

**CHIMNEY'S LINK PHASE 1,
FISHGUARD, PEMBROKESHIRE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
2017**

(NGR SM 9561 3693)



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services

For: Pembrokeshire County Council /
Atkins



DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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2017**

Gan / By

Charles Enright

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CONTENTS

	SUMMARY	1
1.	INTRODUCTION	2
	1.1 Project Commission	2
	1.2 Scope of Project	2
	1.3 Report Outline	2
	1.4 Abbreviations	2
	1.5 Illustrations	2
	1.6 Timeline	2
2.	THE SITE	5
	2.1 Site Location	5
	2.2 Historical Background and Archaeological Potential	5
3.	ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION BRIEF METHODOLOGY	6
	3.1 Fieldwork Methodology	6
	3.2 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving	6
4.	EVALUATION RESULTS	8
5.	CONCLUSIONS	12
6.	SOURCES	13

FIGURES

Figure 1:	Site location Plan showing Phase 1 area in red	3
Figure 2:	Existing Site Layout showing Phase 1 area in red	4
Figure 3:	Trench Plan	7

TABLES

Table 1:	Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales	3
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PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1:	Trench 1, linear feature [104]. View north.	8
Photo 2:	Trench 2 upon completion of excavation. View west.	10
Photo 3:	View west along trench 3 showing natural geology (305) truncated by cut [304] in the foreground.	11

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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the Chimney's Link Phase 1 development, Fishguard, Pembrokeshire (SM 9651 3693) in order to address an archaeological condition placed upon the planning decision for the proposed development (Planning Application No. 16/0857/PA).

The development site is 0.49ha in size comprising uncultivated land. A heritage statement prepared for the site by Atkins concluded that there was some potential for unknown buried archaeology within areas of previously undeveloped land at the site. A written scheme of investigation and site visit by DAT Archaeological Services concluded that this potential was highest in the playing field area for the former Fishguard Junior School which lay within the development boundary of the Chimney's Link Phase 1 area. To better define the presence and significance of buried heritage assets on the site, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was required at the site within the former playing field area.

It was proposed that two trenches were excavated within the former field area, to form a roughly T-shaped trench. Following the use of a Cable Avoidance Tool across the site, the original locations of the proposed evaluation trenches were not possible due to the presence of a number of probable services crossing the site. In the end three smaller evaluation trenches were opened and recorded.

A linear gully was exposed in Trench 1, which ran parallel with the school boundary wall (roughly northeast to southwest). At its northeastern end the gully had a rounded profile and 0.05m depth. The feature became shallower to the southwest where it had been virtually truncated away. Modern finds were recovered from the fill of the gully. Evidence for a possible geotechnical test-pit or modern soakaway were found in Trench 3, visible as an area of backfilled, clean fragmented local bedrock. No archaeological features were visible within Trench 2.

The archaeological evaluation did not reveal any significant archaeological features. The lack of any finds pre-dating the modern period suggests that the remainder of the area not subject to evaluation has very limited archaeological potential. It is possible that the area was formerly levelled prior to it being used as a playing field. This is indicated by the gully recorded in trench 1 which became shallower to the south, perhaps indicating that the ground level was previously higher and had thus been subject to deeper levelling. The area may also have been significantly disturbed through the installation of services across the site area, which was indicated by the Cable Avoidance Tool.

Further archaeological works, including building recording of the former school building area are likely to be required for the Chimney's Link Phase 2 works.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Commission

