

wardell-armstrong.com

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES
LAND AND PROPERTY
MINING AND MINERAL PROCESSING
MINERAL ESTATES
WASTE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



ENGLISH HERITAGE

INTERPRETATION PANEL INSTALLATION, BURY ST EDMUNDS ABBEY, SUFFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

AUGUST 2022

DATE ISSUED: August 2022
JOB NUMBER: BE10578
SITE CODE: BE10578
OASIS REFERENCE: wardella2-508487
SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENT REF: S00242602
ORDNANCE SURVEY GRID REF: TL 85694 64224
REPORT VERSION NUMBER: 001

ENGLISH HERITAGE

INTERPRETATION PANEL INSTALLATION, BURY ST EDMUNDS ABBEY, SUFFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

PREPARED BY:

Peter Clarke Principal Archaeologist

Peter Thompson Principal Archaeologist



REVIEWED BY:

Andrew Peachey Associate Director



APPROVED BY:

Rhodri Gardner Regional Director



This report has been prepared by Wardell Armstrong LLP with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, within the terms of the Contract with the Client. The report is confidential to the Client and Wardell Armstrong LLP accepts no responsibility of whatever nature to third parties to whom this report may be made known.

No part of this document may be reproduced without the prior written approval of Wardell Armstrong LLP.



Wardell Armstrong LLP is the trading name of Wardell Armstrong LLP, Registered in England No. OC307138.

Registered office: Sir Henry Doulton House, Forge Lane, Etruria, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 5BD, United Kingdom

UK Offices: Stoke-on-Trent, Birmingham, Bolton, Bristol, Bury St Edmunds, Cardiff, Carlisle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, London, Newcastle upon Tyne, and Truro. International Offices: Almaty

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES
LAND AND PROPERTY
MINING AND MINERAL PROCESSING
MINERAL ESTATES
WASTE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	7
1 INTRODUCTION	8
1.1 Project Background	8
1.2 Project Documentation	8
2 METHODOLOGY	9
2.1 Standards and guidance	9
2.2 Archaeological Watching Brief	9
2.3 Site Archive	10
3 BACKGROUND	11
3.1 Location and Geological Context	11
3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background	11
3.3 Previous Work	12
4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS	13
4.1 Introduction	13
4.2 Results	13
5 FINDS ASSESSMENT	16
5.1 Introduction	16
5.2 Pottery Report <i>by Peter Thompson</i>	16
6 CONCLUSIONS	18
6.1 Introduction	18
6.2 Significance	18
7 BIBLIOGRAPHY	19
APPENDIX 1: TEST PIT DESCRIPTIONS	20
APPENDIX 2: CONCORDANCE OF FINDS	25
APPENDIX 3: PLATES	26
APPENDIX 4: OASIS SUMMARY SHEET	38
APPENDIX 5: FIGURES	39

PLATES (APPENDIX 3)

Plate 1: Test Pits 2a & 2b. South southeast facing; 0.50m scale.	26
Plate 2: Post excavation shot of Test Pits 2a & 2b, containing information panel. Southeast facing with main gatehouse behind.....	26
Plate 3: Test Pit 3. South facing; 0.30m, 0.50m scales.	27
Plate 4: Post excavation shot of Test Pit 3, containing information panel. South facing towards the Cathedral of St James and St Edmund.....	27
Plate 5: Test Pit 4. North facing; 0.40m, 0.50m scales.	28
Plate 6: Post excavation shot of Test Pit 4, containing information panel. North facing looking at the Abbot's Palace/Queen's Chamber.	28
Plate 7: Test Pit 5. Northwest facing; 0.30m, 0.50m scales.....	29
Plate 8: Post excavation shot of Test Pit 5, containing information panel. Northwest facing towards the Abbot's Bridge.	29
Plate 9: Test Pit 6. Southeast facing; 0.30m, 0.50m scales.	30
Plate 10: Post excavation shot of Test Pit 6, containing information panel. Southeast facing across the cloister.	30
Plate 11: Test Pit 7. East facing; 0.30m, 0.50m scales.	31
Plate 12: Post excavation shot of Test Pit 7, containing information panel. East facing towards the Chapter House.....	31
Plate 13: Test Pit 9. North facing; 0.30m, 0.50m scales.	32
Plate 14: Post excavation shot of Test Pit 9, containing information panel. Northeast facing towards the Cathedral of St James and St Edmund and the abbey west front.....	32
Plate 15: Test Pit 10. East facing; 0.30m, 0.50m scales.	33
Plate 16: Post excavation shot of Test Pit 10, containing information panel. East facing down the nave towards the choir and crossing.....	33
Plate 17: Test Pit 12. North facing; 0.30m, 0.50m scales.	34
Plate 18: Post excavation shot of Test Pit 12, containing information panel. North facing along the crossing and choir area.....	34
Plate 19: Test Pit 13. West facing; 0.30m, 0.50m scales.	35
Plate 20: Post excavation shot of Test Pit 13, containing information panel. West facing with abbey buildings in the foreground and the church and crypt to the left (south).	35
Plate 21: Plinth Pit, central square post-excavation. South facing; 1.0m, 0.30m scales.....	36
Plate 22: Plinth Pit, Sample Section. South facing; 1.0m scale.....	36
Plate 23: Plinth Pit, Outer Area post-excavation. Southeast facing.	37

FIGURES (APPENDIX 5)

Figure 1: Site location plan	1:25000
Figure 2: Detailed site location plan	1:7500
Figure 3: Test pit location plan	1:2000

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) was commissioned by English Heritage, to undertake an archaeological watching brief of the installation of interpretation panels at Bury St Edmunds Abbey, Suffolk (NGR: TL 85694 64224).

The archaeological work was undertaken between 13th and 15th July 2022 and comprised the monitoring of the excavation of twelve pits in total – eleven circular ‘test pits’ (for the interpretation panels) and one square pit (for the model plinth). These were spread out across the Abbey Gardens.

Excavations revealed no structural remains. Several layers of demolition rubble were encountered below the level of the topsoil. These yielded four sherds of medieval pottery, and some worked stone, as well as pieces of post-medieval building material. This is consistent with the known post-Dissolution relandscaping of the Abbey Gardens.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) thanks English Heritage for commissioning the project, and for all their assistance throughout the work. Special thanks go to Jess Freeland, Keeley Hale and Dr Shelley Garland for their cooperation and guidance during the course of the archaeological monitoring.

The watching brief was supervised by Peter Clarke, and the report written by Peter Clarke and Peter Thompson. The figures were produced by Kathren Henry and the coordination of the finds assessment was undertaken by Luke Harris. The project was managed by John Craven, and the report edited by Andrew Peachey, the post-excavation manager.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 In July of 2022, Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) undertook an archaeological monitoring of excavations at Bury St Edmunds Abbey, Suffolk (NGR: TL 85694 64224) (Figs.1-2). It was commissioned by the Client who was installing new interpretation panels and relocating a model of the Abbey to a new position. The monitoring was undertaken in support of Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC Ref: S00242602).

