

**Land next to Somerdale Pavilion
Trajectus Way
Keynsham
Bath and North East Somerset**

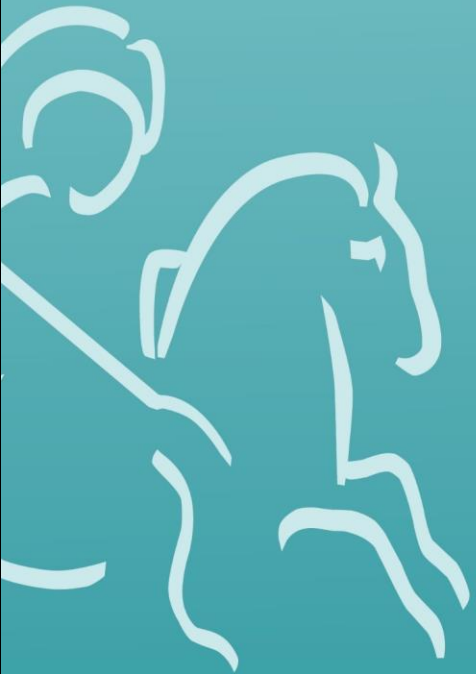
Archaeological Watching Brief



for:
St Monica Trust (Bristol)

CA Project: CR1095
CA Report: CR1095_1
OASIS ID: cotswold2-506780

June 2022



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A	14 June 2022	Mark Brett	Monica Fombellida	First Issue	-	Alex Thomson

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	4
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
4. METHODOLOGY.....	5
5. RESULTS.....	5
6. DISCUSSION.....	6
7. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	6
8. REFERENCES.....	6
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	8
APPENDIX B: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES	8
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM	9

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Location of observed investigation trenches (1:500)
- Fig. 3 Site photograph
- Fig. 4 Trench 1 photograph
- Fig. 5 Trench 2 photograph
- Fig. 6 Trench 3 photograph

SUMMARY

Project name:	Land next to Somerdale Pavilion
Location:	Trajectus Way, Keynsham, Bath and North East Somerset
NGR:	365646 169445
Type:	Watching brief
Date:	12–16 May 2022
Planning reference:	BANES ref: 20/03152/FUL
OASIS ID:	cotswold2-506780
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Roman Baths Museum
Site Code:	SPK 22