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Atkins, on behalf of Pembrokeshire County Council, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed new mixed-use development of the Chimeys Link Phase 1 development, Fishguard, Pembrokeshire (centred on SM 9561 3693; Figure 1 & 2). The archaeological evaluation will address a condition that is attached to planning premission for the development (Application No. 16/0857/PA, submitted to Pembrokeshire County Council). The development involves the installation of car parking areas on land adjacent to the Ship and Anchor public house and the Co-operative store on the western side of the High Street in Fishguard. The proposed development area measures approximately 0.49ha in size.
- 1.1.2 The full description of the Phase 1 Chimneys Link development proposals, as stated in the planning application is '*Realignment of access and provision for pedestrians including footpaths and crossings; alterations to the entrance to the Co-op store building; construction of new and replacement parking areas; associated soft and hard landscaping; demolition of Transition Bro Gwaun building; demolition of the rear extension of the former Ship and Anchor Public House; and demolition of the former library building, attached to the Ship and Anchor Public House (Phase 1 of The Chimney's Link Development)*'. The application is being submitted by Pembrokeshire County Council for the proposed redevelopment, with Atkins as their planning consultants.
- 1.1.3 The purpose of the evaluation was to provide information on the character, date and significance of any below ground archaeological remains that may be present within the development area.

1.2 Scope of Project

- 1.2.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological evaluation was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services prior to the commencement of works. This was approved by the archaeological advisors to Pembrokeshire County Council, Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management prior to the start of the works. The WSI outlined the following tasks for the project:
- Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology for the intrusive trial trench evaluation which DAT Archaeological Services will undertake (this document);
 - To establish the state of preservation, character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits identified;
 - To use the information to design a future mitigation at the site which will enable any identified remains to be appropriately investigated and recorded where they will be affected by the proposed development;
 - Production of a report and an archive of the results.
- 1.2.2 The overall scheme of works was summarised as: *The implementation of a scheme of archaeological evaluation using trial trenches within the area of the former playing field within the Phase 1 area of the Chimneys Link development area at Fishguard, Pembrokeshire. A report shall be prepared on the results of the evaluation, and an archive created of all finds, records, photographs and plans created. Further mitigation may possibly need to be implemented where significant archaeological remains*

are identified, the scope of which will be determined following the results of the evaluation.

1.3 Report Outline

- 1.3.1 This report provides a summary and discussion of the archaeological evaluation and its results for the Chimney's Link Phase 1 development, Fishguard, and puts those results within their regional and national context.

1.4 Abbreviations

- 1.4.1 Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record¹ (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services – DAT-FS; Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management – DAT-HM; Scheduled Ancient Monument – SAM; Written Scheme of Investigation – WSI; RCAHMW – Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.

1.5 Illustrations

- 1.5.1 Printed map extracts are not necessarily produced to their original scale.

