

MINOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

Abbey Gardens Bury St Edmunds: Re-ordering of the gardener's compound.

PLANNING APPLICATION REF:	DC/21/2261	HER PARISH CODE.	BSE 709
		OASIS ID:	davidgil1-508393
NATIONAL HERITAGE LIST NO.	1021450	SCHEDULED MON CONSENT REF:	S00242119
GRID REF:	TL 85673 64325	SIZE:	Small scale (c.160sqms)
PROJECT DATES:	5th-22nd May 2022	SCCAS officer	Dr Abby Antrobus

Summary

The monitoring of groundwork excavations within the Abbey Gardens, Bury St Edmunds revealed the remains of some of the horticultural glasshouses that occupied the site from the late 19th century until the mid-20th. The site was in the gardener's compound, located in the northeast corner of what was once the medieval abbey's Great Courtyard. Previous archaeological investigations have shown that the surface of the courtyard was 600mm below the current ground levels and the subsequent build-up is best illustrated by the half-buried 13th century door visible in the rear wall of the gardener's mess room.

The build-up of material over the medieval ground surface is made up of a combination of rubble associated with the destruction of the abbey buildings and deposition of what is thought to be town rubbish; a 200-300mm thick layer of black silt that contains a large quantity of food waste, in the form of oyster and mussel shells and animal bones. This layer covers an extensive part of the Great Courtyard and was encountered again during the current monitoring. The 'town rubbish layer' was seemingly deposited during the 17-18th century and has since been buried beneath layers of imported topsoil associated with the creation of the botanical gardens and rubble from the demolition of its 19th century glasshouses; the current excavations occurred entirely within these modern upper layers

1. Introduction

This report provides a record of the archaeological monitoring that was carried out during the re-ordering of the gardener's compound within the Abbey Gardens, Bury St Edmunds and has been archived with the Suffolk Historic Environment Record under the site code BSE 709. The planned changes included the construction of a new 3-bay garage; a plant storage area with an 'efford bed' irrigation and drainage system; the creation of a hardstand for the storage of skips; associated services and new fencing. The proposed scheme was designed to minimise the impact on any below ground archaeology but entailed c.160sqm of shallow groundwork excavations across the site (see Fig.2).

The gardener's compound is located within what was the 'Great Courtyard' of the former medieval abbey of St Edmund (Fig.1). The site is known to be archaeologically sensitive; it is within an area designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument (National Heritage List No.1021450) and is protected by statute. The proposed development plans had the potential to impact archaeological levels and so a continuous archaeological monitoring of the groundworks was made a condition of both Scheduled Monument and planning consent. Dr Abby Antrobus of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) produced an archaeological brief (dated 10/03/2022) which detailed the requirements for this work.

The project was funded by West Suffolk Council and monitoring was undertaken by archaeologist David Gill during May 2022. The author would like to acknowledge the main contractors Mixbrow Construction for their assistance throughout.

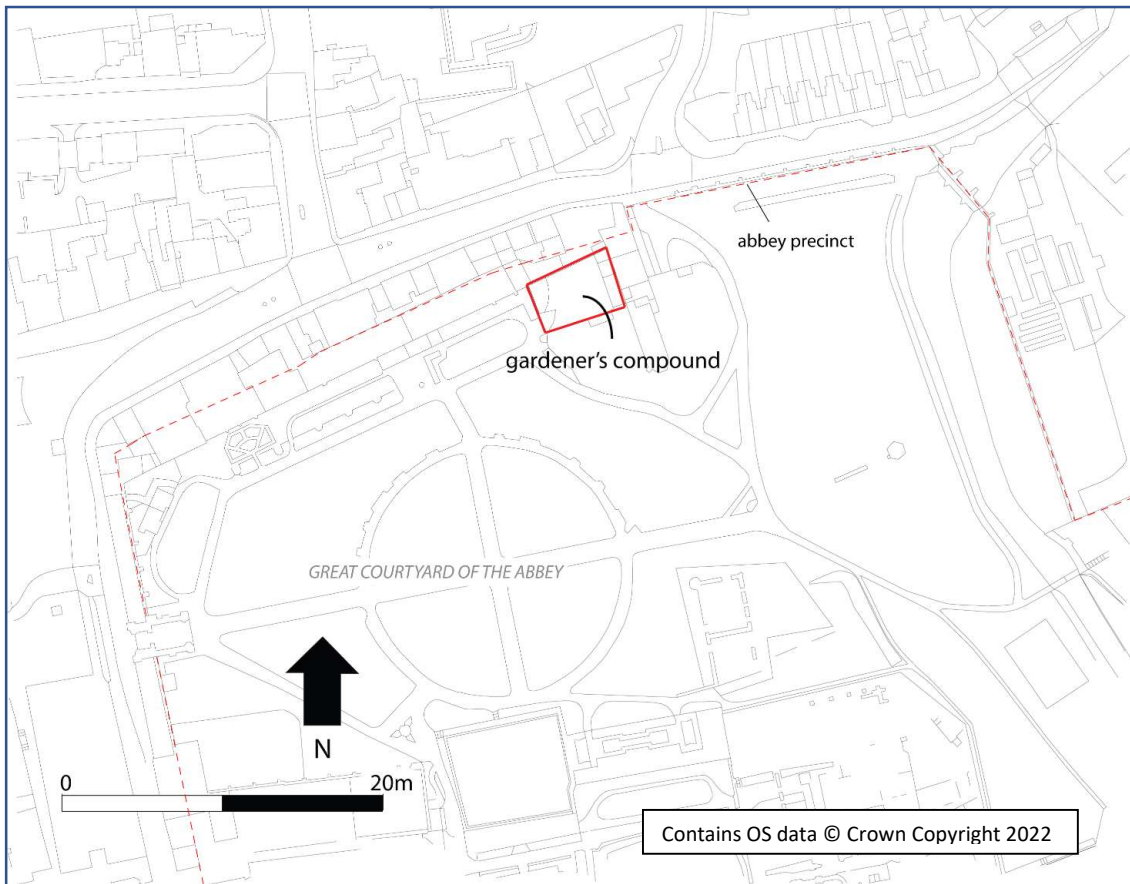


Figure 1. Plan showing the position of the site the northeast corner of what was once 'The Great Courtyard' of the Abbey of St Edmunds lying in the angle between the site of the Abbott's palace range and a row of ancillary building (brewhouse bake house stables etc.) that bordered the north side of the courtyard.