In May 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during Site Investigation works on land next to Somerdale Pavilion, Trajectus Way, Keynsham, Bath and North East Somerset.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed, and no artefactual material was recovered. Modern dumped deposits were identified across the site, representing infilling of a former basement.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In May 2022, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief during Site Investigation (SI) works on land next to Somerdale Pavilion, Trajectus Way, Keynsham, Bath and North East Somerset (centred at NGR: 365646 169445; Fig. 1). This watching brief was undertaken for St Monica Trust.
- 1.2. Bath and North-East Somerset Council (BANESC) has granted planning permission for the erection of 44no. extra care units and ancillary works (planning ref: 20/03152/FUL). Condition 13 of this planning permission requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with an approved *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI).
- 1.3. The scope of this watching brief was defined by Steven Membery, Senior Historic Environment Officer, South West Heritage Trust (SWHT), the archaeological advisor to BANESC. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a WSI prepared by CA (2022) and approved by Steven Membery.
- 1.4. The watching brief was also undertaken in line with *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.5. The development site is approximately 0.27ha in extent and consists of the location of a former 1960s factory building. The site is located on the northern outskirts of Keynsham and is bounded to the south-west and south-east by Trajectus Way, to the north-west by Somerdale Pavilion and to the north-east by residential properties. The site lies at approximately 21m AOD and is broadly level.
- 1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as interbedded Limestone and Mudstone of the Wilmcote Limestone Member, which formed in the Jurassic and Triassic Periods (BGS 2022). The natural geological substrate was not identified during the course of the watching brief.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The site has not previously been subject to any archaeological work, although numerous excavations have been undertaken in the vicinity.
- 2.2. A Bronze Age enclosure and isolated pits were identified by geophysical survey (AS 2009) and encountered during a later watching brief (CA 2015a) within the vicinity of the site. The datable material recovered comprised flint and Bronze Age/Iron Age pottery fragments.
- 2.3. Extensive buried Roman remains were discovered directly to the east of the site, firstly recorded during geophysical survey (AS 2009) and investigated during later excavation (AC 2012). The remains included a Roman well, a number of burials and a Roman villa.
- 2.4. Archaeological features dated to mid 1st to 2nd centuries AD were encountered during an archaeological excavation (CA 2015b), undertaken c. 300m to the south of the site. The features were likely used to facilitate management of livestock. Later prehistoric pottery sherds were occasionally present as residual finds within Roman features.
- 2.5. The site is located c. 75m to the north-east of the Scheduled Monument '*Roman Settlement at Keynsham Hams, former Cadbury's Factory*' (HE List Entry No.: 1416459). The monument was identified as buried remains of the core of the Roman town, possibly '*Traiectus*', which was occupied from the 1st to the 2nd centuries AD. The monument extends to approximately 18ha with surrounding boundary ditches, none of which are visible at ground level.
- 2.6. Quarrying of possible medieval date or later has been identified and subject to investigation on playing fields to the south of the former Cadburys Factory (AC 2013; CA 2015a; CA 2015b). There is little evidence for medieval or post-medieval activity in the wider area, despite the proximity to the former Keynsham Abbey. It is largely limited to ridge and furrow cultivation and historic boundaries, which are recorded on the Keynsham Hams.
- 2.7. During the modern period the area of the site and its vicinity were subject to industrial development. The site area was occupied by part of Somerdale factory (Fig. 2) from the mid-20th century until its demolition in the early 21st century.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general objectives of the watching brief were:
- to monitor the SI groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits/features thus revealed;
 - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated project archive and a report setting out the watching brief results and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.
- 3.2. The specific objective of the watching brief was to investigate and record any remains associated with the adjacent Roman villa and the Scheduled Monument located in the proximity of the site.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The watching brief comprised the observation by a competent archaeologist of the mechanical excavation of three SI trenches associated with the proposed development (see Fig. 2).
- 4.2. Records were maintained in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3. No deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 4.4. CA will make arrangements with Roman Baths Museum for the deposition of the project archive. The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020).
- 4.5. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix C will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the watching brief results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A. Details of the relative heights of the principal deposits and features expressed as metres Above Ordnance Datum (m AOD) are given in Appendix B.

-
- 5.2. The natural geological substrate was not revealed during the observed SI works. The earliest deposit identified consisted of a concrete floor, presumably of the basement of the now-demolished 1960s factory, which was encountered in Trenches 1 and 3 at a depth of between c. 4.1m and 4.3m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by a series of modern dumped deposits, evidently backfilling the basement area to make up the current ground level, and modern structural elements. The modern dumped deposits extended below the limit of excavation in Trench 2, which was excavated to a depth of c. 5.3m bpgl.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1. Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see *Archaeological Background*, above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits likely indicates that any archaeological remains associated with the Roman activity located towards the west of the site has been removed during the construction of the former 1960s factory and associated basement.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Mark Brett. This report was written by Mark Brett. The report illustrations were prepared by Ryan Wilson. The project archive has been compiled by Mark Brett and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young, MCIfA, Principal Project Manager, and Monica Fombellida, MCIfA, Assistant Project Manager.

8. REFERENCES

AC 2012 *Somerdale Factory Sports Fields, Keynsham Hams, Bath and Northeast Somerset* AC report no. **ACW486/3/0**

AC 2013 *Somerdale Factory Recreation Grounds and Car Park, Keynsham: Bath and Northeast Somerset* AC report no. **ACW488/2/0**

AS (Archaeological Surveys) 2009 *Cadbury Somerdale Factory Keynsham Bath & North East Somerset Magnetometer Survey* Report AS Report no. **278**

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2022 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geology-of-britain-viewer/> Accessed 17 May 2022

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015a *Somerdale, Keynsham, Bath and North East Somerset Phase I: Archaeological Watching Brief* CA Report No. **14454**

CA 2015b *Somerdale, Keynsham, Bath and North East Somerset, New Fry Club and F1 Pitch: Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief* CA Report No. **15279**

