

**LAND AT BARKER STREET/  
CLAREMONT STREET  
SHREWSBURY  
SHROPSHIRE**

**ADDITIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION**

*For*

**MORRIS PROPERTY**


CA PROJECT: 2996  
CA REPORT: 09212

DECEMBER 2009

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CLAREMONT STREET  
SHREWSBURY  
SHROPSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CA PROJECT: 2996  
CA REPORT: 09212

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date	24 December 2009
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signed	
date	24 December 2009
issue	01

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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Land at Barker Street/Claremont Street  
**Location:** Shrewsbury, Shropshire  
**NGR:** SJ 4897 1254  
**Type:** Evaluation  
**Date:** 30 November to 4 December 2009  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery  
**Accession Number:** SHYMS: A/2009/015  
**Site Code:** LBS 09

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November and December 2009 at land at Barker Street/Claremont Street, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. One trench was excavated.

Possible medieval levelling deposits were encountered within the trench. At least two main phases of post-medieval activity, the latter possibly representing the remains of the first Baptist Chapel (1780), were identified pre-dating the construction of the existing Baptist Chapel (1877-8) and Sunday School building.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November to December 2009 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Morris Property at land at Barker Street/Claremont Street, Shrewsbury, Shropshire (centred on NGR: SJ 4897 1254; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to inform the design of the proposed redevelopment of the site and to understand the archaeological implications of these designs.
- 1.2 The requirement for additional archaeological evaluation was outlined in an email from Mike Watson, Historic Environment Officer, Shropshire Council (SC) (dated 11 June 2009) and will (together with the results of the earlier phase of archaeological evaluation) enable Mike Watson to determine an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy for the whole site, once the foundation designs have been finalised.
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief for an archaeological evaluation (Watson 2008) prepared by Mike Watson. A subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by CA (2009) and approved by Mr Watson. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Managers Guide* (English Heritage 2006). It was monitored by Mr Watson, including site visits on 30 November and 2 December 2009.

### ***The site***

- 1.4 The site is approximately 0.12ha in size and is situated within the north-western part of the town centre. The site is bounded to the north-west by Barker Street car park, to the north-east by modern buildings fronting onto Claremont Street, to the south-east by Claremont Street and to the south-west by Barker Street. The site is currently occupied by the Claremont Baptist Church and associated buildings, with a taxi cab rank, bus shelter and car park along its west side fronting onto Barker Street (Fig. 2).
- 1.5 The site lies at approximately 57m AOD, with ground level dropping downward gradually to the north. The underlying geology of the area is mapped as sands and

gravels of the Recent and Pleistocene eras (BGS 1974). The natural substrate, comprising light grey brown sandy gravel, was encountered during augering from the base of the trench.

### **Archaeological background**

- 1.6 The archaeological background of the site has been summarised in a desk-based assessment (Baker 2007), the salient points are outlined below:
- 1.7 Archaeological interest in the site arises from its position within the medieval urban core of Shrewsbury, and the site is considered to be of high archaeological potential given that much of it has not been redeveloped in recent times (Watson 2008). The site is located within the early medieval district of the town known as *Romaldesham*. Archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the site suggest that the area was occupied during the Saxon period, and was subsequently an area of industrial and commercial activity during the medieval and Tudor periods with a number of high-status houses. The status of housing is known to have declined in the later post-medieval period, with large scale clearance of sub-standard housing undertaken during the 1930s (Baker 2007).
- 1.8 Two modern archaeological investigations have been undertaken in close proximity to the site. Modern features, associated with the redevelopment of the area during the 1930s, were recorded during a watching brief in 1997 during the relaying of a floor in Rowley's House. A medieval sandstone wall was recorded during a 2002 watching brief undertaken during the removal of underground fuel tanks from the west side of Bridge Street (Baker 2007).
- 1.9 The assessment report recommended a programme of further field evaluation comprising ground-penetrating radar (GPR) survey and trial-trenching. The GPR survey was undertaken in 2008 by ArchaeoPhysica Ltd and indicated that features of probable archaeological interest, including graves, services, masonry and probable floor structures, appeared to survive across the Claremont Street frontage and down the western side of the Baptist Chapel (ArchaeoPhysica 2008). The GPR survey did not include the areas inside the Baptist Chapel or Sunday School building.

- 1.10 A previous evaluation conducted by Cotswold Archaeology identified *in situ* medieval deposits comprising make-up layers and a single pit. A post-medieval surface and structure relating to small scale industrial activity were also identified (CA 2008).

