

**LAND ADJACENT TO  
54 BARTON STREET  
TEWKESBURY**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND  
SAMPLE**

*For*

**PSC RENOVATIONS**

CA PROJECT: 2496  
CA REPORT: 08061


OCTOBER 2008



LAND ADJACENT TO  
54 BARTON STREET  
TEWKESBURY  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE

CA PROJECT: 2496  
CA REPORT: 08061

prepared by	Kelly Saunders, Project Supervisor
date	26 September 2008
checked by	Richard Young, Project Manager
date	7 October 2008
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	8 October 2008
issue	01

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	54 Barton Street
<b>Location:</b>	Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire
<b>NGR:</b>	SO 8951 3271
<b>Type:</b>	Strip, Map and Sample
<b>Date:</b>	7 January – 1 February 2008
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	07/01163/FUL
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Cheltenham Museum and Art gallery
<b>Site Code:</b>	TBS 08

An archaeological strip, map and sample exercise was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology on land adjacent to 54 Barton Street, Tewkesbury prior to the erection of four dwellings.

Three parallel ditches and two pits, all dating to the Roman period, were uncovered, along with a single medieval pit. One of the pits contained pottery of 1st to 2nd-century AD date. They may represent early Roman quarrying activity. The ditches may date to the later Roman period and probably represent boundary or drainage ditches. These features were located immediately to the south of Barton Street, with any potential further features to the south removed by post medieval cellars and other modern intrusions.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January and February 2008 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological strip, map and sample exercise for PSC Renovations on land adjacent to 54 Barton Street, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SO 8951 3270; Fig. 1). The strip, map and sample exercise was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for the construction of four dwellings (planning ref: 07/01163/FUL).
- 1.2 The strip, map and sample exercise was carried out in accordance with a brief prepared by Mr Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), the archaeological advisor to Tewkesbury Borough Council, and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2007) and approved by Mr Parry. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1995) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The area of the strip, map and sample exercise covers approximately 125m<sup>2</sup>. The site comprises a tarmac surfaced open-air car park, with buildings to both east and west and Barton Street to the north (Fig. 2). The northern part of the site lies at approximately 14m AOD and rises up gently to the south.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as the Third (main) Terrace of the River Severn of the Quaternary era (BGS 1988). The sand and gravel substrate was identified across the excavation area

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.5 Barton Street formed part of the medieval street system of Tewkesbury. An evaluation at Orchard Court, immediately to the east of the current site, revealed features that had been backfilled in the post-medieval period, but which contained a large quantity of Romano-British and medieval finds (Nichols 1999).

- 1.6 An archaeological evaluation was carried out on the site in 2003 (Michaels 2003) during which two Romano-British ditches were revealed at the northern end of the site (Fig. 2).

### ***Archaeological Objectives***

- 1.7 The academic objectives of the programme of archaeological recording were:
- i) To ensure that a full and detailed archaeological record of the site was compiled.
  - ii) To elucidate the chronology and phasing of the archaeological remains and establish the form, function, character and status of the activity on the site.

### ***Methodology***

- 1.8 Initially the entire site was to be subject to the strip, map and sample exercise. However it became clear during the initial groundworks that the southern two-thirds of the site had been completely truncated by post-medieval cellars and other modern intrusions. The study area was further reduced due to the need to avoid undermining adjacent party walls to the east and west of the site. This alteration to the original WSI (CA 2007) was carried out with the approval of Mr Parry, GCC (Fig. 2).
- 1.9 The excavation area was stripped by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.10 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 archive and artefacts will be deposited with Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

- 1.11 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), however no deposits suitable for sampling were identified. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).

## 2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

- 2.1 Three ditches and three pits were uncovered to the north of the site during the strip, map and sample exercise. The southern part of the site had been heavily truncated in the post-medieval period by the excavation of brick lined cellars, with very little undisturbed natural substrate being observed during the excavation of the building foundations.
- 2.2 The earliest feature encountered, pit 503, was irregular in plan and profile, and contained a single sherd of 1st to 2nd-century AD pottery. Ditch 508 was just visible within the northern boundary of the site and contained no dateable material. These features were cut by ditch 506, which ran parallel to Barton Street. This contained four sherds of 12th to 14th-century pottery, but where excavated to the west (510) only Roman pottery was recovered. The sherds of Roman pottery from 510 were of 1st to 4th-century AD date. They were relatively un-abraded, suggesting that the medieval pottery in ditch 506 to the west is contamination from pit 517, which cuts ditch 506. Pit 517 contained four sherds of 12th to 14th-century pottery and residual Roman material. To the west a much smaller pit, 516, was also cut by ditch 506, but contained no dateable material. To the south of ditch 510 a shallow ditch 512, runs parallel with it, and contained a single sherd of Roman pottery.
- 2.3 These Roman and medieval features were covered by up to 1m of modern mixed material and 0.26m of modern make-up and tarmac.

