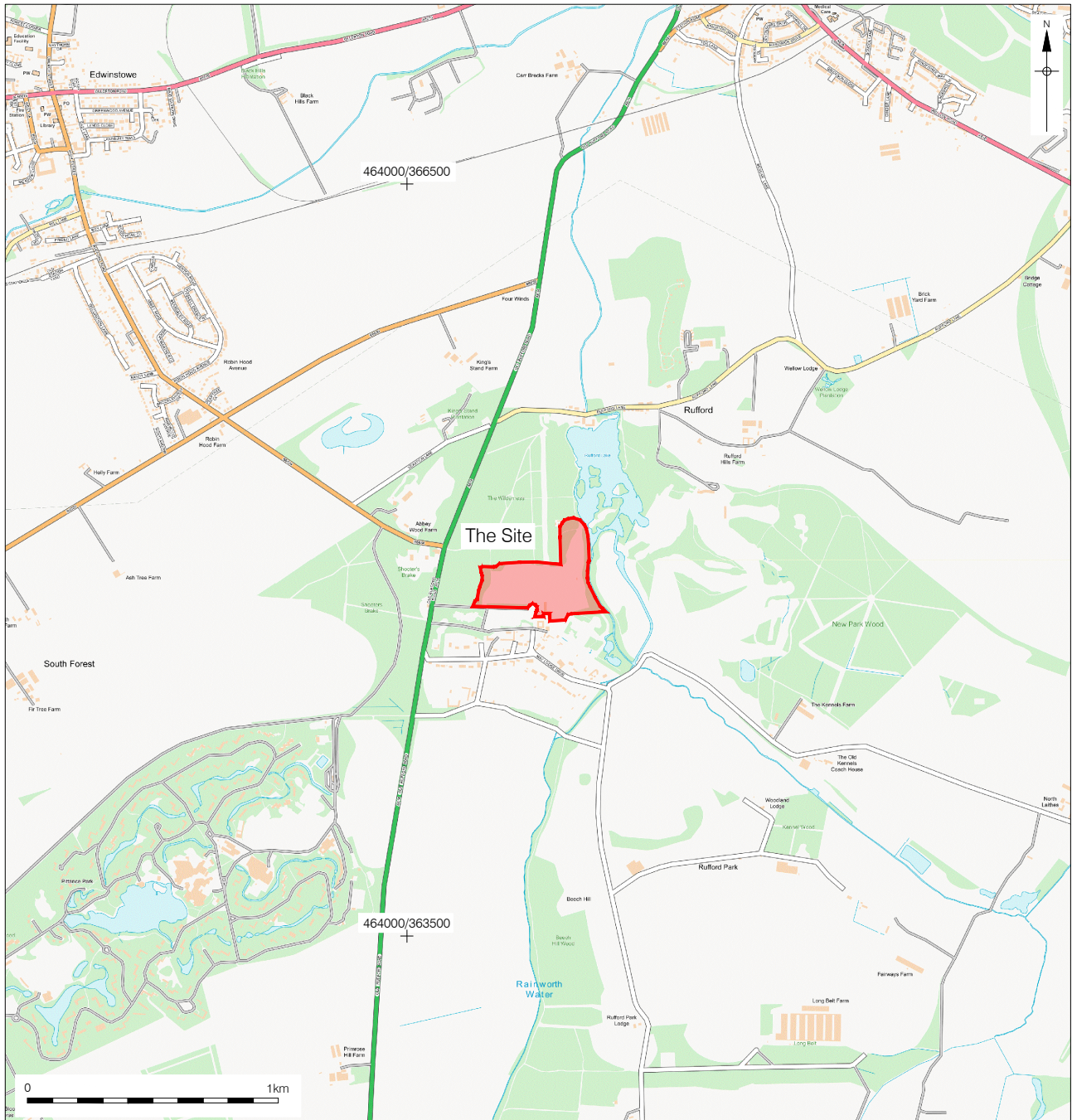
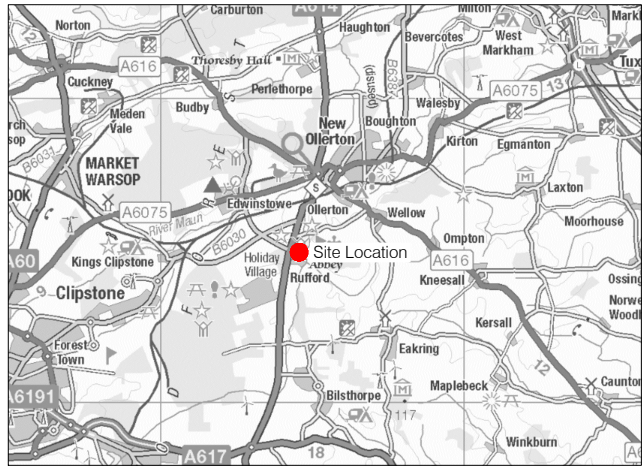
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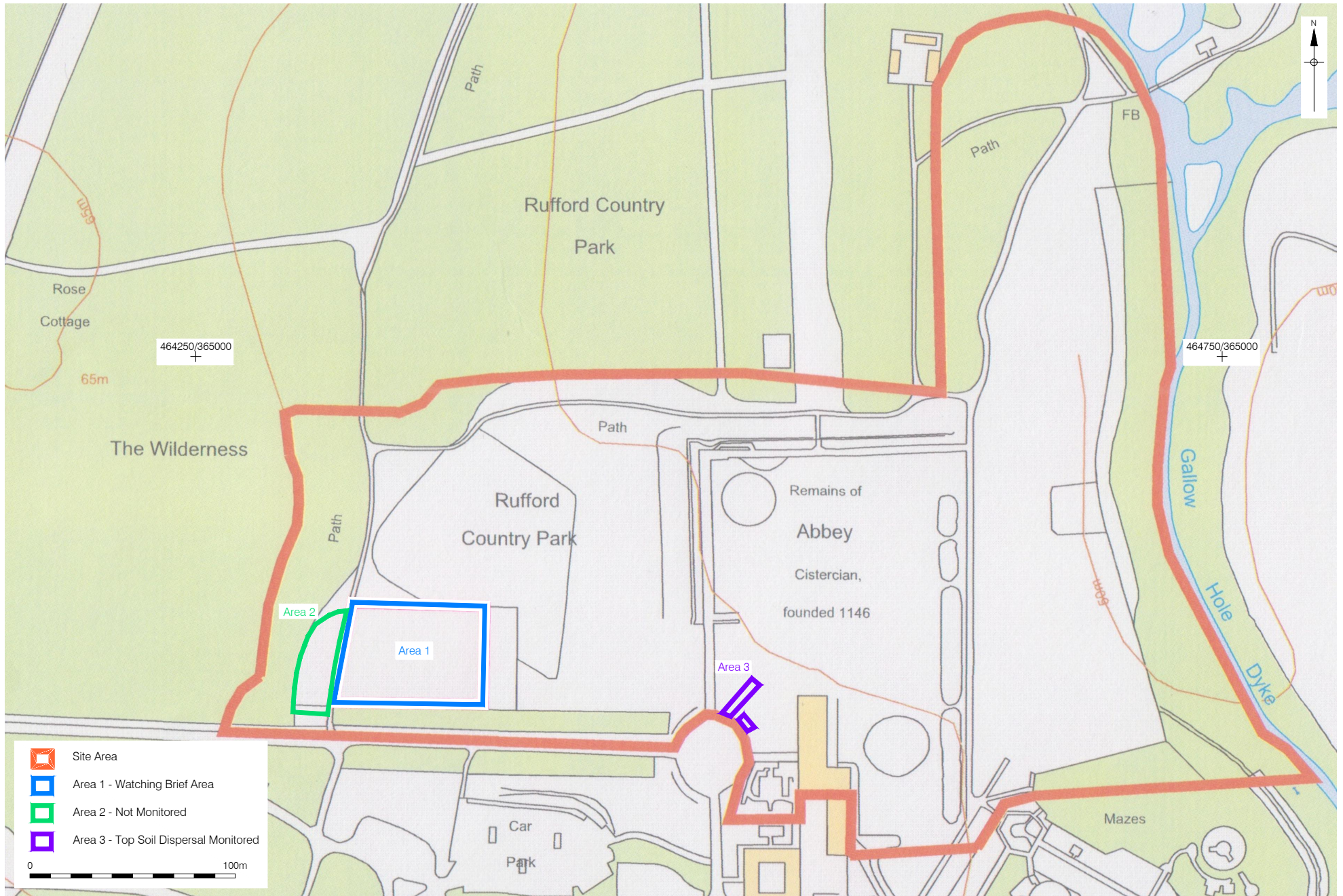
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