

SHALIMAR, FRESHWATER EAST, PEMBROKESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust
For: Mr. M Lewis



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**SHALIMAR, FRESHWATER EAST,
PEMBROKESHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Gan / By

JAMES MEEK

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SHALIMAR, FRESHWATER EAST, PEMBROKESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

A planning application (No. 08391) was submitted by Mr. M Lewis proposing to build a new extension and associated drainage works within a plot of land surrounding the bungalow Shalimar at the eastern end of Freshwater East, Pembrokeshire at NGR SS 0192 9847.

The proposed development site lies within immediate proximity to the site of a medieval chapel and possibly earlier cist grave cemetery. Previous archaeological investigations in the adjoining field to the north revealed extensive remains of the cemetery which could extend into the area being developed, therefore such a location might be expected to contain evidence of cemetery features including human burials.

In order to protect the potential archaeological interests Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management, as advisors to the Planning Department of Pembrokeshire County Council, recommended that an archaeological evaluation of the site, be undertaken as a requirement of a 'Grampian Condition' placed on the planning application by the regional archaeological curators (in their role as advisors to the Local Planning Authority), to ensure appropriate consideration of potential archaeological interests.

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services were commissioned to carry out the archaeological evaluation, and a single trial trench was excavated in order to assess the character and extent of significant archaeological features and deposits on the site.

The results of the evaluation indicated that the site area had been subject to some previous disturbance during the construction of the existing house on the site. Material removed from the terracing for the footprint of the bungalow had been deposited across the garden area (sealing the earlier topsoil), with a thin layer of turf placed on top of this. A pit containing building debris (such as breeze blocks) was located at the north-eastern end of the trench which had been cut down to the top of the underlying natural bedrock. No significant archaeological features were revealed within the trench. The results of the fieldwork indicate that the known early medieval cemetery which lies to the north did not extend as far as the trench.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

A planning application (No. 08391) was submitted by Mr. M Lewis proposing to build a new extension and associated drainage works within a plot of land surrounding the bungalow Shalimar at the eastern end of Freshwater East, Pembrokeshire at NGR SS 0192 9847.

The proposed development area lies in close proximity of the site of a medieval chapel and possibly earlier cist grave cemetery. Previous archaeological investigations in the adjoining field to the north revealed extensive remains of the cemetery and thus the development area had a high potential to contain further evidence of cemetery features including human burials.

Given the site location, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management, as advisors to the Planning Department of Pembrokeshire County Council, recommended that an archaeological condition, in the form of a predetermination archaeological evaluation excavation, be attached to the planning application in order to provide enough information to enable a decision on the application.

To comply with the condition Mr M Lewis commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services to carry out the archaeological evaluation in March 2009.

1.2 The evaluation methodology, and scope of the report

The primary objective of the evaluation was to assess the character and extent of surviving deposits through archaeological trial trenching in order to ascertain the condition, distribution, extent and significance of any archaeological features within the proposed development area.

The evaluation comprised the excavation of a single trial trench measuring approximately 8m x .7m within the garden area of the bungalow. The trench was opened up and stripped of topsoil by a small mechanical excavator, using a toothless bucket, under the guidance of an archaeologist.

All deposits encountered within the evaluation trench were recorded and photographed. This report summarises the location and historical background to the site and discusses the results of the evaluation excavations.

Any archaeological sites mentioned in the text that are recorded in the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER) will be identified, for reference and location, by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and National Grid Reference (NGR). The HER is housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust at its offices in Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire. Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale.

2. SITE LOCATION AND BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Location

The proposed development site lies on the northern side of Freshwater East within Lamphey parish about 2km south of Lamphey village. The proposed development area lies on the north and west side of the bungalow 'Shalimar' to the north of Portclew Road, and east of Chapel Lane. The proposed development area adjoins residential properties to the east, west and northwest, with agricultural land to the north

The area of the evaluation was located to the rear of the bungalow 'Shalimar' within its garden area, in the location of part of the proposed extension and associated drainage and soakaway, centred on NGR SS 0192 9847. It was not possible to place an evaluation trench on the western side of the property due to existing structures and access into the property. The evaluation trench was located in the garden for the property, which was mostly laid to lawn, with surrounding trees and shrubs.

