

**Abbey Gardens Play Area,
Bury St Edmunds
BSE 366**

Archaeological Monitoring Report

SCCAS Report No. 2011/132

Client: St Edmundsbury Borough Council

Author: Mike Feider

July 2011

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Author: Mike Feider

Contributions By: Richenda Goffin

Illustrator: Ellie Hillen

Editor: Richenda Goffin

Report Date: July 2011

HER Information

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Client Reference: N/A
Curatorial Officer: Dr Jess Tipper
Project Officer: Mike Feider
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Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Prepared By: Mike Feider
Date: July 2011

Approved By: Richenda Goffin
Position: Finds/Post-Excavation Manager
Date: August 2011
Signed:

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Summary




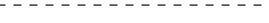







Monitoring of groundworks for the construction of a new play area and the removal of old play equipment in the Abbey Gardens of Bury St Edmunds revealed no archaeological features, but did identify former banks of the River Lark and its channel to the west. The former appeared to deviate from its current course on the east bank, despite extant features from the same period respecting it. The latter was infilled sometime during the 18th or 19th centuries, and most of the site overlay the filled in riverbed.

Drawing Conventions

Plans

- Limit of Excavation 
- Features 
- Break of Slope 
- Features - Conjectured 
- Natural Features 
- Sondages/Machine Strip 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Illustrated Section  S.14
- Cut Number  0008
- Archaeological Features 

Sections

- Limit of Excavation 
- Cut 
- Modern Cut 
- Cut - Conjectured 
- Deposit Horizon 
- Deposit Horizon - Conjectured 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Top of Natural 
- Top Surface 
- Break in Section 
- Cut Number  0008
- Deposit Number 0007
- Ordnance Datum $\frac{18.45\text{m OD}}{\times}$

1. Introduction

Scheduled Monument Consent was granted by English Heritage for the installation of new play equipment (following the removal of existing equipment) within and around the existing Children's Play Area in the Abbey Gardens, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (TL 857 642, Fig. 1). The Abbey Gardens are located within the Precinct of the Abbey of St Edmund, which is a site of international significance (Scheduled Ancient Monument SF 2). The redevelopment of the play area included the erection of a gathering place, a gateway with posts, a willow maze area, a sand and water area, a riverside area, and a woodland area with tree-house. The Gardens are within an area designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Suffolk Monument 2) and protected by statute.

A low impact archaeological assessment was carried out across part of the area in 2009, comprising a geophysical survey (GSB Prospection Report 2008/64) and test-pit evaluation (SCCAS report 2009/136, HER no. BSE 332). The test holes within the proximity of the current play area (test holes 12, 13 and 14) generally defined a deep soil profile made up of medieval and later rubble layers.

A series of visits was made to continuously monitor the removal of the old equipment and excavations for the new equipment, the fence posts surrounding the woodland area, and the stripping of the sand and water area and gathering place, as well as the recording of a Victorian wall. The work was carried out to a Brief issued by Dr. Jess Tipper of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service's Conservation Team. It was undertaken between April and June 2011 by Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service Field Team (SCCAS), and was funded by St Edmundsbury Borough Council.

2. Geology and topography

The site is within the floodplain of the River Lark. The surface geology comprises gravels over chalky drift and river alluvium. It lies between c. 31 - 38.00m OD, being quite level west of the river, then rising in a bank at the western edge of site, and rising sharply up from the riverbank on the eastern side.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The Abbey Gardens are located within the Precinct of the Abbey of St Edmund. This site is of international significance (Scheduled Ancient Monument SF 2). The medieval precinct almost certainly overlies the site of the known Early and Mid-Saxon settlements, large parts of the Late Saxon urban settlement, and areas of the 11th century planned town pre-dating the formalisation and extension of the medieval precinct in the 12th century. Post-reformation the abbey was largely demolished, with building stone distributed throughout the town. Large parts of the precinct became a formal garden in the 19th century. The majority of the current development is located within the floodplain of the River Lark and overlies the former course of a channel of the river which was infilled sometime between 1791 and 1823.