### ***The Finds and Palaeoenvironmental Evidence***

- 2.4 Quantities of pottery and animal bone were recovered from five deposits (Appendix B).

- 2.5 Roman pottery types present in pit fill 502 and ditch fills 509 and 511 consist of local Malvernian gritted ware and Severn Valley ware, which date from the 1st to 4th-century AD.
- 2.6 Medieval pottery types present in pit fill 504 and ditch fill 505 consist of Minety-type and unglazed Malvernian coarseware fabrics and are consistent with 12th to 14th-century dating. Identifiable forms include a jug (handle) of Minety ware and a cooking pot (jar) in the Malvernian unglazed fabric type.
- 2.7 Animal bone was recovered from four deposits; the species identified were cattle, sheep and cat. The remainder was too fragmented to identify fully but comprised bones from cow-sized and sheep sized animals. The sheep (ram) horn core from 504 had cutmarks at the base consistent with the removal of the horn sheath. The animal bone was well preserved but had suffered some modern breakage.

### 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Pits 503 and 516 may represent early Roman quarrying activity, as the natural substrate, large riverine pebbles and sand, would constitute a useful building material. The paucity of bone and pottery fragments suggests they were not then used as rubbish pits, indicating that at this time Roman settlement may have been concentrated elsewhere, possibly to the north within the Oldbury area of Tewkesbury, as postulated by Hannon (1993, 24).
- 3.2 Ditches 506, 508 and 512, probably represent boundary or drainage ditches. As they would appear to date from the later Roman period i.e. after the 2nd century AD this could suggest that the area had begun to be used as a settlement in the later Roman period. This could give a possible date for the initial foundation of Barton Street, possibly as a branch of the main Roman road between Worcester and Gloucester to the west. Ditches 506, 510 and 514 correspond to ditches 204 and 107 respectively, originally excavated in 2003 (Michaels 2003). The north-west/south-east ditch 105 (also excavated in 2003) was not identified, however a distinct band of clay, sand and gravel was identified interleaved with the gravel and sand substrate in this area.



3.3 During the post-medieval period a number of brick lined cellars were built, and during the original evaluation (ibid.) a post-medieval ditch was recorded in the southern part of the site. No material pre-dating the modern period was recovered during a watching brief in this area.

#### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Kelly Saunders, who also wrote this report. The illustrations were prepared by Jemma Elliott. The archive has been compiled by Kelly Saunders, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

#### 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1988 *Sheet 216: Tewkesbury: Solid and Drift. 1:50,000 series*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2007 *Land Adjacent to 54 Barton Street, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation.*

Hannan, A. 1993 'Excavations at Tewkesbury', *Trans Bristol Gloucestershire Archaeol Soc* **111**, 21-75

Michaels, T. 2003 *54 Barton Street, Tewkesbury: Archaeological Evaluation.* Foundations Archaeology report no. **268**

Nichols, P. 1999 'Orchard Court, Barton Street', *Trans Bristol Gloucestershire Archaeol. Soc.* **117**, 184

## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
500	Layer	Natural Substrate				
501	Layer	Post-medieval make up			1m	Modern
502	Fill	Fill of 503, dark orange brown sandy silt	>1.27	>0.9	0.45	C1-2
503	Cut	Pit, irregular sides and base	>1.27	>0.9	0.45	C1-2
504	Fill	Fill of 517, dark grey clay silt, frequent large pebbles	n/k	0.55	0.2	C12-14
505	Fill	Fill of 506, mid brown grey clay silt, occasional medium pebbles	>1.1	0.7	0.24	?RB
506	Cut	E-W ditch, concave and even sides and base	>1.1	0.7	0.24	?RB
507	Fill	Fill of 508, dark orange brown silty sand	>1.1	>0.28	>0.41	
508	Cut	E-W ditch, heavily truncated	>1.1	>0.28	>0.41	
509	Fill	Fill of 510, dark brown grey silty clay, occasional small pebbles	>0.9	0.67	0.2m	RB
510	Cut	E-W ditch, concave and even sides and base	>0.9	0.67	0.2	RB
511	Fill	Fill of 512, dark brown grey clay, sand and silt, occasional medium and large pebbles	>0.75	0.39	0.18	RB
512	Cut	E-W ditch, concave and shallow sides and base	>0.75	0.39	0.18	RB
513	Fill	Fill of 514, dark brown grey silty clay and sand, occasional medium pebbles	>0.28	>0.25	>0.1	
514	Cut	E-W ditch, only partially excavated	>0.28	>0.25	>0.1	
515	Fill	Fill of 516, dark brown grey silty clay and sand, rare medium pebbles	0.14	0.35	0.07	
516	Cut	Pit, shallow irregular sides and base	0.14	0.35	0.07	
517	Cut	Pit, irregular sides and base	n/k	0.55	0.2	C12-14
518	Layer	Tarmac surface	n/k	n/k	0.08	Modern
519	Layer	Gravel bedding for tarmac	n/k	n/k	0.18	Modern