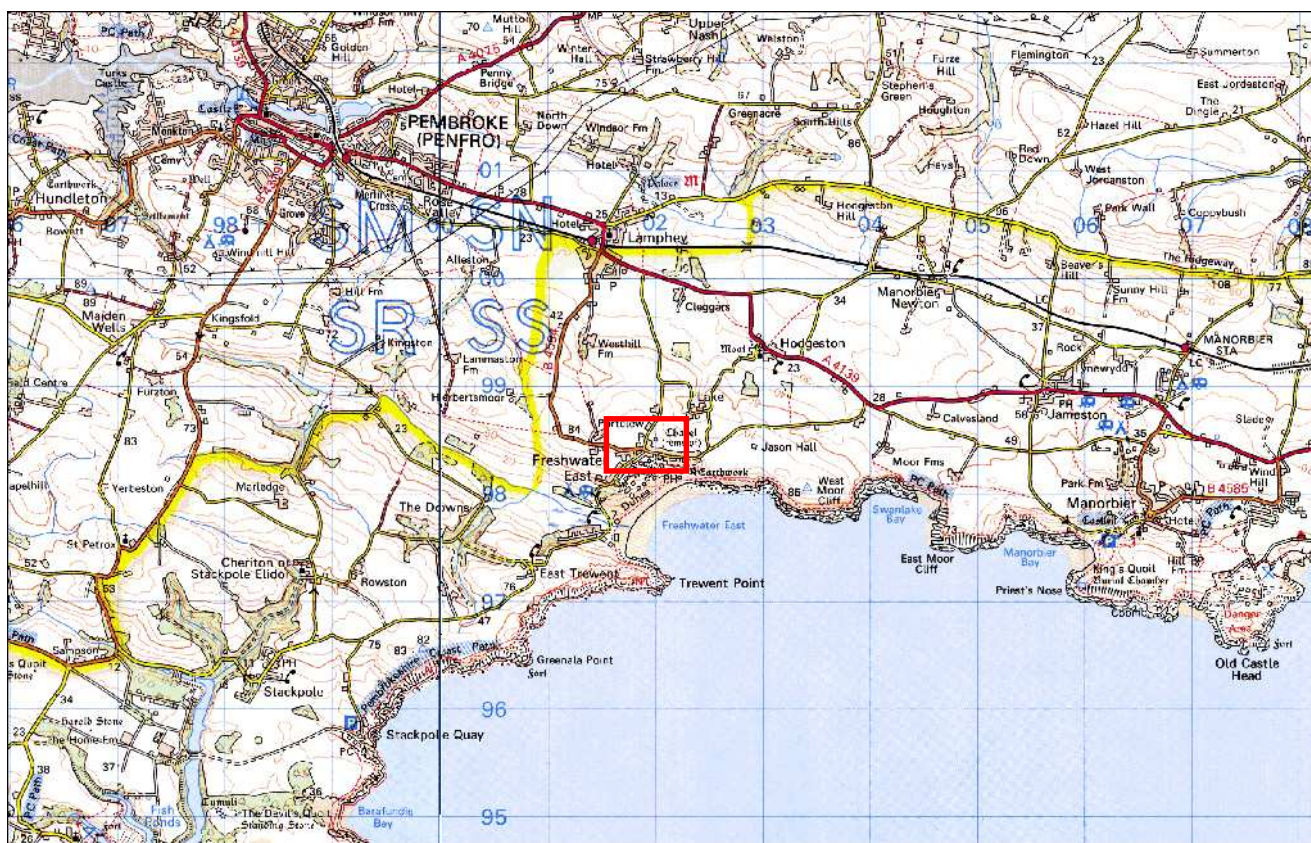


Figure 1. Location plan, based on Ordnance Survey

Reproduced from the 1995 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd., The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842A

The bungalow was built in the latter part of the 20th century, and had been partially terraced into the slope of the land leading upwards from the road frontage. The level of the house lies approximately 0.80m below the level of the garden.