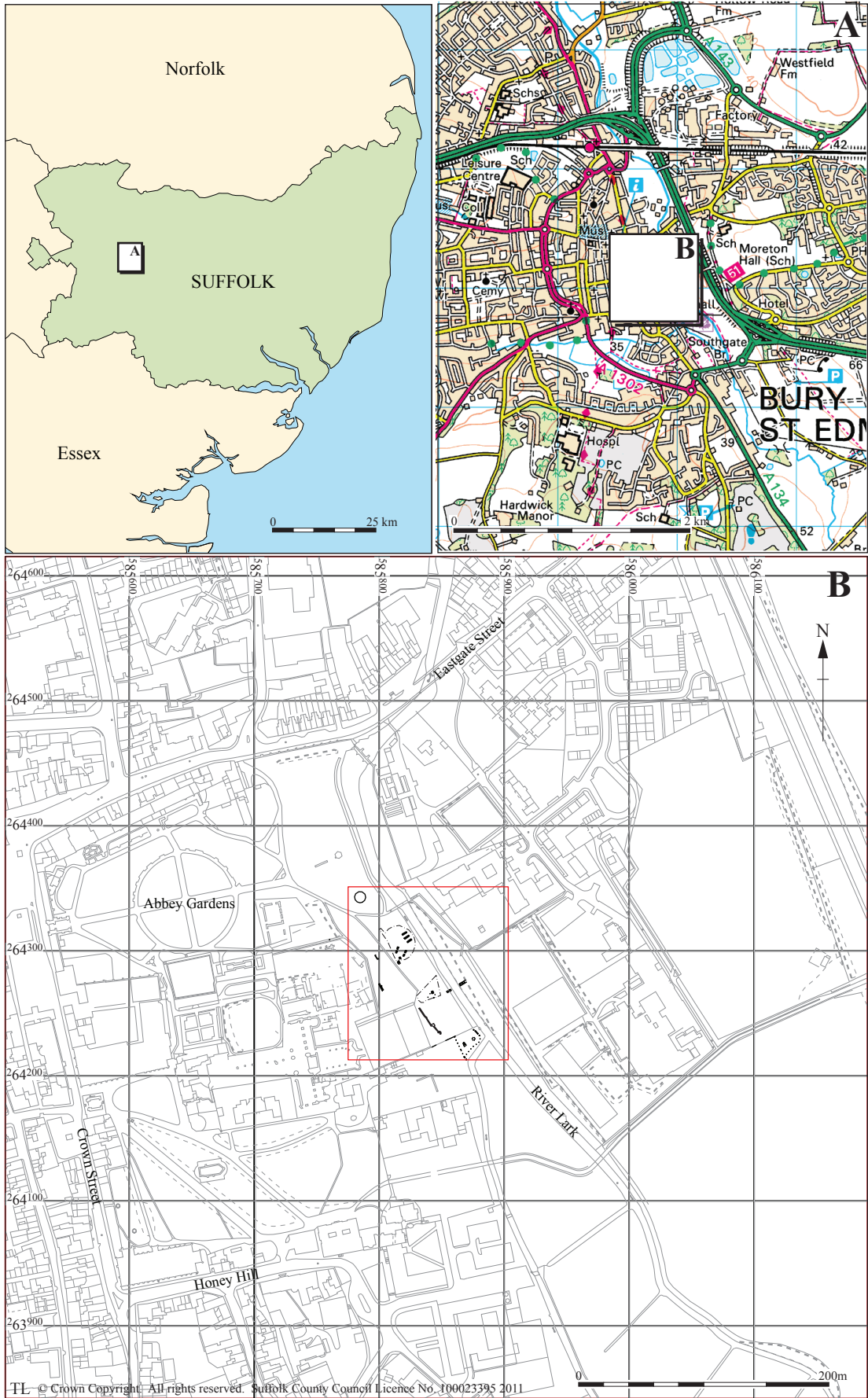


Figure 1. Site location

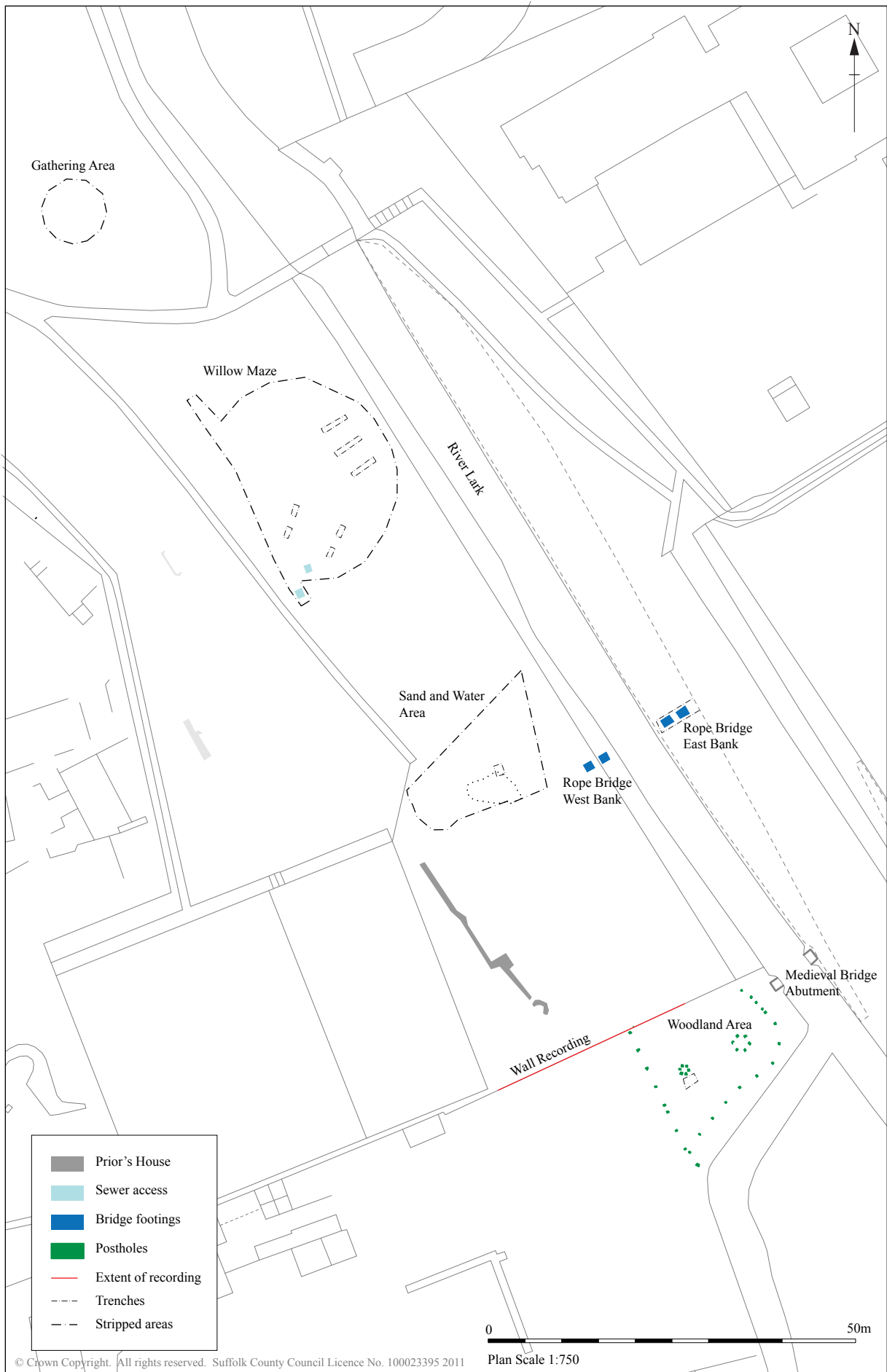


Figure 2. Trench plan

4. Methodology

SCCAS were given advance notice of all excavations, and all interventions greater than 200mm were monitored. The excavation of the holes for the fence surrounding the woodland area, the posts supporting the tree-houses, the supports for the river crossing, and the new play equipment, as well as the soil stripping for the sand and water area and gathering place, were all monitored over the course of several visits throughout April, May, and June. The removal of the old concrete equipment bases was also monitored. The holes were dug either by hand or digger with a variety of toothed and untoothed buckets under the supervision of an archaeologist. The soil profiles and any archaeological remains were recorded for each, with the exception of the woodland area fence and tree-house posts, of which only representative samples were recorded.

The site was recorded using a single context numbering system which is included as Appendix 3. A digital photographic archive of the site has been recorded at a minimum density of 72 x 72 dpi. Sections and plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20. All finds from stratified deposits were retained and are held in archive in Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

The site archive is stored in the SCCAS main store at Bury St Edmunds under HER number BSE 366.