1.6 Timeline

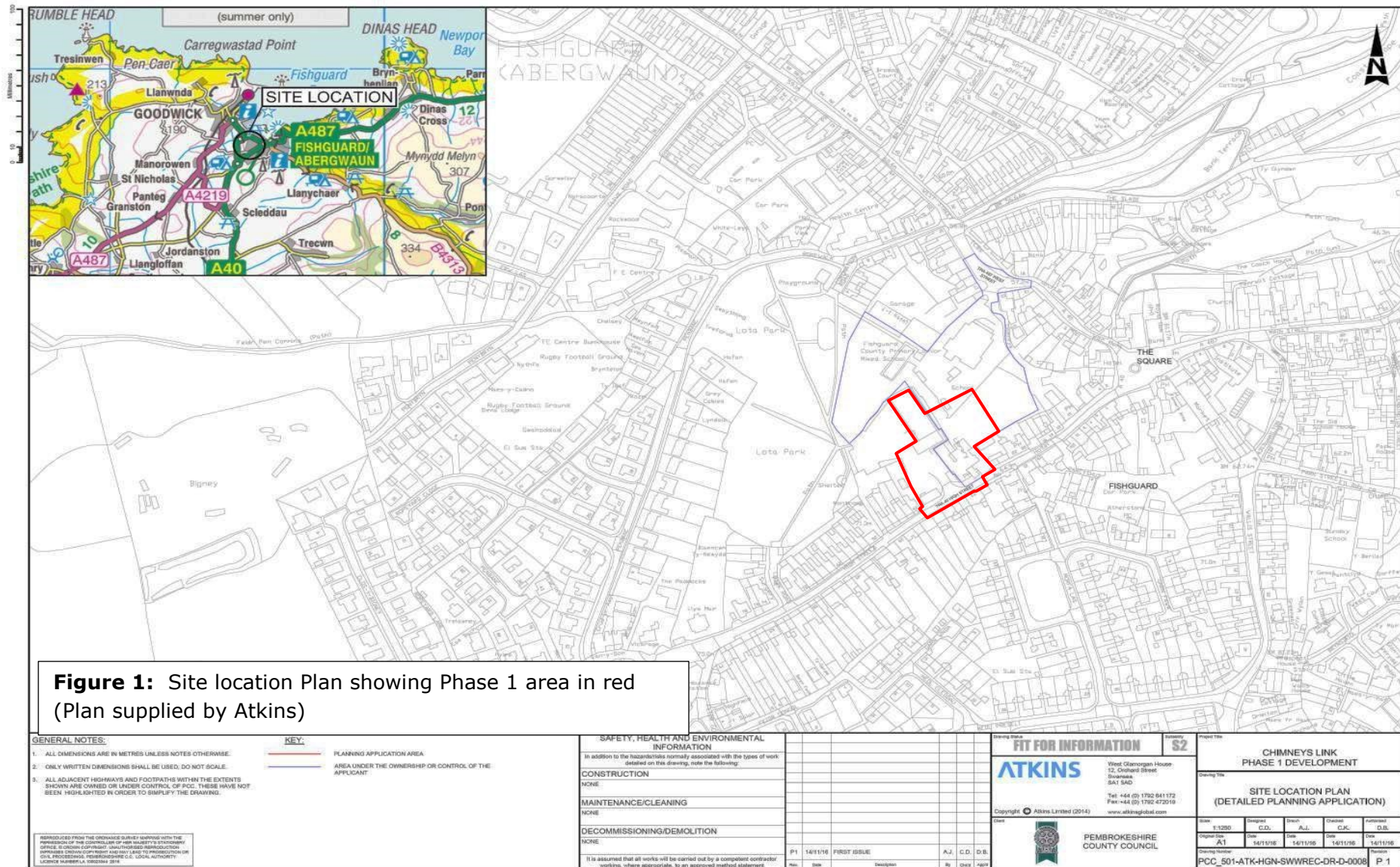
- 1.6.1 The following timeline (Table 1) is used within this report to give date ranges for the various archaeological periods that may be mentioned within the text.