The British Geological Survey maps of the area of Freshwater East show that is located on an outcrop of Old Red Sandstone on the northern limb of the Freshwater East Anticline. These deposits, originally laid down in the Late Silurian/Early Devonian geological periods were sculpted by ice sheets and meltwater that truncated the anticline, exposing vertically bedded red and purple mudstones and siltstones, together with fine and coarser sandstones sometimes green in colour.

Above the bedrock and 'rab', windblown sand has accumulated over thousands of years, as with significant sand encroachments along the south Wales coast, particularly those recorded during the 13th to 15th centuries.

2.2 Historical background

The proposed development site lies within close proximity to the site of the medieval chapel of Porth Clew and possibly earlier cist grave cemetery. Investigations undertaken by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services in the summer of 2008 had demonstrated that the cemetery extended at least as far as the field immediately to the north of the garden of 'Shalimar'. There was therefore seen to be a high archaeological potential for the cemetery to extend into the proposed development area.

Portclew (PRN 38753) is an example of an 'area' place name being adopted by a particular location. Today the name is shared between four locations: Little Portclew, Portclew Chapel, Upper Portclew and Portclew House. B. G. Charles interprets the name as being derived from *porth*, meaning inlet or bay and *lliw*, meaning 'clear' (or fresh) water and being the name of the stream that flows into Freshwater East Bay. Most of the development in the present village is less than 100 years old. The bungalow of 'Shalimar' is of later 20th century date, and prior to its construction the area had been used as agricultural land and undeveloped.

The earliest known reference to 'Porthllu' is from 1326, in the 'Black Book of the Bishops of St David's', when Porthclew was part of the manor of Lamphey. The reference is to a Thomas Walter of Porthllu holding a bovaté of land within a larger landholding referred to as 'The Sanctuary'. It has been suggested that 'The Sanctuary' might be centered on Portclew Chapel (James - DRF PRN 38753).

The standing remains of the chapel (PRN 4194) are still visible. The presence of human burials, some contained within stone-lined 'cist' graves, has been recorded during the construction of a nearby house in 1964 (PRN 44002) and during the laying of an electricity cable in 1999 (PRN 44001).

The Ordnance Survey (OS) first edition 1:2500 scale map (Figure 2) shows the site area as undeveloped land on the northern side of Portclew Road. The site of the chapel is also shown. There is no change of the site area by the second edition OS map dating the early 20th century (Figure 3). Both OS maps highlight the minimal amount of development in the vicinity of the chapel site at this time and emphasise the changes that occurred during the latter part of the 20th century when the various extant properties were constructed along the Portclew Road and Chapel Lane frontages.

