

# St. Monica Trust at Fry's Somerdale, Keynsham Bath and North East Somerset

## *Archaeological Watching Brief*



for  
**The Environmental Dimension Partnership**

on behalf of  
**St. Monica Trust**

CA Project: 5773  
CA Report: 17682

June 2018



# St. Monica's Trust at Fry's Somerdale, Keynsham Bath and North East Somerset

## Archaeological Watching Brief

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A	June 2018	Liam Wilson	Richard Young	First Issue		Simon Cox

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Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:500)  
Fig. 3 Trenches 21 and 24: Photographs



## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	St. Monica Trust at Fry's
<b>Location:</b>	Somerdale, Keynsham, Bath and North East Somerset
<b>NGR:</b>	365708 169402
<b>Type:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>Date:</b>	28 January - 05 February 2016
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	13/01780/EOUT
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Roman Baths Museum
<b>Site Code:</b>	SMK 14

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January and February 2016 in advance of construction of a care home at the site of the former Cadbury Factory at Somerdale, Keynsham, Bath and North East Somerset.

A Grade II listed Roman well recorded as lying within the western corner of the site was revealed during the construction of the care home. No other features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January and February 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for The Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP) Ltd, on behalf of St. Monica Trust at Fry's, Somerdale, Keynsham, Bath and North East Somerset (BANES; centred on NGR: 365708 169402, Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil conditions attached to planning consent for the redevelopment of the former Cadbury Factory for construction of a care home (BANES Council ref: 13/01780/EOUT, Conditions 39, 40, 41, 44 and 45).
- 1.2 The conditions were recommended by Richard Sermon, Archaeological Officer, BANES Council. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)* produced by EDP (EDP 2015) and approved by Richard Sermon. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The site is located to the north of Keynsham at the site of the former Cadburys factory (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 15m AOD. The development area measures 950 m<sup>2</sup> in extent. It lies between what were Blocks B and C of the former Cadbury factory and consists of an area of hard standing.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Salford Shale Member – Mudstone of the Triassic and Jurassic Periods, with no superficial deposits recorded (BGS 2016). Blue natural clay was encountered during the watching brief.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological and historic background is provided in the WSI (EDP 2015, 7-8) and is summarised below.
- 2.2 Limited prehistoric activity has been identified 65m to the south of the current site, comprising a Bronze Age (or later) enclosure and pits containing worked flints (AC 2013, CA 2015a, CA 2015b).

- 2.3 Roman activity is widespread to the immediate south and west of the site, with an extensive Roman small town, possibly that of *Traiectus*, being identified through geophysical survey and test pitting (AC 2012), and scheduled by Historic England on 29 May 2014. A Roman stone building and cist burials believed to be part of the small town were recorded in the 1920s during the construction of the Cadburys Factory. These works also revealed the remains of a well within the current site that was given Grade II listed status in 1991 (list number 1384575). The description for the well notes that it was sited next to a small Roman building that was excavated in 1922 and whose foundations were resited in 1927.
- 2.4 Excavations 190m to the north-west of the development area (Fig. 2) for the new Fry Club, F1 pitch and groundsmans hut recorded remains of a possible early Roman circular structure and early Roman and later field boundaries (CA 2015c). Further excavation (CA 2016) 15m to the north identified features associated with possible agricultural activity on the periphery of a Roman small town. Dating evidence for both excavations indicates that activity potentially belongs to the 1st to 2nd century AD. Both excavations noted a lack of alluvial material suggesting they may have existed on the edge of the flood plain of the river Avon.
- 2.5 Quarrying of possible medieval date or later has been identified and subject to investigation (AC 2013, CA 2015a, CA 2015b), on playing fields to the south of the former Cadburys Factory. 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.

### 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 (EDP 2015). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising of the stripping of hard standing and ground reduction (Trenches 21-23) and the excavation of a wall footing (Trench 24) (Fig. 2). Trench numbering is sequential to previous works undertaken (see historical background above) within the area covered by the WSI.
- 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 is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Roman Baths Museum. 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 (FIGS 2-3)**

- 5.1 The Grade II listed well recorded as lying within the site was uncovered during the stripping of tarmac in Trench 23. The well, 2302, was formed of roughly hewn limestone blocks. It measured 0.7m in diameter and survived to a depth greater than 1.7m below present ground level (bpgl). No other features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.