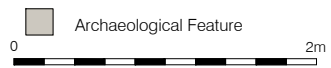
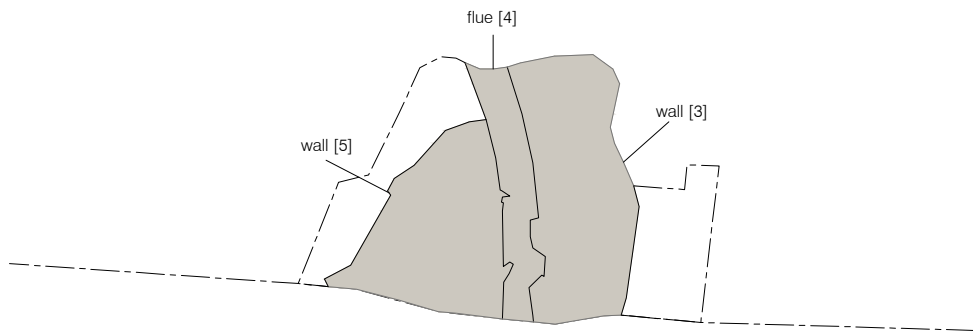
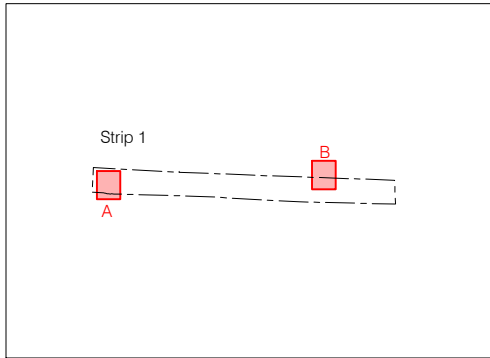
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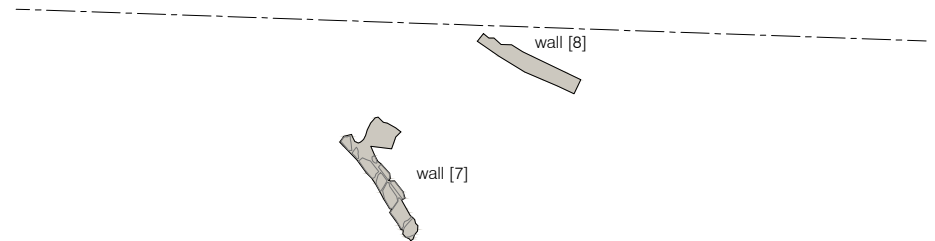