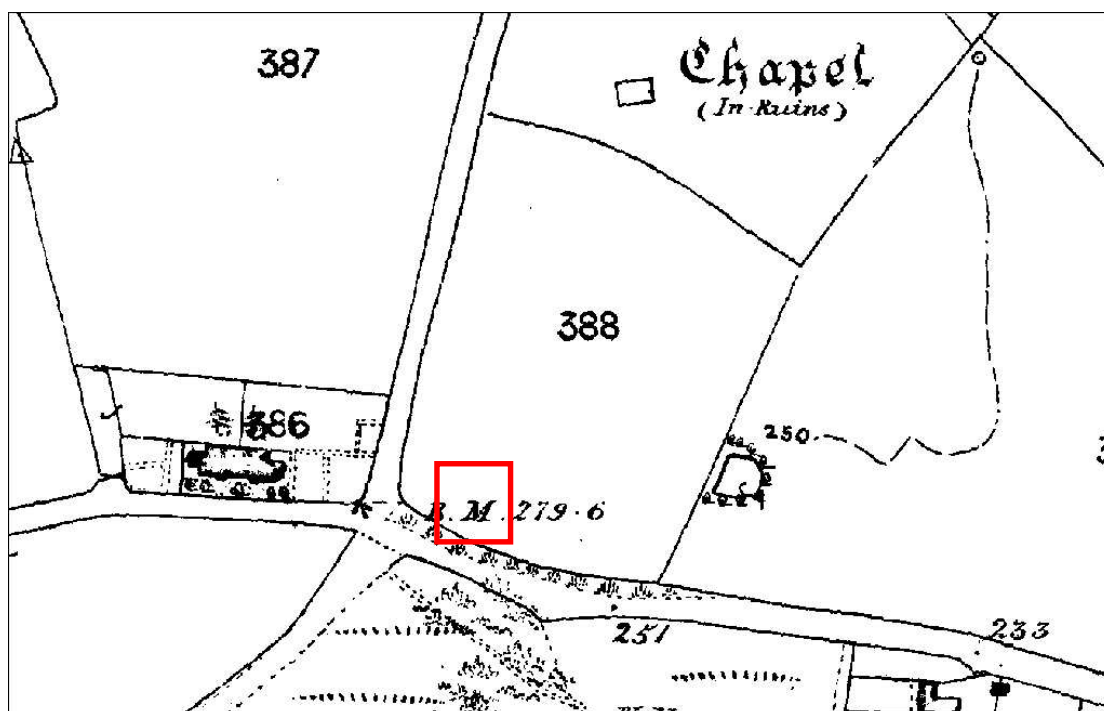


Figure 2. Site shown on 1st edition 1:2500 scale map

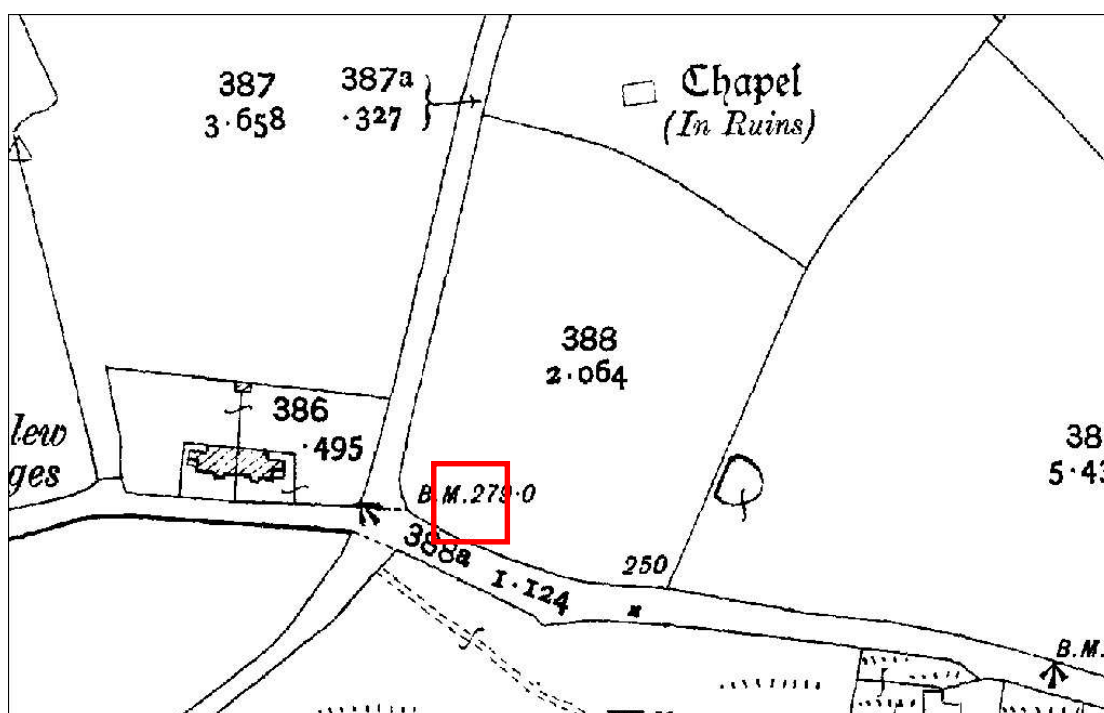


Figure 3. Site shown on 2nd edition 1:2500 scale map

3. EVALUATION RESULTS

A single evaluation trench was placed within the garden area of the bungalow, measuring 1.7m by 8m (Plates 1 – 3). The size of the trench was restricted by surrounding vegetation, the difference in levels between the house and the garden area and existing structures. The trench location was placed in the area of the proposed extension and associated services which did not appear to have been previously affected by levelling activity associated with the construction of the bungalow into the slope of the land.