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

Archaeological levels were reached in only a few areas of the site, with most of the excavations west of the River Lark remaining within the post-medieval fill of the old bed of its channel. A summary of the findings is presented in the following table, with more noteworthy aspects discussed in detail below. Full details of the results can be found in Appendix 2.

| Area | Dates Investigated | Summary |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rope Bridge, East Bank | 24/05/2011 - 26/05/2012 | A trench was dug into the bank on the east side of the River Lark to allow for the digging of two pits for bridge footings. The bank was then graded to a more gradual slope. The trench showed a profile of old banks and showed a cutting through of a medieval layer. |

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rope Bridge, West Bank | 23/05/2011 | Two pits were dug for the bridge footings on the west bank of the River Lark, uncovering layers of post-medieval rubble-filled silt and sandy gravel over river mud. |
| Gathering Place | 01/06/2011 - 03/06/2011 | A large circular area was stripped to the north of the site. Beneath a layer of modern and post-medieval rubble, there was a slightly mortary, post-medieval rubble-filled layer on the western edge, and a darker layer with more dense pockets of post-medieval rubble to the east. It was located alongside the cut for the main sewer and may be upcast spoil and in-fills of the old River Lark channel. |
| Sand and Water Area | 04/05/2011 - 05/05/2011 | A rough trapezoid was stripped from the bank on the western edge of site to near the river. It revealed several late medieval and post-medieval rubble-filled layers, one mostly composed of yellowy lime-mortar associated with the destruction of the Abbey. A partial human radius was recovered from context 0044. |
| Willow Maze | 11/06/2011 - 20/04/2011 | The area of the old playground, stripped in a rough oval revealing an access point to the old Victorian sewers. Three trenches and four large pits were dug for the footings of new play equipment. A rising layer of river clay was identified in the former, probably representing the eastern bank of the infilled river. |
| Woodland Area | 11/06/2011 - 05/06/2011 | A series of holes for fence and tree-house support posts and a large hole for the planting of a new tree. The area is covered by a loose, loamy topsoil covering mixed post-medieval rubble-filled layers, probably representing the filling in of the old route of the River Lark channel. Dense pockets of finds were recovered from the lower layer in the tree pit, including a terracotta male head. A bridge abutment north of the junction of the River Lark and its channel has been maintained as a landscape feature, and a fence post had to be moved due to a solid surface being discovered in line with it. However, the size of the hole limited investigation. |
| Wall Recording | 04/05/2011 | The remains of a Victorian wall that separated the Woodland Area from the rest of the Abbey Gardens were recorded by photograph and survey prior to the removal of the top three courses of bricks to allow for the creation of a smoother bank between the two. The reduced section of wall was made of bricks and does not reflect a medieval boundary, instead being constructed over the infilled River Lark channel sometime after 1823 and before 1886, when it first appeared on the first edition OS map. |

Table 1. Groundworks summary

Willow maze

A large, roughly oval area was stripped down to context 0023, a layer of light brown clayey silt. Within this four large postholes and three trenches were dug for the footings of two swing-sets. An access point to the old sewer was also uncovered. This sewer is still extant and runs approximately parallel to and east of the more recent one.

The trenches revealed what appeared to be the buried eastern bank of the River Lark's former channel (Fig. 3, S.22) rising as contexts 0027, 0031, and 0035. The three trenches had similar profiles, with the upper layers thinning as the lower ones rose to the north. No dating evidence was recovered from these fills.

Sand and water area

A 208m² area of soil was stripped adjacent to the bank covering the remains of the Prior's House, as shown on the first edition OS map (Fig. 2), to near the edge of the River Lark, revealing layer 0044, which was filled with fragments of flint, brick, and oyster shell, dating to the late 17th to the 18th century. This layer continued throughout the stripped area, apart from the northeast corner, where it mixed with and possibly covered layer 0048, a more sterile silty clay. The exact relationship between these layers was unclear due to a mixed horizon.

Beneath layer 0044, two extents of yellowy crushed mortar, possibly the same layer, were partially revealed. Layer 0047 was just below the bank and held occasional fragments of brick and flint. Layer 0045 was similar, but further down the bank where the ground levelled out, and was more fully revealed in profile by the removal of the concrete base of a piece of playground equipment (Fig. 3, S.24). No bonded material was identified in either layer, and they may have been spoil dumps, possibly from earlier excavations of the area around the Prior's House, which took place in 1849 and 1933-4 (Whittingham 1951). These deposits lay over the infill of the River Lark's former channel, and must therefore post-date 1791. A partial human radius was found in layer 0045 and is almost certainly redeposited.

Rope bridge

The west side of the River Lark was unremarkable (see Table 1), but the trench dug into the east bank showed several layers of deposition and the possible cutting through of earlier layers, either by the action of the river itself or through human intervention (Fig. 3, S.30).

Beneath topsoil 0054 was a thin, intermittent layer of fine gravel, context 0056, covering buried topsoil 0055. Beneath this, layer 0057 covered and possibly cut through layer 0058, a gravelly sand which contained two fragments of a late 12th to 14th century jug. Layers 0051 and 0052 sat on top of river clay 0053, which became less black-streaked as it rose to the east, possibly representing an older riverbank approximately 3.5m back from the current river edge.