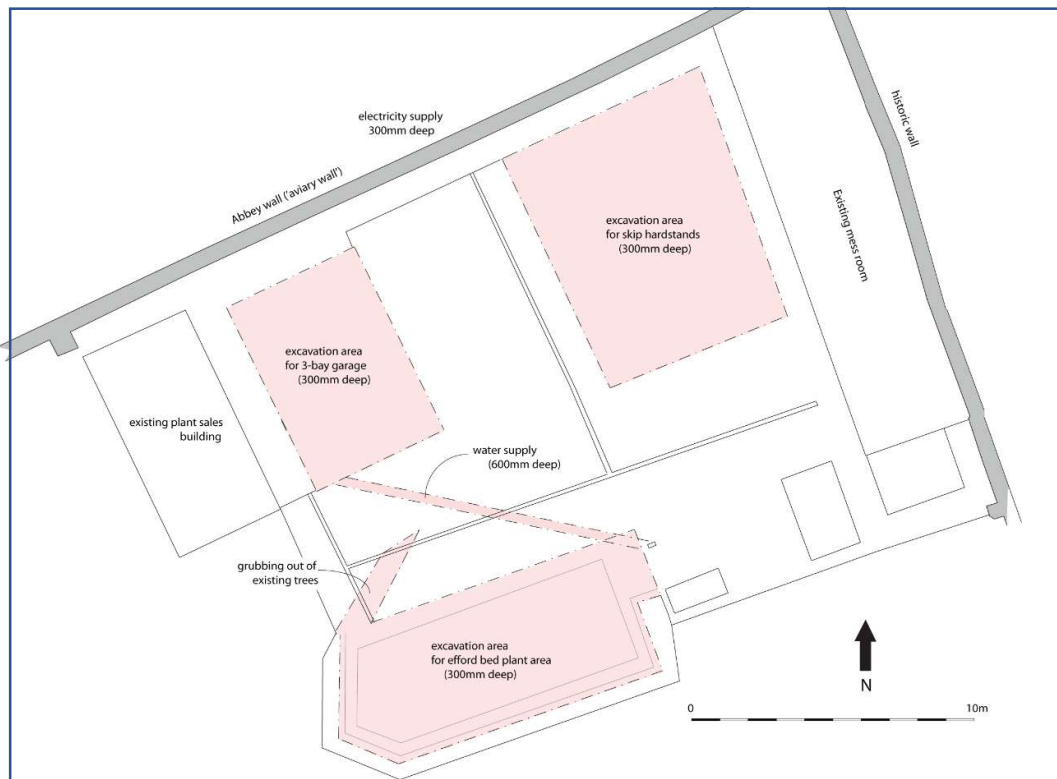


Figure 3. Plan of the compound showing the proposed excavation areas

2. Historical and Archaeological background

The site is in the northeast corner of the Great Courtyard of the medieval Abbey of St Edmund, in the angle between the ruins of a linked range of ancillary buildings and the Abbott's palace which bordered the courtyard's north and east sides. The ancillary buildings included stables, barns, brewery and a bakehouse which date from the late 12th-13th century; the front wall of this building range (known as the aviary wall) is amongst the best-preserved parts of the monastery and was subject to a drawn and photographic survey completed in 2009 (Gill 2009 - HER ref: BSE 334). Groundworks for the construction of the new plant sales building in 2019, revealed that the Great Courtyard had a metaled surface of small flints and limestone chippings which occurred about 0.5m below the present ground level. Across this part of the site, the monastic ground level was built up by what appears to be a wide-spread dump of town rubbish; this was deposited during the 17-18th century and has been identified in excavations as a deep layer of black, finds-rich silt. Finds collected from this deposit consist mainly of food waste - butchered cattle bones and the shells of oysters, mussels and cockles by the hundred (Gill 2017- BSE 497).

The Abbey Gardens

Following the Dissolution of the abbey in 1539, the site was sold by the crown commissioners and passed through a succession of owners before becoming the property of the Marquis of Bristol at the start of the 19th century. In autumn 1830, the Marquis offered to lease the Great Courtyard to horticulturalist Nathaniel Hodson to create a botanical garden; Hodson had already developed a much-admired garden alongside the great churchyard (now the Premier Inn carpark). By the November news of the scheme was public knowledge; the *Bury and Norwich Post* called the proposed site "*highly eligible for the contemplated purpose*" and questioned whether anything more beautiful could be found in the kingdom. Plant specimens were transferred from Hodson's original garden and the new one opened in 1831; Payne's map published in 1834 shows the newly created gardens (Fig. 4) with the central circular plan that still forms the centre-piece today. A lodge (Alwyn house) was constructed for Hodson within the gardens that incorporated some of the ruins of the Abbot's Palace and Hodson died at home there in 1861 aged 78.

For Hodson, the purpose of the garden was primarily scientific and entry to it had always been limited to horticulturists and subscribers drawn from the town gentry. The public were first admitted during the 1850's at a cost of one shilling (6d for children) and the charges were set deliberately high to ensure exclusivity. In 1912 Bury St Edmunds Borough Council took out a lease on the Abbey Gardens from the then owner, the fourth Marquis of Bristol, for £90 a year. This required the council to buy out the previous tenant, using money raised by public subscription and the practice of charging for admission was ended. The Borough Council finally bought the freehold in 1953.