The location and size of the trench was agreed with the archaeological advisors to the planning authority prior to the commencement of the evaluation, as detailed in the approved written scheme of investigation (Appendix 1). The location of the trench is indicated on Figure 4.

The trench was machined through three distinct layers onto the natural undisturbed geological deposits. The uppermost layer consisted of turf and a mid-reddish brown sandy silt soil matrix of around 0.08m depth (layer no. 001).

The turf layer lie directly upon a light reddish brown sandy gravel soil matrix which contained abundant stone fragments, which had an average depth of 0.10m (layer no. 002). Layer 002 was somewhat deeper at the northeastern end of the trench. The layer also included occasional brick and concrete/breeze block fragments. The material would appear to have been derived from redeposited natural, mixed in with building material debris.

Layer 002 lay upon a mid greyish brown silty sand with a few stone inclusions, and had a similar character to topsoil (layer no. 003). Layer 003 had an average depth of 0.20m.

Layer 003 was removed onto the undisturbed natural substrata, which consisted of 'rab' and an area of bedrock at the north-eastern end of the trench (plate 2).

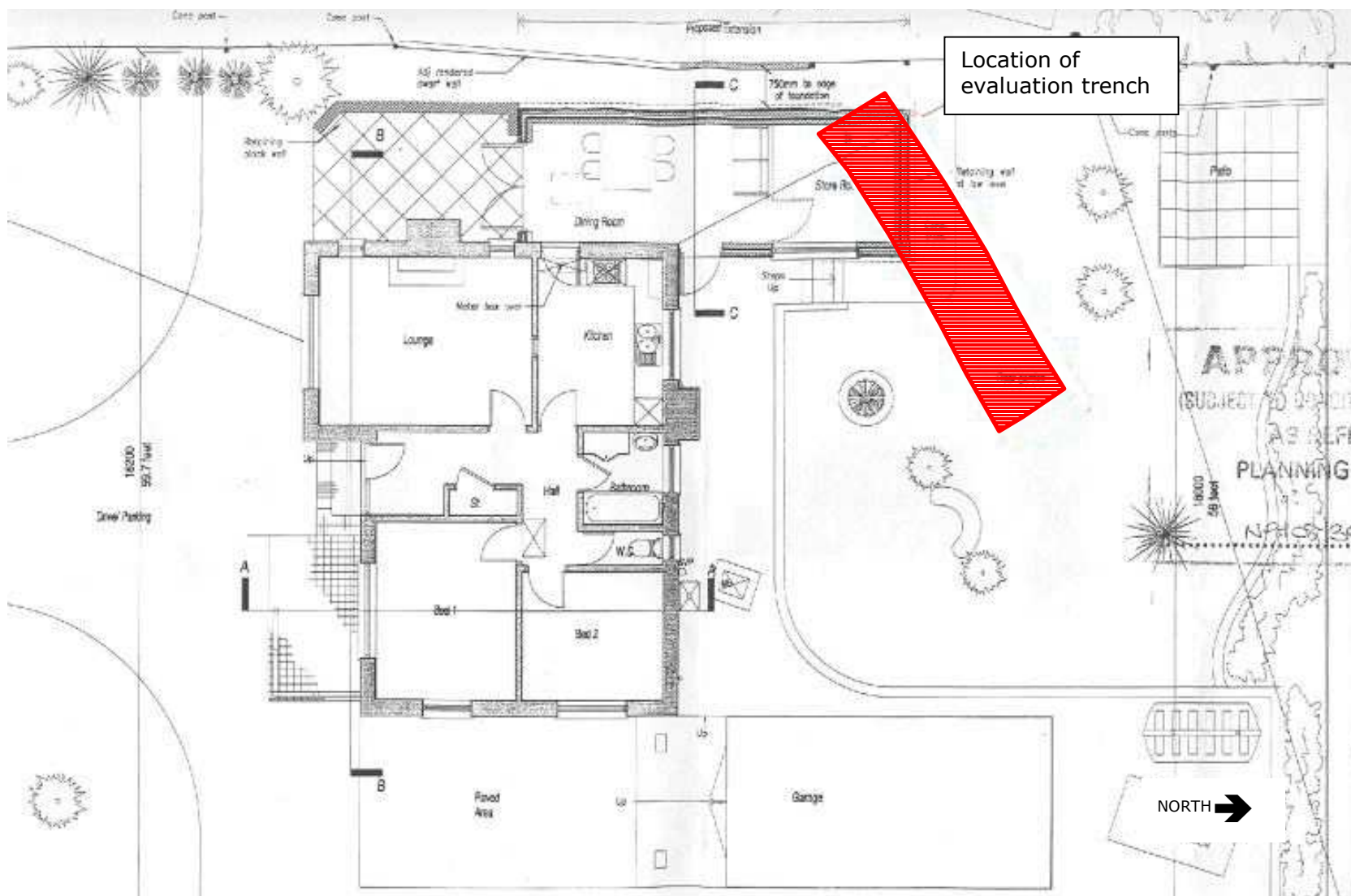


Figure 4. Plan showing location of evaluation trench in relation to development proposals (plan supplied by client)

4. CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation trench has demonstrated that during the construction of the bungalow 'Shalimar', and the terracing of the hillside into which it was built did result in the deposition of material derived from the works across the