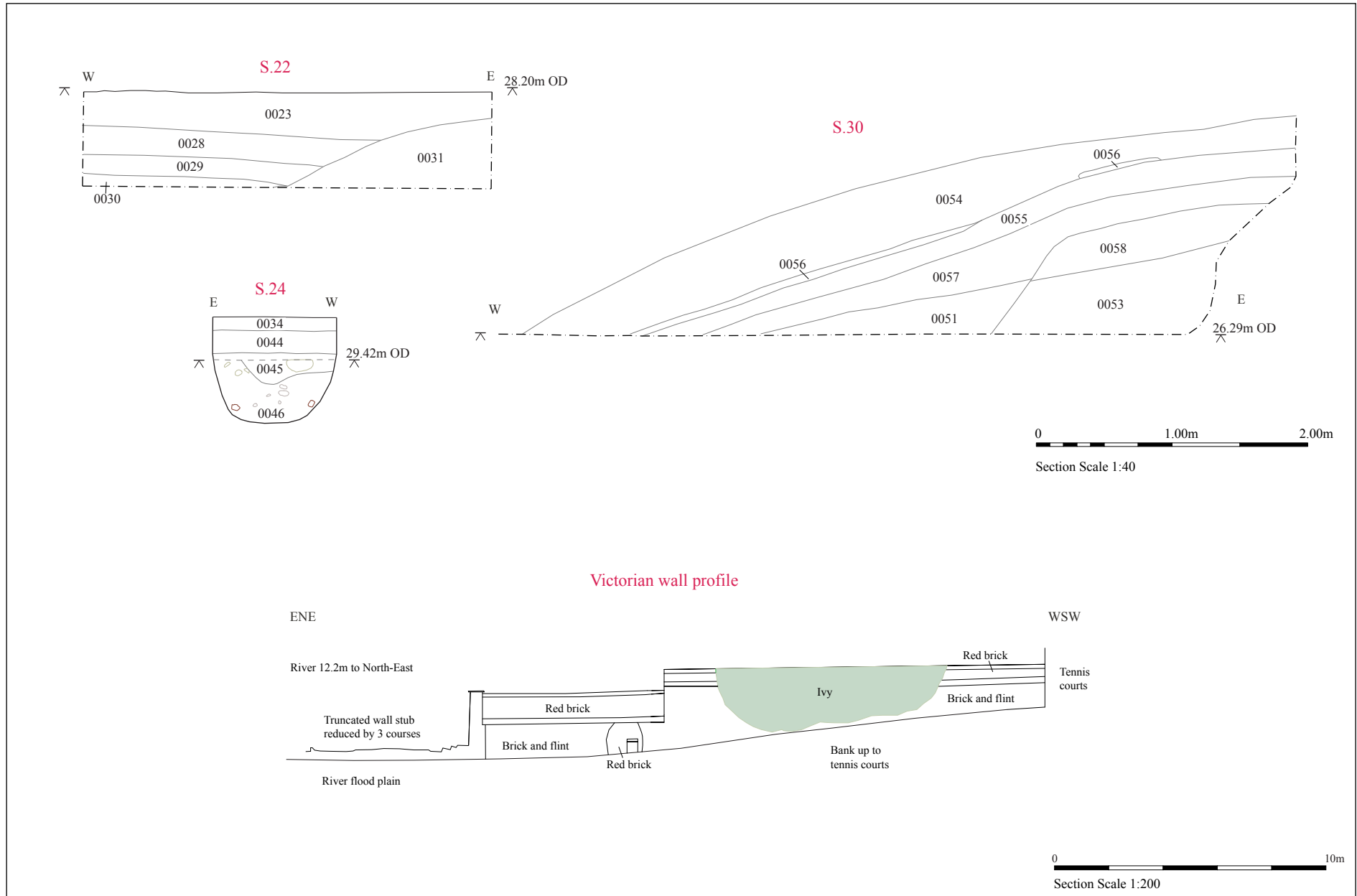


Figure 3. Sections and wall profile



Plate 1. Sand and water area, facing east. The pale soil to the top is layer 0045



Plate 2. Bridge remains, woodland area, facing west



Plate 3. Victorian wall recording, facing south

6. Finds and environmental evidence

Richenda Goffin

6.1 Introduction

The table below shows a summary of the presence of the different finds types recovered, their dates and an overall spotdate for each context.

| Context No | Finds type | Quantity | Date of find | Overall spotdate |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 0001 | Pot, frag of gilded dish ?PORC | 1 | 19th C | 19th C+ |
| 0004 | Pot, LPME Flowerpot Post-med brick and tile Slag and coal Glass | 1 2 5 1 | 18th-20th C 17th C+ | Prob 19th C+ |
| 0011 | Late white-firing brick, late brick, Late glass bottle | 2 1 | 18th-19th C 1830+ | 19th C+ |
| 0012 | Post-med pot: 1 Blue and white TPW, 1 CREA dish, 4 YELW jar frags, 1 animal bone | 6 | Early 19th C | Early 19th C |
| 0015 | Post-med pot: 2 frags IRST, bowl and plate | 2 | 19th C + | 19th C+ |
| 0017 | Post-med pot: 6 ENGS jar, 7 REFW dish, 2 LGRE flowerpot, 20 REFW dish, 4 BW TPW bowl Post-med bottle glass Black-glazed pantile frags P-med window glass Moulded terracotta | 39 7 2 2 1 | 1807+ Late 18th-E 19th C 17th C+ Late post-med 19th C | Early 19th C |
| 0044 | Post-med pot: SPEC cup, Post-med bottle P-M rooftile, brick frag Iron frags Animal bone | 1 1 2 2 2 | L17th-18th C (?Late 18th C) P-med Undated Undated | L17th-18th C |
| 0045 | Roofing tile, | 1 | ?Late med | ?Late med |

| | | | | |
|------|-----------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Floortile, slipped/gl, reused | 1 | Medieval | |
| | Animal bone | 1 | Undated | |
| | Human bone | 1 | | |
| 0046 | Post-med brick | 1 | 17th C+ | 17th C+ |
| 0047 | Post-med pot: GRE, 1 ?LMT, Roofing tile | 3 2 | 16th-18th C Post-med | 16th-18th C |
| 0052 | Roofing tile | 2 | Late med/early post-med | Late med/early post-med |
| 0058 | Medieval pot, UPG jug | 2 | L12th-14th C | L12th-14th C |
| 0061 | P-med pot: 1 ENGS, 1 GRE | 2 | 17th-19th C | 19th C |

Table 2. Finds quantities

| Fabric code | Fabric and date range |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| CREA | Creamware 1750-1880 |
| ENGS | English stoneware 16th-19th C |
| GRE | Glazed red earthenware 16th-18th C |
| IRST | Ironstone china 19th C+ |
| LGRE | Late Glazed red earthenware 18th-19th C |
| LMT | Late medieval and transitional ware 15th-16th C |
| LPME | Late post-medieval earthenware 18th-20th C |
| PORC | Unidentified porcelain 17th-20th C |
| REFW | Refined white earthenware 19th C+ |
| SPEC | Speckle glazed ware L17th-18th C |
| TPW | Transfer printed ware (stipple and line transfers) 1807+ |
| UPG | Unprovenanced glazed ware 12th-14th C |
| YELW | Yellow ware L18th-19th C |

Table 3. Fabric codes and descriptions

6.2 Discussion of material evidence

The majority of the finds recovered from the excavation date to the later part of the post-medieval period. Refined white earthenware, transfer printed ware, English stoneware and Ironstone china are frequent, but fragments of Glazed red earthenware may be slightly earlier in date. The rim of a small Speckle-glazed cup present in layer 0044 dates to the late 17th-18th centuries. The only medieval pottery was found in layer 0058. Two fragments of a large glazed jug with strap handle (either a squat or baluster jug) were identified, made in an unprovenanced fabric dating to the 12th-14th century.

Several fragments of post-medieval roofing tile were identified, but the most significant find is a decorated terracotta moulding from layer 0017. This shows the headdress, hair and face of a male figure, in a medium sandy orange terracotta fabric. The style of the

head is reminiscent of the medieval period, but it is most likely that the terracotta was made during the nineteenth century and is 'Neo-Gothic'. During this period there was an enormous revival of interest in medieval or 'Gothic' representations in architecture and a number of companies became established by the middle of the nineteenth century which specialised in the production of red bricks and ornamental terracotta.

