

**Land at Rufford Abbey (Play Park)
Ollerton
Nottinghamshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
EPD-Parkwood

CA Project: 661083
CA Report: 18370

July 2018



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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	02/07/2018	Dale Langford	Mark Hewson	Internal review	For Client Comment	

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at Rufford Abbey (Play Park)
Location:	Ollerton, Nottinghamshire
NGR:	464753 364748
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	26-28 June 2018
Planning Reference:	17/02184/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be confirmed
Site Code:	RUF18

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with service trenching in relation to alterations to a children's play area on land at Rufford Abbey, Ollerton, Nottinghamshire (centred at NGR: 464753 364748).

Two trenches were excavated as part of groundworks activities. Five archaeological features were identified and recorded in Trench 1. Four of these comprise red brick and stone culverts/drains associated with post-medieval land use and development of the site. In addition to these features was a length of rough squared sandstone foundation. A lack of diagnostic features or artefacts precluded any accurate dating of this feature, though similar foundations identified during archaeological investigations north of the project area have been dated to the medieval period.

Four wall foundations of similar material to that identified in Trench 1 were recorded in Trench 2. Again, similarities to those identified elsewhere could tentatively suggest that these walls have their origin in the medieval period. Furthermore, no structures on similar orientation are evident in late post-medieval or modern mapping to indicate these may have a more recent origin.

No artefacts were recovered during trench excavations.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for EPD-Parkwood at Rufford Abbey, Ollerton, Nottinghamshire (centred at NGR: 464753 364748; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for groundworks associated with service trenching in relation to alterations to a children's play area within the grounds of Rufford Abbey (Planning ref: 17/02184/FUL).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with Condition 10 of the approved planning permission, as defined in discussions with the Client who had consulted with the Conservation Team Manager for Nottinghamshire County Council representing Newark and Sherwood District Council, and with a subsequent *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2018) and approved by the Local Planning Authority acting on the advice of the Nottinghamshire County Council Conservation Team Manager. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014).

The site

- 1.3 The development area is located within Rufford Abbey Country Park, to the south-east of the house and Abbey remains, within an area of landscaped grounds and the arboretum (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 50m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as gravelly sandstone of the Chester Formation formed during the Triassic Period, and Retford Member formed during the same era (BGS 2018). This geological substrate was not encountered during service trench excavations due to trench depth and the depth of modern made ground within the project area.
- 1.5 Two lengths of service trenching were excavated as part of the proposed site groundworks (Fig. 2). For the purposes of this report these have been called Trench 1, which measured approximately 23m in length and extended from the eastern corner of the Orangery structure, to the east and north, where it met with pre-existing utility tie-ins (Fig.3); and, Trench 2, which measured approximately 165m in length and extended east from an existing utility tie-in following the current path

alignment (Fig.4) to the east and north towards the proposed play park development site (Fig.5).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The archaeological background of the wider area has been explored in detail as part of a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) produced by CA in 2017. The following summary is based upon this document, reiterating the content set out in the WSI (CA 2017, CA 2018).

Prehistoric and Roman periods

2.2 There is no recorded evidence for prehistoric or Roman period activity in the vicinity of the site. The nearest recorded evidence for Roman settlement lies approximately 8km to the north-west of the Site at Warsop (Allen *et al.* 2016). On the basis of currently available information, there was considered to be very little potential for the presence of prehistoric or Roman period activity within the site.

Early medieval and medieval periods

2.3 The first recorded owner of Rufford was a Saxon Chieftain named Ulf who owned land on the eastern margins of Sherwood Forest. Slight remnants of former ridge and furrow cultivation are evident within the extent of the Scheduled Monument; the description of which identifying these features as deriving from agricultural land use prior to monastic development in the 12th century (see below).

2.4 After the Norman Conquest Rufford was awarded to Gilbert De Grant (Taylor 2010). Later, in 1146, the grandson of Gilbert de Grant gave land situated on the banks of Rainworth Water to the Cistercian order of Benedictine monks. It is thought the initial structures at the Abbey complex, following this award of land, were constructed from timber (MRDA 2016). Very little, however, is known of these early timber structures; indications of a temporary church near the Abbey church have though been identified in the form of unevenly spaced aisle piers, revealed during excavation (MRDA 2016; Gilyard-Beer 1965).