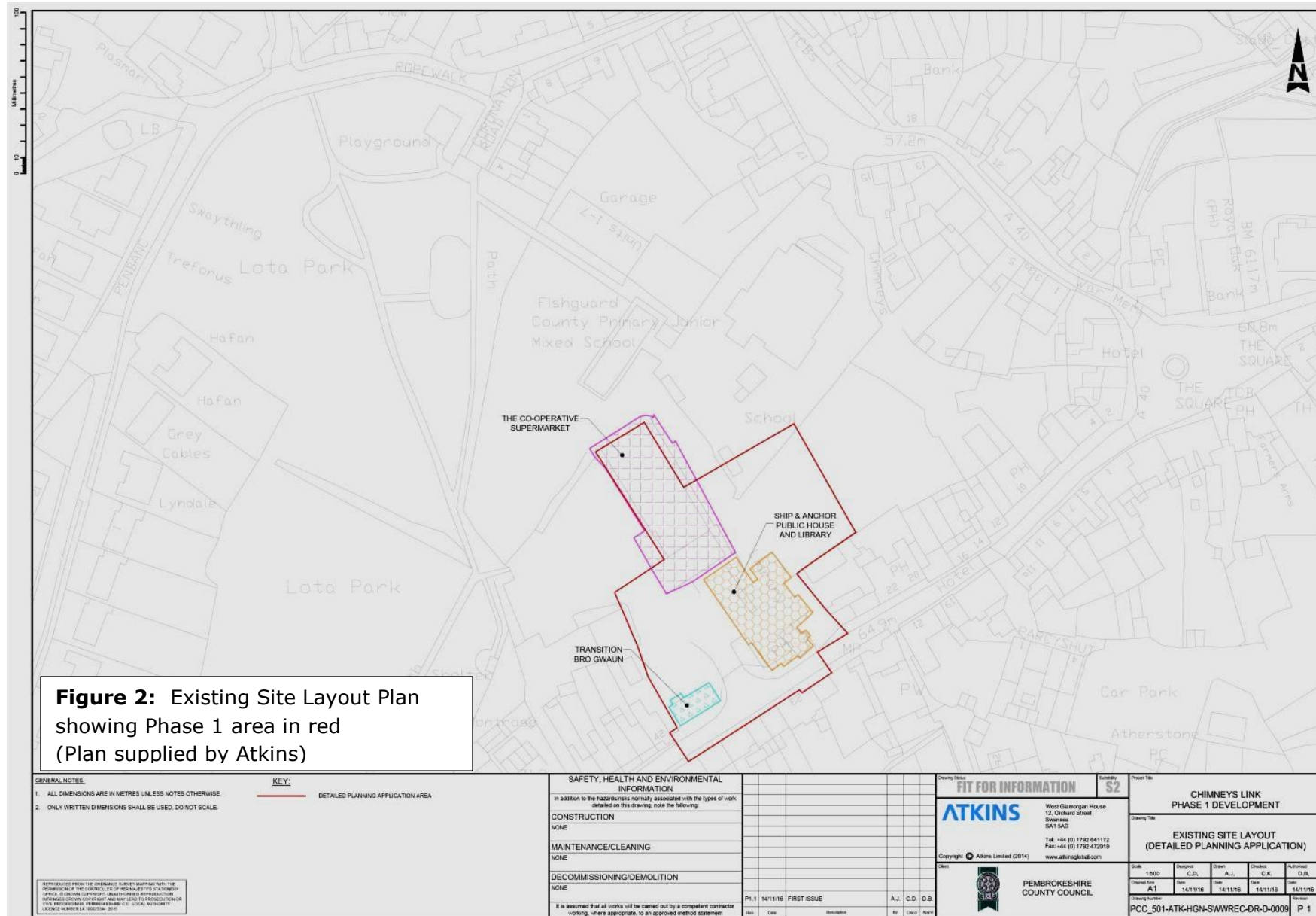
Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic –	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic –	c. 10,000 – 4400 BC	
Neolithic –	c.4400 – 2300 BC	
Bronze Age –	c.2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age –	c.700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 – c. AD 410	Historic
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period –	c. AD 410 – AD 1086	
Medieval Period –	1086 – 1536	
Post-Medieval Period ² –	1536 – 1750	
Industrial Period –	1750 – 1899	
Modern –	20 th century onwards	

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales.

¹ Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo SA19 6AF.

² The post-medieval and industrial periods are combined as the post-medieval period on the Regional Historic Environment Record as held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust





2. THE SITE

2.1 Site Location

- 2.1.1 The Chimney's Link Phase 1 development area is currently occupied by a number of buildings, namely the Co-operative store, the Ship and Anchor public house and its extensions and a former library building. Land to the High Street part of the site contains the entrance to the existing car park for the Co-operative store and the footpath/road in front of the former public house. A small parking area lies to the east of the pub and in front of the former library on the High Street frontage. To the northeast of the pub/library lies a grassed area which used to be a playing field for the former junior school which lies further to the northeast. This grassed area has been targeted by trial trench evaluation as it is the only available part of the site which does not contain existing buildings or structures.