A



B

APPENDIX 1: Site Photographs



Plate 1: Post-excavation of Area 1, looking north east



Plate 2: A late post-medieval stone structure, which possibly represents the remnants of a flue for a furnace with associated flue walls (003) (005), looking north



Plate 3: Possible remnants of a stone wall (007) with concrete slab (008) to the right, looking west



Plate 4: Working shot in Area 3; topsoil was brought in to build up the area, looking southeast.

APPENDIX 2: Context Summary

Context	Category	Description			Interpretation	Dimensions (m)	Above	Below
		Colour	Texture	Inclusions				
001	Layer	Dark greyish brown	Friable to loose sandy silt	rare sub-rounded stones/pebbles	Topsoil	Unknown	002, 006	
002	Deposit	Dark greyish brown	Friable to loose dark greyish brown sandy silt	Frequent vitrified material/slag	Dumped deposit containing residue from furnace	> 1.15m long	003	002
003	Deposit	White to light grey	Hard limestone fragments		Possible remnant of furnace flue structure	>1.8m long x 0.7m wide	004	002
004	Deposit	Reddish brown	Very firm to hard sandy clay		Scorched clay which probably represents the base of a furnace flue	>1.6m long x 0.18m wide		003, 005
005	Deposit	White to light grey	Hard limestone fragments		Possible remnants of furnace flue structure	>1.3m long by 1.2m wide	004	002, 006
006	Deposit	Dark greyish brown	loose sandy silt	occasional vitrified material/slag	dumped deposit containing residue from furnace	>1.5m long x 0.5m wide	005	001
007	Masonry?	Light grey to white	square to rectangular stone blocks, aligned NW-SE		Possible wall	0.8m long by 0.15m wide		001
008		Light grey to white	indurated concrete block		Concrete slab			

APPENDIX 3: The Finds

Items recovered during investigations at Rufford Abbey, Rufford, Nottinghamshire are reported, below. The finds were examined and reported in accordance with ClfA guidelines (2014).