2.5 Excavations have aided the reconstruction of the Abbey complex layout, suggesting that it was located to the north and east of the existing standing remains. Ancillary structures in its environs would also have supported the functioning of the Abbey.



These include facilities for accommodation, food production and animal husbandry in addition to an infirmary. The location and remains of such buildings is presently unknown, but likely to be located within the outer precinct of the Abbey, encompassed by the boundaries of the Scheduled Monument (MRDA 2016).

- 2.6 Excavations within Abbey Meadow have identified the remains of a well (Trent and Peak Archaeology 1994) and wall foundations (Gillott 2014); and, geophysical survey has identified an anomalous area indicative of burning that may be contemporary with the built features (PCG 2006). These remains are indicative, perhaps, of monastic activities in the area. Excavations within Abbey Lawn have identified the remains of a vertical shaft intentionally capped with stone slabs leading to a main drain leading eastwards, which may suggest that the outer precinct extended west.
- 2.7 The main source of income from the Abbey came from mixed farming. As holdings of the Abbey increased, some of the smaller surrounding settlements, such as Rufford Cratley, Grimston and Inkersal were incorporated into its landholdings. Income was increased in the 13th century when the Abbey acquired a mill located to the north of what is now Rufford Country Park, in addition to expansion of pasture land within Sherwood Forest (which was granted to the Cistercian order by Edward I and II, and within which the Abbey complex was located).
- 2.8 The Abbey continued to function until its Dissolution in 1537, whence the Abbey buildings and its immediate estate of 1000 acres were granted to George Talbot. It is speculated that Rufford was subsequently used as a hunting lodge, though its main transition into a country seat occurred after 1560 when the Abbey was partially demolished and the remains incorporated into a country house (MRDA 2016). Demolition associated with this transition into a country house, as well as subsequent phases of demolition, may have truncated or removed earlier remains of historic land use. An archaeological watching brief undertaken during groundworks at the south-eastern corner of the complex recorded deposits of post-medieval building material that had been used as back fill (Trent and Peak Archaeology 2000).

Post-medieval and modern periods

- 2.9 The converted Abbey and its associated grounds became part of the Saville Estate in the early 17th century and remained as such until the early 20th century. A survey

of Rufford and its grounds, undertaken in 1637, provides the earliest cartographic depiction of the Rufford Abbey; however, it does not provide clear details of the immediate grounds or gardens, nor of the site. The survey does, however, record a large deer park associated with the estate located to the south of the site.

- 2.10 Later maps depict the creation of formal gardens to the north and east of the Abbey in the 17th century. Geophysical survey conducted across Abbey Lawn recorded features thought to be associated with the formal gardens; however, geophysical survey carried out across Long Meadow, further to the east, did not detect any features of a similar morphology, and as such it is probable that the gardens did not extend beyond the extent of the Abbey Lawn. It is likely that the site comprised part of the wider grounds of the Estate, its proximity to a watercourse suggesting the land may have functioned as meadow.
- 2.11 An early 18th century map depicts the site forming part of the wider open grounds associated with the Abbey, with the focus of activity seemingly within the immediate grounds of the building and to the west, where roads and tracks are recorded. Geophysical survey conducted across Abbey Meadow identified a pair of parallel anomalies, which further investigation identified as ditches, most likely corresponding to the tracks depicted on the historic map.
- 2.12 No tithe or enclosure maps exist for the site. However, there is an 1885 estate map, which shows the site as open meadow. The 1900 edition of the Ordnance Survey map depicts the site as a plot of land lying west of the Abbey ruins and Rufford Hall complex. This plot of land is defined to the south by a sluice extending from Rufford Water, which appears to feed a fish pond to the south-west. The eastern boundary of this plot of land also appears to be depicted as lying lower than the grounds directly linked with the house and Abbey complex. This adds additional weight to the suggestion of the site having comprised meadow during the post-medieval and modern periods.