1.1.2 The grant of Scheduled Monument Consent by the Secretary of State, dated 29th April 2022, noted the below conditions:

II. Any ground disturbance to which this consent relates shall be undertaken under the overall archaeological supervision of Dr Shelley Garland (English Heritage) who must be given at least 2 weeks' written notice of the work.

III. Care shall be taken that the works do not disturb existing or buried structures and that any finds of historical significance are left in situ and reported to Historic England as soon as is it safe and practical to do so.

IV. All those involved in the implementation of the works granted by this consent must be informed by the owner, occupier and/or developer that the land is designated as a scheduled monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); the extent of the scheduled monument as set out in both the scheduled monument description and map; and that the implications of this designation include the requirement to obtain Scheduled Monument Consent for any works to a scheduled monument from the Secretary of State prior to them being undertaken.

V. Equipment and machinery shall not be used or operated in the scheduled area in conditions or in a manner likely to result in damage to the monument or ground disturbance other than that which is expressly authorised in this consent.

1.2 Project Documentation

1.2.1 Due to the nature of the work and owing to the supervising of the works by Dr Shelley Garland, a Written Scheme of Investigation was not required for this project.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Standards and guidance

2.1.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken following the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2020a), and in accordance with the WA fieldwork manual (2020).

2.1.2 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2020b) and the *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2020c).

2.2 Archaeological Watching Brief

2.2.1 The archaeological watching brief comprised the monitoring of eleven small test pits, for the erection of interpretation display panels (technically post-holes but referred to in the text as test pits), and one pit for the erection of the Abbey model plinth. The display panel test pits were circular in shape, and measured c. 20cm in diameter and c. 50cm in depth. The plinth pit was trapezoid in shape measuring c.3.0 x 3.0m. The test pits were spread out across the Abbey grounds (Fig.3), with the plinth pit located towards the centre of the Site. The test pits were surveyed using an RTK GPS (Leica GS14/CS15) with an accuracy/error of <1cm. The specific aim of this investigation was to ensure that excavations did not disturb existing or buried structures and to recover any artefactual material associated with the Abbey.

2.2.2 All finds encountered were retained on site and returned to the Bury St Edmunds office where they were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* was then produced for each stratified context under the supervision of the WA Finds Officer, and the dates were used to help determine the broad date phases for the site. On completion of this project, the finds were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines (Watkinson and Neal 1998). Please note, the following categories of material will be discarded after a period of six months following the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them (and subject to the collection policy of the relevant depository):

- unstratified material
- modern pottery
- material that has been assessed as having no obvious grounds for retention.

2.2.3 On completion of recording, the appropriate display panels and plinth were placed in their respective pits, and then backfilled with concrete.

2.3 Site Archive

2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project specification, and the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will also follow the guidance outlined in *Archaeological Archives in Suffolk: Guidelines for Preparations and Deposition* (SCCAS 2019) and *A Standard Guide to Best Practice for Archaeological Archiving in Europe* (Perrin *et al* 2014). The archive will be deposited with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, with a copy of the report sent to the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER). The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier (SCC site code: BSE10578).

2.3.2 Wardell Armstrong LLP supports the **Online AccesS** to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by WA as a part of this national project. The OASIS reference for the project is: wardella2-508487.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location and Geological Context

3.1.1 The archaeological watching brief is centred upon NGR TL 85694 64224. The Site is located in the centre of the town of Bury St Edmunds, which lies within the parish of Bury St Edmunds and the county of Suffolk. The Site is bordered to the north by Mustow Street and the River Lark runs along its eastern boundary. The western edge is bordered by Angel Hill and Crown Street, with the south of the Site bordered by Honey Hill and the Guildhall Feoffment Pre-School & Nursery.

3.1.2 The Site's environs comprise that of the Scheduled Monument of Bury St Edmunds Abbey, including Monk's Cemetery and Outer Precinct and Vineyard Walls (National Heritage List for England No. 1021450).

3.1.3 The site as stated is on the west side of the Lark at approximately 35-40m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD). The underlying solid geology is mapped as chalks of the Lewes Nodular, Seaford Nodular, Newhaven and Culver Chalk Formations, which date to the Cretaceous period. The superficial deposits of the Site largely comprise head deposits of clay, silt, sand, and gravel, which date to the Quaternary Period. The eastern end of the Site has deposits of alluvial clay, silty, sand, and gravel, whilst the western edge of the Site has deposits of sand and gravel deposits of Croxton Member (BGS 2022). The natural substrate was not reached in any of the excavations.

3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

3.2.1 The site is located within Bury St Edmunds Abbey precinct and so is in an area of major archaeological importance and is subject to a number of designations, foremost being as a Scheduled Monument (NHLE No. 1021450). It is also located within the defined area of Middle and Late Saxon activity of *Beodricsworth*, then St Edmund's Bury (the southern portion of the defined area starts at the north end of Southgate Street and runs in a broad strip bounded on its west side by Maynewater Lane and Angel Hill, and on its east side by the river Linnet (Suffolk HER No. BSE 241i)). The site is also included in the medieval urban area of Bury St Edmunds which covers a broader area than the Saxon settlement and includes the Crankles to the east of the site (BSE 241ii).

3.2.2 During the post-medieval period, the usage of the Abbey Gardens went through several extensive changes. After being used as open grazing land in the 18th century, the space was gentrified into that of a landscape park as seen in the 1823 map *Survey*

of Abbey House and Grounds by J. G. Lenny. In the subsequent decades, Nathaniel Hodson established botanical gardens throughout the Site. Their centre point was a circular garden of radiating concentric beds, with native flowers and herbs laid out in their natural botanical orders. In 1936, the gardens were redesigned to celebrate the coronation of King George VI, and the concentric circles were replaced with 64 island beds which can still be seen to this day (Richard Hoggett Heritage 2018).

3.2.3 Within the Scheduled Monument, the test pits were located close to numerous Grade I listed buildings. Test Pits 2a and 2b were located c. 15m east of Abbey Gate and Gatehouse (NHLE No. 1375545). Test Pit 4 was located within 2m of the Ruins to the North of the Cloister (NHLE No. 1375542) which include the Abbot's Palace. Test Pit 5 was located c. 15m to the southeast of Abbots Bridge (NHLE No. 1375552). Test Pits 7 and 13 were located to the west and east of the Ruins to the East and North of Abbey Church (NHLE No. 1375541), respectively. Test Pit 9 was located c. 25m to the east of the Norman Tower (NHLE No. 1375555). Test Pits 10 and 12 were located within the Ruins of the Abbey Church of St Edmund (NHLE No. 1375540).