garden area to the rear of the property. This was evident in the shallow depth of turf (layer 001) that lay across the site which was laid directly upon a mixed layer of disturbed natural ground containing occasional fragments of breeze blocks and other building material (layer 002). This layer had presumably been derived from the ground removed as part of the terracing for the bungalow and also waste materials. This mixed layer of stone and waste material had been dumped upon the original ground surface (003). At the northeastern end of the trench a larger depth of layer 002 was evident, containing a larger quantity of building material debris.

The natural exposed in the base of the trench consisted of 'rab' and an area of bedrock. No features were visible cutting into the natural. No fragments of bone or any other significant archaeological finds were recovered from the trench.

The trench has demonstrated that the early medieval cemetery associated with the chapel at Porth Clew to the north does not extend into the proposed development area. From the results of the evaluation it is considered that the proposed extension and associated services will have negligible impact upon any archaeological remains.

SOURCES

James, H, (ND) *Port Clew Settlement History and Morphology*. HER DRF PRN 38753

Schlee, D, 2009 *The Pembrokeshire Cemeteries Project Excavations at Porthclew Chapel Freshwater East, Pembrokeshire 2008*, Interim Report, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Report No. 2009/17

The Regional Historic Environment Record, housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust in Llandeilo



Plate 1: View of evaluation trench facing northeast (1m x 0.5m scales)