The Post Roman Pottery

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

The material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski et al. (2001) using the system, codes and period nomenclature devised for the City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit (Young et al. 2005). The material was recorded in September 2019. A single sherd from a single vessel was recovered.

Methodology

The material was examined visually and weighed. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below. The pottery dates to the modern period.

Condition

There is single sherd. The piece is small but unabraded.

Results

Table 1, the Pottery Archive

Context	Cname	Full Name	Form	NoS	NoV	weight	Part	Description	Date
001	WHITE	Modern Whiteware	Mug?	1	1	10	Base	Modern mass produced whiteware - probably from a modern tea mug	20th

Provenance

Post Roman pottery was recovered from the topsoil, (001).

Range

There is a single fragment from a vessel, most likely a mug of later 20th century date, in Modern Whiteware (WHITE).

Potential

The pottery is of no further potential. The material is not worthy of retention and can be discarded.

The Ceramic Building Material

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

The material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (2002), using the codes and system devised for the City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit (unpublished). The material was recorded in September 2019. A total of 16 fragments weighing 10372 grams were recovered.

Methodology

The ceramic building material was examined visually and then weighed. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 2 below.

Condition

There is a mix of large and unabraded pieces, including one complete brick, and smaller fragments, many of which have no extant original surfacing apparent. Two bricks have mortar adhered, indicating these pieces have been used or reused within a structure. Seven small fragments of fired clay from within furnace flue structure (005) are highly abraded and partially vitrified; these have clearly been exposed to very high heat.

Results

Table 2, the Ceramic Building Material

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	Description	Condition	Date	NoF	W(g)
001	CBM	Undiagnostic Ceramic Building Material	Oxidised; fine sandy		Abraded; no original surfaces	Undated	1	1
001	MODBRK	Modern Brick		Staffordshire Blue type engineering brick; complete; dimensions - 229x109x77mm	Mortar adhered to stretcher face containing large quartz pebbles and ground up CBM fragments including a piece of ?PANT in an Oxidised medium sandy fabric	Late 19th- Early 20th	1	5300
001	MODBRK	Modern Brick		Dimensions 113x76mm	Mortar adhered	Mid 19th- Early 20th	1	364
001	MODBRK	Modern Brick		Stamped "WEL..." within centre of curved-ended frog		Late 19th- Early 20th	2	3290
001	MODCBM	Modern Ceramic Building Material		?Modern - ?tile fragments; very fine and highly fired fabric	Abraded; no original surfaces	Late 19th - 20th	2	30
001	MODFLOOR	Modern Floor Tile		Moulded orange "quarry" tile; square - 175x175x27mm		Late 19th- Early 20th	1	1351
003	CBM	Undiagnostic Ceramic Building Material	Oxidised; fine	Modern?	Abraded; no original surfaces	Undated	1	2
005	FCLAY	Fired Clay	Oxidised light firing; ?partially vitrified;	Partially vitrified CBM?; not sooted	Abraded; no original surfaces	Undated	7	34
Total							16	10372

Range

The is a range of modern ceramic building material and small undiagnostic fragments. Most of the diagnostic material is likely to be of later 19th or early 20th century date. The pieces are clearly mixed demolition waste.

Potential

There is no potential for further work. The ceramic building material can be discarded.

The Glass

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

A single piece of glass weighing 7g was recovered.

Condition

Although naturally fragile, the glass is in good condition.

Results

Table 3, the Glass

Context	Description	No.	Wt(g)	Context date
001	Dark amber bottle	1	7	early-mid 20 th century

Provenance

The glass was recovered from the topsoil (001).

Discussion

A fragment of a bottle, perhaps a mineral water container, of early-mid 20th century date was retrieved.

Potential and Recommendations

The glass provides a little dating evidence but is otherwise of limited potential. No further work is needed and the material can be discarded.

Other Finds

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

Twelve other finds weighing a total of 777g were recovered.

