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A REASSESSMENT OF THE NEOLITHIC CHAMBERED TOMBS OF  
SOUTH-WEST WALES (CARMARTHENSHIRE AND PEMBROKESHIRE)

by

Christopher Thompson Barker

Thesis for the degree of M.Litt  
Submitted to the University of Glasgow  
(Department of Archaeology)  
October 1989

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## SUMMARY

The megalithic chambered tombs of south-west Wales represent a local development within a widespread Neolithic tradition. As a group the tombs have been relatively neglected by archaeologists; indeed this thesis provides the first modern reassessment of these monuments within the former Counties of Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire.

The Introduction documents past antiquarian and archaeological investigation of the megalithic sites of SW Wales and considers the deficiencies and limitations of these earlier studies.

The Inventory comprises a review of every site within the two Counties which has ever been described as a cromlech or chambered tomb. The descriptive account of each site is drawn from the available antiquarian and archaeological records, together with detail obtained by personal survey. Fresh plans and elevations\* have been prepared for each of the monuments at which chamber-like structures remain.

The Discussion reviews both our present knowledge of the Neolithic in South Wales and the archaeological evidence recovered from the tombs of Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire. Critical examination of the 'perceived' tomb typologies cast doubts on the validity of imposing systems of classification on such diverse and disturbed sites. In particular the alleged dominance of the Portal Dolmen within the region can no longer be sustained.

## Method of site survey

Disturbance of the various monuments has resulted in a series of compact sites, well suited to survey by a single field-worker. Some assistance was obtained to facilitate the setting-out of survey lines at the more extensive 'complexes' (Morfa Bychan, Carn Wen, Llan).

At each site a transect line was established by extending a string between two tensioned upright poles. Measurements along this line were made from a 30m fibreglass tape. The transect line was positioned so that offsets (none greater than 2m) could be taken by means of a hand-tape and plumb-bob. Where necessary additional strings were set up either parallel to or at right angles (3:4:5 technique) from the primary transect line.

To ease the preparation of elevations, the primary transect was set horizontal by use of a line-level. In the case of a chamber retaining a capstone two horizontal strings (set in the same vertical plane) were utilised, with one set above the capstone, the other below, passing through the chamber.

Measurements taken relative to the transect lines were plotted onto standard graph paper. Fair copies of the plans were traced from these field-drawings by means of a light-box.

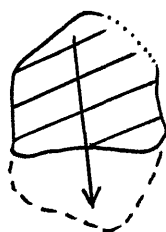
## Site plans

Due to the loss of a folio of prepared drawings close to the date of submission of the thesis, the illustrations herein represent photocopied reductions of the fair copies of the original field-drawings. Consequently they bear annotation, measurements and detail not originally destined for the final versions of the drawings.

The following conventions are used:

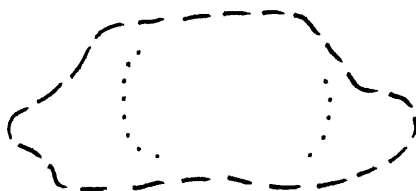
Upright stones

Perimeter shown  
at ground level



perimeter inaccessible for planning  
direction of predominant slope  
extent of overhang

Capstone outline/  
chamber lining



Recumbent stones



turf cover

Orthostat measurements (in cm)

H height

IH/EH internal/external height

SH/S1 H 'sloping height' ie. length (= height when upright)

ISH/SIH internal SH (used when outer surface obscured by cairn)

T thickness



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## ABBREVIATIONS

DAT	Dyfed Archaeological Trust
DRF	Detailed record file
OS	Ordnance Survey
OSR	OS site record card
PAS	Pembrokeshire Archaeological Survey (Laws and Owen 1897-1906)
RCAM	The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments and Constructions in Wales and Monmouthshire
SAM	Scheduled ancient monument
SMR	Sites and monuments record
SRF	Site record form

Compass points may appear in abbreviated form

References to the PAS include the number of the OS County Series sheet on which a particular site appears

County numbering for chambered tombs beyond the study area follows the system established by Powell et al (1969,xiv-xvi)

All radiocarbon dates are given in uncalibrated radiocarbon years (bc)

**INTRODUCTION**

## INTRODUCTION

"Cromlechs abound in Pembrokeshire to a degree probably exceeding any other part of South Britain. They are principally in the northern portion of the county, in the Preseley, Pencaer, Castlebythe and Trefgarn hills, and westward to St David's Head, a district in which the intrusive trap formation afforded ample means for their construction, or the comparative want of cultivation has incidently preserved them..." (Jones and Freeman 1856,25).