3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks; and,
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

3.2 Significant archaeological remains were not identified during the course of the groundworks, on which basis no further reference will be made to *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012).

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2018). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks associated with the excavation of service trenches for the proposed Play Park development. This included monitoring all machine excavations as well as hand excavations in areas where utilities and utility tie-ins were expected (Fig. 2).

4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA *Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.3 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive will be deposited with the relevant recipient Museum (once this repository been determined). A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain. No artefacts were recovered during watching brief activities.



5. RESULTS

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 and 6-11)

- 5.1 The earliest deposits in Trench 1 consisted of late post-medieval to modern made ground deposits 010, 012, and 037. Deposit 010 comprised a mid-brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of brick (broken) and sub-angular stone. This deposit was located under the existing pathway encircling the Orangery fountain. Deposits 012 and 037 are similar to each other in composition consisting of a mid-brown silty sand with occasional small-to-medium sized sub-rounded stone and brick fragments. Deposit 012 was observed between culvert/drain 013 and possible wall foundation 018 (see below), while deposit 034 was observed in the areas of the linear gravel path extending to the north-east and the manicured lawn areas adjacent to Trench 1. Archaeological features 013, 018, 023, 026, 030, and 034 (see below) are cut into these deposits.
- 5.2 Brick and stone culvert/drain 013 is located closest to the Orangery, and cuts through deposit 010 (Figs 6-7). The culvert/drain runs north/south and was constructed using a stone slab base with seven courses of red unfrogged bricks (length: 230mm, width: 110mm, thickness: 60mm) lying flat, two courses deep, supporting a stone slab cover (max length: 600mm, width: 480mm, thickness: 130mm). The bricks were laid in a stretcher bond for the upper six courses, with the lower course being laid perpendicular. The brickwork was bonded using a lime-based mortar. The culvert/drain was encountered at a depth of approximately 0.24m below the present ground level (bpgl) and is approximately 0.98m wide from the outside of the brickwork.
- 5.3 Construction cut 016 of the culvert/drain 013 was filled with a thick packing of green clay 015 along the cut, with gravel fill 014 separating the brickwork from the green clay packing.
- 5.4 A potential wall foundation (018) lay to the east further along the trench. The wall foundation comprises various sizes of rough squared sandstone laid flat in a mid-to-light brown silt sand matrix (019). Only three layers of stonework were visible in the trench (< thickness 70mm, no length or breadth determined; Fig.8).
- 5.5 A compact green clay fill 017 is located adjacent to, and covering foundation 018, filling portions of the original construction cut (038). It is possible that this clay fill

- collapsed at some point or was deposited over foundation 018 following the removal of the upper wall sections.
- 5.6 A fragmented stone drain (023) was uncovered in an area of disturbance associated with numerous 20th century and more recent utilities (Fig.9). This feature consists of a series of large stone slabs laid flat (these were not possible to measure, due to physical access constraints). While no brick coursing remains as a result of later disturbance, these slabs are similar to those recorded for drain structure 034 suggesting this example may have served a similar function, though lying on a different orientation and with a different construction style (see below 5.9). Similar to culvert/drain 013, construction cut 025 is filled with a compact green clay 024 and gravel 044.
- 5.7 Underlying stone drain 23 at a depth of approximately 0.45m is compact light red silty sand deposit/surface 026. Due to the limited exposure of this feature it is not possible to determine its precise deposition or function. It is possible that this may represent an earlier drainage feature, perhaps later disturbed by the construction of stone drain 023, though this cannot be confirmed.
- 5.8 Structure 030 represents a stone and brick drain approximately 0.46m wide running south-west/north-east. The drain is constructed with three courses of unfrosted red brick (length: 220mm, width: 110mm, thickness: 70mm) laid in one row lying flat in a stretcher bond, with a base and top constructed of squared stones (unmeasured) (Fig.10). Mortar used in the construction of drain 030 appears to be lime-based. Construction cut 032 is filled with compact green clay 031.
- 5.9 Structure 034 is the fourth brick and stone drain recorded in Trench 1 (Fig.11). This drain was encountered at a depth of 0.4m below the present ground level (bpgl) and runs on an east/west alignment. The drain is 0.45m in width and constructed using a red brick base laid perpendicular, with three courses of unfrosted stretcher-laid red bricks (length: 240mm, width: 110mm, thickness: 60mm) one course deep with a flat stone covering of varying sizes (maximum length: 500mm, width: 450mm, thickness: 80mm, minimum length: 330mm, width: 250mm, thickness: 80mm). Mortar used in the construction of this drain appears to be lime-based.
- 5.10 Similar to other drain and culvert structures located in Trench 1, construction cut 036 is filled with compact green clay 035.