Previous archaeological work within the gardener's compound

The monitoring of trenches for a replacement water main within the gardener's compound in 2016 (BSE 497) found the stub of a small, shallow footed, wall and showed that the upper soil profile was made up of layers of smashed brick rubble together with deposits of ash and clinker. This material is probably associated with the demolition of the 19th century greenhouses (Fig.5) and overlay a buried garden topsoil. Within the replacement watermain trench, the top of the intact archaeological level was encountered at 500mm below the compound's surface and consisted of the town rubbish layer observed elsewhere; it was noted that the animal bone within the rubbish layer was in large unbroken pieces which suggested that it had not been disturbed since it was initially dumped. The rubbish layer was less than 100mm thick at the NE end of the yard and covered possible early post medieval features, which contained 'Tudor' bricks and crushed limestone, that may relate to the immediate post-Dissolution destruction within the Abbey (Gill 2017).

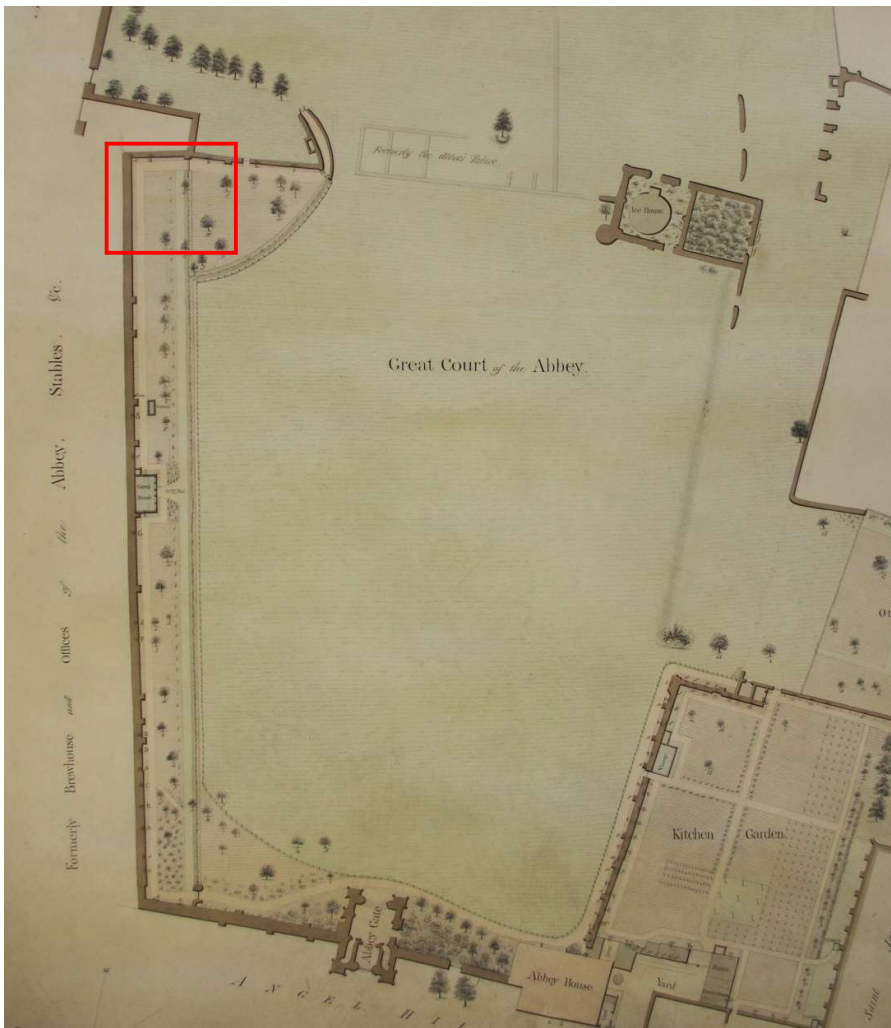


Figure 3 (left). Plan of the Abbey House and grounds surveyed by J.G Lenny 1823 for the Marquis of Bristol before the creation of the botanical gardens. The area of the site highlighted with a red square

Figure 4 (right). Payne's map of the site surveyed in 1834 following the creation of the gardens and the construction of the gardener's lodge for Nathaniel Hodson