3.3 Previous Work

3.3.1 There has been a large number of previous archaeology work undertaken within the Site's boundaries. As of November 2017, this amounted to 40 archaeological 'Events' ranging from minor watching briefs to large excavations (Richard Hoggett Heritage 2018). One of the most intrusive archaeological events in recent years involved the excavation of a series of test pits in 2009. These test pits revealed layers of rubble at approximately 100-250mm below the current ground level. These were largely post-dissolution deposits associated with post-medieval use of the gardens, although a bonded flint wall and a robbed wall trench were also discovered (Gill 2009, BSE 332).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken between 13th and 15th July of 2022, with a total of 12 pits excavated across the Site (Fig. 3). This comprised of 11 circular shaped post-holes referred to in the text as test pits for the erection of information display panels, as well as a trapezoid shaped pit for the erection of the new Abbey model plinth. The test pits were all 20cm in diameter with depths of c. 0.50-0.60m. The Abbey model plinth pit was approximately 3.00 x 3.00m, c. 0.17m deep in the outer portion and c. 0.30m deep in the central square.

4.1.2 Every pit was sealed with a layer of loose mid greyish brown sandy silty topsoil (**1000**). The plinth pit, as well as Test Pit 5, were not excavated below the level of the topsoil. All the other test pits encountered layers beneath the topsoil. The natural substrate was not reached in any of the test pits.

4.1.3 The numbering for the test pits was derived from the system used by English Heritage for the information panels. These include three panels that did not require excavations, and therefore were not monitored. Numbers 1 and 8 were attached to the inside of the Abbey Gate and the railings next to the Norman Tower, respectively. Number 11 was attached to a pre-existing panel overlooking the Shrine and Crypt in the Abbey itself (Fig. 3).

4.2 Results

4.2.1 **Test Pit 1** was located on the western edge of the Site and was attached to northern interior wall of the Abbey Gate itself. Due to the lack of ground disturbance, its placement was not monitored.

4.2.2 **Test Pit 2** was located toward the western edge of the Site and, owing to its increased width, involved the excavation of two test pits. The test pits were both 0.20m in diameter and excavated to a depth of 0.60m. The test pit to the west was labelled 2a, and the test pit to the east was labelled 2b. The basal layer of both test pits was a loose pale-yellowish grey sandy silt layer (**1001**), which contained a single of piece of struck flint. This was sealed by a loose mid-greyish brown sandy silt topsoil (**1000**), which contained CBM, animal bone, shell, and slag.

4.2.3 **Test Pit 3** was located toward the centre of the Site. The test pit was 0.20m in diameter and excavated to a depth of 0.61m. The bottommost layer of the test pit was a friable

dark-brownish grey sandy silt layer **(1003)**, which contained pieces of CBM. This was sealed by a loose mid-greyish brown sandy silt topsoil **(1000)**.

- 4.2.4 **Test Pit 4** was located toward the centre of the Site. The test pit was 0.20m in diameter and excavated to a depth of 0.53m. The bottommost layer of the test pit was a loose mid-yellowish brown silty sand layer **(1005)**, which contained pottery and CBM. This was overlain by firm pale-yellowish grey silty sand layer, with very frequent small and medium subangular and angular flints **(1004)**, which contained CBM and flints with attached mortar. This was sealed by a loose mid-greyish brown sandy silt topsoil **(1000)**.
- 4.2.5 **Test Pit 5** was located in the north-eastern corner of the Site. The pit was 0.20m in diameter and excavated to a depth of 0.53m. The excavation did not extent past the level of a loose mid-greyish brown sandy silt topsoil **(1000)**, which contained pottery, CBM, animal bone, an iron fragment, and glass.
- 4.2.6 **Test Pit 6** was located toward the southern edge of the Site. The test pit was 0.20m in diameter and excavated to a depth of 0.47m. The bottommost layer of the test pit was a loose mid-bluish grey silty sand layer **(1007)**, which contained pottery. This was sealed by a loose mid-greyish brown sandy silt topsoil **(1000)**.
- 4.2.7 **Test Pit 7** was located toward the southern edge of the Site. The test pit was 0.20m in diameter and excavated to a depth of 0.53m. The bottommost layer of the test pit was a loose mid-yellowish brown silty sand layer **(1005)**, which contained CBM, flint with attached mortar, worked stone, and glass. This was sealed by a loose mid-greyish brown sandy silt topsoil **(1000)**.
- 4.2.8 **Test Pit 8** was located in the southwestern corner of the Site and was attached to northern railings surrounding the Norman Tower. Due to the lack of ground disturbance, its placement was not monitored.
- 4.2.9 **Test Pit 9** was located in the southwestern corner of the Site. The test pit was 0.20m in diameter and excavated to a depth of 0.51m. The bottommost layer of the test pit was a loose mid-greyish brown sandy silt layer **(1002)**. This was sealed by a loose mid-greyish brown sandy silt topsoil **(1000)**.
- 4.2.10 **Test Pit 10** was located toward the southern edge of the Site. The test pit was 0.20m in diameter and excavated to a depth of 0.53m. The bottommost layer of the test pit was a loose pale-brownish yellow silty sand layer **(1006)**, which contained worked

stone. This was sealed by a loose mid-greyish brown sandy silt topsoil **(1000)**, which contained pottery and worked stone.

- 4.2.11 **Test Pit 11** was located toward the south-eastern corner of the Site and was attached to a pre-existing plinth stand overlooking the Shrine and Crypt. Due to the lack of ground disturbance, its placement was not monitored.
- 4.2.12 **Test Pit 12** was located towards the southern edge of the Site. The test pit was 0.20m in diameter and excavated to a depth of 0.55m. The bottommost layer of the test pit was a loose mid-yellowish brown silty sand layer **(1005)**. This was overlain by firm pale-yellowish grey silty sand layer, with very frequent small and medium subangular and angular flints **(1004)**, which contained pottery, flints with attached mortar, and worked stone. This was sealed by a loose mid-greyish brown sandy silt topsoil **(1000)**.
- 4.2.13 **Test Pit 13** was located towards the eastern edge of the Site. The test pit was 0.20m in diameter and excavated to a depth of 0.61m. The bottommost layer of the test pit was a loose mid-yellowish brown silty sand layer **(1005)**, which contained CBM and worked stone. This was overlain by firm pale-yellowish grey silty sand layer, with very frequent small and medium subangular and angular flints **(1004)**, which contained flints with attached mortar, and worked stone. This was sealed by a loose mid-greyish brown sandy silt topsoil **(1000)**, which contained pottery.
- 4.2.14 The **Plinth Pit** was located towards the centre of the Site. The central square, in the middle of the plinth pit – measuring 1.08 x 1.08m – was excavated first to a depth of 0.30m. This was then filled in with concrete for the base of the Abbey model plinth. The surrounding area was then reduced by c. 0.17m for the placement of hardcore and slabs surrounding the plinth. This surrounding area was trapezoidal in shape, measuring 2.40m on its northern side, 3.25m on its south side, and 3.00m on its western side, with its eastern side running at an angle. The excavation did not extent past the level of a loose mid-greyish brown sandy silt topsoil **(1000)**, which contained pottery, CBM, animal bone, iron fragments, shell, and glass.