2.2 Historical Background and Archaeological Potential

- 2.2.1 A Heritage Statement has previously been prepared for the site by Atkins (November 2016). The report provides a full archaeological and historical background of the development site, which has only been summarised here as: *There is moderate potential for impacts on unknown buried archaeology within the areas of land take and construction associated with the Scheme. There is the potential for unknown buried archaeology within areas of previously undisturbed land such as the playing field area of the Fishguard Junior School. Where construction and development takes place within areas already developed, it is likely that archaeological remains will have already been removed. Overall, it is considered there is low potential for impacts on unknown buried archaeology which would be managed and mitigated against through watching briefs conducted during construction. In order to define the presence and significance of buried heritage assets on the site, further evaluation would be necessary. This would inform a mitigation strategy including intrusive archaeological investigation and take into account impacts from excavation and construction of the development. The mitigation strategy would aim to preserve significance where practicable. In addition, the school building scheduled for demolition should be recorded before demolition works commence.'*
- 2.2.2 The Heritage Statement did not include reference to the location of a 1940 – 45 air raid shelter within the school grounds (subsequently converted to a store building) (Dyfed Historic Environment Record PRN 28757).
- 2.2.3 Little archaeological work has been undertaken in the centre of Fishguard and the site was considered as having some potential for earlier settlement in the town (medieval or post-medieval). The area of the evaluation is marked as open space on earlier maps or as the school playing fields and there are no records of it having been developed since the early 19th century, thus if earlier archaeological remains were present, then they may have survived in a good state of preservation.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 To ascertain the significance and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development area, a phase of trial trench evaluation was implemented. Initially two trenches measuring 20m x 1.8m were proposed. Upon Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) scanning of the site a number of utilities were detected making the original proposal not possible. Therefore three trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision (Figure 3):

Trench 1: 20m x 2.0m – *Orientated roughly north to south.*

Trench 2: 7.0m x 2.0m – *Orientated roughly east to west.*

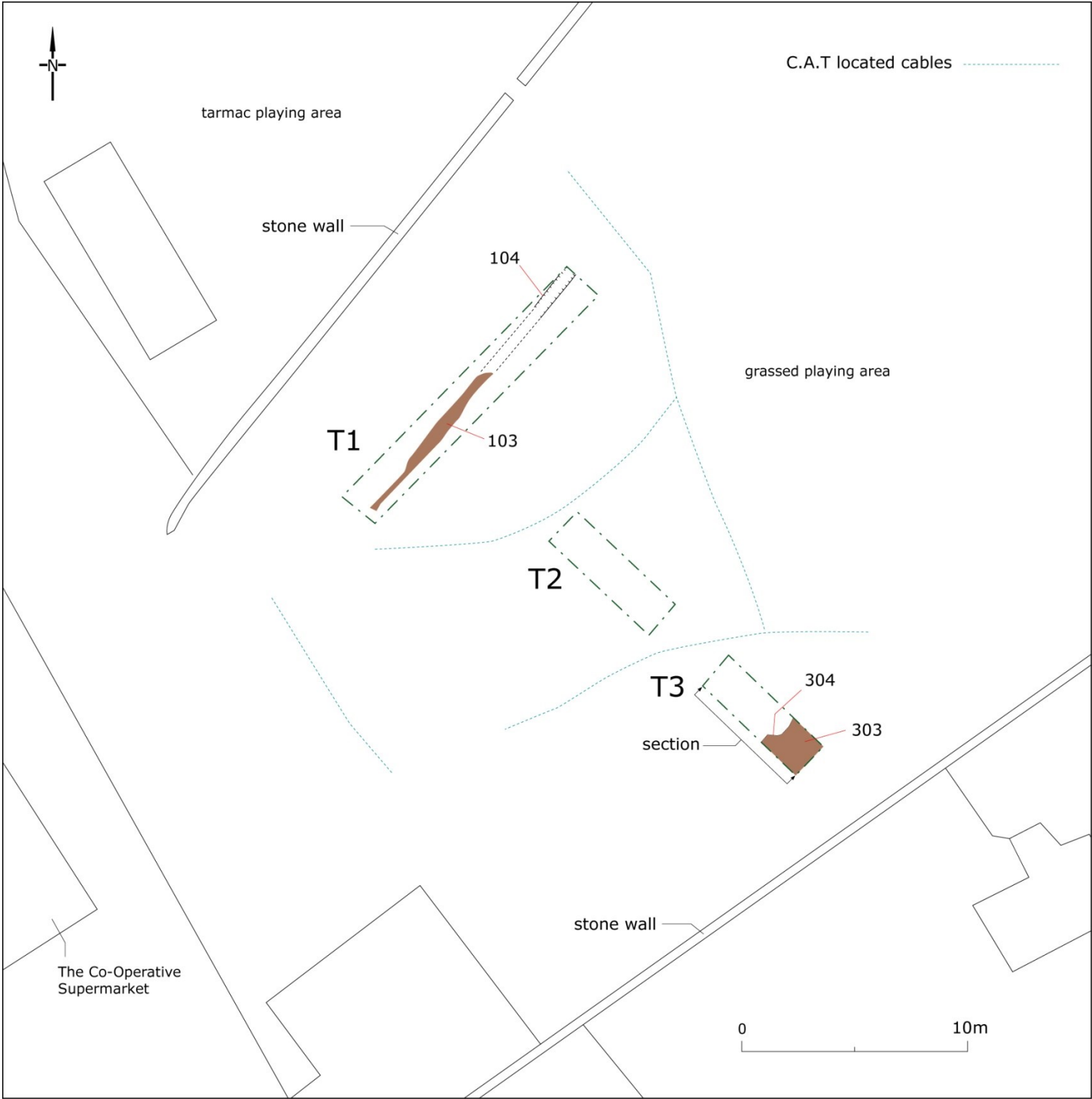
Trench 3: 7.0m x 2.0m – *Orientated roughly east to west.*

