

**2, Abbey Cottages  
Abbey Precinct, Church Street  
Tewkesbury  
Gloucestershire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**



for  
Mr R Bellairs

CA Project: 5416  
CA Report: 15550

July 2015



2, Abbey Cottages  
Abbey Precinct, Church Street  
Tewkesbury  
Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	24 August 2015	Sikko van der Brug	Cliff Bateman	Draft	Internal review	

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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** 2, Abbey Cottages  
**Location:** Abbey Precinct, Church Street, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire  
**NGR:** SO 8894 3237  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 1 June 2015  
**SMC:** S00103502  
**Location of Archive:** Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery  
**Site Code:** ABB15

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the relocation of an existing fence at 2, Abbey Cottages, Abbey Precinct, Church Street, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 1 July 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Mr R Bellairs at 2, Abbey Cottages, Abbey Precinct, Church Street, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SO 8894 3237 Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil conditions attached to Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) granted by English Heritage (now Historic England) for the relocation of an existing fence to provide a parking area (SMC ref. S00103502).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015) and approved by Hugh Beamish, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 Abbey Cottages is situated 80m south-west of Tewkesbury Abbey, close to the Abbey Gate. It is bound by Church Street and Abbey Precinct to the northwest and northeast respectively, by gravel hardstanding to the southeast and gardens to the southwest.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area, mapped as Mudstone and Limestone of the Carboniferous period (BGS 2015), was not observed during the current work.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The development area lies in an area of archaeological significance within part of a Scheduled Monument; *Site of St Mary's Abbey* (National Monument 21704). The monument includes the known area of the main precinct of the Benedictine Abbey of St Mary's and the earlier 8th-century priory. The history of the monument is comparatively well documented. A priory was founded here by the end of the 8th century. In 980 AD the Benedictine cell at Tewkesbury was subordinated to Cranborne Abbey in Dorset and it was 1102 before the abbey was re-founded in Tewkesbury. This abbey was consecrated in 1123 and dissolved in 1540. The

Scheduled area also contains a number of listed buildings including Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Abbey Cottages.

### **3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

### **4. METHODOLOGY**

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2015). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks, comprising the hand excavation of nine postholes, each typically measuring 0.3m by 0.3m in plan and 0.6m in depth (see Fig. 2 for locations and extent).

4.2 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.3 The archive from the watching brief, which is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble, will be deposited with the Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

### **5. RESULTS**

5.1 An analogous stratigraphic sequence was identified within each of the excavated postholes. The earliest deposit encountered was a modern topsoil, typically revealed 0.2m below the present ground level. This deposit was at least 0.4m in depth, being observed to the formation level in each of the postholes, and was overlain by a sand and gravel levelling layer for the existing paved surface.

5.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks. A small number of unstratified post-medieval/ modern artefacts were recovered from the topsoil deposits but were not retained.

## 6. DISCUSSION

6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological features or deposits within the area of observed groundworks. The presence of a topsoil deposit in excess of 0.4m in depth suggests a former horticultural use within the current area prior to the construction of the modern paving.

## 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Sikko van der Brug. The report was written by Sikko van der Brug. The illustrations were prepared by Lucy Martin. The archive has been compiled by Sikko van der Brug and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

## 8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer*  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>  
Accessed 11 March 2015