- 5.11 Deposits overlying archaeological features in Trench 1 are associated with either the construction of various modern pathways, the installation of services and utilities, or the development and levelling of the manicured lawn areas.

Trench 2 (Figs. 2 and 12-15)

- 5.12 The earliest deposits in Trench 2 consist of late post-medieval to modern made ground deposits 037, 048, and 054. Deposit 037 is a continuation of the same deposit identified in Trench 1. Approximately 55m along Trench 2 deposit 037 transitions to deposit 048, which comprises yellow brown sandy silt with small to medium sub-rounded pebbles. Deposit 048 was recorded altering back to a fill of similar composition to deposit 037, which continues along the length of the trench until entering the lawn associated with the proposed play park. At this point the deposit transitions to a mottled grey brown silty clay with moderate brick fragment inclusions.
- 5.13 Located approximately 33m east along Trench 2 is a small segment of wall foundation 041 (Fig.12). Running south-west/north-east and at a depth of 0.63m bpgl, foundation 041 comprises roughly squared, weathered sandstone blocks (> length: 230mm, width: 200mm, thickness: 80mm) set randomly in a mid-brown silty sand matrix. Fill 042, comprises brown sand with frequent small to medium sub-rounded pebbles, and is located on either side of foundation 041 and within construction cut 043. Overlying foundation 041 is a deposit of mixed gravels and brick rubble, 045. This wall does not appear on any available mapping and its function remains unknown.
- 5.14 Approximately 82m south-east along Trench 2 from wall foundation 041 is wall foundation 049 (Fig.13). This foundation is similar in composition to foundation 041, being constructed of roughly squared and weathered sandstone blocks 70mm thick, laid roughly in a mid-brown silty sand matrix. This wall foundation was encountered at a depth of 0.55m bpgl and appears to run south-east/north-west. Overall it is wider than foundation 041, being approximately 1.4m in width at the base of the trench, narrowing to approximately 0.7m near its uppermost level. It is more similar to the sizes and orientation recorded in wall foundations 052 and 053 (see below).
- 5.15 Due to limited trench width of c.0.6m an estimate of average stone length and breadth could not be determined for foundation 041. A review of available historic

mapping does not indicate any structures in the immediate area. A sluice is noted to the south-east on 19th and 20th century mapping, though it is not clear whether these foundations are related in some way to the feature.

5.16 Similar in composition and size to foundation 041 are wall foundations 052 (top of foundation 0.67m bpgl) and 053 (top of foundation 0.35m below bpgl; Fig.14-15). These are located approximately 19m and 28m respectively from foundation 041. The foundations were both constructed using roughly squared and weathered sandstone blocks measuring between 60-70mm thick (due to trench width average stone length and width could not be determined). The foundation stones were laid randomly in a mid-brown silty sand matrix. Both foundations appear to be oriented south-east/north-west and do not indicate any evident relationship with any structures or features indicated on available historic mapping. It is possible that these foundations may have some relationship with the adjacent sluice feature, though this cannot be determined.

5.17 Similar to Trench 1, the overlying deposits in Trench 2 are associated with either the construction of modern pathways or the build-up of the current manicured lawn and overgrown woodland.