CA 2022 *Land next to Somerdale Pavilion Trajectus Way, Keynsham, BANES: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Tr	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Deposit	Made ground	Modern crush for current compound	6.7	1	0.6
1	101	Deposit	Made ground	Mixed green/grey/orange clay, with sandstone and limestone rubble, occ. timber, concrete, plastic, tarmac etc.	6.7	1	1.8
1	102	Deposit	Made ground	Mid brown gritty silty clay with frequent pebbles, stone blocks, CBM, metal etc.	6.7	1	1.7
1	103	Structure	Floor	Concrete slab	6.7	1	
2	200	Deposit	Made ground	Modern crush for current compound	5.9	1	0.6
2	201	Deposit	Made ground	Mixed green/grey/orange clay, with sandstone and limestone rubble, occ. timber, concrete, plastic, tarmac etc.	5.9	1	1.8
2	202	Deposit	Made ground	Mid brown gritty silt clay with frequent pebbles, stone blocks, CBM, metal etc.	5.9	1	2.1
2	203	Deposit	Made ground	Loose dark purplish grey crushed stone (Type 1)	5.9	1	>0.8
3	300	Deposit	Made ground	Modern crush for current compound	5.2	4	1
3	301	Structure	Foundation	Concrete and brick ring beam and concrete and steel stanchion of western corner of 1960 factory	1	>1.1	3
3	302	Structure	Floor	Concrete slab			
3	303	Deposit	Made ground	Mid brown gritty silt clay with frequent pebbles, stone blocks, CBM and metal			3
3	304	Deposit	Construction backfill	Redeposited natural mixed with stone rubble			

APPENDIX B: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES

Levels are expressed as metres below current ground level and as metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), calculated using Leica GPS, as recorded during current monitored groundworks.

	Trench 1	Trench 2	Trench 3
Current ground level	0.00m (16.1m)	0.00m (16.4)	0.00m (16.3)
Limit of excavation	4.1m (12m)	5.3m (11.1m)	4.30m (12m)

Archaeological levels recording during a previous Watching Brief to the east of the site (CA 2015a).

	Trench 1	Trench 10	Trench 11
Ground level	0.00m (24.25m)	0.00m (17.5m)	0.00m (18.55m)
Top of archaeology	0.5m (24.75m)	0.5m (17m)	0.55m (18m)

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

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Land next to Somerdale Pavilion, Trajectus Way, Keynsham, Bath and North East Somerset	
Short description	<p>In May 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during Site Investigation works on land next to Somerdale Pavilion, Trajectus Way, Keynsham, Bath and North East Somerset.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed, and no artefactual material was recovered. Modern dumped deposits were identified across the site, representing infilling of a former basement.</p>	
Project dates	12–16 May 2022	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Land next to Somerdale Pavilion, Trajectus Way, Keynsham, Bath and North East Somerset	
Study area (m ² /ha)	0.27ha	
Site co-ordinates	365646 169445	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Mark Brett	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
Paper	Roman Baths Museum	Trench recording forms; photographic registers
Digital	Roman Baths Museum	Digital photos and plans
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2022 <i>Land next to Somerdale Pavilion, Trajectus Way, Keynsham, Bath and North-East Somerset: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA typescript report CR1095_1		