## **6. DISCUSSION**

- 6.1 The watching brief revealed the remains of the Listed Roman well recorded on the site. No other archaeological remains were identified within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits would suggest that the foundations of the roman building uncovered adjacent to the well during construction





of the factory in 1922 were resited in 1927. The observation of natural clays directly under modern deposits would also indicate that other features or structures associated with this building, if they existed, were removed during construction of the factory.

## 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Havard. The report was written by Liam Wilson. The illustrations were prepared by Charlotte Patman. The archive has been compiled by Tim Havard, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

## 8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer*  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 28 January 2016

AC (AC Archaeology) 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 Ltd) 2012 *Somerdale Cadbury Factory, Keynsham, Bath and Northeast Somerset on behalf of Taylor Wimpey*, Unpublished report

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015a *Somerdale, Keynsham, Bath and Northeast Somerset, Phase I: Archaeological Watching Brief* CA report no. **14454**

CA 2015b *Somerdale, Keynsham, Bath and North East Somerset, Phase 2 and Care Home Site: Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief* CA report no. **15775**

CA 2015c *New Fry Club and F1 Pitch: Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief* CA report no. **15279**

CA 2015d *Somerdale, Keynsham, BANES, Lower Car Park: Archaeological Evaluation* CA



report no. **15769**

CA 2016 *Flood Compensation: Somerdale, Keynsham, Bath and North West Somerset: Archaeological excavation* CA report no. **16353**

EDP (Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd) 2015 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Excavation and Monitoring* EDP report ref. **EDP1601\_15**