6. THE FINDS

6.1 No artefacts were recovered during watching brief activities.



7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 Archaeological monitoring and recording resulted in the identification of nine post-medieval to modern and undated archaeological features. Five of these (013, 018, 023, 030, and 034) are located in Trench 1 and four (041, 049, 052, and 053) in Trench 2.
- 7.2 Of the features identified along Trench 1, four relate to post-medieval drainage and water management systems (013, 023, 030, and 034). Due to the varying construction styles and orientations, any interpretations of contemporaneity between these drains cannot be made. It is likely that the drains serviced either the adjacent Orangery or properties located to the south-west.
- 7.3 One potential wall foundation was also identified in Trench 1 (018). This foundation does not appear to correlate with any structures recorded on available mapping, and did not yield diagnostic features that could aid our understanding of date or potential function. Given the proximity of the foundation to the existing Orangery and the presence of numerous retaining and garden walls, it may be interpreted that this foundation relates to an earlier phase of the post-medieval garden landscape. This, however, cannot be confirmed. Excavations conducted north of the Abbey remains have identified similar foundation remains constructed using re-purposed medieval rough-faced sandstone packed with clay (Gillot 2014). If foundation 018 is of similar construction to this, then it may tentatively indicate a potential medieval to post-medieval date range.
- 7.4 The excavation of Trench 2 resulted in the identification of four potential wall foundations. Three of these (049, 052, and 053) were located in the south-east part the trench, with the foundations running perpendicular to an area identified as a sluice in 19th and 20th century mapping. A fourth foundation running south-west/north-east was identified along Trench 2. This foundation (041) is similar to foundation 018 identified in Trench 1. A review of historic mapping does not indicate any former structures in the immediate vicinity, making the function and date of these foundations unclear.
- 7.6 As with 018, the foundations identified along Trench 2 are constructed using rough squared sandstone and may be of similar age to those identified during previous archaeological investigations to the north (Gillot 2014). If so, it may indicate that

these remains have a medieval association. A lack of diagnostic features, however, does not allow for accurate dating.

- 7.7 The depths of service installations within the groundworks area did not permit excavation to the natural geological substrate. For this reason confirmation of the absence of earlier archaeological features within the site cannot be made.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 8.1 Fieldwork was undertaken, and the subsequent report written, by Dale Langford. The illustrations were prepared by Tom Brown. The archive has been compiled by Dale Langford, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Mark Hewson.

9. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	000	Layer	-	Topsoil	Dark brown clay-silt	-	-	0.1	Modern
1	001	Deposit	-	Path Surface	Frequent sub-angular stone in mid brown grey sandy silt	-	-	0.1	Modern
1	002	Fill	003	Path Fill	Compact frequent sub-angular stone in mid brown grey sandy silt	-	-	0.2	Modern
1	003	Cut	-	Cut of Path	Rounded concave with flat base	>5	>1.5	-	Modern
1	004	Structure	-	Modern path	Red brick (unmeasured) set in concrete	0.4	0.3	0.2	Modern
1	005	Cut	-	Const. cut for modern path edge		-	-	-	Modern
1	006	Layer	-	Loose gravel over fountain path	Frequent sub-angular stone in mid brown grey sandy silt	-	-	0.04	Modern
1	007	Fill	059	Path Fill	Compact frequent sub-angular stone in light yellow brown sandy silt	-	-	0.06	Modern
1	008	Fill	059	Path Fill	Compact frequent sub-angular stone in light brown grey sandy silt	-	-	0.1	Modern
1	009	Fill	059	Path Fill	Compact frequent sub-angular stone in light yellow brown sandy silt	-	-	0.04	Modern
1	010	Deposit	-	Mixed rubble	Frequent sub-angular stone and brick fragments in mid brown sandy silt	-	-	0.36	Post-medieval
1	011	Deposit	-	Build-up deposit	Mid brown sandy silt with moderate sub-angular and round stones	-	-	0.25	Med to Post-Med
1	012	Deposit	-	Build-up deposit	Mid reddish brown sandy silt with moderate sub-angular and round stones	-	-	0.2	Med to Post-Medieval
1	013	Structure	-	Culvert/Drain	Brick (L.230mm, W.110mm, T.60mm) and stone (max L.600mm, W.480mm, T.130mm) culvert/drain running north/south	>1	0.98	0.68	Post-Medieval
1	014	Fill	016	Fill surrounding 013	Mid-brown silty sand with frequent small to medium sub-rounded pebbles	-	0.15	0.02	Post-medieval
1	015	Fill	016	Packing fill around culvert/drain	Compact medium green clay	-	0.15	-0.75	Post-medieval
1	016	Cut	-	Construction cut for culvert/drain	Near vertical sides, base not observed	-	-	-0.75	Post-Medieval
1	017	Fill	020	Compact clay overlying 017	Compact medium green clay	-	0.25	0.45	Post-Medieval
1	018	Structure	-	Sandstone wall foundation	Rough squared sandstone (max thickness 70mm, no length or width taken) laid randomly in med brown sandy silt	>0.4	0.54	0.18	Med to Post-Medieval
1	019	Fill	020	Packing fill around foundation 018	Mid-brown sandy silt	-	-	-	Med to Post-Medieval
1	020	Cut	-	Construction cut for foundation 018	Near vertical sides, base not observed	-	-	-	Med to Post-Medieval