The remains of a medieval floortile was also identified from layer 0045. It is made in a sandy fabric with reduced core and is likely to be English rather than Flemish. It is decorated with a band of slip with the remnants of a lead glaze. Small spots of mortar on the upper surface show that it has been re-used. A partial human radius was also found in this layer.

Small quantities of other finds types such as post-medieval bottle glass, slag, animal bone and iron fragments were also recovered.

7. Discussion

Although no archaeological features were discovered during the excavation of the new playground equipment, some of the history of the River Lark and its channels through the Abbey grounds was revealed. The channel once ran through the Abbey Gardens and rejoined the River Lark just before the Abbot's Bridge, as seen on maps prior to Payne's map of Bury St Edmunds in 1823. Finds collected from rubble-filled layers along the old course of the channel support an 18th to 19th century date, with some residual finds from earlier periods. All of this material was likely redeposited from elsewhere in town. Lower fills seen in the swing-set trenches contained no finds, however, and may suggest some natural silting up of the channel took place before it was fully filled in.

Also of interest is the east bank of the River Lark, as exposed in the trench for the rope bridge footings. The old riverbank, seen in contexts 0053 and 0058, was 3.5m back from the modern one, and contained pottery dating to the late 12th through 14th century. The medieval remains of the bridge abutment to the south and those of the former vineyard respect the current bank and indicate a stable water course, however. Whether this means the river widened between them or used to follow a more curving

route is uncertain. The creation of the vineyards appears to predate the pottery, but later works there may have forced the narrowing or changing of the river course.

9. Archive deposition

Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds.

10. Acknowledgements

The project was directed and managed by David Gill. The monitoring was carried out by Mike Feider from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

Post-excavation graphics were produced by Ellie Hillen and the report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

11. Bibliography

Whittingham, A. B., 1951, Bury St Edmunds Abbey. *Archaeological Journal* 108, 69-188.

Appendix 1. Brief and specification

Brief and Specification for Continuous Archaeological Recording

PLAY AREA REDEVELOPMENT, ABBEY GARDENS, BURY ST EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK

Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements are likely to impinge upon the working practices of a general building contractor and may have financial implications

1. Background

- 1.1 Scheduled Monument Consent has been granted by English Heritage for the installation of new play equipment (following removal of existing) within and around the existing Children's Play Area in the Abbey Gardens, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (TL 857 642). The redevelopment of the play area includes the erection of a gathering place, gateway with posts, a willow maze area, sand and water area, riverside area, willow coppice with foxholes and woodland area with treehouse. **Please contact the applicant for the detailed specification and accurate plan of the proposals.**
- 1.2 English Heritage has advised St Edmundsbury Borough Council of the need for a scheme of archaeological investigation during all groundworks, in line with PPS 5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE 12.3) to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets before they are damaged or destroyed.
- 1.3 The Abbey Gardens are located within the Precinct of the Abbey of St Edmund. This site is of international significance (Scheduled Ancient Monument SF 2). The Medieval Precinct almost certainly overlies the site of the known Early and Mid-Saxon settlements, large parts of the Late Saxon urban settlement, and areas of the 11th century planned town pre-dating the formalisation and extension of the Medieval Precinct in the 12th century. Post Reformation the abbey was largely demolished, with building stone distributed throughout the town. Large parts of the Precinct became a formal garden in the 19th century. The majority of the current development is located within the floodplain of the River Lark.

A low impact archaeological assessment was carried out across part of the area in 2009, comprising geophysical survey (GSB Prospection Report 2008/64) and Test-pit evaluation (SCCAS report 2009/136, HER no. BSE 332). The test holes within the proximity of the current play area (test holes 12, 13 and 14) generally defined a deep soil profile made up of medieval and later rubble layers.
- 1.4 There is high potential for heritage assets of archaeological interest to be defined at this location.
- 1.5 Aspects of the proposed works will cause ground disturbance that has potential to damage any heritage assets of archaeological importance that exists.
- 1.6 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by the development can be adequately recorded by continuous archaeological monitoring and recording during all groundworks.
- 1.7 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (9–10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax:

01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the WSI as satisfactory. The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.

- 1.8 Before commencing work the project manager must carry out a risk assessment and liaise with the site owner, client and the Conservation Team of SCCAS (SCCAS/CT) in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.
- 1.9 All arrangements for the excavation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 1.10 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.11 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.12 The Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

2. Brief for Archaeological Recording

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 Any ground works, and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after stripping in order to ensure no damage occurs any heritage assets. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits (which includes all rubble and alluvial layers) during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.
- 2.5 Opportunity must be given to the contracted archaeologist to hand excavate and fully record any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, as necessary.

3. Specification

- 3.1 All features which are, or could be interpreted as, structural must be fully excavated. Post-holes and pits must be examined in section and then fully excavated. Fabricated surfaces within the excavation area (e.g. yards and floors) must be fully exposed and cleaned. Any variation from this process can be made only by agreement with SCCAS/CT, and must be confirmed in writing.
- 3.2 All other features must be sufficiently examined to establish, where possible, their date and function. For guidance:

- a) A minimum of 50% of the fills of the general features is to be excavated (in some instances 100% may be requested).
- b) 10% of the fills of substantial linear features (ditches, etc) are to be excavated (min.). The samples must be representative of the available length of the feature and must take into account any variations in the shape or fill of the feature and any concentrations of artefacts. For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width.
- 3.3 Any variation from this process can only be made by agreement [if necessary on site] with a member of SCCAS/CT, and must be confirmed in writing.
- 3.4 Collect and prepare environmental bulk samples (for flotation and analysis by an environmental specialist). The fills of all archaeological features should be bulk sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains and assessed by an appropriate specialist. The WSI must provide details of a comprehensive sampling strategy for retrieving and processing biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations and also for absolute dating), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. All samples should be retained until their potential has been assessed. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from Dr Helen Chappell, English Heritage Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 3.5 A finds recovery policy is to be agreed before the project commences. It should be addressed by the WSI. Sieving of occupation levels and building fills will be expected.
- 3.6 Use of a metal detector will form an essential part of finds recovery. Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.7 All finds will be collected and processed. No discard policy will be considered until the whole body of finds has been assessed.
- 3.8 All ceramic, bone and stone artefacts to be cleaned and processed concurrently with the excavation to allow immediate evaluation and input into decision making.
- 3.9 Metal artefacts must be stored and managed on site in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines* and evaluated for significant dating and cultural implications before despatch to a conservation laboratory within four weeks of excavation.
- 3.10 Human remains are to be treated at all stages with care and respect, and are to be dealt with in accordance with the law. They must be recorded *in situ* and subsequently lifted, packed and marked to standards compatible with those described in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Technical Paper 13: Excavation and post-excavation treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains*, by McKinley & Roberts. Proposals for the final disposition of remains following study and analysis will be required in the WSI.
- 3.11 Plans of the archaeological features on the site should normally be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.