### ***Archaeological objectives***

- 1.10 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist the client in designing the proposed redevelopment of the site.

### ***Methodology***

- 1.11 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of a single trench 3m in length and 3m in width, in the location shown on the attached plan.
- 1.12 The trench was excavated by hand and all archaeological deposits encountered were excavated in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.13 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003). No deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).
- 1.14 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery under accession number SHYMS: A/2009/015, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## **2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)**

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.

Details of the relative heights of the principal deposits and features expressed as metres Above Ordnance Datum (m AOD) appear in Appendix C. The trench was numbered 5 as a continuation from the previous phase of evaluation (CA 2008)

### **Trench 5 (Figs 2 & 3)**

- 2.2 Augering from the base of the trench identified the natural substrate, comprising a light grey brown sandy gravel, at a depth of 54.24m AOD; 2.35m below present ground level (bpgl). This is defined as the top of the ground surface underneath the existing floor of the Sunday School building.
- 2.3 The natural substrate was overlain by make-up deposits 527, 526 and 525 respectively. Three sherds of pottery, dating from the 13th century at the earliest, as well as 12 fragments of animal bone, were recovered from deposit 525.
- 2.4 Deposit 525 was overlain by make-up layer 524 for north-west/south-east orientated wall 523 which was located at the south-eastern edge of the trench and was abutted by cobbled surface 520 (not illustrated (n.i.)).
- 2.5 Cobbled surface 520 was overlain by an ashy make-up layer 519, which contained six fragments of late 18th-century pottery. Layer 519 was overlain in the north-western part of the trench by sandy layer 517 (n.i.) and in the south-eastern part of the trench by demolition deposit 518 which contained six sherds of late 18th to 19th-century pottery and other artefactual material.
- 2.6 It is assumed that deposit 517 was truncated by the construction cuts for walls 512 and 513 but these could not be identified on site. Wall 512 was orientated south-east/north-west and was abutted to the south-east by wall 513 which ran north-east/south-west. Wall 513 was in turn abutted by wall 511. The construction cut, 521, for the latter was identified; it cut deposit 517 and the underlying deposits and was filled by 522.
- 2.7 Walls 512, 511 and 513 were generally constructed in English Garden Wall bond from un-frogged red bricks (probably of 18th or 19th-century date) in a matrix of grey lime mortar, the former also contained a number of stone blocks towards the limit of excavation. The walls represented foundation courses but the bases were not encountered. They had all been demolished to the same level. The south-west facing elevations of walls 512 and 513 were covered in degraded lime render 515.



- 2.8 In the south-eastern part of the trench, wall 511 was abutted by further make-up deposits 518, 516 and 509, the latter containing significant quantities of building rubble, 19th-century pottery and other artefactual material. Deposit 509 was truncated by the construction cut, 508, for north-west/south-east orientated brick-lined gully 505. The bricks within this feature were of similar character to those comprising walls 512, 513 and 511.
- 2.9 The right-angled corner of an intrusion (robbing 510, Fig. 3) was identified in the western part of the trench. The north-eastern edge of the intrusion was defined by wall 512. The south-eastern edge of the intrusion followed the alignment of a south-western continuation of wall 513 which had been robbed (the impressions of bricks were visible in lime mortar 515 adhering to wall 513 in that location).
- 2.10 It appeared probable that intrusion 510 may have represented the robbing of a structure (possibly a cellar). The base of the intrusion contained a deposit of lime mortar, 507 (n.i.), overlain by make-up layers 506 and 501 (n.i.). The latter deposit contained a large amount of post-medieval and modern pottery (not retained) as well as three fragments of clay pipe (one stamped W Taylor Salop), bottle glass, and a probable fire insurance plaque consisting of a pressed copper-alloy sheet and with three feline (lion?) masks with teeth bared.
- 2.11 In the northern corner of the trench, to the north-east of wall 512 and to the north-west of wall 513, make-up layer 504 was identified and was found to contain two sherds of 19th-century pottery, as well as six fragments of cow sized bone, and a clay pipe stem stamped 'Roden/Broseley'.
- 2.12 The deposits outlined above were overlain by demolition layer 503, which comprised brick and mortar fragments and make-up layer 500/502. This was overlain by the sleeper walls for the construction of the floor of the existing Sunday School building.

### ***The Finds Evidence***

- 2.13 Artefactual material comprising quantities of pottery, ceramic building material, glass, clay tobacco pipe, ironwork, animal bone and a copper-alloy object were recovered from twelve separate deposits (Appendix B).