5 FINDS ASSESSMENT

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A small number of finds were recovered including pottery, CBM and glass which was concorded (Appendix 2) but this was almost all modern and only the pottery was reported on.

5.2 Pottery Report by Peter Thompson

5.2.1 The archaeological monitoring recovered 78 sherds weighing 900g from the topsoil (1000) and demolition layer (1004). All of the sherds were modern with the exception of 4 medieval sherds (10g).

Methodology

5.2.2 The medieval sherds were examined under x35 binocular microscope and recorded according to the Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology (Barclay *et al* 2016). Fabric codes are those used for the Suffolk Medieval Pottery type series (Anderson 2020) (Table 1).

The Medieval Pottery

5.2.3 Hole 5 in Topsoil (1000) produced two tiny sand tempered body sherds of Early medieval Ware weighing less than 2g. Hole 13 produced a rim sherd of a buff glazed ware (UPG1) not from a recognised industry but probably of High Medieval date. Demolition Layer (1004) Hole 12 produced a body sherd of MCW1 which was in a fine sandy fabric that appeared to be of late medieval date and was the only sherd from that context.

Table 1 Key:

EMW: Early Medieval ware – 10th-12th (desc. Table 1)

MCW1: Medieval Coarseware 13th-early 16th (desc. Table 1)

UPG1: Unprovenanced Glazed Ware 13th-15th (desc. Table 1)

PMRE – Post-medieval red earthenware 16th+

GRE – Glazed red earthenware late 16th+

PMBL – Post-medieval black glazed earthenware 17th+

LONS – London type Stoneware late 17th-early 20th

ENGS – English Stoneware 18th+

RWE – Refined factory-made white earthenware late 18th+

TPW – Transfer Printed Ware late 18th+

Feature Desc.	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Topsoil Plinth Pit	1000	60x628g PMR 1x37g GRE 1x71g PMBL 2x28g LONS 2x100g ENGS 3x9g REFWE 2x6g TPW	19 th -early 20 th	
Topsoil Hole 5	1000	2x2g EMW	10 th -12 th	EMW: dark grey core, surfaces mottled between dark grey, dark brown and pale orangy brown, contains abundant fine sub-rounded to rounded quartz 2x3g slag
Topsoil Hole 10	1000	3x11g PMR	19 th – 20 th	
Hole 13	1000	1x4g UPG1	13 th -15 th	UPG1: externally bevelled jug rim 12cm diam (0.1 reve) – buff/off white surfaces and outer core, grey core, patchy fine clear/pale green glaze on outer surface. Common sub-rounded to rounded quartz, occasional medium sub-rounded quartz, sparse fine rounded brown/dark red clay pellets or iron ore 2x10g daub
Demolition Layer Hole 12	1004	1x4g MCW1	13 th -mid 16 th	MCW1: mid to pale brown smooth surfaces and pale brown core; very fine sandy matrix, occasional slightly coarser sub-rounded grey or off-white quartz, rare other inclusions if red or black iron ore, possible tiny patch of clear glaze on outer surface. Possibly Bury Medieval Coarseware but may be too fine plus has the possible glaze

Table 1: Quantification of sherds by context

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The archaeological watching brief involved the monitoring of 12 pits in total, all located within the Scheduled Monument of Bury St Edmunds Abbey, including Monk's Cemetery and Outer Precinct and Vineyard Walls (NHLE No. 1021450).

6.1.2 The total area excavated amounted to a mere 7.85m². These pits were therefore unlikely to uncover substantial archaeological remains. Indeed, no structural remains were discovered during the monitoring. Below the level of the topsoil, a number of pits did reveal possible demolition layers related to the deterioration of the Abbey. Some of these layers also contained post-medieval CBM, so it is more likely that they could represent relandscaping of the Abbey Gardens, in the centuries after its dissolution. For example, the nave of the Abbey Church – the location of Test Pit 10 – is thought to contain over 2m of demolition rubble (Richard Hoggett Heritage 2018). Four sherds of residual medieval pottery were recovered from various deposits, as well as the topsoil.

6.2 Significance

6.2.1 The archaeology uncovered during this watching was minimal. The discovery of deposits of flint and worked stone, associated with the demolition of the Abbey, mixed in with later building material, corresponds with the Site's relandscaping during the post-medieval period. The few sherds of medieval pottery, spread across the site, and found in both topsoil and deeper deposits, would be expected considering the Site's medieval history.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Anderson, S., 2020. Suffolk pottery-type-series. <https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/pottery-type-series>
- Barclay, A., Knight, D., Booth, P., Evans, J., Brown, D. & Wood, I., 2016. *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology*. Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group/Study group for Roman Pottery/Medieval Pottery Research Group/Historic England
- BGS (British Geological Survey), 2022. *Geology of Britain Viewer*, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>, British Geological Survey, accessed (19th July 2022).
- Brown, D.H., 2011. *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum.
- CIfA, 2020a. *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*. Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists: Reading.
- CIfA, 2020b. *Standard and guidance for field evaluation*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. Reading
- CIfA, 2020c. *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. Reading
- Gill, D., 2009. *Abbey Gardens Low Impact Evaluation BSE 332, Archaeological Assessment, Summary Report, SCCAS Report No. 2009/136*. Unpublished report. Suffolk County Council, Ipswich.
- Perrin, K et al., 2014. *A Standard and Guide to Best Practice for Archaeological Archiving in Europe: EAC Guidelines 1*. Europae Archaeologia Consilium.
- Richard Hoggett Heritage, 2018. *The Abbey of St Edmund, Heritage Assessment*. Unpublished report. Richard Hoggett Heritage, Norwich.
- Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, 2019. *Archaeological Archives in Suffolk: Guidelines for Preparation and Deposition*. Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service.
- WA (Wardell Armstrong), 2020. *Excavation Manual*. Unpublished internal document, Wardell Armstrong LLP.
- Watkinson, D and Neal, V., 1998. *First Aid for Finds*. Rescue: The British Archaeological Trust.

APPENDIX 1: TEST PIT DESCRIPTIONS

Panel 1

- No excavations required; no archaeology observed.