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 2, *Abbey Cottages, Abbey Precinct, Church Street, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	Diame-ter (m)	Depth /thick-ness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		topsoil	sandy-silt, dark-grey, humic with small rounded pebbles	>0.36	0.5	
2	200	Layer		topsoil	sandy-silt, dark-grey, humic with small rounded pebbles	>0.36	0.58	
3	300	Layer		construction layer	Light yellow-brown sand	>0.35	0.1	modern
3	301	Layer		topsoil	sandy-silt, dark-grey, humic with small rounded pebbles	>0.35	0.47	
4	400	Paving		modern surface	flagstones	0.4-0.6	0.09	modern
4	401	Layer		construction layer	Light yellow-brown sand and light grey gravel	>0.3	0.11	modern
4	402	Layer		topsoil	sandy-silt, dark-grey, humic with small rounded pebbles	>0.3	0.36	
5	500	Paving		modern surface	flagstones	0.4-0.6	0.09	modern
5	501	Layer		construction layer	Light yellow-brown sand and light grey gravel	>0.3	0.08	modern
5	502	Layer		topsoil	sandy-silt, dark-grey, humic with small rounded pebbles and rare cbm	>0.3	0.4	
6	600	Paving		modern surface	flagstones	0.4-0.6	0.09	modern
6	601	Layer		construction layer	Light yellow-brown sand and light grey gravel	>0.28	0.08	modern
6	602	Layer		topsoil	sandy-silt, dark-grey, humic with small rounded pebbles	>0.28	0.08	
7	700	Paving		modern surface	flagstones	0.4-0.6	0.09	modern
7	701	Layer		construction layer	Light yellow-brown sand and light grey gravel	>0.32	0.03	modern
7	702	Layer		topsoil	sandy-silt, dark-grey, humic with small rounded pebbles	>0.32	0.52	
8	800	Layer		Construction layer	Light yellow-brown sand and light grey gravel	>0.35	0.1	modern
8	801	Layer		topsoil	sandy-silt, dark-grey, humic with small rounded pebbles	>0.35	0.44	
9	900	Layer		topsoil	sandy-silt, dark-grey, humic with small rounded pebbles	>0.4	0.6	



**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	2, Abbey Cottages, Abbey Precinct, Church Street, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the relocation of an existing fence at 2, Abbey Cottages, Abbey Precinct, Church Street, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks.	
Project dates	1 July 2015	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	2, Abbey Cottages, Abbey Precinct, Church Street, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	40m <sup>2</sup>	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 8894 3237	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Sikko van der Brug	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Location of Archive	Type
Physical		
Paper	Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery	Site Records
Digital	Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery	Survey Data, photographs
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 2, <i>Abbey Cottages, Abbey Precinct, Church Street, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report <b>15550</b> .		