This concentration of Neolithic chambered tombs in SW Wales has long been recognized, but in the years preceeding the publication of the important studies of Welsh megalithic monuments by Grimes (1936a;1936b) compilers of distribution maps (eg.Wheeler 1925,fig 110) were dependent upon the notoriously unreliable RCAM Inventories (Carmarthenshire 1917; Pembrokeshire 1925).

SW Wales is predominantly an area of fertile lowland, although a belt of high ground (above 600ft/183m) runs eastward from the Preselau hills through N Carmarthenshire. While the geology of the area is complex, the landscape only partially reflects the underlying geological structure. The present land surface represents an uplifted sea-floor from which irregularities have been eroded by wave action. The processes of uplift may have taken place in a series of pulses, resulting in well-marked plateaux at c.200, 400 and 600ft (c.61, 122 and 183m) (Neville George 1973, 13).

However, in certain situations continuing erosion allows glimpses of the hidden geology. Along the rocky coastline erosion of relatively soft deposits has led to the formation of sheltered bays between headlands of more durable rocks. And inland, bands of igneous rock stretch from Ramsey Island to the Preselau hills (Shotton 1972,fig 3). Relatively resistant to erosion, these intrusive sills form the outcrops and ridges so characteristic of N Pembrokeshire and from which were obtained the raw materials for Neolithic stone axes (Groups VIII, XIII and XXIII).

Fieldwork on the chambered tombs in this region has never been easy. "While...the secluded nature of the country has tended to their preservation, it renders them more difficult of access, from the want