Panel 2 (a & b)

Diameter: 0.20m

Depth: 0.60m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Loose mid-greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small subangular flints throughout.	a = 0.00-0.45m b = 0.00-0.43m	Topsoil. CBM, animal bone, shell, and slag present.
(1001)	Layer	Loose pale-yellowish grey sandy silt with frequent small subangular and subrounded flints throughout.	a = 0.45-0.60m+ b=0.43-0.60m+	Possible demolition layer from Abbey. Struck flint present.

Panel 3

Diameter: 0.20m

Depth: 0.61m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Loose mid-greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small subangular flints throughout.	0.00-0.44m	Topsoil.
(1003)	Layer	Friable dark-brownish grey sandy silt with moderate small angular and subangular flints throughout.	0.44-0.61m+	Possible made ground/landscaping layer. CBM present.

Panel 4

Diameter: 0.20m

Depth: 0.53m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Loose mid-greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small subangular flints throughout.	0.00-0.14m	Topsoil.

(1004)	Layer	Firm pale-yellowish grey silty sand with very frequent small and medium subangular and subrounded flints throughout.	0.14-0.36m	Likely demolition layer from Abbey. CBM and flints with attached mortar present.
(1005)	Layer	Loose mid-yellowish brown silty sand with occasional small subrounded flints and moderate small subrounded chalk pieces throughout.	0.36-0.53m+	Possibly made ground. Pottery and CBM present.

Panel 5

Diameter: 0.20m

Depth: 0.53m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Loose mid-greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small subangular flints throughout.	0.00-0.53m+	Topsoil. Pottery, CBM, animal bone, an iron fragment, and glass present.

Panel 6

Diameter: 0.20m

Depth: 0.47m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Loose mid-greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small subangular flints throughout.	0.00-0.14m	Topsoil.
(1007)	Layer	Loose mid-bluish grey silty sand with frequent small subangular and subrounded flints throughout.	0.14-0.47m+	Made ground for construction of path. Pottery present.

Panel 7

Diameter: 0.20m

Depth: 0.53m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Loose mid-greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small subangular flints throughout.	0.00-0.11m	Topsoil.

(1005)	Layer	Loose mid-yellowish brown silty sand with occasional small subrounded flints and moderate small subrounded chalk pieces throughout.	0.11-0.53m+	Possibly made ground. CBM and flint with attached mortar present.
--------	-------	---	-------------	---

Panel 8

- No excavations required; no archaeology observed.

Panel 9

Diameter: 0.20m

Depth: 0.51m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Loose mid-greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small subangular flints throughout.	0.00-0.25m	Topsoil.
(1002)	Layer	Loose mid-greyish brown sandy silt with moderate small subangular and subrounded flints throughout.	0.25-0.51m+	Possible demolition layer from Abbey.

Panel 10

Diameter: 0.20m

Depth: 0.53m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Loose mid-greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small subangular flints throughout.	0.00- 0.30m	Topsoil. Pottery and worked stone present.
(1006)	Layer	Loose pale-brownish yellow silty sand with occasional small subrounded flints, occasional small subrounded pieces of chalk and frequent small irregular pieces of worked stone throughout.	0.30-0.53m+	Likely demolition layer from Abbey. Worked stone present.

Panel 11

- No excavations required; no archaeology observed.

Panel 12

Diameter: 0.20m

Depth: 0.55m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Loose mid-greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small subangular flints throughout.	0.00-0.15m	Topsoil.
(1004)	Layer	Firm pale-yellowish grey silty sand with very frequent small and medium subangular and subrounded flints throughout.	0.15-0.40m	Likely demolition layer from Abbey. Pottery, flints with attached mortar, and worked stone present.
(1005)	Layer	Loose mid-yellowish brown silty sand with occasional small subrounded flints and moderate small subrounded chalk pieces throughout.	0.40-0.55m+	Possibly made ground.

Panel 13

Diameter: 0.20m

Depth: 0.61m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Loose mid-greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small subangular flints throughout.	0.00-0.21m	Topsoil. Pottery present.
(1004)	Layer	Firm pale-yellowish grey silty sand with very frequent small and medium subangular and subrounded flints throughout.	0.21-0.43m	Likely demolition layer from Abbey. Flints with attached mortar and worked stone present.
(1005)	Layer	Loose mid-yellowish brown silty sand with occasional small subrounded flints and moderate small subrounded chalk pieces throughout.	0.43-0.61m+	Possibly made ground. CBM and worked stone present.

Plinth pit

Length: 3.25m

Width: 2.40m

Depth: 0.30m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Loose mid-greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small subangular flints throughout.	0.00-0.30m+	Topsoil. Pottery, CBM, animal bone, iron fragments, shell, and glass present.

APPENDIX 2: CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Hole	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
	1000		Topsoil - Plinth Pit	19th-early 20th C	71	879	1926	56	B.Flint	1	42
	1000		Topsoil - Plinth Pit						Glass	7	219
	1000		Topsoil - Plinth Pit						Fe Nail	1	5
	1000		Topsoil - Plinth Pit						Clay Pipe	4	15
	1000		Topsoil - Plinth Pit						Slag	6	257
	1000		Topsoil - Plinth Pit						Shell	2	39
	1000	2A	Topsoil				16		Shell	2	31
	1000	2B	Topsoil				7	7			
	1000	5	Topsoil	10th-12th C	2	2	202				
	1000	10	Topsoil	19th-20th C	3	11					
	1000	13	Topsoil	13th-15th C	1	4					
	1003	3	Layer				3				
	1004	4	Demolition Layer				127				
	1004	12	Demolition Layer	13th-mid 16th C	1	4					
	1005	4	Layer				45				
	1005	7	Layer				14		Glass	1	4
	1005	13	Layer				98				
	1006	10	Layer						Dressed Stone	2	741
	1007	6	Made Ground				33				

APPENDIX 3: PLATES



Plate 1: Test Pits 2a & 2b. South southeast facing; 0.50m scale.



Plate 2: Post excavation shot of Test Pits 2a & 2b, containing information panel. Southeast facing with main gatehouse behind.



Plate 3: Test Pit 3. South facing; 0.30m, 0.50m scales.



Plate 4: Post excavation shot of Test Pit 3, containing information panel. South facing towards the Cathedral of St James and St Edmund.



Plate 5: Test Pit 4. North facing; 0.40m, 0.50m scales.



Plate 6: Post excavation shot of Test Pit 4, containing information panel. North facing looking at the Abbot's Palace/Queen's Chamber.