1	021	Deposit	-	Dump deposit from service installation	Dark brown silty sand with moderate sub-angular stones	-	-	0.04	Modern
1	022	Deposit	-	Dump deposit	Medium brown silty sand with moderate sub-angular stones	-	-	0.2	Modern
1	023	Structure	-	Remains of drain	Base layer of flat stone from drain (unmeasured)	-	-	-	Post-medieval
1	024	Fill	025	Compact fill surrounding drain	Compact medium green clay	-	-	0.25	Post-medieval
1	025	Cut	-	Construction cut for stone drain base	Moderate slope with flat base	-	-	0.25	Post-medieval
1	026	Deposit/Surface	-	Compacted deposit or surface	Compact light red silty sand with occasional sandstone	-	-	0.08	Unknown
1	027	Void	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	028	Void	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	029	Deposit	-	deposit over drain 030	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-rounded pebbles	-	-	-	Post-medieval
1	030	Structure	-	Brick and stone drain	Red-brick (L.220mm, W.110mm, T.70mm) and stone drain running south-west/north-east	>1	0.46	0.27	Post-medieval
1	031	Fill	032	Compact packing clay surrounding drain 030	Compact medium green clay	-	-	0.15	Post-medieval
1	032	Cut	-	Construction cut for drain 030	Near vertical edges, base not observed	-	-	-	Post-medieval
1	033	Fill	0.36	Fill overlying area of drain 034	Med brown sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded stones	-	-	0.3	Post-medieval
1	034	Structure	-	Brick and stone drain	Red brick (L.240mm, W.110mm, T.60mm) and stone (Max L.500mm, B.450mm, T.80mm, Min L.330mm, W.250mm, T.80mm) drain running east/west	>1	0.45	0.4	Post-medieval
1	035	Fill	0.36	Compact clay packing around drain 034	Compact medium green clay	-	0.1	0.3	Post-medieval
1	036	Cut	-	Construction cut for drain 034	Near vertical edges, base not observed	-	0.65	0.4	Post-medieval
1	037	Deposit	-	Levelling layer of made ground	Medium brown sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular stone and brick near upper portions	-	-	0.85	Post-Medieval
1	044	Fill	0.25	Gravel packing fill for drain 023	Medium brown sandy silt with frequent small sub-rounded pebbles	-	-	0.2	Med to Post-Medieval
1	059	Cut	-	Const. cut for fountain path	Rounded concave with flat base	>5	>1.5	-	Modern