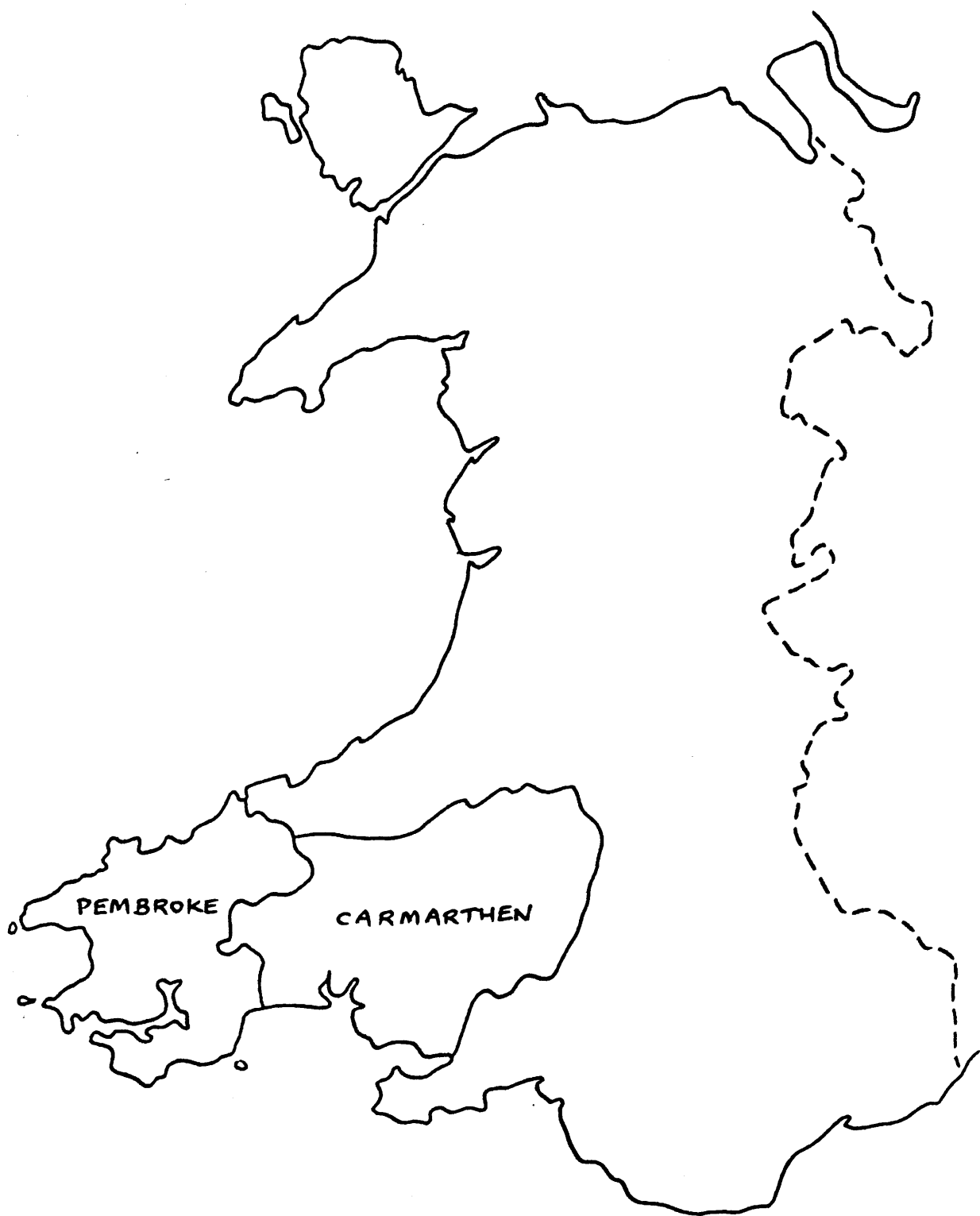


Fig 1 : Welsh County Map - study area

of accomodation in their neighbourhood, and from the time required for seeing them" (Gardner Wilkinson 1871,221). Systematic study of the sites is a daunting task, for many are severely disturbed and so few conform to recognizable 'types'. Only two archaeologists have attempted anything approaching a thorough assessment - Grimes (1936a;1936b) provided lists of sites which he could accept as chambered tombs, while Daniel (1950,198-209 & 215-6) also included the more dubious and spurious sites.

Both of these writers have emphasized how difficult it can be to differentiate between disturbed chambers, stone settings and, in certain cases, natural features without recourse to excavation. The failure of many fieldworkers to observe Fenton's maxim - "Incredulity is essential to constitute a good Antiquary" (Fisher 1917,11) - has meant that many erratics and natural rock formations have been 'identified' as burial chambers (Grimes 1936b,112).

Perhaps the commonest error in the early RCAM Inventories (1917;1925) was the willingness to accept, uncritically, a standing stone as the solitary remainder of a destroyed 'cromlech'. Such stones "are generally considered to be the ultimate archaeological nightmare, a solitary object standing by itself with no other dating evidence" (Selkirk 1982,337). Recent excavations at three Pembrokeshire sites have highlighted the dangers of a classification of these 'monoliths' based upon surface evidence alone, for in each case the stone proved to be part of a more complicated structure. At Rhos y Clegyrn the standing stone was shown to have been one of a pair (Lewis 1974), while at Stackpole Warren the "Devil's Quoit" was found to have been erected at the western end of a trapezoidal setting of over 3000 small stones, and at St Ishmaels the "Longstone" stood as the centre stone of a trapezoidal stone 'cove' (Selkirk 1982,337-340;Williams 1988).

In contrast with other parts of the Principality, there is a paucity of antiquarian records for SW Wales. The earliest account of its megalithic monuments is contained in the Description of Penbrookshire in Generall by George Owen of Henllys (C.1603); his description of Pentre Ifan is remarkable for its time, but sadly no other site received such detailed attention.