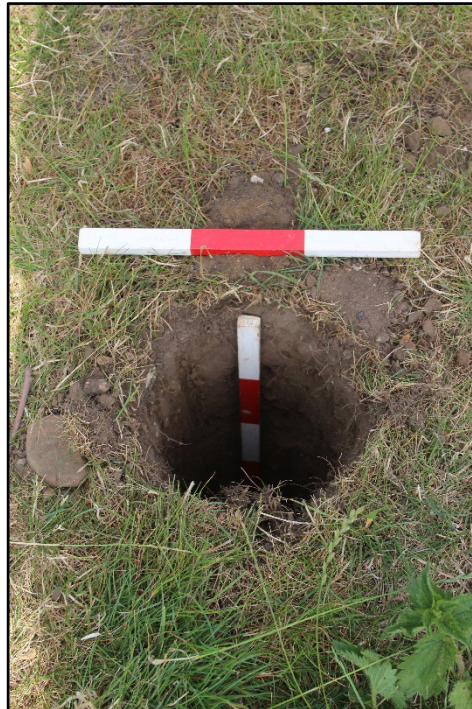


Plate 7: Test Pit 5. Northwest facing; 0.30m, 0.50m scales.



Plate 8: Post excavation shot of Test Pit 5, containing information panel. Northwest facing towards the Abbot's Bridge.



Plate 9: Test Pit 6. Southeast facing; 0.30m, 0.50m scales.



Plate 10: Post excavation shot of Test Pit 6, containing information panel. Southeast facing across the cloister.



Plate 11: Test Pit 7. East facing; 0.30m, 0.50m scales.



Plate 12: Post excavation shot of Test Pit 7, containing information panel. East facing towards the Chapter House



Plate 13: Test Pit 9. North facing; 0.30m, 0.50m scales.



Plate 14: Post excavation shot of Test Pit 9, containing information panel. Northeast facing towards the Cathedral of St James and St Edmund and the abbey west front.



Plate 15: Test Pit 10. East facing; 0.30m, 0.50m scales.



Plate 16: Post excavation shot of Test Pit 10, containing information panel. East facing down the nave towards the choir and crossing



Plate 17: Test Pit 12. North facing; 0.30m, 0.50m scales.



Plate 18: Post excavation shot of Test Pit 12, containing information panel. North facing along the crossing and choir area.



Plate 19: Test Pit 13. West facing; 0.30m, 0.50m scales.



Plate 20: Post excavation shot of Test Pit 13, containing information panel. West facing with abbey buildings in the foreground and the church and crypt to the left (south).



Plate 21: Plinth Pit, central square post-excavation. South facing; 1.0m, 0.30m scales.



Plate 22: Plinth Pit, Sample Section. South facing; 1.0m scale.

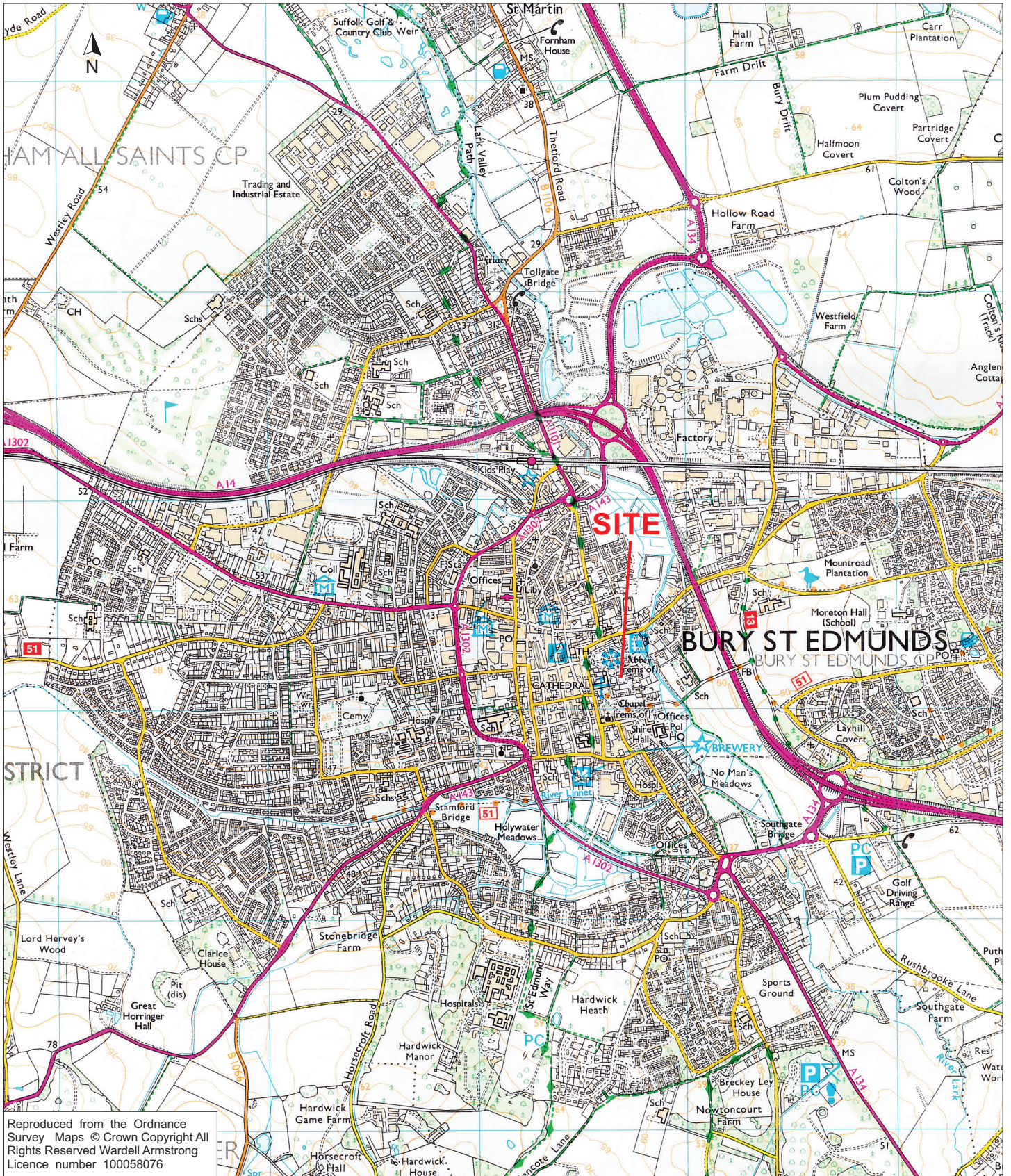


Plate 23: Plinth Pit, Outer Area post-excitation. Southeast facing.