- 3.12 A comprehensive photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies/high resolution digital images, and documented in a photographic archive.
- 3.13 Excavation record keeping is to be consistent with the requirements the County Historic Environment Record and compatible with its archive. Methods must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.

4. General Management

- 4.1 The developer or his contracted archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.
- 4.2 Monitoring of the archaeological work will be undertaken by SCCAS/CT. A decision on the monitoring required will be made by SCCAS/CT on submission of the accepted WSI.
- 4.3 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors). For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this investigation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record. Archaeological contractors must be able to demonstrate expertise and experience in the field of medieval monastic complexes. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 4.4 Provision should be included in the WSI for outreach activities. Where appropriate, information boards should be also provided during the fieldwork stage of investigation. Archaeological Contractors should ascertain whether their clients will seek to impose restrictions on public access to the site and for what reasons and these should be detailed in the WSI.
- 4.5 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Specification.
- 4.6 A detailed risk assessment and management strategy must be presented for this particular site.
- 4.7 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record within three months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible. It must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the County Historic Environment Record (The County Store) or museum in Suffolk.
- 5.2 The project manager must consult the County Historic Environment Record Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 5.3 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 5.4 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the full site archive, and transfer of title, with the intended archive depository before the fieldwork commences. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, scientific analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.5 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition. The intended depository should be stated

in the WSI, for approval. The intended depository must be prepared to accept the entire archive resulting from the project (both finds and written archive) in order to create a complete record of the project.

- 5.6 If the County Store is not the intended depository, the project manager should ensure that a duplicate copy of the written archive is deposited with the County HER.
- 5.7 If the County Store is the intended location of the archive, the project manager should consult the SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2010 and also the County Historic Environment Record Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive. A clear statement of the form, intended content, and standards of the archive is to be submitted for approval as an essential requirement of the WSI.
- 5.8 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 5.9 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4, must be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.10 An unbound hardcopy of the report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT and English Heritage for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
- 5.11 Following acceptance, a single copy of the report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT and English Heritage. A single hard copy should be presented to the County Historic Environment Record as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 5.12 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, must be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.13 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County Historic Environment Record. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 5.14 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.15 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to County Historic Environment Record. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report. A paper copy should also be included with the report and also with the site archive.

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
9–10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR
Tel. : 01284 352197
E-mail: jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk

Date: 16 November 2010

Reference: /AbbeyGardens_Bury St Edmunds2010

This brief and specification remains valid for six months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.

Appendix 2. Groundworks descriptions

| Area | Feature | Depth | Summary | Context Numbers | Section Number | Date |
|------------------------|------------------|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Rope Bridge, East Bank | Post 1 | 1.02m | In base of trench. Layers of silty river clay (0.4m, 0.3m, 0.32m thick), approx. 0.7m down, below layers of gravelly silty-sand and buried topsoil visible in trench section (see below). | 0051, 0052, 0053 | 28 | |
| Rope Bridge, East Bank | Post 2 | 1m | In base of trench. Layers of silty river clay (0.26m, 0.34m, 0.4-1m thick), approx 0.9m below layers of gravelly silty sand and buried topsoil, rising up to east | 0051, 0052, 0053 | 29 | |
| Rope Bridge, East Bank | Trench | 1.6m | Changes to riverbank visible in section, including possible cutting back or wearing away of medieval bank. 0.16-0.5m topsoil over thin (0.6m) layer of gravel and buried topsoil (0.2m). Covers gravelly silty sand (0.44m), then onto river clay (0.56m). | 0051, 0053, 0054, 0055, 0056, 0057, 0058 | 30 | L12-14th C, post-medieval |
| Rope Bridge, West Bank | Post 1 | 1.08m | Topsoil (0.3m) over lime-mortary clay silt (0.3m) and mixed medieval/post-medieval rubble-filled gravel sand (0.3m) with a base of river clay (0.18m). | 0064, 0065, 0066, 0067 | 27 | |
| Rope Bridge, West Bank | Post 2 | 1m | Topsoil (0.3m) over lime-mortary clay silt (0.3m) and mixed medieval/post-medieval rubble-filled gravel sand (0.26m) with a base of river clay (0.14m). | 0064, 0068, 0069, 0070 | 27 | |
| Gathering Place | Stripped Surface | 0.5m | Thin layer of topsoil (0.2m) and gravel (0.6m) over modern/post-medieval rubble silt (0.18m) to west and silty clay (0.28m) with dense pockets of mixed medieval and post-medieval rubble to east , covers silty sand (0.4m) in places. | 0059, 0060, 0061, 0062, 0063 | 31, 32, 33 | 17-19th C |
| Sand and Water Area | Stripped Surface | 0.3m | Concrete bases of old equipment removed, revealing deeper layers. Thin topsoil (0.1m) over layer of sandy silt (0.18m) with post-medieval rubble. Covered layers of crushed mortar (0.12m) containing earlier rubble and fragment of human bone, possibly redeposited during earlier excavations in the area. | 0039, 0044, 0045, 0046, 0047, 0048 | 24 | Late medieval through 18th century |
| Willow | Service | 0.64m | Running down W side of playground, then SW to bank. Shallow topsoil | 0018, 0019, 0020, 0021, 0022, | 14, 15, | |

| | | | | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Maze | Trench | | (0.1-0.14m) covering deep rubble-filled layer (0.34-0.56m). | 0039, 0040, 0041, 0042 | 16, 19, 20 | |
| Willow Maze | Swingset Post 1 | 0.9m | Thin topsoil/playground surface (0.14m) over a layer of yellow sand (0.04-0.54m) that deepens to the east. Covers compact clay-silt (0.7m) with occasional fragments of CBM. | 0023, 0036, 0037 | 17 | |
| Willow Maze | Swingset Post 2 | 0.9m | Thin topsoil/playground surface (0.12m) over a thick layer of compact clay silt (0.8m) with occasional fragments of CBM. | 0023, 0038 | 18 | |
| Willow Maze | Swingset Post 3 | 0.9m | Thin topsoil/playground surface (0.12m) over a thick layer of compact clay silt (0.8m) with occasional fragments of CBM. | 0023, 0038 | 18 | |
| Willow Maze | Swingset Post 4 | 0.9m | Thin topsoil/playground surface (0.12m) over a thick layer of compact clay silt (0.8m) with occasional fragments of CBM. | 0023, 0038 | 18 | |
| Willow Maze | Swingset Trench 1 | 0.8m | Topsoil/playground surface (0.2m) over layer of silty sand (0.12m), clay sand (0.22m), and silty clay (0.22m), with river clay (0.54m) rising to the east, possibly the old riverbank. | 0023, 0032, 0033, 0034, 0035 | 23 | |
| Willow Maze | Swingset Trench 2 | 0.8m | Topsoil/playground surface (0.2-0.36m) over layer of silty sand (0.18m), clay sand (0.16m), and silty clay (0.1m), with river clay (0.5m) rising to the east, possibly the old riverbank. | 0023, 0028, 0029, 0030, 0031 | 22 | |
| Willow Maze | Swingset Trench 3 | 0.8m | Topsoil/playground surface (0.2-0.45m) over layers of silty sand (0.32m), with river clay (0.6m) rising to the east, possibly the old riverbank. | 0023, 0024, 0025, 0026, 0027 | 21 | |
| Willow Maze | Victorian Sewer | | Old sewer found beneath old playground surface. Recapped and buried beneath new playground. | | | |
| Woodland Area | Fence Post 0 | 0.5m | Deep topsoil against Victorian wall | 0001 | 5 | |
| Woodland Area | Fence Post 1 | 0.9m | Deep, loose topsoil (0.4m) over layers of mixed silty rubble (0.25m, 0.25m). | 0001, 0002, 0003 | 1 | |
| Woodland Area | Fence Post 2 | 0.9m | Loose topsoil (0.18m) over layers of mixed silty rubble (0.2m, 0.42m). | 0001, 0004, 0005 | 2 | 18-19th C |
| Woodland Area | Fence Post 5 | 0.84m | Loose topsoil (0.2m) over layers of mixed silty rubble (0.3m, 0.17m, 0.17m). | 0001, 0006, 0007, 0008 | 3 | |
| Woodland | Fence Post 7 | 0.84m | Loose topsoil (0.26m) over layers of mixed silty rubble (0.42m, 0.16m). | 0001, 0009, 0010 | 4 | |

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----|--------------|
| Area | | | | | | |
| Woodland Area | Fence Post 8 | 0.9m | Deep, loose topsoil (0.38m) over layers of mixed silty rubble (0.34m, 0.18m). | 0001, 0011, 0012 | 6 | Early 19th C |
| Woodland Area | Fence Post 11 | 0.5m | Loose topsoil (0.32m) over layer of mixed silty rubble (0.18m). | 0001, 0013 | 7 | |
| Woodland Area | Fence Post 14 | 0.5m | Loose topsoil (0.28m) over layer of mixed silty rubble (0.22m). | 0001, 0014 | 8 | |
| Woodland Area | Fence Post 16 | 0.5m | Deep, loose topsoil (0.4m) over layer of sandy silt (0.1m). | 0001, 0015 | 9 | 19th C |
| Woodland Area | Fence Post 17 | 0.3m | Topsoil coming down onto solid surface, paving slab leading up to old bridge? | 0001 | 10 | |
| Woodland Area | Fence Post 19 | 0.64m | Deep, loose topsoil. | 0001 | 10 | |
| Woodland Area | Tree Pit | 0.8m | Very rooty. Loose topsoil (0.2m) over layers of mixed silty rubble (0.34m, 0.26m), the lower of which contained a faux-medieval(?) moulded piece of terracotta. | 0001, 0016, 0017 | 12 | Early 19th C |
| Woodland Area | Tree-house Post 2 | 0.4m | Identical to upper fills of Tree Pit. | 0001, 0043 | 13 | |
| Woodland Area | Tree-house Post 7 | 0.54m | Deep topsoil (0.4m) over very similar mixed rubblely silty-sand layer (0.14m). | 0001, 0049 | 25 | |
| Woodland Area | Tree-house Post 9 | 0.5m | Deep topsoil (0.3m) over very similar mixed rubblely silty-sand layer (0.2m). | 0001, 0050 | 26 | |

Appendix 3. Context list

| Context Number | Trench/Area | Description |
|----------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0001 | Woodland Area | Topsoil. Loose, loamy. Many loose modern/post-med finds. |
| 0002 | Woodland Area | Light yellowy brown silt, very mortary. Fence post 1 |
| 0003 | Woodland Area | Mottled brown and yellow brown silt. Rubble (all treehouse area rubble is mix of loose flints, occasionally with mortar, CBM, post-med brick, tile, pottery) Fence post 1 |
| 0004 | Woodland Area | Rubble layer. Mixed yellow-brown silty sand. Fence post 2 |
| 0005 | Woodland Area | Mid greyish brown sandy silt with yellowy brown bands/streaks. Fence post 2 |
| 0006 | Woodland Area | Rubble. Mixed yellow-brown silty sand. Fence post 5 |
| 0007 | Woodland Area | As 0006, but yellower. Fence post 5 |
| 0008 | Woodland Area | Medium yellow-brown silt. Fence post 5 |
| 0009 | Woodland Area | Rubble. Mixed yellow brown silty sand. Fence post 7 |
| 0010 | Woodland Area | Medium brown silty sand. Fence post 7 |

| | | |
|------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0011 | Woodland Area | Rubble. Mixed yellow brown silty sand. Fence post 8 |
| 0012 | Woodland Area | Rubble. Light yellow-brown silty sand. Flecks of chalk. Fence post 8 |
| 0013 | Woodland Area | Rubble. Medium yellow brown sandy silt. Fence post 11 |
| 0014 | Woodland Area | Mid greyish brown silt with rubble inclusions. Fence post 14 |
| 0015 | Woodland Area | Mid grey brown sandy silt. Fence post 16 |
| 0016 | Woodland Area | Mid grey brown sandy silt. CMB and stone inclusions. Tree pit. |
| 0017 | Woodland Area | Mid yellow-brown sandy silt with lots of rubble. Tree pit. |
| 0018 | Woodland Area | Topsoil. Service trench, north and east of playground |
| 0019 | Woodland Area | Mid greyish brown silt. Service trench, north |
| 0020 | Woodland Area | Mid orange-brown silty clay. Service trench, E of playground. (no topsoil, under removed playground surface) |
| 0021 | Woodland Area | Topsoil. Service trench, SE of playground |
| 0022 | Woodland Area | Mid grey brown silt. Service trench, SE of playground |
| 0023 | Willow Maze | Rubble-filled playground surface/topsoil. Mid grey-brown clayey silt. |