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**APPENDIX B: THE FINDS**

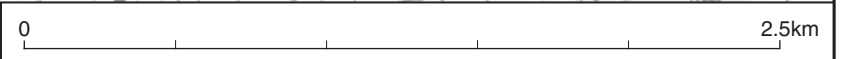
<b>Context</b>	<b>Artefact type</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>	<b>Spot-date</b>
502	Roman pottery: Malvernian type	1	16	C1-C2
	Animal bone: cattle, cat	6	53	
504	Medieval pottery: Minety, Malvernian unglazed	4	565	MC12-C14
	Animal bone: sheep, sheep-sized	2	180	
505	Medieval pottery: Malvernian unglazed, micaceous gritted ware	2	39	C12-C14
	Animal bone: cow-sized, sheep-sized	3	121	
509	Roman pottery: Severn Valley Ware, Malvernian type	3	103	RB
	Animal bone: cow-sized	5	124	
511	Roman pottery: Severn Valley Ware	1	6	RB

**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Land Adjacent to 54 Barton Street, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological strip, map and sample exercise was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology on land adjacent to 54 Barton Street, Tewkesbury prior to the erection of four dwellings. Three parallel ditches and two pits, all dating to the Roman period, were uncovered, along with a single medieval pit. One of the pits contained pottery of 1st to 2nd-century AD date. They may represent early Roman quarrying activity. The ditches may date to the later Roman period and probably represent boundary or drainage ditches. These features were located immediately to the south of Barton Street. Any further features to the south may have been removed by post medieval cellars and modern intrusions.	
Project dates		
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Strip, Map and Sample.	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Previous evaluation by Foundations Archaeology in 2003 (Michaels 2003)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Land Adjacent to 54 Barton Street, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	125m <sup>2</sup>	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 8951 3270	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Gloucestershire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Kelly Saunders	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery	Ceramics, animal bone, photographs
Paper	Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery	Pro-forma recording sheets, plans, colour slides and black and white photographs
Digital	Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery	Digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2007 <i>Land Adjacent to 54 Barton Street, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Strip Map and Sample</i> CA typescript report <b>08061</b></p> <p>Michaels, T. 2003 <i>54 Barton Street, Tewkesbury: Archaeological Evaluation</i>. Foundations Archaeology report no. <b>268</b></p>		