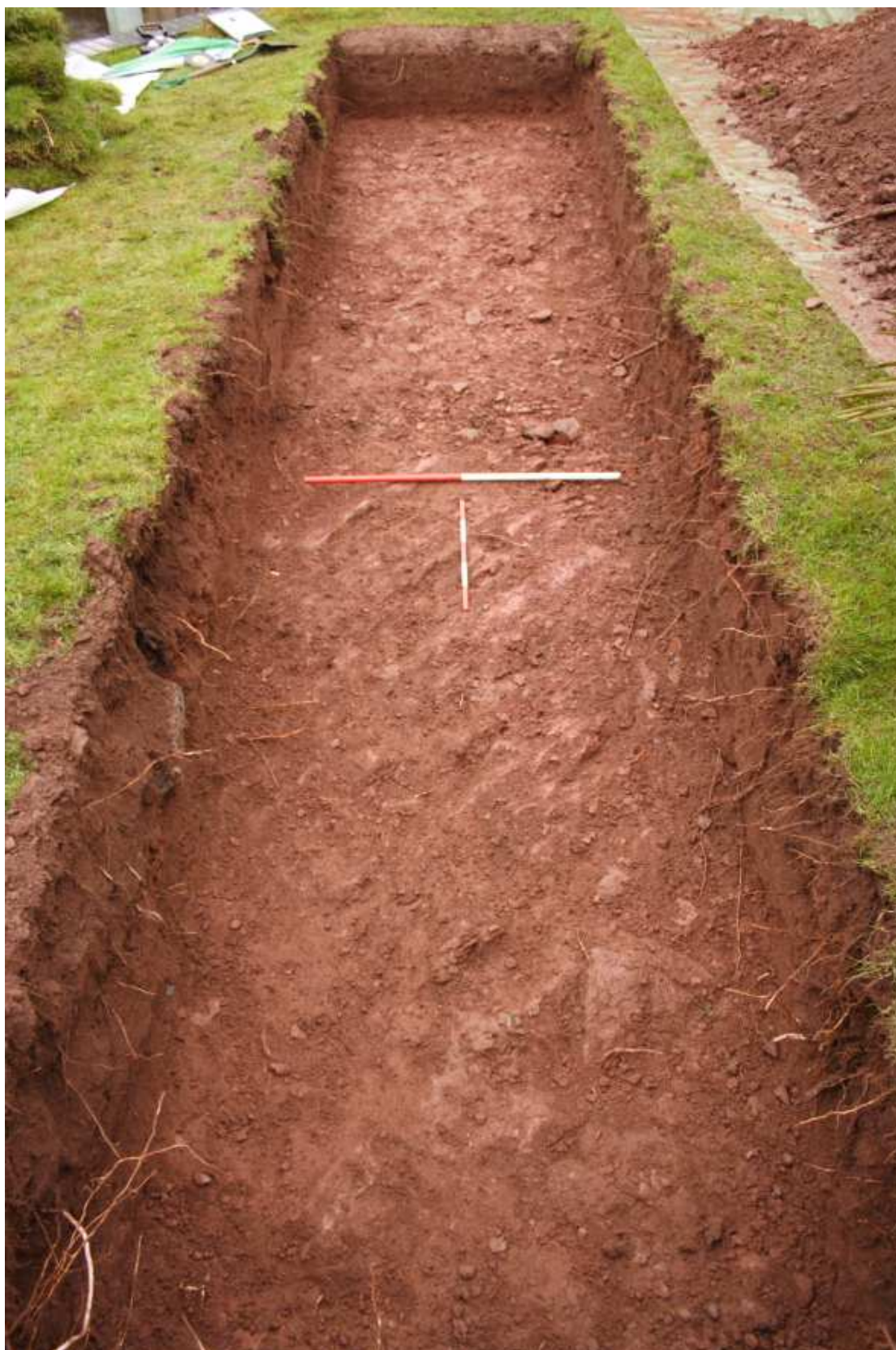


Plate 2: View of evaluation trench facing southwest, with exposed bedrock visible in area around scales (1m x 0.5m scales)



Plate 3: Southeast facing section of trench
(1m x 0.5m scales)

APPENDIX 1: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

SHALIMAR, FRESHWATER EAST, PEMBROKESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION SPECIFICATION

INTRODUCTION

This project specification has been prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services in response to a request from Meirion Williams of Pembroke Design Ltd (on behalf of Mike Lewis) to provide an archaeological evaluation of the potential impacts of a proposed new extension (Planning application number NP 08391) to an existing property at Shalimar, Freshwater East (centred at NGR SS 0192 9847).

The following specification is intended to fulfil the requirements of both the client and the Regional Archaeological curator (acting as advisors to the Local Planning Authority) for a written scheme of works for an archaeological evaluation of the site, set as a requirement of a 'Grampian Condition' placed on the planning application by the regional archaeological curators (in their role as advisors to the Local Planning Authority), to ensure appropriate consideration of potential archaeological interests.

The proposed development site lies within immediate proximity to the site of a medieval chapel and possibly earlier cist grave cemetery. Previous archaeological investigations in the adjoining field to the north revealed extensive remains of the cemetery which could extend into the area being developed, therefore such a location might be expected to contain evidence of cemetery features including human burials.

The specification is in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), 1994, revised 2001).

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services has considerable experience of this type of project and always operates to best professional practice. Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services has its own Health and Safety Policy, and all works are covered by appropriate Employer's Liability and Public Liability Insurances. Copies of all are available on request.

Dyfed Archaeological Trust is an IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation.

1. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 Assessment of the character and extent of surviving deposits through archaeological trial trenching in order to assess the condition, distribution, extent and significance of any archaeological features within the proposed development area.
- 1.2 Collation of Data collected through the execution of 1.1 and preparation of an archive structured in accordance with established guidelines (see 3.1 below).

