

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2014/004	Parish: Bury St Edmunds
Water Gardens Refurbishment, Abbey Gardens BSE 439	Client: St Edmundsbury Borough Council
	HER Event No.: BSE 439
Address: Abbey Gardens Bury St Edmunds Suffolk, IP33 1XL	Grid Reference: TL 8568 6418
	Date of visits: 9th and 12th December, 2013

Introduction

Visits were made to the site to record the groundworks associated with the installation of two fence lines, the laying of small areas of path, replacement of two shelters with paving and the planting of turf on a former flowerbed. The work was carried out in the Water Gardens area within the Scheduled Monument of the Abbey (SM No. 35556), immediately north-east of the cathedral, Bury St Edmunds (Fig. 1). The pathway and flowerbed excavations, as well as the holes excavated for new fence posts described herein were all hand dug by the contractors. The work was part of an archaeological condition raised by English Heritage and Dr Abby Antrobus of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team. An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-166537, Appendix 1) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>).

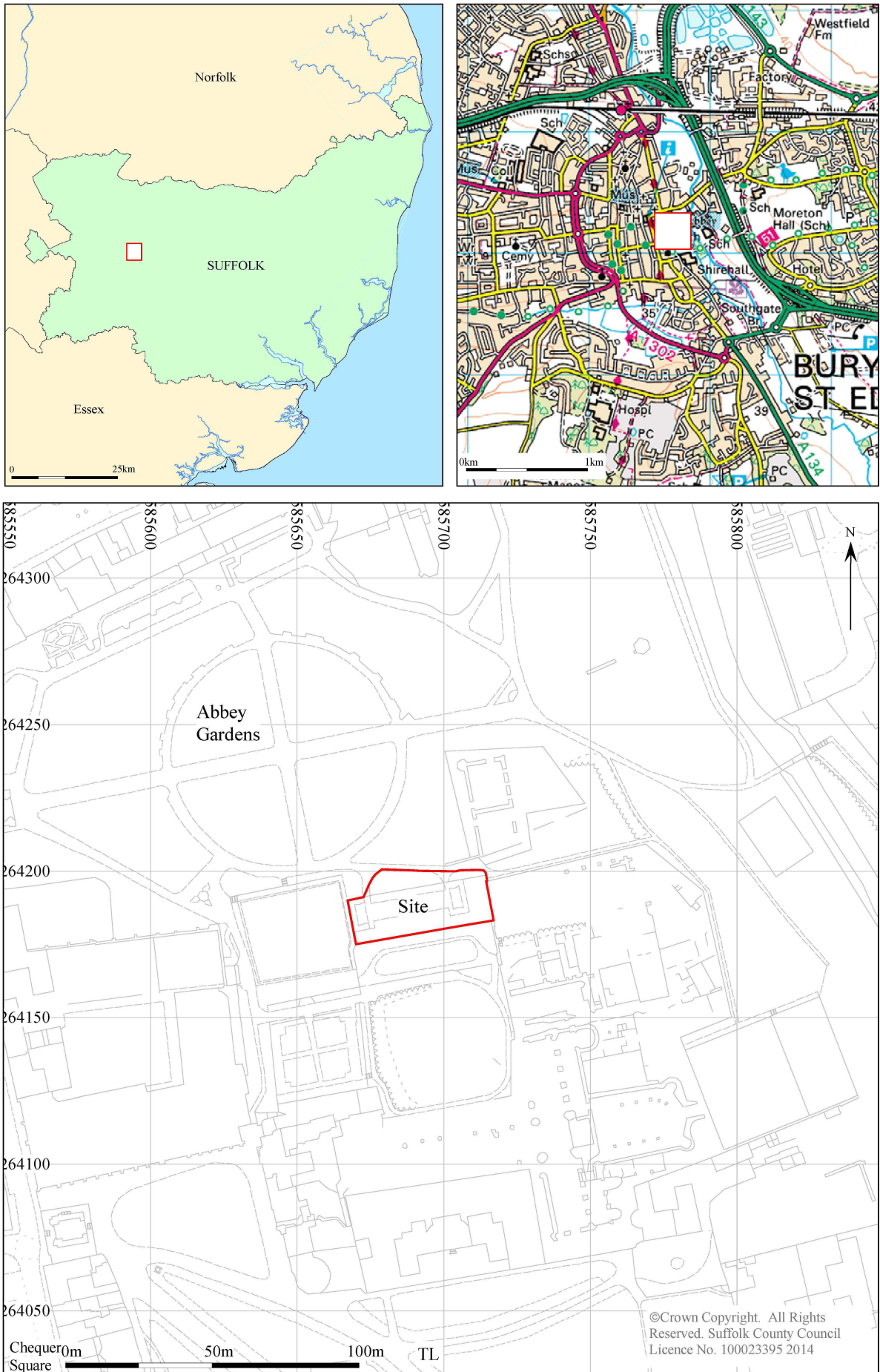


Figure 1. Site location (red)