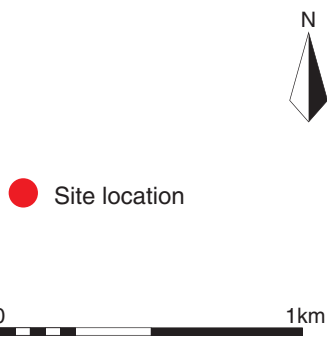
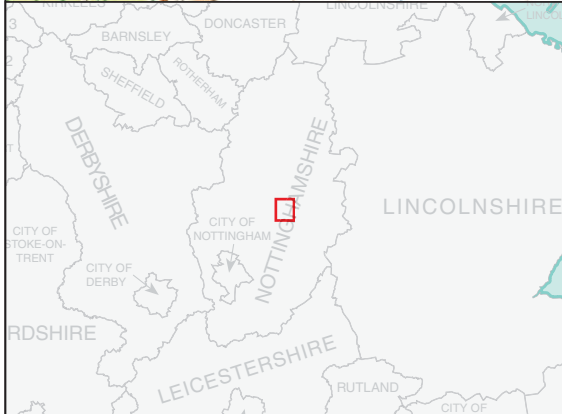
Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
2	038	Deposit	-	Path Surface	Frequent sub-angular stone in mid brown grey sandy silt	-	-	0.1	Modern
2	039	Fill	040	Path Fill	Compact frequent sub-angular stone in mid brown grey sandy silt	-	-	0.2	Modern
2	040	Cut	-	Cut of Path	Rounded concave with flat base	>5	>1.5	-	Modern
2	041	Structure	-	Sandstone wall foundation	Rough squared sandstone (max thickness 70mm, no length or width taken) laid randomly in med brown sandy silt running south-east/north-west	>0.35	0.45	0.3	Med to Post-Medieval
2	042	Fill	043	Fill within construction cut of foundation 042	Medium brown silty sand with frequent sub-rounded pebbles	-	0.15	0.3	Med to Post-Medieval
2	043	Cut	-	Construction cut for foundation 042	Moderated slope, base unobserved	-	0.75	0.3	Med to Post-Medieval
2	045	Deposit	-	Mixed backfill deposit over 041	Medium brown sandy silt with frequent sub-angular stone and brick	-	-	0.23	Post-medieval
2	046	Deposit	-	Sand backfill deposit	Yellow orange sand with occasional sub-rounded pebbles	-	-	0.8	Post-medieval
2	047	Deposit	-	Levelling layer of made ground	Medium brown sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular stone and brick near upper portions	-	-	0.2	Post-medieval
2	048	Deposit	-	Levelling layer of made ground	Medium brown sandy silt with rare sub-rounded and sub-angular stone and brick near upper portions	-	-	0.7	Post-medieval
2	049	Structure	-	Partially collapsed sandstone wall foundation	Rough squared sandstone (max thickness 70mm, no length or width taken) laid randomly in med brown sandy silt running south-east/north-west	>0.35	1.4	-	Med to Post-Medieval
2	050	Fill	051	Construction cut fill for 049	Medium brown clay silt packing material around and between sandstone blocks	-	-	-	Med to Post-Medieval
2	051	Cut	-	Construction cut for foundation 049	Inferred construction cut for foundation 049 (not visible due to trench width)	>0.35	1.4	-	Med to Post-Medieval
2	052	Structure	-	Partially collapsed sandstone wall foundation	Rough squared sandstone (max thickness 70mm, no length or width taken) laid randomly in med brown sandy silt running south-east/north-west	>0.35	1.5	-	Med to Post-Medieval
2	053	Structure	-	Partially collapsed sandstone wall foundation	Rough squared sandstone (max thickness 70mm, no length or width taken) laid randomly in med brown sandy silt running south-east/north-west	>0.35	1.8	-	Med to Post-Medieval
2	054	Deposit	-	Silty clay mixed ground near play park	Moderately compact silty clay with occasional red-brick and modern materials	-	-	0.85	Post-medieval/modern
2	055	Fill	056	Construction cut fill for 052	Medium brown sandy silt packing material around and between sandstone blocks	-	-	-	Med to Post-Medieval

2	056	Cut	-	Construction cut for foundation 052	Inferred construction cut for foundation 049 (not visible due to trench width)	>0.35	1.5	-	Med to Post-Medieval
2	057	Fill	058	Construction cut fill for 053	Medium brown sandy silt packing material around and between sandstone blocks	-	-	-	Med to Post-Medieval
2	058	Cut	-	Construction cut for foundation 053	Inferred construction cut for foundation 049 (not visible due to trench width)	>0.35	1.8	-	Med to Post-Medieval