- 2.14 Three sherds of medieval pottery consisting of rim sherds from everted-rim jars in unglazed sandy fabrics and a bodysherd in a handmade glazed jug or pitcher fabric, were recovered from deposit 525. Pottery of post-medieval and modern date was recovered from six deposits (Appendix B). Staffordshire brown or black-glazed earthenwares, slipwares, tin-glazed earthenwares and white, salt-glazed slipwares probably all date to the 18th century. Refined whitewares including creamwares/pearlwares and transfer-printed date after c. 1780/1800.
- 2.15 Fragments of clay tobacco pipes were recovered from five deposits (Appendix B). A fragmentary bowl was recovered from deposit 503. Stem fragments with makers stamps from deposits 501 and 504, date to the 19th century (or later) and relate to known local (Shropshire) makers including the well-known Roden factory at Broseley.
- 2.16 Of note from deposit 501 is a probable fire insurance plaque with three rivet holes for fixing. It consists of a thin copper-alloy sheet and with three pressed feline (lion?) masks with teeth bared. This probably dates to the 19th century.
- 2.17 Bricks samples were taken from four separate deposits. All occur in a hard red sandy fabric with the example from wall 512 containing a number of large pebbles. All demonstrate similar proportions and weight, are un-frogged and are probably later post-medieval in date. The example from wall 513 retains a layer of sandy lime mortar.
- 2.18 Animal bone was recovered from five deposits (22 pieces, weighing 211g). Species present include cow and sheep/goat. Fragments unidentifiable to species are classified as cow-sized and chicken sized. Preservation is generally good with gnawing by dogs visible on a cattle pelvis fragment from demolition deposit 518.

### 3. DISCUSSION

#### *Medieval*

- 3.1 Deposits 525 (the top of which was identified at 55.8m AOD), 526 and 527 may represent make-up deposits of medieval date. Make-up layers of similar character were identified in trenches 3 and 4 (at heights of 55.11m AOD and 54.62m AOD respectively) during the previous phase of evaluation (CA 2008) and may represent

the same episode of activity, although the nature of this activity is currently impossible to ascertain. The results are consistent with the earlier phase of evaluation and with documentary and cartographic evidence which has suggested that this part of Shrewsbury formed a marginal area of the town associated with industrial activity during the medieval/post-medieval period (Baker 2007).

### ***Post-medieval***

- 3.2 An earlier phase of post-medieval activity is represented by wall 523 and cobbled surface 520. No dating evidence was recovered from these deposits but the cobbled surface was overlain by a deposit, 518, which contained 18th-century pottery and which may have accumulated during the use of the surface. The top of wall 523 was identified at 56m AOD. The top of the cobbled surface identified in trench 2 during the previous phase of evaluation was identified at 56.4m AOD (CA 2008).
- 3.3 Walls 512, 511, and 513 (together with the postulated wall and cellar within 510) probably represent the remains of the foundations of the first Baptist Chapel constructed in 1780 (Baker 2007, 20). The exact location of this building is unknown, however the identified walls are orientated parallel to those of the existing chapel and are indicative of a substantial construction. However the possibility exists that these remains are associated with buildings pre-dating the construction of the chapel. These remains were levelled and the cellar appears to have been removed prior to the construction of the existing Baptist Chapel and Sunday School building in 1877-8 (Baker 2007).

## **4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Kelly Saunders, assisted by Samantha Hall and Deon Whittaker. The report was written by Kelly Saunders, assisted by Samantha Hall. The illustrations were prepared by Peter Moore. The finds report was compiled by Ed McSloy and Victoria Taylor. The archive has been compiled by Kelly Saunders, and prepared for deposition by Victoria Taylor. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.

## 5. REFERENCES

ArchaeoPhysica Ltd 2008 *Barker Street, Shrewsbury: Geophysical Survey Report*  
ArchaeoPhysica report no. **BSS081**

Baker, N. 2007 *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of Land at Barker Street, Shrewsbury, Shropshire*. SCC Archaeological Service Report No **253**

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1974 *Geological Survey of Britain (England and Wales) Solid and Drift*. Sheet 152: Shrewsbury, Scale 1:50 000

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 *Land at Barker Street/Claremont Street, Shrewsbury, Shropshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 *Land at Barker Street/Claremont Street, Shrewsbury, Shropshire: Archaeological Evaluation*, CA typescript report **08140**