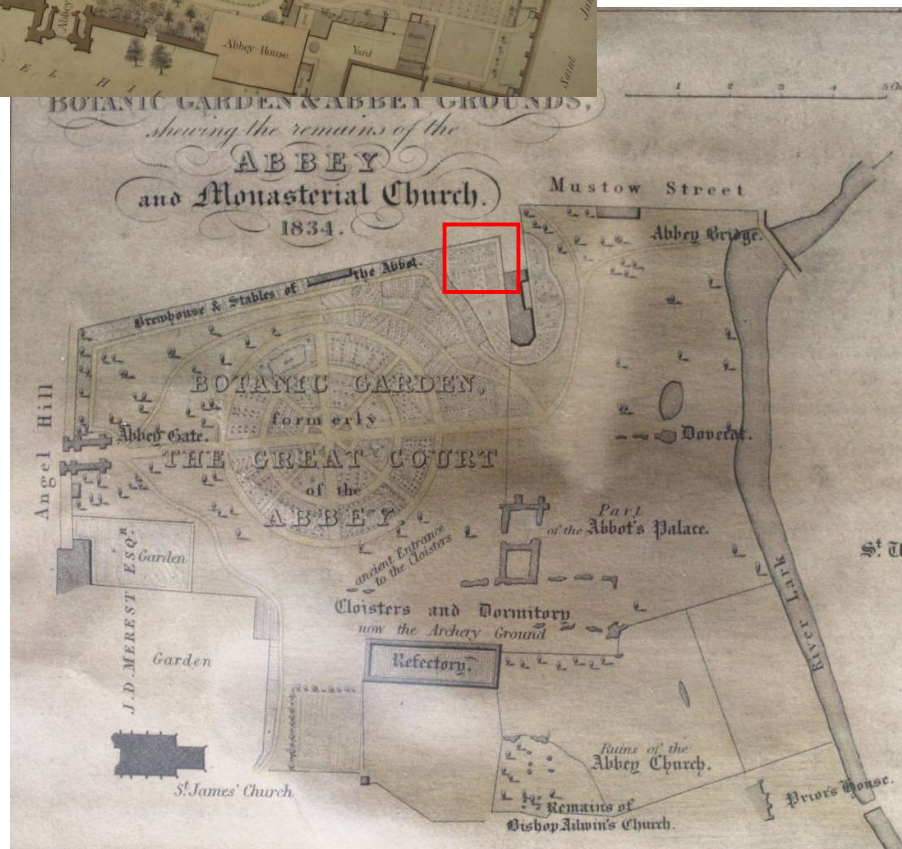




Figure 5. First edition Ordnance Survey (1885) showing the site crowded with eleven glasshouses and enclosed behind a bank. Similar buildings are shown on the 1953 edition of the Ordnance Survey suggesting that the glasshouses remained in use until the creation of the Eastgate Nursery on an adjacent site (the new tennis courts)

3. Results

The abbey walls

The removal of the existing concrete garage, greenhouse and assorted clutter provided an unimpeded view of the abbey wall remains which were recorded by photograph (Pl.1). The wall is largely made up of rebuilt and repaired lengths but at its centre are the remains of an original buttress and the edge of a contemporary window opening alongside it, (Pl.2). The buttress and window retain some of their original *Barnack* stone dressings, they are contemporary with the architectural features recorded in the back wall of the aviaries (Gill 2009) and probably date from the 13th century. The repairs represent several different phases of reconstruction where the wall has either collapsed or had been knocked through to create access into, or enlarge, the properties on Mustow Street. The extensive use of 'Tudor' bricks (and the absence of later ones) implies that the earliest rebuilding could date from the 16-17th century, whereas the use of a large number of 'abbey stone' blocks in a subsequent repair (Pl.2) may be linked to the sudden abundance of this material following the demolition of the town's Eastgate or Abbott's palace in the first half of the 18th century (Gill 2018). The section of wall from the medieval buttress to the NE corner of the compound has been completely reconstructed, the rebuilt section is delineated by brick-built piers and the brick sizes suggest a 19th century date (first half) ; the repair included raising the wall height, and castellating it with re-used stone, across the entire recorded length.

The range of modern lean-to buildings along the east side of the compound were constructed against the remains of a medieval wall, once part of the Abbott's palace range that enclosed the east side of the Great Courtyard. Within the Gardener's mess room is the top of a blocked, arched opening (Pl.3). The arch is a two-centre 'gothic' type dating from the 13-14th century; its apex is only c.1.2m above the mess room floor and is a strong visual indication of how much the ground levels have risen in this part of the abbey.

The garage block and skip hardstand

The existing tarmac was broken up and the footprint of the new garage block (Area 1, Fig.6 and Pl.4) and hardstand (Area 2, Fig.6 and Pl.6) excavated by machine in the presence of the monitoring archaeologist. The ground level was reduced by 300mm and 250mm respectively, and the excavations were wholly within a depth of made-up ground.

Area 1: the garage block

Area 1 measured 58sqm (8.5m x 6.8m); it was excavated in two spits which removed a mixed demolition rubble within a matrix of dark grey black silts with modern debris: charcoal, pieces of china and coal etc. At the north end of the site the rubble element was made up of flint and lime, whilst at the south it was largely brick. The 'reduced-dig' level (300mm below current ground level) coincided with the top of a buried soil, a post-medieval/modern made-up ground level, composed of a dark, charcoal rich, muddy clay silt (006 and 002 Fig. 6). Set within the soil were the remains of a rectangular brick-built structure (007, Fig, 6) and the stub of a bonded rubble wall (004). Both were orientated SW-NE and paralleled the line of the abbey wall on the north side of the yard, and their locations matched the positions of the glasshouses shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey (Fig.5). The rubble wall, thought to be the south wall of a glass house constructed against the abbey wall, was 0.5m wide and composed of mainly flint, but included some broken brick, that was bonded with a pale brown, coarse sand, lime mortar; this had decayed so that the flints were loose and dry. A mix of brick and reused limestone blocks (Abbey stone) formed a corner quoin, and the fragmentary remains of a return wall (009) ran alongside the east edge of excavation. The bricks within the wall corner were 2½" thick (the modern 'common brick' size) and similarly sized bricks were used to create two narrow channels (003, Fig.6 and Pl.5) that ran between wall 004 and the Abbey wall bounding the yard. The channels were interpreted as the remains of what had been under floor heating flues, and they aligned with areas of heat damage on the abbey wall where the stones and mortar had been burnt red (Pl. 5). Within the area enclosed by wall 004, was a fine rubble layer of lime mortar and flint (001), this was interpreted as a sub-base for the glass house floor, and the flues were set into this deposit.

The base of the smaller glasshouse (007) measured 4.5m x 1.90m and was a lightweight structure built on a narrow dwarf wall (a single brick width - a 4" wall). The bricks were laid directly onto the earth without foundations and the wall was truncated so that only the base course remained. The excavations were below what had been the ground level when the glass houses were built; no evidence of the floor survived and the buried soil layer (006) underlying the greenhouse was visible both inside and out. At the east end of greenhouse 007 was the remains of an associated structure, a base or (?)hardstand, which survived as a neat rectangular block of masonry comprising a brick facing and a rubble core (005); a concentration of clinker and ash were recorded in the adjacent area to the south (008).

Two phases of trenching for modern water mains ran through the site cutting through both greenhouses.