- 3.1.2 The trenches were excavated using a tracked 360 mechanical excavator fitted with a flat bladed bucket. All non-archaeologically significant overburden was removed, and the trenches were excavated down onto archaeological levels.
- 3.1.3 Following machine excavation, the trenches were hand cleaned using trowels to best determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains. Certain areas were re-trowelled a number of times to improve the definition of features. Sample excavation was undertaken of features identified during the evaluation.
- 3.1.4 All deposits were recorded by archaeological context recording sheet, scale drawing, photography and site note books. All individual deposits were numbered using the open-ended numbering system in accordance with DAT Archaeological Services Recording Manual³. Trench plans and sections were recorded by means of measured drawings and sketches. A photographic record was maintained using digital cameras.
- 3.1.5 The trench was located in relation to surrounding features and buildings using a Trimble TST.
- 3.1.6 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the 1st and 2nd of March, 2017.

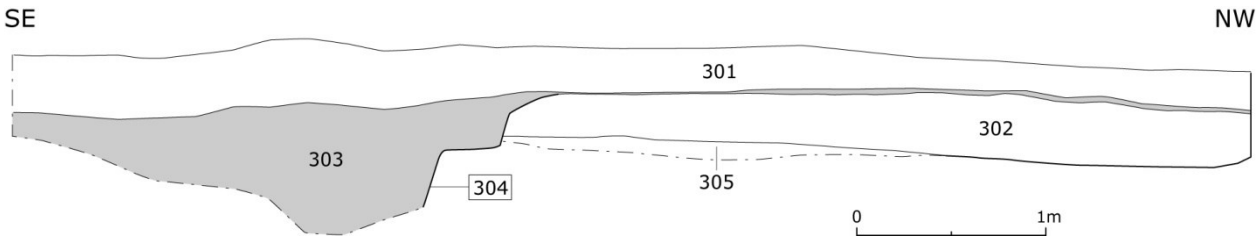
3.2 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving

- 3.2.1 All data recovered during the fieldwork will be collated into a site archive structured in accordance with specifications in *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2011), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.
- 3.2.2 The results of the fieldwork have been assessed in local, regional and wider contexts. The report includes a desk-based research element to ensure that the site is placed within its wider archaeological context.

³ DAT Archaeological Services use the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A copy will be available for inspection if required.



Trench plan



Section drawing Trench 3, northeast facing section

Figure 3: Trench plan and section drawing

4. EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 All individual archaeological deposits or features were numbered using the open-ended numbering system and each numbered deposit was described. Each trench was recorded with plan drawings and section drawings where appropriate (Figure 3).