APPENDIX 4: OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET			
Project name	Interpretation panels at Bury St Edmunds Abbey, Suffolk		
The test pits revealed no structural remains. Several layers of demolition rubble were encountered below the level of the topsoil. These yielded four sherds of medieval pottery, and some worked stone, as well as pieces of post-medieval building material. This is consistent with the known relandscaping of the Abbey Gardens post-Dissolution.			
Project dates (fieldwork)	13 th -15 th July		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	TBC
P. number	BE10578	Site code	
Type of project	Archaeological Watching Brief		
Site status	Scheduled Monument		
Current land use	Abbey Gardens and cathedral precinct		
Planned development	Installation of interpretation panels and a small plinth		
Main features (+dates)	-		
Significant finds (+dates)	4 sherds of residual medieval pottery		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Suffolk	St Edmundsbury	Bury St Edmunds
HER for area	Suffolk HER		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site	-		
NGR	TL 85694 64224		
Height AOD (min/max)	c.38m aOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	n/a		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Peter Clarke		
Funded by	<i>English Heritage</i>		
Full title	Archaeological Monitoring and Recording		
Authors	Peter Clarke and Peter Thompson		
Report no.			
Date (of report)	July 2022		

APPENDIX 5: FIGURES



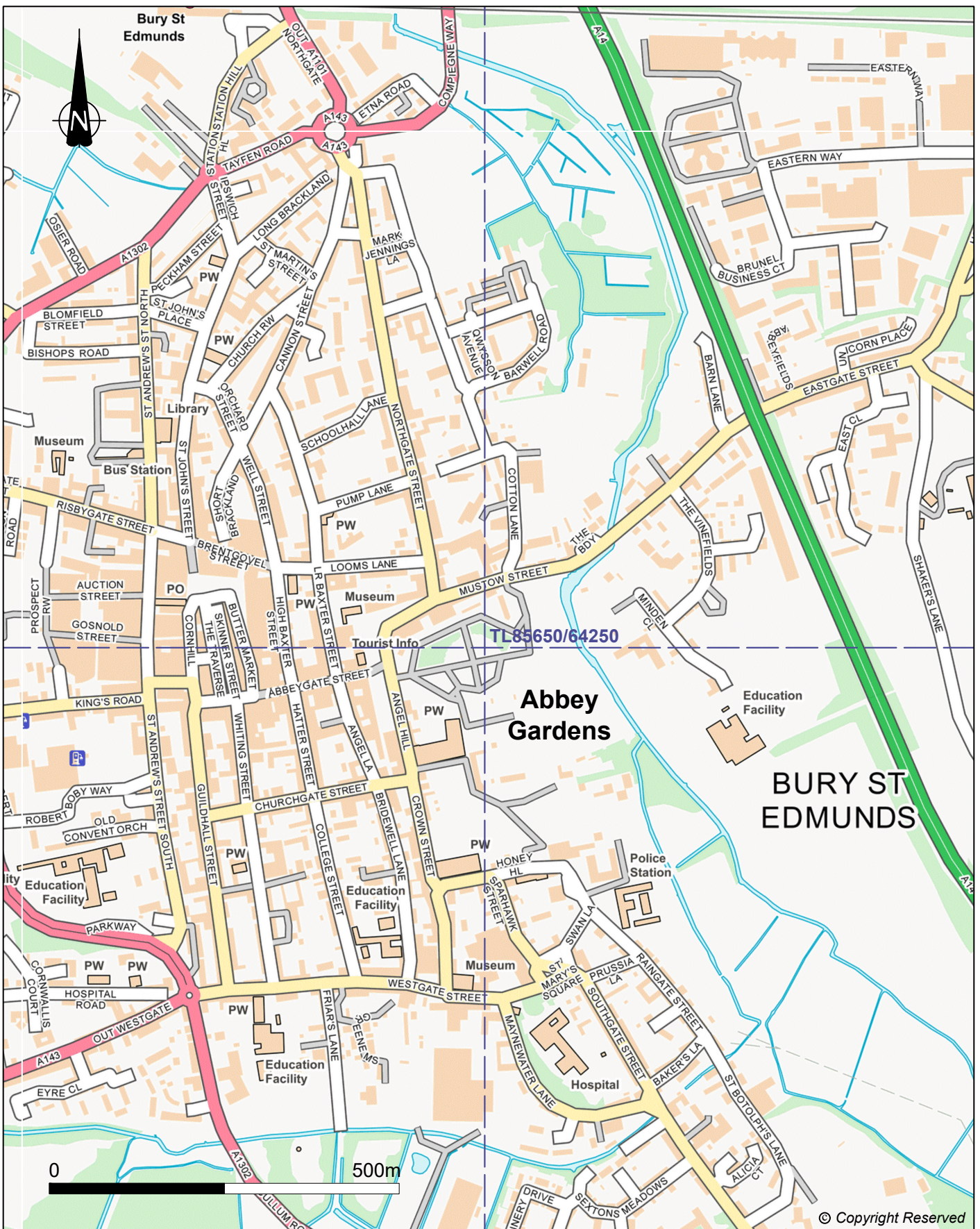
Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Maps © Crown Copyright All Rights Reserved Wardell Armstrong Licence number 100058076

CLIENT	English Heritage Trust		DRG No.	BE10578/001	REV	A
PROJECT	Interpretation Panels, The Abbey, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk		SIZE	A4	SCALE	1:25,000
			DATE	18.07.22		
DRAWING TITLE	Figure 1 Site location plan		DRAWN BY	Kathren	CHECKED BY	PT
			APPROVED BY	RG		

- BIRMINGHAM GLASGOW
 BOLTON LEEDS
 BRISTOL LONDON
 CARDIFF MANCHESTER
 CARLISLE STOKE ON TRENT
 EDINBURGH NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