Area 2: the garage block

The area of hardstand (Area 2) measured 78sqm (10.05m x 7.80m). Mixed, redeposited dark silts with crushed brick rubble (010 and 011) similar to the layers recorded in Area 1 were observed across the site and the remains of a brick-built greenhouse base (012) existed alongside its north edge. At the centre of

the site was a redundant brick filled soakaway which formerly collected stormwater from the messroom roof.

Area 3: The Efford base, grubbing out of the trees and the watermain trench

The site of the Efford bed was in a *soft-dig* area beyond the edge of the tarmac yard. This was a low-lying part of the compound where the ground fell away to the level of the adjacent garden, which is 300-400mm lower than the yard (Pl. 7). The groundworks required excavations of 250mm at the north edge and less at the south, to achieve the *reduced-dig* level. Sections of the soil profile were drawn where the trees alongside the site entrance were grubbed out (S1, Figs 6) and the north edge of the excavations (S3, Figs. 6 and Pl.9).

The soil profile shows the earlier ground level has been raised in the relatively recent past with the addition of an imported/redeposited soil layer (014 S1 Fig 6) that buried the former topsoil 015. The buried topsoil was a dense, compacted layer of black charcoal-rich silt-loam that included a large amount of broken clay flowerpots, with particular concentrations occurring around the roots of the trees. A layer of lime mortar rubble, which lay on the former ground surface was observed in the north side of the excavations and recorded in section S3. Beneath the buried topsoil was a dark, charcoal-rich, organic and close textured silt (0016 S1); an occupation soil which contained building material (building flint, lime mortar, peg-tile and brick fragments) and food waste in the form of animal bones and frequent oyster shells. The finds material occurred uniformly throughout the deposit suggesting that it was a reworked soil or the result of secondary dumping. The brick fragments were all a plain, handmade type and their sizes suggested a 16th-18th century date. None of the finds within the assemblage were closely datable, but the deposit (016) contained no modern (Victorian or later) material, which contrasted with the overlying soil layers. Soil layer 016 is in effect the uppermost archaeological layer; it was similar to the extensive dark-earth deposit that has been recorded during previous monitorings across this part of the Abbey gardens and has been interpreted as an early post-dissolution, rubbish dumping event. The reduced dig level effectively coincided with the top of soil layer 016 and the deposit was uncovered but not excavated.

Two narrow strips of lime mortar with small flints, the vestigial remains of a pair of parallel walls (or their footing) lay on the surface of soil layer 0016 at the interface with the overlying buried topsoil layer. Where best preserved, the mortar strips (013 and 017) were 400mm wide and no more than 20mm deep; they were 4.1m apart and ran NW-SE on a slightly different alignment from that of the greenhouse bases seen in Areas 1 and 2. The first edition OS map (Fig. 5) shows a rectangular shape (a grass or flower bed) outlined with a dashed line in this area and the mortar strips may be the remains of a path or bed edging that possibly relate to this mapped feature.

Watermain trench

The new water main to an outside tap was laid in a 600mm deep trench which ran N-S between Areas 1 and 2. The soil through which the trench was excavated was made up entirely of post medieval and modern made-up ground and was consistent across the complete trench length. The uppermost 300mm included a high concentration of brick rubble associated with the demolition of the 19th century greenhouses and modern debris related to the later use of the site. The soil in the lower half comprised a single layer of dark-black clay-silt which was close textured and 'sticky'. Charcoal and oyster shell were abundant within its mix, and it produced brick and tile fragments, pieces of mortared flint and limestone fragments, the distribution and fragmentary nature of the finds material suggested that this was a disturbed secondary re-deposited soil.