- 1.3 Preparation of a report based on the results of 1.1 and 1.2. to provide sufficient detail to allow informed decisions on the implications of the proposed development upon the archaeological resource.

2. FIELDWORK

- 2.1 The fieldwork will consist of the excavation of a single evaluation trench, measuring c.8m x 1.7m. The trench will be positioned to maximise the retrieval of archaeological information, reflect the likely areas of maximum impact of the proposed development, and in consideration of any constraints to trench location that exist on the site (such as live services, existing structures and access). The intention is to position the trench to encompass the northern end of the proposed foundations, thereby avoiding an existing structure, and run in a north-easterly direction along the line of proposed drainage works (see attached plan).
- 2.2 The evaluation trench will initially be excavated to the top of any archaeological deposits, or to the top of the undisturbed subsoil or to the maximum depth allowed under health and safety regulations, by mechanical excavator. **Mechanical excavation will be carried out using a toothless grading or ditching bucket.** Due to anticipated constraints a mini-digger will be used to excavate the trench.
- 2.3 Following mechanical excavation the evaluation trench will be cleaned by hand in order to determine the presence and extent of any archaeological deposits.
- 2.4 The minimum number of features required to determine the character of any archaeological deposits will be hand excavated and recorded.
- 2.5 Features containing deposits of environmental or technological significance will be sampled. The samples will be retained in stable conditions until specialist analysis can be arranged.
- 2.6 In the event of the discovery of human remains they will, where possible, be left *in situ*: if removal is necessary it will only take place following the granting of permissions by the relevant authorities.
- 2.7 In the event that stratified deposits are encountered, parts of the trenches will be excavated to ascertain the depth of archaeological deposits and the natural horizons across the site.
- 2.8 All deposits will be recorded by archaeological context record sheet, scale drawing, photography and site notebooks. All deposits will be numbered using the open-ended numbering system in accordance with Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services' Recording Manual¹. Significant deposits will be recorded by scale drawing (no less than 1:20); drawn plans will be related to Ordnance Datum and, where possible, known boundaries. A photographic record will be maintained using 35mm monochrome and digital formats.
- 2.9 All artefacts, ecofacts and samples will be retained and, where possible, related to the contexts from which they derived. Sensitive material will be

¹ Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services have adopted the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A copy will be available for inspection if required.

stored in appropriately stable conditions. All finds, excepting those deemed to be Treasure Trove, shall remain the property of the landowner.

- 2.10 The evaluation trench will be backfilled and made safe, but not necessarily reinstated to their pre-evaluation condition.

3. POST-FIELDWORK REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

- 3.1 The data collected through the evaluation trenching will be collated and catalogued to form a site archive in accordance with guidelines laid out in *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2007). The archive will be deposited with an appropriate body (to be arranged) and will be temporarily held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services. Any material held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services would be available for examination.
- 3.2 A full assessment will be made of the data collected and a report prepared.
- 3.3 The report will detail, and be fully representative of, the results of the evaluation. It will place the results in their local, regional and national contexts.
- 3.4 **The report will identify the potential impact of development on the archaeological resource and, where appropriate, make recommendations for further evaluation or mitigation works required to protect that resource.**
- 3.5 Copies of the final report will be sent to the client, who will circulate them to the relevant authorities. DAT will lodge a copy of the report with the regional Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 3.6 A summary of the project results, excluding any confidential information, may be prepared for wider dissemination (e.g. Archaeology in Wales and special interest and period-specific journals).
- 3.7 A copy of the final report will be deposited with the regional HER within six months of the completion of the project.

4. MONITORING

- 4.1 It is expected that archaeological advisors to the County Council will monitor the project. A timetable for the project, including monitoring visits, will be agreed before commencement.

5. STAFF

- 5.1 The project will be managed by Philip Poucher, Project Manager.
- 5.2 Excavation staff will be drawn from the team of archaeologists employed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Operations.

SHALIMAR, FRESHWATER EAST, PEMBROKE SHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NUMBER 2009/xx

March 2009

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by
James Meek

Swydd / Position: Head of Field Services

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith
This report has been checked and approved by

ar ran Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.
on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position:

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date

Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi 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