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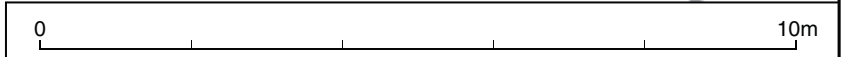
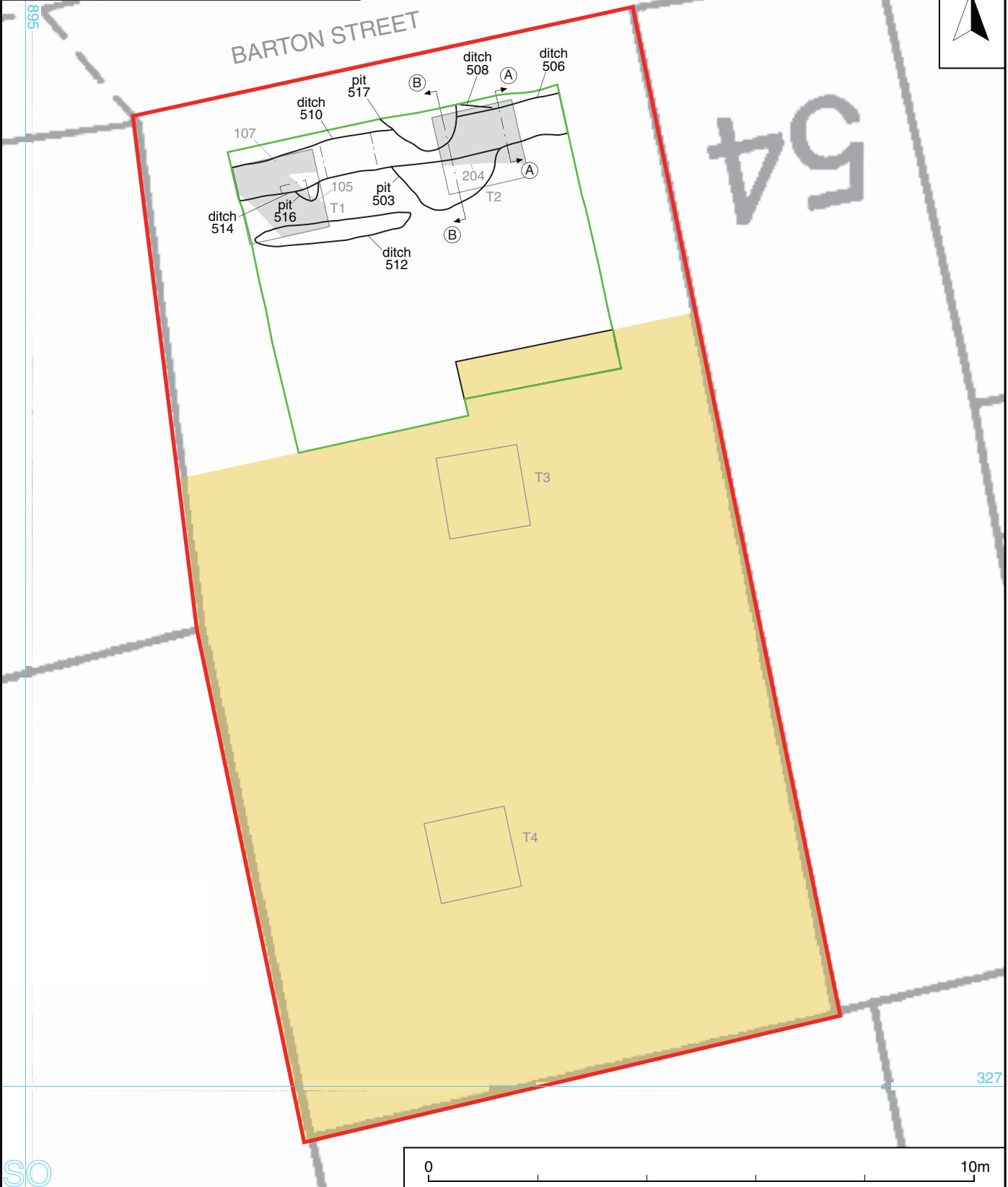


 **COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE  
**Land adjacent to 54 Barton Street  
 Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Site location plan**

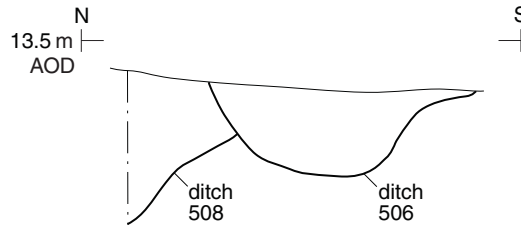
DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
JE	1:25,000@A4	2496	<b>1</b>



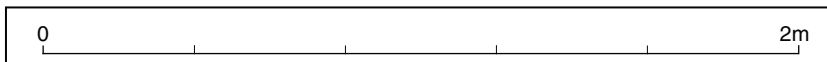
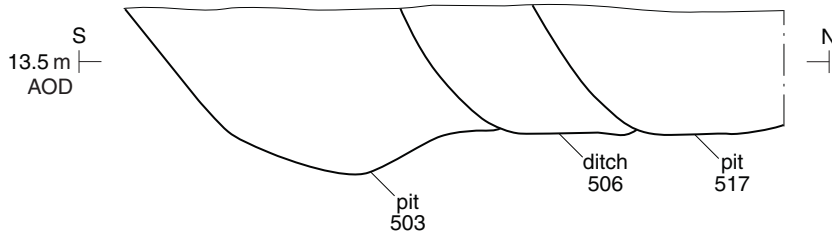
- site
- area of strip, map and sample showing archaeological feature
- evaluation trench showing archaeological feature
- area of post-medieval cellars/modern truncations

<b>COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY</b>			
<small>PROJECT TITLE</small> Land adjacent to 54 Barton Street Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire			
<small>FIGURE TITLE</small> <b>Plan of site, showing                  archaeological features</b>			
<small>DRAWN BY</small> JE	<small>SCALE</small> 1:100@A4	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> 2496	<small>FIGURE NO.</small> <b>2</b>

Section AA



Section BB



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Land adjacent to 54 Barton Street  
Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

**Sections AA and BB**

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JE

SCALE

1:20@A4

PROJECT NO.

2496

FIGURE NO.

**3**