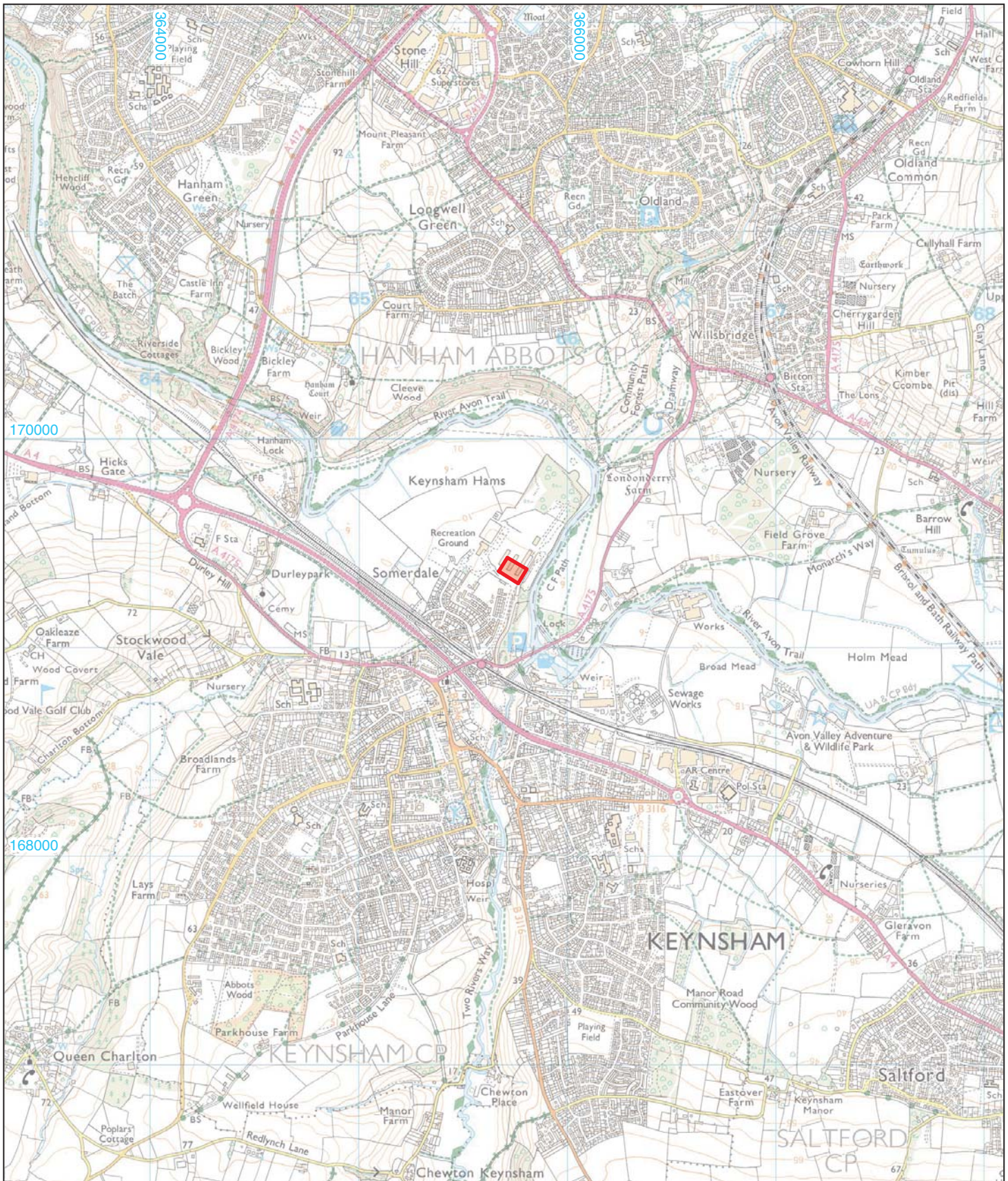
## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
21	2100	Layer		Make-up	Mixed gravel and stone	>50	>10	>2	
21	2101	Layer		Natural	Blue grey silty clay	>50	>10	1.5	
22	2200	Layer		Make-up	Mixed gravel and stone	>50	>20	>1	
23	2301	Layer		Tarmac	Modern black tarmac	1	1	0.2	
23	2302	structure		Well	Roughly hewn roman limestone well	0.7	0.7	>1.7	
24	2401	Layer		Make-up	Mixed gravel and stone	>20	>1.5	0.3	
24	2402	Layer		Natural	Blue grey silty clay	>20	>1.5	>0.2	

## APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	St. Monica Trust at Fry's	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January and February 2016 in advance of construction of a care home at the site of the former Cadbury Factory at Somerdale, Keynsham, Bath and North East Somerset. A Grade II listed Roman well recorded as lying within the western corner of the site was revealed during the construction of the care home. No other features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.	
Project dates	28 January - 05 February 2016	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Archaeological Evaluation (AC 2012) Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief (CA 2015) Archaeological Evaluation (CA 2015) Archaeological Excavation (CA 2016)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Somerdale Road, Keynsham, Bath and North East Somerset	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	950 m <sup>2</sup>	
Site co-ordinates	365708 169402	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	n/a	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Environmental Design Partnership Ltd	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Tim Havard	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	Well	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content
Physical	n/a	none
Paper	Roman Baths Museum	Pro-forma Trench recording sheets
Digital	Roman Baths Museum	Raw survey data, Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>St. Monica's Trust at Fry's, Somerdale Road, Keynsham, Bath and North East Somerset: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report <b>17682</b>		