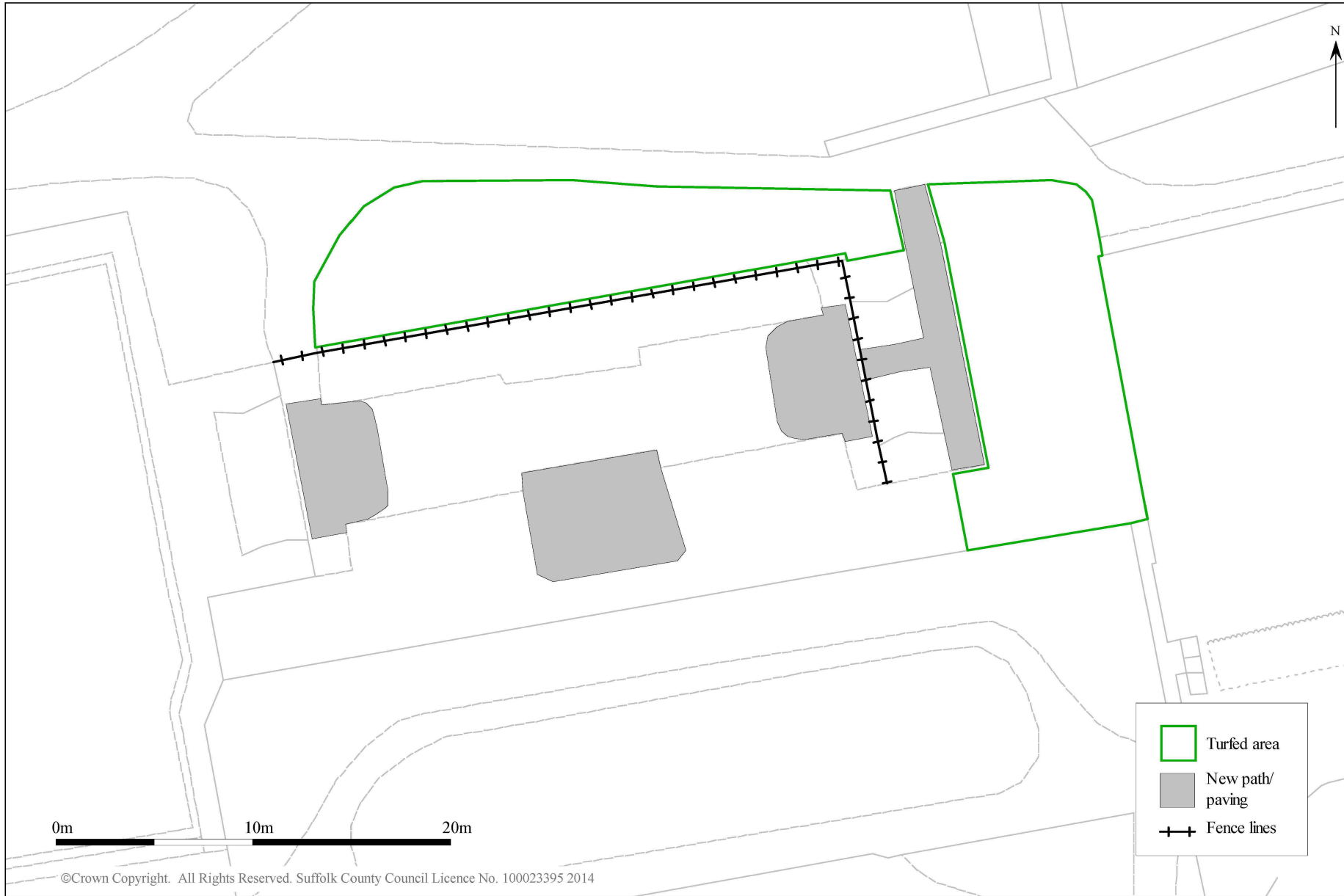


Figure 2. Site plan

Groundworks

The total area of the Water Gardens measures 130sqm, although much of this was not disturbed during the groundworks (Fig. 2). Nineteen holes for the fence line were dug, which were 0.25-0.3m deep x 0.08-0.1m wide. The stripping for the new pathway and paving was 0.05-0.3m deep, whilst the areas of new turf were positioned over an old flowerbed and therefore caused very little disturbance.

Results

No archaeological features or finds were recorded in the trenching and no further groundworks are to be carried out. The soil profiles consisted of modern deposits of topsoil with some disturbed pieces of flint and mortar rubble. Lining the former flowerbed were pieces of Abbey stone, although these were not decorated pieces.

It appears that the soil profile might have been built-up, presumably to counter the slightly sloping landscape in this area.

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Recorded by: Rob Brooks

Date: 10/01/2014

Appendix 1. OASIS form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: suffolkc1-166537

Project details

Project name	BSE 439 Water Gardens Refurbishment Monitoring, Abbey Gardens
Short description of the project	Works were carried out within the Abbey Gardens/Abbey Scheduled Monument to refurbish the existing water gardens area. Two new lengths of fence were erected whilst minor ground works were carried out to replace an existing flowerbed with turf. A new area of path was also added, as was new paving. Topsoil was recorded, along with occasional pieces of disturbed flint with mortar traces. No finds were recovered.
Project dates	Start: 09-12-2013 End: 12-12-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BSE 439 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	BSE 439 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	SM 35556 - SM No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK ST EDMUNDSBURY BURY ST EDMUNDS BSE 439 Water Gardens

	Refurbishment Monitoring, Abbey Gardens
Postcode	IP33 1XL
Study area	580.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 8568 6418 52 0 52 14 38 N 000 43 12 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Dr Abby Antrobus
Project director/manager	Andrew Tester
Project supervisor	Rob Brooks
Type of sponsor/funding body	Borough Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	St Edmundsbury Borough Council

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Digital Archive ID	BSE 439
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Paper Archive ID	BSE 439
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Report", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Author(s)/Editor(s)	Brooks, R.
Other	SCCAS Report No. 2014/004

bibliographic
details

Date 2014

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publication Bury St Edmunds

Description A4, stapled document, in colour, with one appendix. Also available as a pdf.

Entered by Rob Brooks (rob.brooks@suffolk.gov.uk)

Entered on 13 January 2014

OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

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