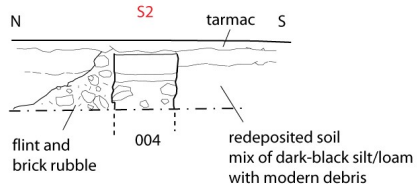
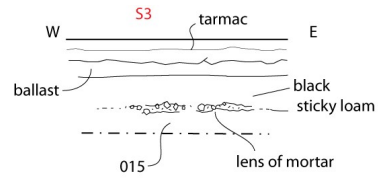
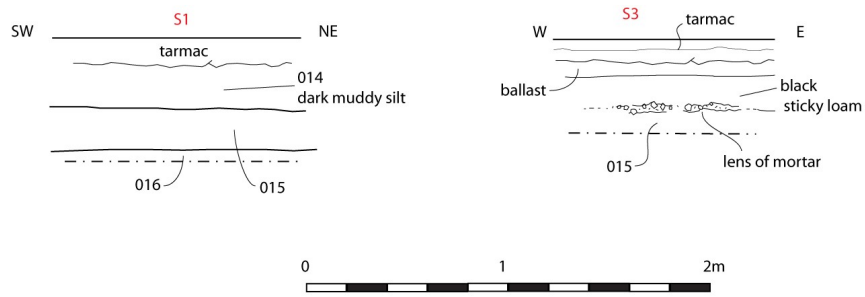
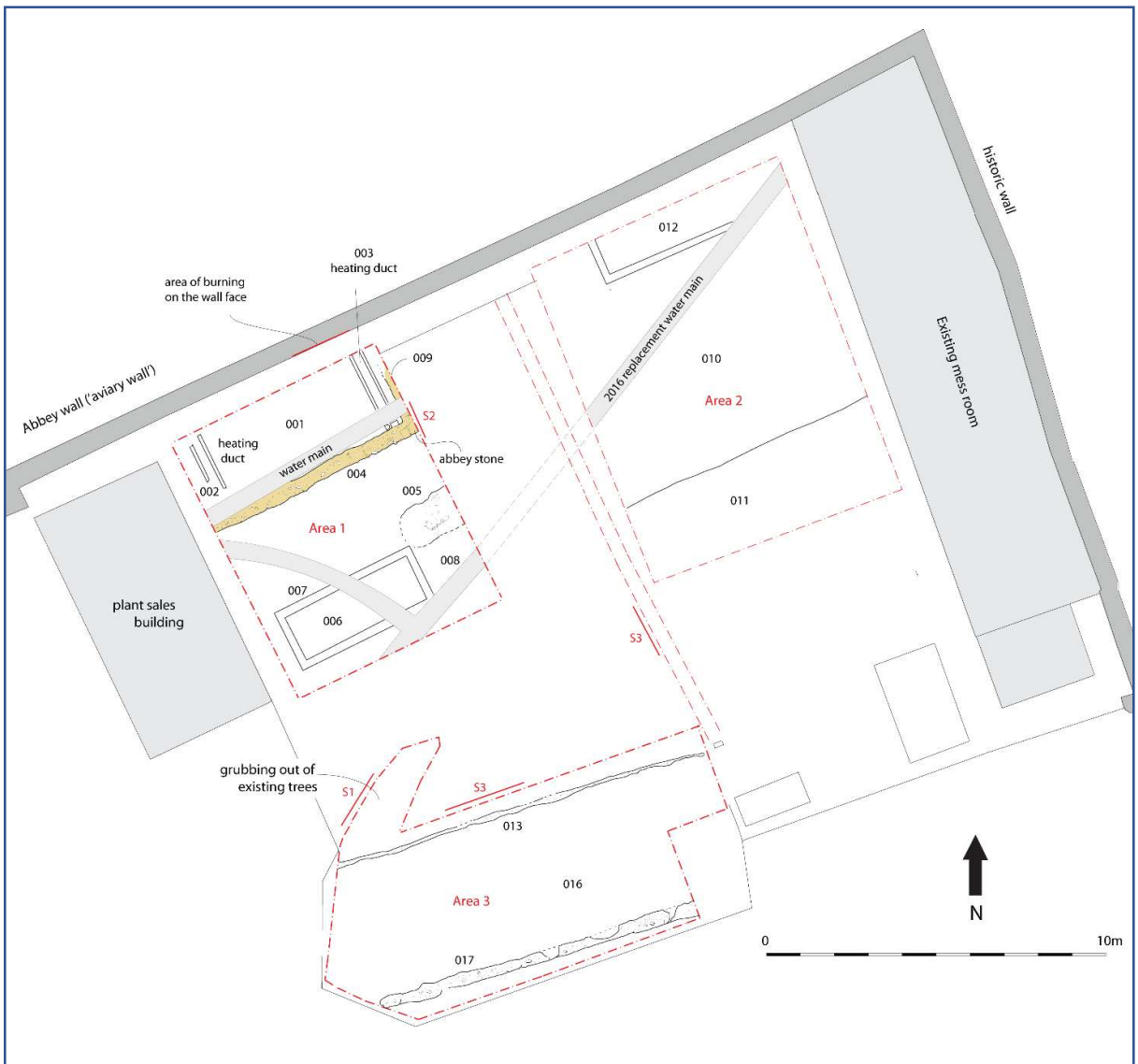


Figure 6. Site plan and sections

4. Discussion and conclusions

The monitoring results confirmed that the ground level within the area of the gardener's compound has been built up, substantially, since the medieval period and the current groundworks were too shallow to impact on any archaeological deposits. Previous monitorings, suggested that the ground surface within the compound is c.600mm above that of the former Abbey's *Great Courtyard* and the change in level is best illustrated by the half-buried 13th century door opening visible in the rear wall of the gardener's mess room.

Past archaeological work has shown that the accumulation of material over the medieval ground surface is made up of a combination of rubble associated with the destruction of the abbey buildings and deposition of what is thought to be town rubbish; a 200-300mm thick layer of black silt that contains a large quantity of food waste in the form of oyster and mussel shells and animal bones, an extensive spread that covers large parts of the Great Courtyard. The 'town rubbish layer' was seemingly deposited during the 17-18th century and has since been buried beneath layers of imported topsoil associated with the creation of the botanical gardens and rubble from the demolition of its 19th century glasshouses.

The excavations for the hardstand and garage block occurred entirely within the upper layers and exposed the remains of the glasshouses built in the second half of the 19th century and which are shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey. The largest of the glasshouses was constructed against the abbey wall and was heated, probably causing the reddening still visible on the abbey wall face. The glasshouses are shown on the 1953 edition of the maps and were probably still providing bedding plants for the abbey gardens until the creation of the borough's Eastgate Nursery, adjacent to the abbey grounds. The modern upper soil layers are less deep on the south side of the compound where the ground level slopes away, here in the excavation for the 'Efford bed' the top of the 'town rubbish layer' was exposed, but none of this deposit was removed. The deposition of the town rubbish layer represents a significant episode in the immediate post-Dissolution life of the abbey site when it was seemingly used as a landfill, the dark soil has only been sampled during the excavation of service and foundation trenches and would benefit from a more controlled archaeological excavation to better understand and date this deposition event.

David Gill, August 2022

6. Bibliography

Gill, D.J., 2009, *Aviary Wall Recording, Abbey Gardens Bury St Edmunds, BSE 334*, Archaeological Survey Report. Suffolk Archaeology Service report No 2009/237

Gill, D.J., 2017, *Replacement Water Main, Abbey Gardens, Bury S Edmunds, BSE 497*. Suffolk Archaeology monitoring report SACIC Report No. 2017/017

Gill, D.J., 2018, *Fragment of 'Abbey-stone' wall, 33b Eastgate Street/Barn Lane, Bury St Edmunds*. Heritage assessment report

Appendix 1 Plates



Plates 1 and 1A. Composite photo of the much-repaired abbey wall on the north side of Gardener’s compound and showing phases of repair below. 2m scales