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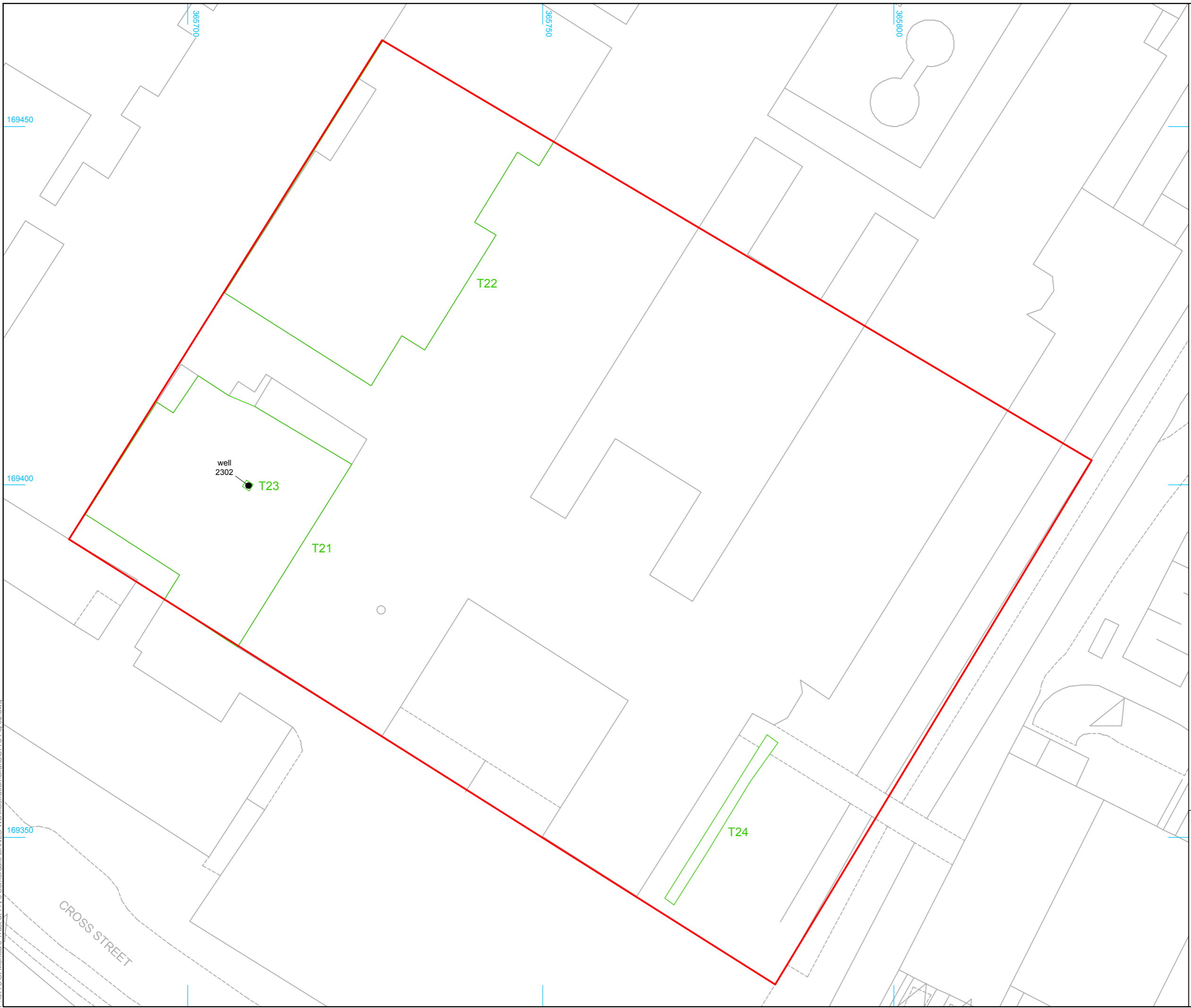
**PROJECT TITLE**  
 St Monica Trust at Fry's, Somerdale,  
 Keynsham, Bath and North East Somerset

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

<b>DRAWN BY</b>	CP	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	5773	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	DJB	<b>DATE</b>	22/11/2017	<b>1</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	REY	<b>SCALE@A4</b>	1:25,000	

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- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
**St Monica Trust at Fry's, Somerdale, Keynsham, Bath and North East Somerset**

**FIGURE TITLE**  
**The site, showing location of groundworks**

<b>DRAWN BY</b> CP	<b>PROJECT NO.</b> 5773	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b> DJB	<b>DATE</b> 22/11/2017	<b>2</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b> REY	<b>SCALE@A3</b> 1:500	

P:\5773 St Monica's Trust at Fry's Somerdale BANES WEB\Illustration\Drafts\5773 Fig 02.dwg





Trench 21



Trench 24



Well, looking north



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