4.2 Trench 1

Context Number	Depth /Width	Description/interpretation
101	0.24m	Soft brown silt, with stones, shale, glass and modern pottery – Topsoil and Turf.
102	0.30m	Light brown clayey silt, with frequent charcoal flecks and small rounded and angular stones – subsoil.
103	0.05m max depth and 0.55m width	Loose, dark brown silt with frequent rough and angular stone – fill of gully [104]
104	0.05m max depth and 0.55m width	Linear cut of feature, with rounded base and aligned roughly north to south – cut of gully, filled by (103)
105	Not fully excavated	Light brown sandy clay – natural

Table 2: List of contexts within Trench 1

4.2.1 Trench 1 measured 20m x 2m and was aligned roughly north to south parallel with the eastern walled boundary of the former Fishguard Junior School (Photo 1).

4.2.2 The trench was covered with a topsoil of an average of 0.24m depth, layer (101). This overlay a light brown subsoil, of around 0.30m depth, layer (102).

4.2.3 The subsoil lay directly on top of the natural geological substrata, which comprised a light brown sandy clay (105).



Photo 1: Overview of Trench 1 following cleaning showing linear feature [104]. Fishguard Junior School boundary wall is visible to left of photograph. Viewing north.

- 4.2.4 A linear feature could be clearly seen cutting through the natural geological layer. The cut [104] was that of a gully, of around 0.55m width which extended across the trench from the northwest corner to the southeast corner measuring 20m long (Photo 1).
- 4.2.5 A section of [104] was excavated to reveal a shallow gully with a rounded profile (Photo 2). At the most northern end the gully was approximately 0.05m deep gradually sloping up as it went south so that virtually no depth survived of the feature at all. The gully was filled with (103), a dark brown silt. Occasional finds of modern material were found including glass and pottery.



Photo 2: Trench 1, linear feature [104] following excavation at northern end of trench. Viewing north with 0.5m scale.

4.3 Trench 2

Context Number	Depth	Description/interpretation
201	0.19m	Soft, mid brown silt with frequent angular stones- Topsoil and Turf.
202	0.30m	Light brown clayey silt with occasional small angular and rounded stones – subsoil.
203	Not fully excavated	Light brown sandy clay - natural

Table 3: List of contexts within Trench 2

- 4.3.1 Trench 2 measured 7m x 2m and was orientated roughly east to west, perpendicular to Trench 1 in the mid-section of the proposed development area (Photo 3). The trench was restricted by services indicated by the CAT scan of the area.
- 4.3.2 The trench was machined through a similar topsoil to that seen in Trench 1, with an average depth of 0.19m, layer (201). This overlay a light brown clayey silt subsoil, layer (202) of around 0.30m depth.

- 4.3.3 The base of the trench comprised a light brown sandy clay natural subsoil (203). Occasional patches of bedrock were seen to protrude through this, consisting of a compressed slate shale. No archaeological finds or features were recorded within this trench.



Photo 3: Overview of Trench 2 following cleaning. Viewing west.

4.4 Trench 3

Context Number	Depth	Description/interpretation
301	0.24m	Soft silt, variable colour, much darker at eastern end of trench gradually getting lighter moving west along trench – Topsoil and turf.
302	0.30m	mid brown clayey silt – subsoil.
303	0.65m	Fill of feature {304}, comprising clean crushed slate/shale
304	0.65m	Cut of feature, backfilled with crushed stone (303)
305	Not fully excavated	Light brown sandy clay - natural

Table 4: List of contexts within Trench 2

- 4.1.9 Trench 3 measured 7m x 2m and was orientated roughly east to west,
- 4.1.10 The earliest deposit recorded within Trench 3 was (305), a light brown sandy clay, interpreted as being natural geology. Overlying the natural (305) was (302), a mid-brown clayey silt subsoil measuring 0.30m thick, with turf and topsoil overlying this (0.24m depth).
- 4.1.11 At the eastern half of the trench cut [304] was observed cutting from the subsoil (302) and into the natural (305) (Photo 3). The cut measured approximately 0.65m deep, its full character and extent could not be ascertained as it extended beyond the limits of the excavation. The sides of the cut appeared to be near vertical with a rough irregular base bedrock base.