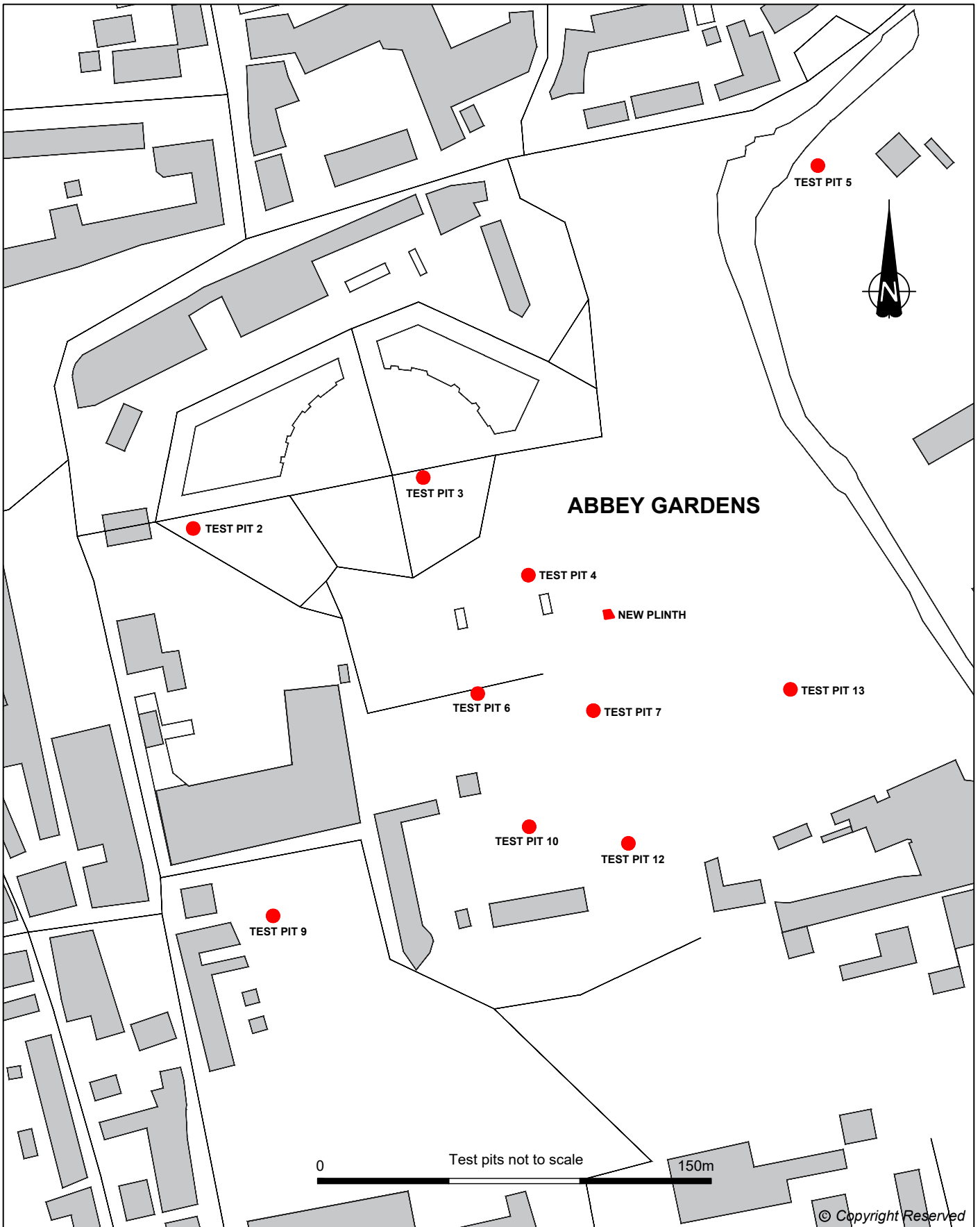


BURY ST EDMUNDS TEL 01284 765210
 WWW.WARDELL-ARMSTRONG.COM



© Copyright Reserved

CLIENT	English Heritage Trust		DRG No.	BE10578/002		REV	A	
PROJECT	Interpretation Panels, The Abbey, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk		SIZE	A4		SCALE	1:7,500	
DRAWING TITLE	Figure 2 Detailed site location plan		DRAWN BY	Kathren		CHECKED BY	PT	
						■ BURY ST EDMUNDS TEL 01284 765210 WWW.WARDELL-ARMSTRONG.COM <input type="checkbox"/> BIRMINGHAM <input type="checkbox"/> GLASGOW <input type="checkbox"/> BOLTON <input type="checkbox"/> LEEDS <input type="checkbox"/> BRISTOL <input type="checkbox"/> LONDON <input type="checkbox"/> CARDIFF <input type="checkbox"/> MANCHESTER <input type="checkbox"/> CARLISLE <input type="checkbox"/> STOKE ON TRENT <input type="checkbox"/> EDINBURGH <input type="checkbox"/> NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE		



© Copyright Reserved

CLIENT	English Heritage Trust		DRG No.	BE10578/003		REV	A	
PROJECT	Interpretation Panels, The Abbey, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk		SIZE	A4	SCALE	1:2000	DATE	18.07.22
DRAWING TITLE	Figure 3 Test pit location plan		DRAWN BY	Kathren	CHECKED BY	PT	APPROVED BY	RG
						■ BURY ST EDMUNDS TEL 01284 765210 WWW.WARDELL-ARMSTRONG.COM <input type="checkbox"/> BIRMINGHAM <input type="checkbox"/> GLASGOW <input type="checkbox"/> BOLTON <input type="checkbox"/> LEEDS <input type="checkbox"/> BRISTOL <input type="checkbox"/> LONDON <input type="checkbox"/> CARDIFF <input type="checkbox"/> MANCHESTER <input type="checkbox"/> CARLISLE <input type="checkbox"/> STOKE ON TRENT <input type="checkbox"/> EDINBURGH <input type="checkbox"/> NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE		

STOKE-ON-TRENT

Sir Henry Doulton House
Forge Lane
Etruria
Stoke-on-Trent
ST1 5BD
Tel: +44 (0)1782 276 700

BIRMINGHAM

Two Devon Way
Longbridge Technology Park
Longbridge
Birmingham
B31 2TS
Tel: +44 (0)121 580 0909

BOLTON

41-50 Futura Park
Aspinall Way
Middlebrook
Bolton
BL6 6SU
Tel: +44 (0)1204 227 227

BRISTOL

Desk Lodge
2 Redcliffe Way
Bristol
BS1 6NL
Tel: +44 (0)117 203 4477

BURY ST EDMUNDS

Armstrong House
Lamdin Road
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP32 6NU
Tel: +44 (0)1284 765 210

CARDIFF

Tudor House
16 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9LJ
Tel: +44 (0)292 072 9191

CARLISLE

Marconi Road
Burgh Road Industrial Estate
Carlisle
Cumbria
CA2 7NA
Tel: +44 (0)1228 550 575

EDINBURGH

Great Michael House
14 Links Place
Edinburgh
EH6 7EZ
Tel: +44 (0)131 555 3311

GLASGOW

24 St Vincent Place
Glasgow
G1 2EU
Tel: +44 (0)141 428 4499

LEEDS

36 Park Row
Leeds
LS1 5JL
Tel: +44 (0)113 831 5533

LONDON

Third Floor
46 Chancery Lane
London
WC2A 1JE
Tel: +44 (0)207 242 3243

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

City Quadrant
11 Waterloo Square
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4DP
Tel: +44 (0)191 232 0943

TRURO

Baldhu House
Wheal Jane Earth Science Park
Baldhu
Truro
TR3 6EH
Tel: +44 (0)187 256 0738

International office:

ALMATY

29/6 Satpaev Avenue
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Office Tower
Almaty
Kazakhstan
050040
Tel: +7(727) 334 1310