Results

Table 4, The Other Finds

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt(g)	Context date
001	cinder	Coal/cinder, orange-red vitrification along one edge	1	80	late post-medieval
	iron	Rectangular bar, 225mm x 34mm x 10mm, rectangular section, possible machinery part?	1	387	
	iron	Threaded bolt, large flat head, late post-medieval	1	107	
002	Slag	Glassy, highly vitrified slag	1	3	late post-medieval??
003	slag	Glassy, highly vitrified slag, late post-medieval??	2	22	late post-medieval??
	slag	Possible iron smithing slag, highly vesicular, possible plano-convex hearth bottom	1	125	
	coal	coal	1	11	
006	slag	Glassy, highly vitrified slag, late post-medieval??	2	1	late post-medieval??
	slag	Iron smithing slag, post-medieval	1	29	
	Slag?	Slag? Possibly track surfacing material (small stones and tarmac?)	1	12	
Totals			12	777	

Provenance

The item was recovered from the topsoil (001), dumped deposits (002, 006), and possible remnants of a furnace structure (003).

Discussion

Two iron items were retrieved. One is a threaded bolt of late post-medieval date, the other is of uncertain identity but may be a machinery part and is likely to also be of the post-medieval period.

Several pieces of slag were also recovered. Most of these are glassy and highly vitrified and are probably iron slags of late post-medieval date. A couple of other pieces of slag have a different, less vitrified, appearance and are vesicular. These are also likely to be iron slags, from smithing, and one, from (006) is probably post-medieval.

Cinders and coal were also recovered.

Potential and Recommendations

The slags would appear to indicate iron smithing, probably during the late post-medieval period, taking place at the site. These are of moderate local potential. The coal/cinders may be associated with the

metal-working activity but are of limited potential and could be discarded. The metal items could be casual losses, or perhaps were associated with the smithing activity. However, they are of limited potential. No further work is required.

Context Date Summary

The dating in the following table is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 5, Spot dates

Context	Date (Century)	Comments
001	Early-mid 20 th	Topsoil
002	late post-medieval??	Based on 1 slag
003	late post-medieval??	Based on slag
005	undated	
006	late post-medieval??	Based on slag

References

~ 2002, *Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, version 3.2 [internet]. Available at
<<http://www.tegula.freemove.co.uk/acbm/CBMGDE3.htm>>

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Slowikowski, A. M., Nenck, B., and Pearce, J., 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

Young, J., Vince, A.G. and Nailor, V., 2005, *A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

Abbreviations

CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

Cxt Context

NoF Number of fragments

NoS Number of sherds

NoV Number of vessels

W(g) Weight (grams)

APPENDIX 4: OASIS Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: preconst1-366662

Project details

Project name	Land at Rufford Abbey, Rufford, near Ollerton, Nottinghamshire: Report on an Archaeological Observation
Short description of the project	The archaeological observation took place intermittingly between 04 July 2019 and 29 July 2019. The observation of the overflow parking lot in Area 1 was shallow, as only the turf and a small amount of topsoil were removed. Area 2 was not monitored and Area 3 comprised of dispersal of topsoil which was brought in to build up the area.
Project dates	Start: 04-07-2019 End: 29-07-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	RARL19 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Woodland 6 - Parkland
Monument type	PARTIAL WALL Modern
Monument type	STONE STRUCTURE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CINDER, IRON SLAG, COAL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK,TILE AND GLASS Modern
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NEWARK AND SHERWOOD RUFFORD Land at Rufford Abbey, Rufford, near Ollerton, Nottinghamshire
Postcode	NG22 9DF
Study area	2305 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 464353 364860 52.923459460605 -1.309225421124 52 55 24 N 001 18 33 W Point
Lat/Long Datum (other)	52.672111/-0.7296633

Height OD / Depth Min: 60m Max: 66m

Project creators

Name of Organisation PCA Newark

Project brief originator Historic England

Project design originator Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project director/manager Gary Taylor

Project supervisor Andy Failes

Project supervisor Rebecca Dickinson

Type of sponsor/funding body Private company

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Newark Museum; Newark Civil War Museum

Physical Contents "Ceramics","Glass","Metal"

Digital Archive recipient Newark Museum, Newark Civil War Museum

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media available "Database","GIS","Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient Newark Museum; Newark Civil War Museum

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Correspondence","Diary","Drawing","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Land at Rufford Abbey, Rufford, near Ollerton, Nottinghamshire: Report on an Archaeological Observation

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