Photo 3: View west along trench 3 showing natural geology (305) truncated by cut [304] in the foreground.

- 4.1.12 Cut [304] was filled with (303), a loose slate/shale, possibly fragmented bedrock. This backfill material was clean and not mixed with any other materials. No artefactual evidence was recovered from the fill.
- 4.1.13 The subsoil (302) and cut [304] were overlain by 0.24m thick layer of topsoil and turf across the trench. This varied in colour and was particularly dark at the eastern-most end of the trench where it overlies [304]. Gradually moving west along the trench the topsoil became lighter in colour.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The archaeological evaluation exercise has demonstrated that the former school playing field area of the Chimney's Link Phase 1 proposed development, contains no significant archaeological remains. Three trenches were excavated within the area, which were located to avoid existing services identified with the use of a Cable Avoidance Tool.
- 5.2 Natural sandy clay was exposed in all three trenches. The solid geology bedrock undulated beneath this and in some areas was seen to protrude as compressed areas of slate/shale. In each case the natural was overlain by a clayey silt subsoil averaging 0.30m thick, which in turn was overlain by a silty topsoil and turf, 0.19 – 0.24m thick.
- 5.3 The linear gully exposed in Trench 1 at a depth of 0.54m below ground level was easily discernible due to its dark fill contrasting with the light coloured natural geology it cut into. One section of the gully was excavated at the northern end of the trench which showed it to have a rounded profile and was approximately 0.05m deep. As the gully extended to the south it gradually became shallower until it was virtually nonexistent. Artefactual evidence recovered during excavation of the gully dated from the 20th century and included fragmented glass and pottery. It is likely the gully represents a former boundary or drainage ditch. Examination of available cartographic sources suggests the area has not been previously developed.
- 5.4 The feature recorded in the eastern half of Trench 3 appears to be a relatively recent disturbance. The loose slate/shale backfill appears to be clean fragmented local bedrock. This may indicate a quick excavation and backfill exercise as might be expected by a test-pit for a geotechnical survey or a deliberate laying down of crushed stone as might be expected for a soak-away or similar. In addition to this, the darker topsoil overlying this area of the trench supports the hypothesis that this feature is a recent disturbance, such as a geotechnical test-pit.
- 5.5 The archaeological evaluation did not reveal any significant archaeological features. What was exposed would appear to be of modern date and of low or negligible archaeological significance. The lack of any finds pre-dating the modern period would also suggest that the remainder of the area not subject to evaluation has very limited archaeological potential. It is possible that the area was subject to some previous disturbance when it was prepared for use as a playing field, potentially with the ground being levelled to some extent. This would tie in with the feature seen in Trench 1 which became shallower to the south, perhaps indicating that the ground level was previously higher towards this end of the feature, and had thus been subject to deeper levelling. If this was the case then potentially the feature could have been an earlier plot boundary or similar, which had later on become partially backfilled with modern material when it was levelled.
- 5.6 The Cable Avoidance Tool indicated a number of service runs crossing the former playing field. These areas were thus avoided by the evaluation. Assuming that the readings were correct, the extent of disturbance caused by the installation of these services will also have damaged or destroyed any archaeological remains that might have been present within their routes.
- 5.7 Further archaeological works, including building recording of the former school building area are likely to be required for the Chimney's Link Phase 2 works.

6. SOURCES

Publications

Atkins, 2016. *Chimney's Link, Fishguard, Heritage Statement*, Atkins Report November 2016

Brown, D.H., 2011. *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Database

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record.

RCAHMW Coflein Database <http://www.coflein.gov.uk/>

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on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: Head of DAT Archaeological Services

Llofnod / Signature  Dyddiad / Date 14/08/2017

Yn unol â'n nôd i rodli gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau sydd
gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any comments you
may have on the content or presentation of this report