Watson, M. 2008 *Brief for an Archaeological Field Evaluation at Barker Street/Claremont Street, Shrewsbury*

## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

## Trench 5

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
500	Deposit	Dark Brown sandy silt and rubble makeup deposit beneath suspended floor of Chapel	>3.0	3.0	0.14	C19
501	Deposit	Mid grey brown sandy silt and rubble makeup/backfill deposit.	2.05	1.8	0.67	LC19-eC20
502	Deposit	Dark Brown sandy silt and rubble makeup deposit beneath suspended floor of Chapel.	2.0	1.16	0.05	
503	Deposit	Pinkish Grey sandy silt and rubble deposit. Including fragmentary mortar and CBM.	3.0	2.10	0.05	LC18-C19
504	Deposit	Blackish Brown sandy silt and rubble makeup layer.	0.76	0.85		C19+
505	Structure	Brick lined gully sealed with mortar. Possibly part of a garden/yard drainage.	1.0	0.3	0.07	C18-C19
506	Deposit	Slump debris from 509.	1.95	1.2	0.14	
507	Deposit	Same As 517. Slump of render material. Used to backfill void left by missing wall within cut 510.	0.70	0.5	0.2	
508	Cut	Cut of Brick lined drainage gully 505. Truncated by cut 510.	1.0	0.3	0.09	
509	Deposit	Dark Grey sandy silty clay . Redeposited garden soil.	>2.3	>1.10	0.25	C19
510	Cut	Cut for intrusion.	2.0	0.4	0.5	
511	Structure	Brick built wall	>1.50	0.47	>1.9	C18-C19
512	Structure	Brick built wall	>0.97	0.37	>1.35	C18-C19
513	Structure	Brick built wall	>1.07	0.38	>1.6	C18-C19
514	Deposit	Greyish Black sandy silt. Re-deposited garden soil butting wall 511	1.40	0.3		
515	Deposit	White lime render. Used to backfill wall cut 510	2.0	0.1	0.12	
516	Deposit	Dark Grey silty clay and demolition layer.	2.0	1.0	0.16	
517	Deposit	Dark yellowish brown silty sand. Thin skim possible surface	2.2	2.1	0.05	
518	Deposit	Dark brown sandy silt mixed demolition deposit containing broken CBM.	1.9	1.1	0.2	
519	Deposit	Dark Grey ashy silt. Large spread covering cobbled surface.	3.1	2.08	0.19	LC18+
520	Deposit	Dark grey cobbles. Covers small area possible path or yard surface.	1.6	0.4	0.1	
521	Cut	Cut for wall 511.	0.8	0.13	1.36	
522	Deposit	Mid brown sandy silt containing broken CBM. Backfill of cut 521.	0.8	0.13	1.36	
523	Structure	Brick and cobble wall visible in section butted by cobbled surface 520.	1.87		0.19	
524	Deposit	Dark blackish brown sandy silt and rubble. Makeup layer for placement of cobbled surface 520	1.6	2.8	0.21	
525	Deposit	Light pinky brown sandy silt makeup layer.	>3.0	1.9	0.63	C13+
526	Deposit	Mid brownish pink fine silty clay.	>1.0	>1.0	0.27	
527	Deposit	Mid greyish brown sandy silt layer.	>1.0	>1.0	0.34	
528	Deposit	Light greyish brown gravelly sand. Natural.		>0.10	>0.34	

## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Material	Count	Weight(g)	Spot date
500	Post-medieval/modern pottery: Creamware (transfer-printed); black-glazed earthenware	2	92	C19
	Glass: pale green bottle glass	1	18	
	Shell: Oyster	1	46	
501	Cua object: sheet metal fire insurance plaque with embossed ?lion head motifs	1	54	LC19-eC20
	Clay pipe: Stem stamped [W Taylor Salop]	3	10	
	Glass: Bottle glass	1	51	
503	Modern pottery: transfer-print decorated china	6	19	LC18-C19
	Clay pipe: spurred pipe bowl; stem	2	12	
	Animal bone: Sheep/goat	1	32	
	Fe nail:	1	26	
504	Animal bone: Cow, sheep/goat, cow-sized	6	46	C19+
	Post-medieval/modern pottery: black-glazed	2	38	
	Clay pipe: Stamped stem [-/Roden/Broseley]	1	2	
505	Brick: W. 230mm; L. 105mm; D. 70mm	1	3300	C18-C19
509	Modern pottery: Creamware; Pearlware; transfer-decorated china; tin-glazed earthenware; Staffs yellow slipware; Staffs mottled-brown glazed earthenware	19	317	C19
	Clay pipe: Stem	2	8	
	Shell: Oyster	1	16	
	Glass:	2	7	
	Animal bone: Cow-sized, chicken-sized	3	13	
511	Brick: W. 238mm; L. 150mm; D. 63mm	1	3300	C18-C19
512	Brick: W. 220mm; L. 90mm; D. 62mm	1	2900	C18-C19
513	Brick: W. 230mm; L. 105mm; D63mm	1	3300	C18-C19
518	Animal bone: cow-sized	2	99	LC18-C19
	Modern pottery: Creamware; Staffs black-glazed earthenware	6	596	
	Glass: green bottle; window	2	66	
	Clay pipe: stems	2	4	
	CBM: frag	1	2	
519	Post-medieval pottery: Staffs slipware; Staffs mottled-brown glazed earthenware; white salt-glazed stoneware; Creamware	6	204	LC18+
	Glass: brown bottle glass	1	352	
525	Animal bone	12	21	C13+
	Medieval pottery: sandy coarsewares; hand-made sandy glazed ware	3	42	