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project Name	Land at Rufford Abbey
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with service trenching in relation to alterations to a children's play area on land at Rufford Abbey, Ollerton, Nottinghamshire (centred at NGR: 464753 364748).</p> <p>Two trenches were excavated as part of groundworks activities. Five archaeological features were identified and recorded in Trench 1. Four of these comprise red brick and stone culverts/drains associated with post-medieval land use and development of the site. In addition to these features was a length of rough squared sandstone foundation. A lack of diagnostic features or artefacts precluded any accurate dating of this feature, though similar foundations identified during archaeological investigations north of the project area have been dated to the medieval period.</p> <p>Four wall foundations of similar material to that identified in Trench 1 were recorded in Trench 2. Again, similarities to those identified elsewhere could tentatively suggest that these walls have their origin in the medieval period. Furthermore, no structures on similar orientation are evident in late post-medieval or modern mapping to indicate these may have a more recent origin.</p> <p>No artefacts were recovered during trench excavations.</p>
Project dates	26-28 June 2018
Project type	Watching Brief
Previous work	Unknown
Future work	Unknown
PROJECT LOCATION	
Site Location	Rufford Abbey, Ollerton, Nottinghamshire (centred at NGR: 464753 364748).
Study area (M ² /ha)	
Site co-ordinates	SK 6475 6474
PROJECT CREATORS	
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Brief originator	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Manager	Mark Hewson
Project Supervisor	Dale Langford
MONUMENT TYPE	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None

PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	TBC	None
Paper	TBC	Paper Archive Permatrace Archive
Digital	TBC	Database Archive Digital Photo Archive
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 <i>Land at Rufford Abbey (Play Park), Ollerton, Nottinghamshire Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 18370		



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PROJECT TITLE
 Rufford Abbey Play Park, Rufford,
 Nottinghamshire, WB

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY TB	PROJECT NO. 661083	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 12.07.18	
APPROVED BY MH	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	1

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- site boundary
- evaluation trench/excavation area
- cut feature



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PROJECT TITLE
Rufford Abbey Play Park, Rufford,
Nottinghamshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench Location Plan

DRAWN BY TB	PROJECT NO. 661083	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 18.07.18	2
APPROVED BY MH	SCALE@A3 1:500	

P:\661083 Rufford Abbey Play Park, Rufford, Notts.WB\Illustration\Drawings\661083 Rufford Abbey Play Park Fig 2.dwg



Trench 1, looking north-east



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PROJECT TITLE

Rufford Abbey Play Park, Rufford,
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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 1: Photograph

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 CHECKED BY **DJB** DATE **12.07.18**
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FIGURE NO.

3



4

Trench 2, looking south-east



5

Trench 2, looking north-east



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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 2: Photographs

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FIGURE NO.

4 & 5



feature 013, looking west (0.3m scale)



feature 013, looking west, showing brickwork (0.3m scale)



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FIGURE TITLE

Feature 013: Photographs

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FIGURE NO.

6 & 7



Wall foundation 018, looking east (0.3m scale)



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FIGURE TITLE

Wall foundation 018: Photograph

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FIGURE NO.

8



9

Drain slab 023, with potential surface 026 and modern concrete and brick feature 004, looking east (0.3m scale)



10

Base and brickwork of drain 030, looking north-west (0.3m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Rufford Abbey Play Park, Rufford,
 Nottinghamshire WB

FIGURE TITLE

**Features 023, 026, 004 & 030:
 Photographs**

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FIGURE NO.

9 & 10



11

Drain 034, looking south-east (0.3m scale)



12

Wall foundation 041, looking south-west (0.3m scale)



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FIGURE TITLE

Features 034 & 041: Photographs

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FIGURE NO.

11 & 12



13

Wall foundation 049, looking north-east (0.3m scale)



14

Wall foundation 052, looking east (0.3m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Features 049 & 052: Photographs

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FIGURE NO.

13 & 14



Wall foundation 053, looking south-east (scale 0.3m)



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PROJECT TITLE

Rufford Abbey Play Park, Rufford,
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FIGURE TITLE

Wall foundation 053: Photograph

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FIGURE NO.

15

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