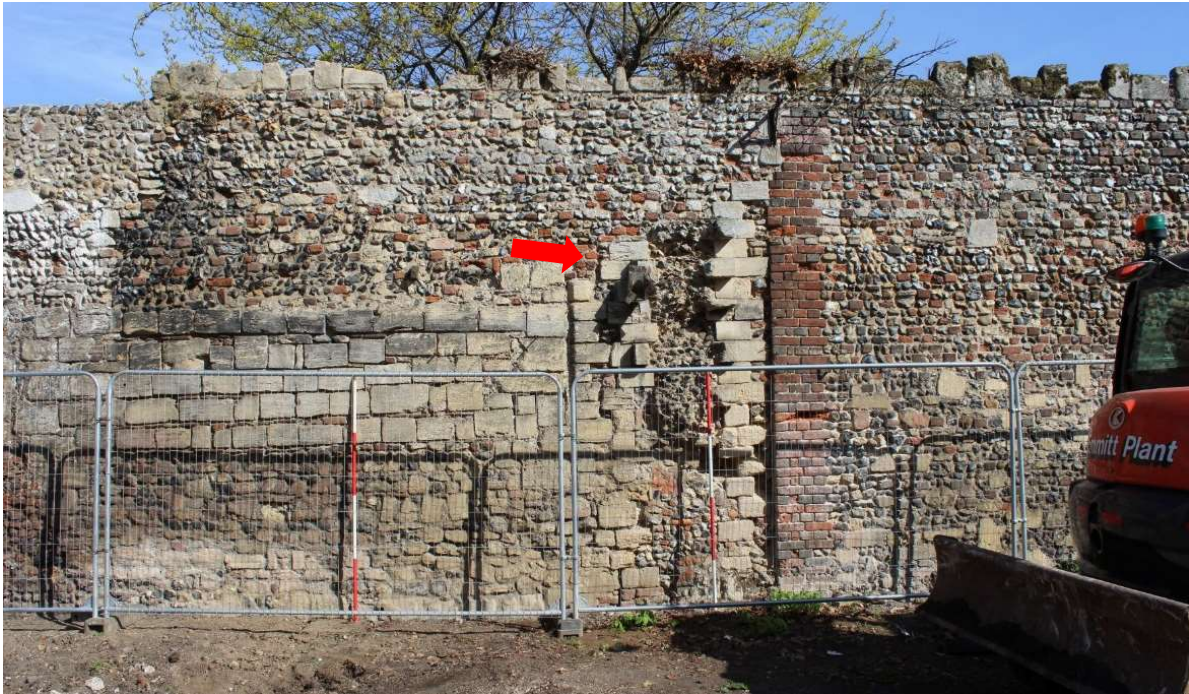


Plate 2. An intact section of the wall showing the stub of a 13th century buttress and the east edge of a contemporary window (arrowed) alongside it. The area of limestone block is a repair of a collapse or deliberate breach of the wall that occurred after the Dissolution - the repair re-uses 13-14th century Barnack stone, and possibly dates to the mid-18th century when a supply of 'abbey stone' was released by the demolition of the Abbot's palace and town gates.



Plate 3. A blocked door in the rear wall of the gardener's mess room. The lower half has been buried by the rise in ground level and the top of the door is now only 1.2m from floor.



Plate 4. Area 1 the excavation for the 3-bay garage looking north. The excavations were 300mm deep and wholly within modern made-up ground. In the foreground is the brick base for a 19th century greenhouse. The front wall and floor sub-base of a larger lean-to glasshouse, which was constructed against the face of the abbey wall can be seen as a pale mortar strip at the far end of the site. Scales 2m



Plate 5. The larger of the two glasshouses was heated; one of the below floor flues can be seen in the corner of the site, and the stones of the abbey wall behind it have been burnt red. The pale mortar strip running across the site is the remains of the front wall of the glasshouse and its inside edge has been cut by a later water main (the band of darker soil); the small yellow scale (30cms) on the right rests on the SE corner of the glasshouse and the east wall follows the right-hand edge of the site



Plate 6. Area 2, excavation of the skip hardstands looking NE, scales 2m.



Plate 7. Area 3 the site of the Efford bed during the grubbing out of the trees and prior to excavation. The location was a soft-dig area beyond the edge of the tarmac yard and low-lying, where the ground fell away to the level of the adjacent garden, which is 300-400mm lower



Plate 8. Area 3 (the efford bed) following excavation looking west. The depth of the ground level reduction coincided with the top of a dark earth layer, 016, an extensive layer of town rubbish deposited across the site sometime during the 17-18th century.



Plate 9. The north edge of Area 3 (section S3), the soil profile shows layers of lime mortar rubble, which lay on the former ground surface. Across the base of the excavation is a buried dark soil, 016, a charcoal-rich, organic occupation soil which contained building material and food waste. Soil layer 016 is in effect the uppermost archaeological deposit and is similar to an extensive dark-earth layer that has been recorded across this part of the Abbey gardens in the past and which has been interpreted as an early post-medieval rubbish dumping event.