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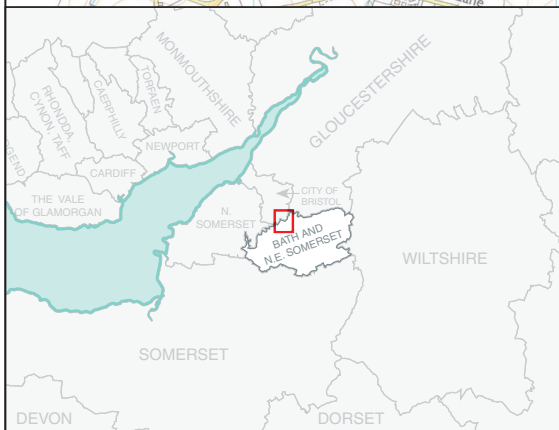
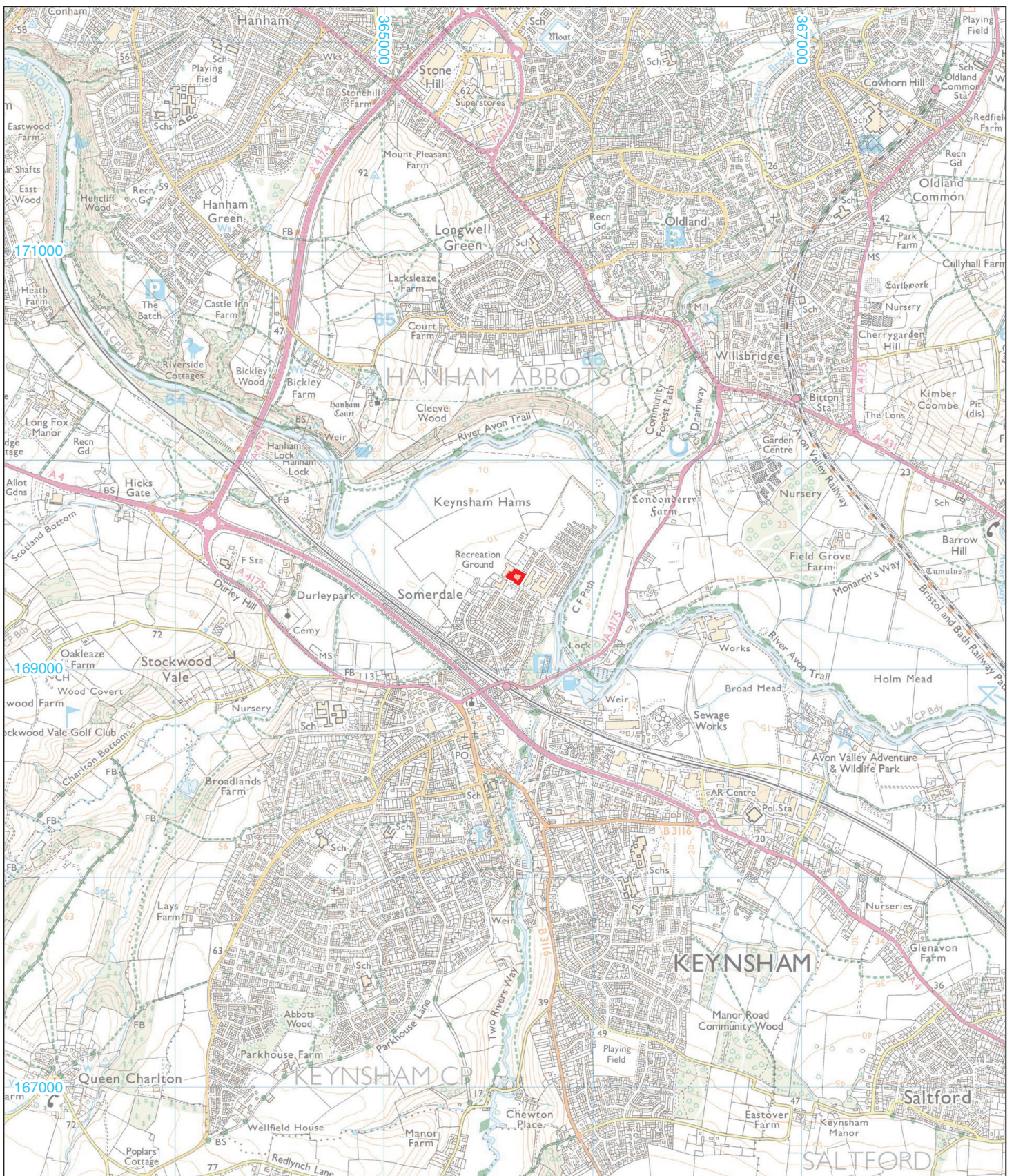
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 Site boundary

0  1km

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Ordnance Survey 0100031673



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PROJECT TITLE

Land next to Somerdale Pavilion, Trajectus Way,
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FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	CR1095	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	18/05/2022	
APPROVED BY	MB	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1



- Site boundary
- Observed investigation trench
- Suspected outline of old basement



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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
 Location of observed investigation trenches

<small>DRAWN BY</small> RW	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> CR1095	<small>FIGURE NO.</small> 2
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 18/05/2022	
<small>APPROVED BY</small> MB	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:500	



The site, looking north-east



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Land next to Somerdale Pavilion, Trajectus Way,
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FIGURE TITLE

Site photograph

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CHECKED BY **DJB** DATE **18/05/2022**
APPROVED BY **MB** SCALE@A4 **NA**

FIGURE NO.

3



Trench 1, looking north-east (2m scale)



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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 1 photograph

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APPROVED BY	MB	SCALE@A4	NA	4



Trench 2, looking north-west (2m scale)



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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 2 photograph

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APPROVED BY	MB	SCALE@A4	NA	5



Trench 3, looking north-west (2m scale)



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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 3 photograph

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	18/05/2022	
APPROVED BY	MB	SCALE@A4	NA	6