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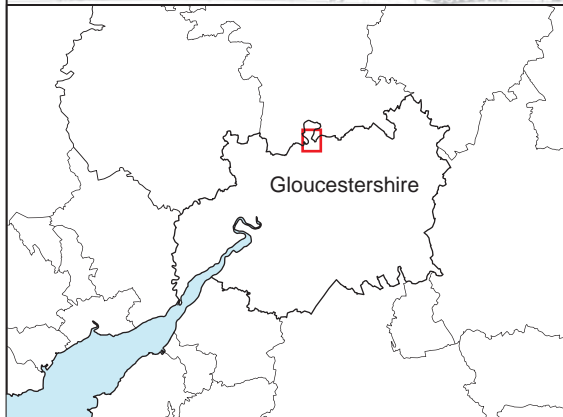
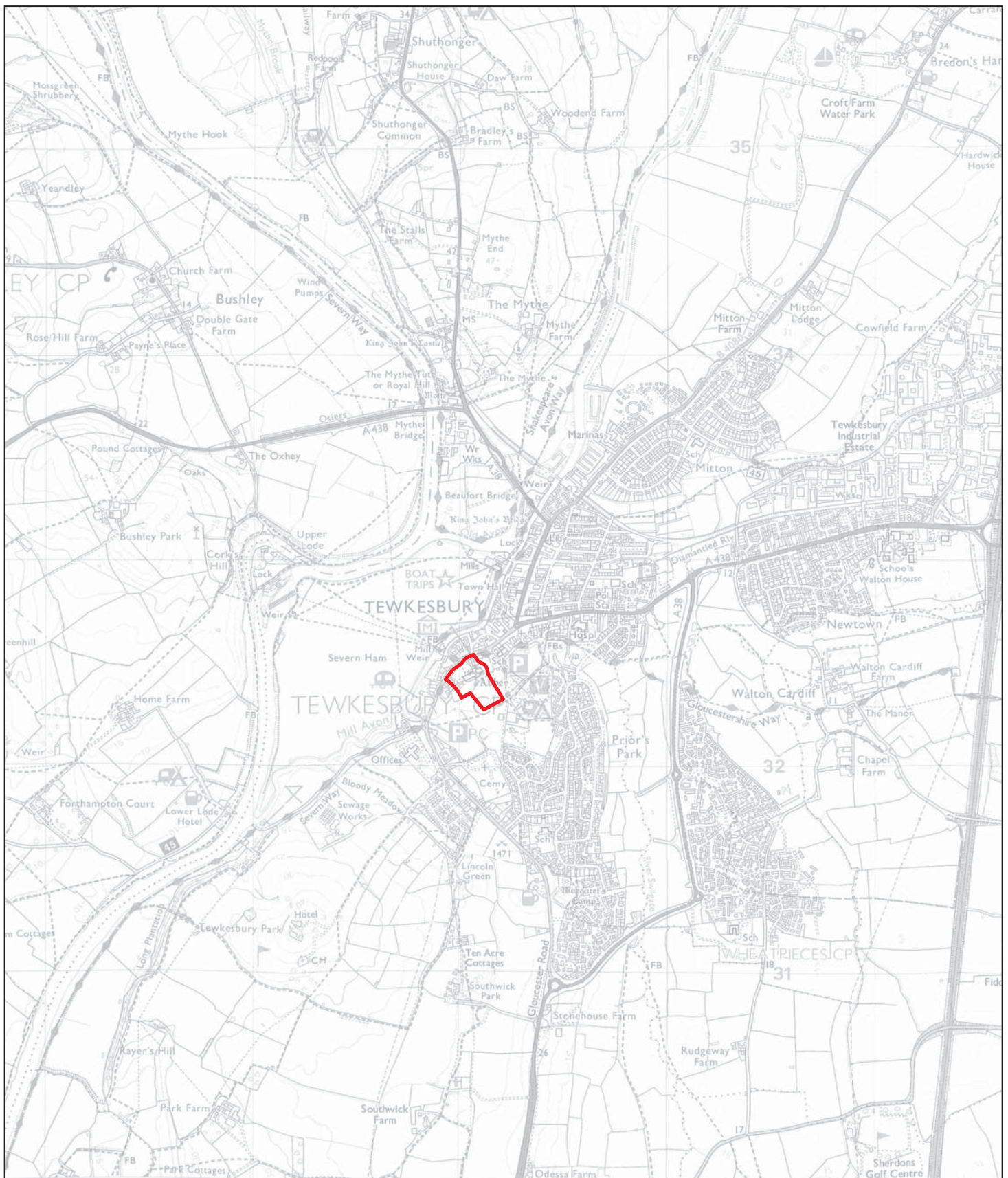
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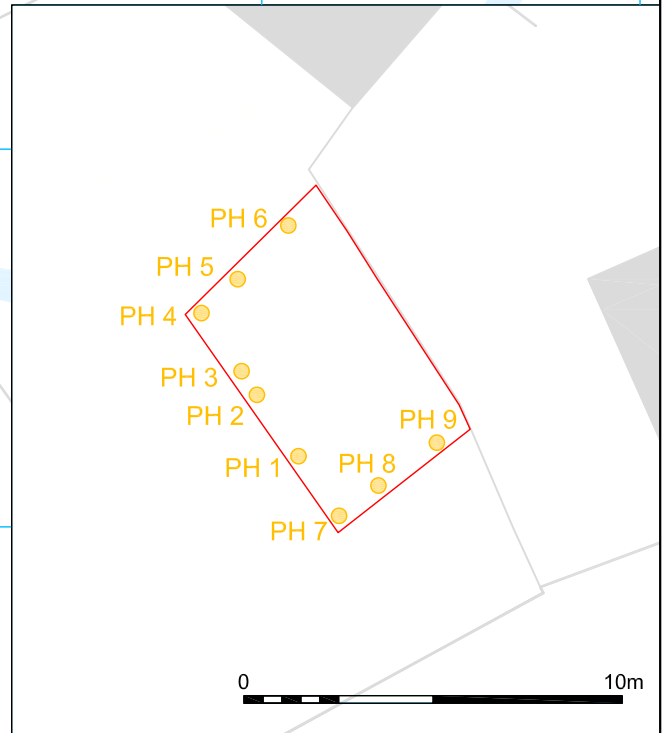
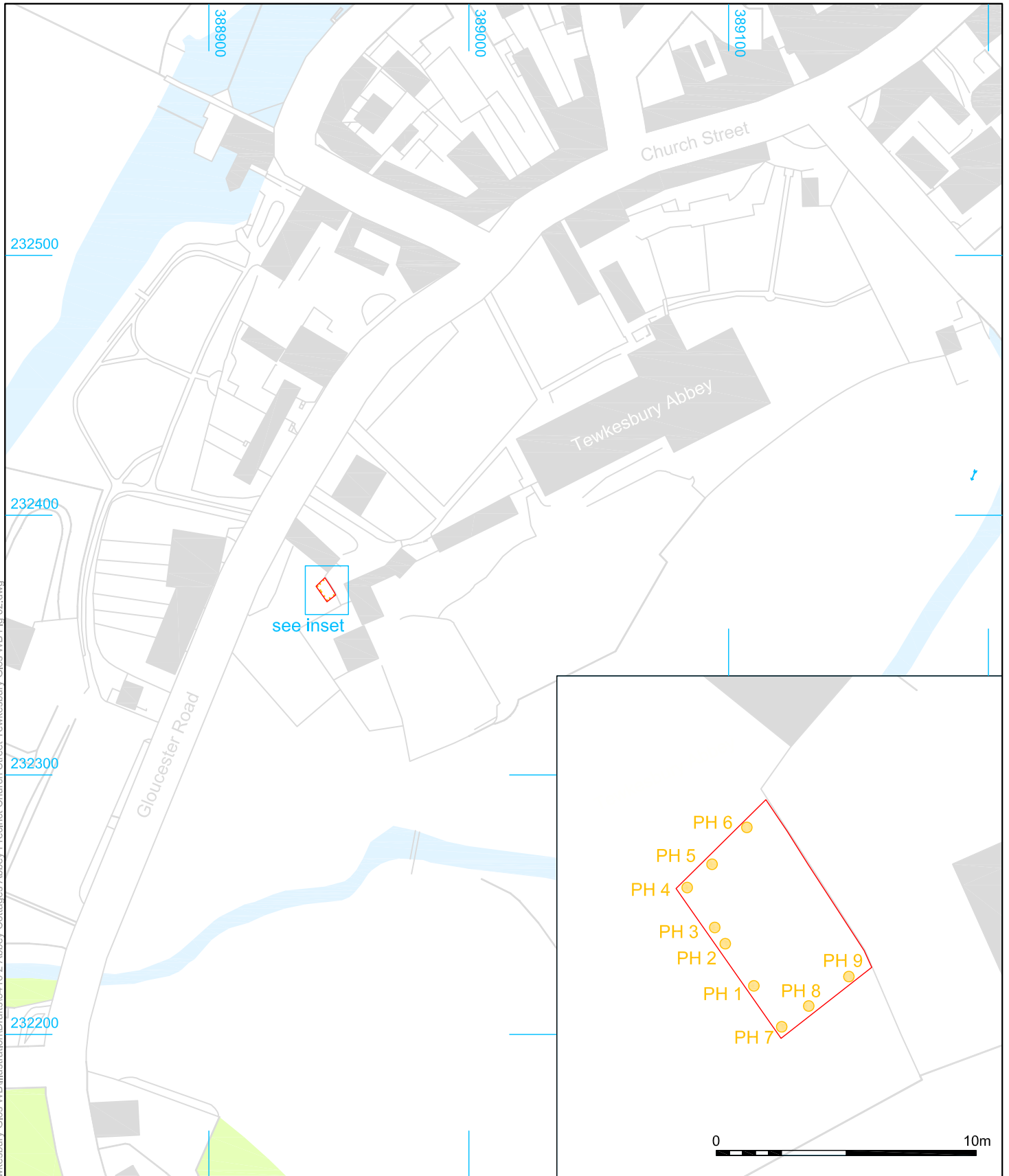
**PROJECT TITLE**  
 2, Abbey Cottages, Abbey Precinct  
 Church Street, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

**DRAWN BY** LM **PROJECT NO.** 5416  
**CHECKED BY** DB **DATE** 14/07/15  
**APPROVED BY** CB **SCALE@A4** 1:25,000

**FIGURE NO.**

**1**



- site boundary
- observed posthole



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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Location of observed groundworks

<b>DRAWN BY</b>	LM	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	5416	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	RP	<b>REVISION</b>	01	<b>2</b>
<b>DATE</b>	03/08/2015	<b>SCALE@A4</b>	1:2000 (1:200)	





3



4

3 Postholes 7 & 8, looking north-east

4 Postholes 4, 5 & 6, looking north-east



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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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FIGURE NO.

3 & 4