### APPENDIX C: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES

Levels are expressed as metres below current ground level (defined as the top of the ground surface underneath the existing floor of the Sunday School building) and as metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), calculated using the benchmark located at Claremont Baptist Church (57.25m AOD).

	Trench 5
Current ground level	0.00m (56.60m)
Top of post-medieval structural remains	0.12m (56.48m)
Top of probable medieval deposits	0.80m (55.80m)
Limit of hand excavation	2.02m (54.60m)
Top of probable natural deposits	2.36m (54.24m)
Limit of hand augering	2.38m (54.26m)

Upper figures are depth below modern ground level; lower figures in parentheses are metres AOD.


## APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

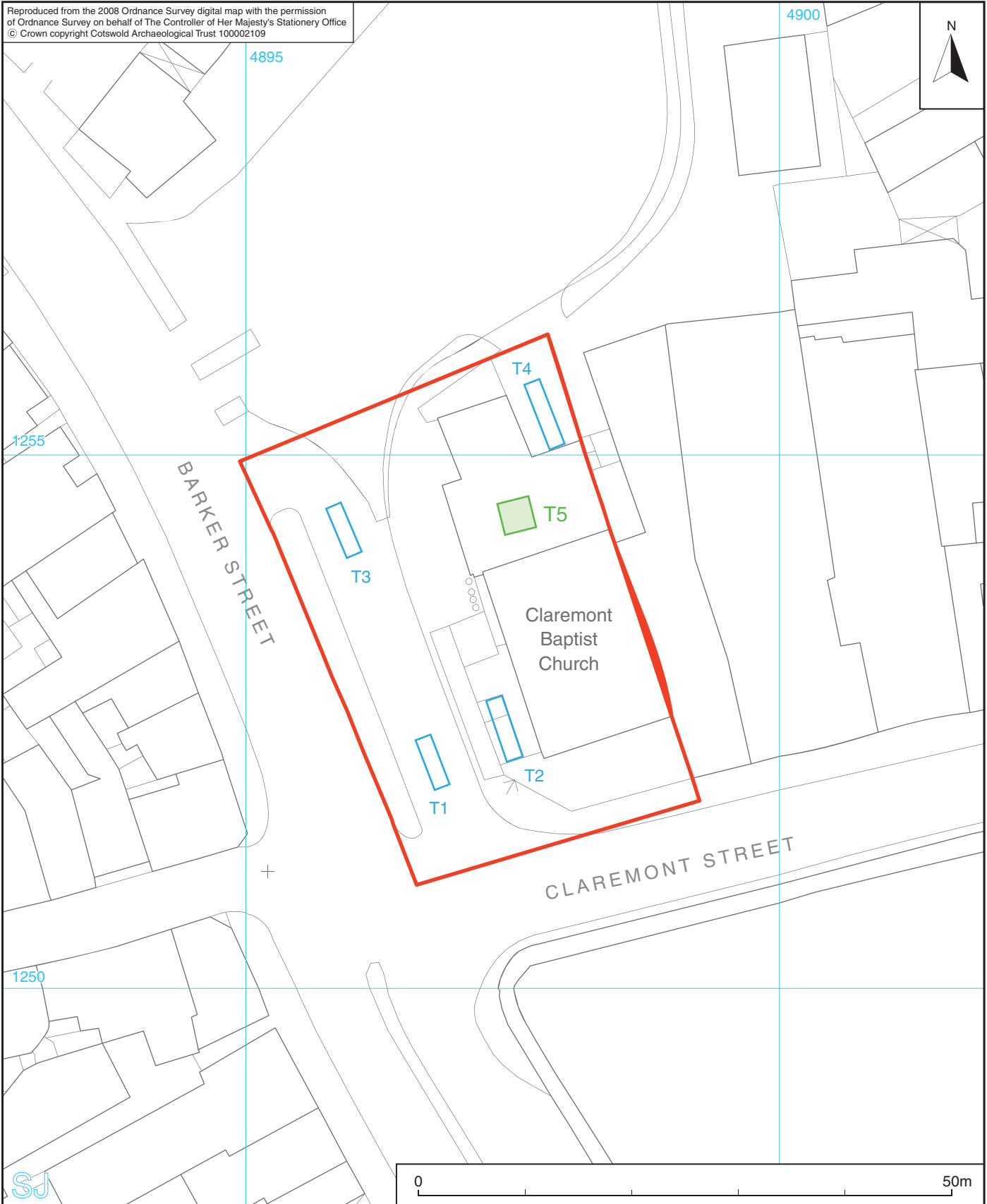
<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Land at Barker Street/Claremont Street, Shrewsbury, Shropshire	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November and December 2009 at land at Barker Street/Claremont Street, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. One trench was excavated.  Possible medieval levelling deposits were encountered within the trench. At least two main phases of post-medieval activity (the latter possibly representing the remains of the first Baptist Chapel (1780) were identified pre-dating the construction of the existing Baptist Chapel (1877-8) and Sunday School building.	
Project dates	30 November to 4 December	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Desk based assessment (Barker 2007) Archaeological Evaluation (CA 2008) Ground penetrating Radar Survey (ArchaeoPhysica Ltd 2008)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Land at Barker Street/Claremont Street, Shrewsbury Shropshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	1.2ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SJ 4897 1254	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Shropshire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Kelly Saunders	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery SHYMS: A/2009/015	Ceramics, animal bone, metal work
Paper	Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery SHYMS: A/2009/015	Recording sheets and registers, drawings, b/w photos
Digital	Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery SHYMS: A/2009/015	Digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 <i>Land at Barker/Claremont Street, Shrewsbury, Shropshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report <b>09212</b>		