Appendix 2 BSE 709 Gardener's yard Context List

Context	Section No	Sheet No	exc area	Category	Identifier	Description	Over	Under
0001		2	1	layer	sub - floor	Soil layer at the north end of Area A at the reduced dig level north of wall 004. Within the footprint of the putative green house, sub-base for floor? Fine rubble made up of flint and lime mortar within a matrix of muddy loam. Flues/heating duct 003 set into this layer		
0002		2	1	layer	soil horizon	Soft and loosely compacted sandy loam with flint and lime rubble in the NW corner of Area A, Muddy disturbed silt layer west of flue 003b - exposed at reduced dig level.		
0003		2	1	structure	heating flue	Remains of two brick-built narrow channels set into layer 001 and running NS from wall 004. (003 east and 003b west). Bricks and surrounding soil burnt red - probable under floor heating ducts. Abbey wall alongside the flues also burnt.		
0004		2	1	bonded masonry	wall	Remains of flint and mortar wall running E-W parallel to and 3.4m away from the abbey wall bordering the north edge of the yard. Wall runs across the full width of the site and corners at the east edge of the site. Wall 0.5m wide made of flint and brick rubble bonded with lime mortar. Abbey stone and whole brick quoin at SE corner. Mortar loose and powdery. North edge cut by later watermain.		
0005		2	1	structure	(?hardstand/surface	Rectangular area of mortared flint rubble located at the east end of glasshouse 007. Flint and mortar core and brick facing top truncated		
0006		2	1	layer	soil horizon	Layer/soil horizon, dark brown - black muddy clay silt with brick tile and modern (Victorian+) debris soil layer at the reduced dig level. Greenhouse 007 built on top of this layer; 006 occurs inside and outside the wall line of 007.		
0007		2	1	structure	wall base	The base of a small glasshouse (007) measured 4.5m x 1.90m and was a lightweight structure built on a narrow dwarf wall (a single brick width - a 4 wall). The bricks were laid directly onto the earth without foundations and the wall was truncated so that only the base course remained.		
0008		2	1	layer	spread	Spread of coal ash and clinker south of structure 005		
0009		2	1	bonded masonry	wall	East return wall of 004, running along the east edge of the site; continuation of wall 004		
0010		1	2	layer	soil horizon	Modern disturbed ground build up layer at the north end of Area 2 (Skip hardstand) mix of brown silt loam with, brick rubble charcoal coal and china. 010 made up the full depth of the excavation from below the tarmac to reduced dig level @ 250mm depth +.		
0011		1	2	layer	soil horizon	Modern disturbed redeposited soil/ground built up at south half of Area 2 - same layer as 010, muddy clay silt but with a much higher crushed brick rubble content + gravel/ ballast and modern debris- brickfilled soakaway for mess room at centre.		

Context	Section No	Sheet No	exc area	Category	Identifier	Description	Over	Under
0012		1	2	structure	wall base	Greenhouse base - South and west return wall forming the SW corner of a brick-built wall stub - single width of brick (4 inch wall) truncated to a 1 - 2 courses of brick bonded with lime. S wall parallel to and at 2.70m from 'Abbey wall' lean-to greenhouse base.		
0013		3	3	bonded masonry	wall	Narrow strip of mortared flint vestigial remains of a wall? Running E-W across the north side of Area 3 patchy and broken line only 2cms deep and 20-30cms wide no foundations set into the top of underlying loam 016. Paralled by 017 only visible after removal of 014 and 015 rubble layer between 014 and 015 possibly part of its destruction higher up?		015
0014	S1	3	3	layer	soil horizon	Upper soil horizon recorded in section in the north edge of Area 3 and during tree stump removal. Directly below the tarmac in the south end of the yard but probably truncated from the lower-lying efford bed area. Dark muddy silt with lost of flower pot shards, glass and post C19th debris. Redeposited soil over buried topsoil 015.	015	
0015	S1, S3	3	3	Layer	soil horizon	Buried top soil layer below layer 014 recorded in section in the the N edge of Area 3 - the topsoil removed during excavation of Efford bed. Top of 015 represent one-time ground surface as demonstrataed by the thin spread of mortar between 015 and 014 (S3).	016	014
0016	S3	3	3	Layer	soil horizon	Dark, charcoal-rich, organic and close textured silt. Possible occupation debris layer that contains building material (building flint, lime mortar, peg-tile and brick fragments) animal bones and frequent oyster shells. The finds material occurs uniformly throughout the deposit suggesting that it was a reworked soil or the result of secondary dumping. The brick fragments are all a plain, handmade type and their sizes suggested a 16th-18th century date. No pottery or closely datable finds, but the deposit contains no modern (Victorian or later) material,		015
0017		3	3	bonded masonry	wall	Smudgey remains of a flint and mortar wall or footing, parallel to and associated with 013 - 013 and 017 4.1m apart and runn NW-SE on a slightly different alignment from that of the greenhouse bases seen in Areas 1 and 2. (?) part of a long narrow building or bed path edging of bed shown on first edit OS		015

Summary for davidgil1-508393

OASIS ID (UID)	davidgil1-508393
Project Name	Field Observation (Monitoring) at Abbey Gardens gardener's compound
Sitename	Abbey Gardens gardener's compound
Activity type	Field Observation (Monitoring)
Project Identifier(s)	BSE 709
Planning Id	DC/21/2261, S00242119
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	David Gill
Project Dates	05-May-2022 - 30-May-2022
Location	Abbey Gardens gardener's compound NGR : TL 85673 64325 LL : 52.2457783657932, 0.718284038980307 12 Fig : 585673,264325
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Suffolk District : West Suffolk Parish : Bury St Edmunds
Project Methodology	The monitoring archaeologist was in continuous attendance during all groundwork excavations and a drawn and photographic record was made of the soil profile and archaeological features
Project Results	The monitoring of groundwork excavations within the Abbey Gardens, Bury St Edmunds revealed the remains of some of the horticultural glasshouses that occupied the site from the late 19th century until the mid-20th. The site was in the gardener's compound, located in the northeast corner of what was once the medieval abbey's Great Courtyard. Previous archaeological investigations have shown that the surface of the courtyard was 600mm below the current ground levels and the subsequent build-up is best illustrated by the half-buried 13th century door visible in the rear wall of the gardener's mess room. The build-up of material over the medieval ground surface is made up of a combination of rubble associated with the destruction of the abbey buildings and deposition of what is thought to be town rubbish; a 200-300mm thick layer of black silt that contains a large quantity of food waste, in the form of oyster and mussel shells and animal bones. This layer covers an extensive part of the Great Courtyard and was encountered again during the current monitoring. The 'town rubbish layer' was seemingly deposited during the 17-18th century and has since been buried beneath layers of imported topsoil associated with the creation of the botanical gardens and rubble from the demolition of its 19th century glasshouses; the current excavations occurred entirely within these modern upper layers
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Suffolk HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	David, Gill
HER Identifiers	
Archives	