| | | |
|------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0024 | Willow Maze | Light yellow brown silty sand. Swing trench 3. Diffuse horizon with 0025 |
| 0025 | Willow Maze | Mottled orange brown and grey-brown silty sand. Swing trench 3. Diffuse horizon with 0024 Same as 0028? |
| 0026 | Willow Maze | Dark grey-brown clayey sand. Same as 0029 and 0033? Swing trench 3. |
| 0027 | Willow Maze | Dark grey-brown clay. Same as 0031 and 0035? Swing trench 3 |
| 0028 | Willow Maze | Mid orange brown silty sand. Same as 0032 and 0025? Swing trench 2. |
| 0029 | Willow Maze | Dark grey-brown clayey sand. Same as 0026 and 0033? Swing trench 2 |
| 0030 | Willow Maze | Light yellow-brown silty clay. Same as 0034? Swing trench 2 |
| 0031 | Willow Maze | Dark grey brown clay Same as 0027 and 0035? Swing trench 2 |
| 0032 | Willow Maze | Mid orange brown silty sand. Same as 0028 and 0025? Swing trench 1 |
| 0033 | Willow Maze | Dark grey brown clayey sand. Same as 0026 and 0029? Swing trench 1 |

| | | |
|------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0034 | Willow Maze | Light yellowy brown silty clay. Frequent small chalk flecks. Same as 0030? Swing trench 1 |
| 0035 | Willow Maze | Dark grey brown clay. Swing trench 1 |
| 0036 | Willow Maze | Light yellowy-brown sand. Swing post 1 |
| 0037 | Willow Maze | Compact orange-brown clayey silt. Frequent CBM inclusions. Swing post 1 |
| 0038 | Willow Maze | Compact orangey brown clayey silt. Frequent CBM inclusions. Swing post 2 |
| 0039 | Willow Maze | Topsoil, south of playground |
| 0040 | Willow Maze | Mid orange brown clayey silt. CBM inclusions Service trench, S of playground |
| 0041 | Willow Maze | Mid orange brown clayey silt. CBM inclusions. Service trench, S of playground, E of bank by tennis courts. |
| 0042 | Willow Maze | Mottled yellow and light brown silty clayey sand. Service trench, S of playground, E of bank by tennis courts. |
| 0043 | Woodland Area | Mid brown sandy silt. Post for tree platform. |
| 0044 | Sand and Water Area | Mid greyish brown sandy silt with flint, brick, and oyster. |
| 0045 | Sand and Water Area | Light browy yellow crushed mortar. Occasional fragments of brick and flint. |
| 0046 | Sand and Water Area | Greyish brown sandy clay. Brick, flint, mortar inclusions. Only seen in pit from removal of concrete block for old playground equipment. |

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|------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0047 | Sand and Water Area | Light browy yellow crushed mortar. Occasional fragments of brick and flint. |
| 0048 | Sand and Water Area | Mid greyish brown silty clay. Very clean. |
| 0049 | Woodland Area | Mid greyish brown silty sand, like 0001 but harder and with more CBM and flint inclusions. W treehouse platform post hole 7 |
| 0050 | Woodland Area | Mid greyish brown silty sand. Like 0001 but harder and with more CBM and flint inclusions. W treehouse platform post hole 9 |
| 0051 | Rope Bridge, East Bank | Mid brown silty clay. Frequent rounded gravel. Rare flecks of CBM. |
| 0057 | Rope Bridge, East Bank | Mid orange-brown silty sand. Frequent gravel. Diffuse horizon with 0051 |
| 0052 | Rope Bridge, East Bank | Mid orange-brown sandy silty clay. Abundant gravel. 1 big piece of CBM |
| 0053 | Rope Bridge, East Bank | Dark grey-brown clay. Black streaks, very organic. Peaty? River clay |
| 0054 | Rope Bridge, East Bank | Topsoil on E bank |
| 0055 | Rope Bridge, East Bank | Light grey-brown sandy silt. Occasional gravel. Buried topsoil? |
| 0056 | Rope Bridge, East Bank | Thin layer of tiny (2-10mm) gravel. Intermittent in section, but excavation showed continuous but patchy up slope. |
| 0058 | Rope Bridge, East Bank | Light yellow brown silty sand. Abundant small rounded gravel. |
| 0059 | Gathering Place | Topsoil, N of footpath |
| 0060 | Gathering Place | Intermittent gravel layer. |

| | | |
|------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0061 | Gathering Place | Mid grey brown sandy silt. Rubble-filled. Modern finds in with abraded CBM/tile, brick fragments with mortar, and lime mortar. Thicker to west, rises to east and disappears. |
| 0063 | Gathering Place | Mid grey-brown sandy silty clay with rubble. Light and with less rubble than 0061. Pockets of denser rubble and mortar. CBM, mortar, flints, oyster shell. |
| 0062 | Gathering Place | Light yellowy brown silty sand. Some bits of rubble, but could be from interface with above layer 0061. Mortary? |
| 0064 | Rope Bridge, West Bank | Topsoil |
| 0065 | Rope Bridge, West Bank | Mortar rubble |
| 0066 | Rope Bridge, West Bank | White lime mortar stuck to CBM and bown mortar on flints. Look like abbey debris and limestone frags (tiny). All redeposited med and post-med stuff together. |
| 0067 | Rope Bridge, West Bank | River mud Black-dark brown clay silt. Organic, slightly peaty no finds |
| 0068 | Rope Bridge, West Bank | Brown clay silt. Fine texture, dry. Post-med glass and brick. Same as 0065? |
| 0069 | Rope Bridge, West Bank | Orange gravel sand with brick and tile rubble (roof and floor) with mortar (post med). White lime mortar with plain hand made bricks Large floor tile 2 1/4 inch thick. Flint with mortar attached. Frag of worked limestone - small. Same as 0066? |

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|------|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0070 | Rope Bridge, West Bank | River mud Black-dark brown clay silt. Organic, slightly peaty no finds. Same as 0067? |
| 0071 | Willow Maze | Topsoil in fence holes around playground |
| 0072 | Willow Maze | Crushed CBM in dark loam |
| 0073 | Willow Maze | Topsoil |
| 0074 | Willow Maze | Brown silt loam. To build flint, mortar attached and some tile get progressively more rubble towards the base of the hole |
| 0075 | Willow Maze | Darker loam |
| 0076 | Willow Maze | Loam with fine rubble |
| 0077 | Willow Maze | Rubble. Lime mortar, crushed red bricks handmade, orange/red fabric, evenly fired. And tiles and flint with mortar attached. |

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Contact:

Rhodri Gardner

Tel: 01473 581743 Fax: 01473 288221

rhodri.gardner@suffolk.gov.uk

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