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 <b>COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY</b>			
PROJECT TITLE <b>Land at Barker Street/Claremont Street, Shrewsbury, Shropshire</b>			
FIGURE TITLE <b>Site location plan</b>			
DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
PJM	1:25,000@A4	2996	<b>1</b>



SJ

- site
- evaluation trench
- evaluation trench (CA 2008)



**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE

**Land at Barker Street/Claremont Street, Shrewsbury, Shropshire**

FIGURE TITLE

**Trench location plan**

DRAWN BY

PJM

SCALE

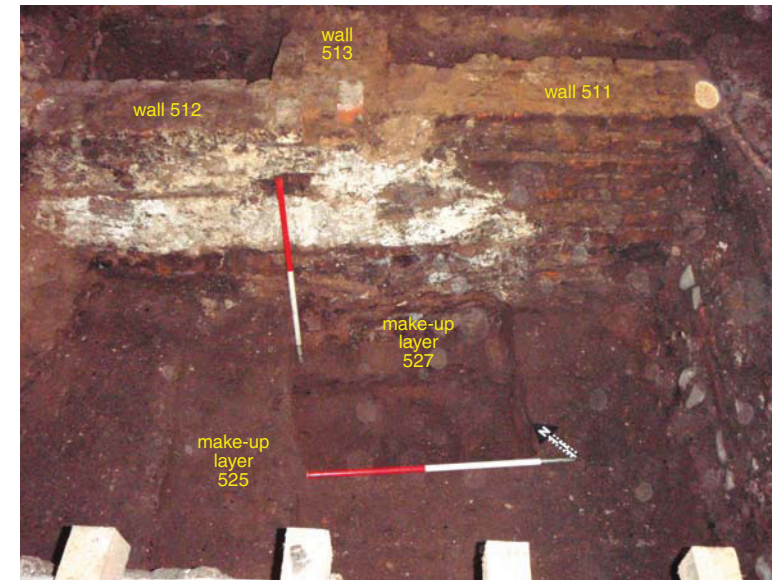
1:500@A4

PROJECT NO.

2996

FIGURE NO.

**2**



- medieval deposit
- wall
- ⊕ auger borehole

Section AA