The next major account of the antiquities of the region appeared in 1695, when the enlarged English edition of Camden's Britannia, edited by Edmund Gibson, was published. The "Additions" for the Counties of Wales were provided by Edward Lhuyd, then Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. Lhuyd's contribution relied heavily upon detail supplied to him by a number of correspondents throughout Wales, his chief helper in Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire being Rev. Nicholas Roberts of Llanddewi Velfrey (Emery 1958).

"By producing this edition of Camden, so augmented as to constitute something approaching an original work, Gibson placed in the hands of the country gentry, doctors, and clergymen, a basic summary against which they could set the results of their own local inquiries in history and archaeology. An annotated copy of the 1695 or subsequent editions of Camden formed the almost inevitable nucleus around which comment and additions would grow as local investigations were carried out by these amateurs who were beginning to build up the tradition which crystallized into the great nineteenth-century county histories and the foundation of regional archaeological societies" (Piggott 1985,18).

The influence of Britannia is clear in the rash of publications that appeared during the late 18th and early 19th centuries: the Topographical Dictionaries (eg. Carlisle 1811;Rees 1815;Lewis 1833), the County and Parish accounts of History and Antiquities (eg. Manby 1801; Malkin 1804;Meyrick 1808), and the Gentleman's Tours (eg.Wyndham 1775; Warner 1799;Evans 1804). In many instances the writer would merely restate the Britannia entry, but a few accounts contain valuable detail concerning sites subsequently damaged or destroyed. The Gentleman tourists, who came "in search of picturesque scenery and antiquities" (Briggs 1982,266) were not always impressed by what they found - "this miserable coast" (Wyndham 1775,92), "Newport, a beggarly town" (Wyndham 1775,92), "Fiscard is so filthy, so ill built, and so uncivilised as almost to be interesting on those very accounts" (Malkin 1804,453).

Richard Fenton was an antiquary very much in the tourist tradition, although by the time his Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire was published (1810) he was resident at Glynymel near Fishguard. His antiquarian work was heavily influenced by his friendship with Sir Richard Colt Hoare; they toured together extensively, and from Colt



Hoare's associate, William Cunnington, Fenton learned current methods of barrow investigation (Thompson 1983,28). His Historical Tour is an important account of the Pembrokeshire monuments, but in places the detail he provides is frustratingly incomplete. Oral tradition recorded by later antiquaries would suggest that Fenton dug into many more burial chambers than those described in the Historical Tour; however, one must beware over-criticizing Fenton, for undocumented disturbance would have all too easily become attributed to the best known local 'cromlech-breaker'.

The next major advance in the study of the megalithic monuments of SW Wales was facilitated by the publication of the Journal of the Cambrian Archaeological Association, Archaeologia Cambrensis, which first appeared in 1846. "Journals of this kind [superseded] the topographical tour as a method of investigating and recording antiquities; they could give a more detailed and specialised treatment, and their regular appearance made possible further comment and a continuous review of the evidence" (Moore 1976,215-9). Papers by Barnwell, Gardner Wilkinson and others contain reliable descriptions which help to document the additional disturbances that sites have suffered during the last hundred years.

The Pembrokeshire Archaeological Survey (1897-1906) was the first attempt to provide a county-wide record of prehistoric and later remains. It was based upon the County series of 6in Ordnance Survey maps; copies were distributed to local correspondents, who annotated the maps and provided accompanying descriptive notes. Despite the efforts of the editors, Edward Laws and Henry Owen, the coverage was very patchy and extremely subjective. The Inventories for Carmarthenshire (1917) and Pembrokeshire (1925) by the RCAM were no more successful, and were rightly ridiculed by Wheeler in Antiquity (Wheeler 1927;Piggott 1983,30).

Despite such forceful criticism, the change from antiquarianism to archaeology in Wales was a wastefully slow process (Piggott 1983,32). Between the World Wars the only work of consequence concerning the megalithic sites of SW Wales was carried out by W.F.Grimes, then based in the Department of Archaeology at the National Museum of Wales. His thorough fieldwork is reflected in two important publications which

\* The following sites were not visited:

68/133	Field names only
69/70/71	Lost sites, unlocated
111	Recently destroyed monument, completely removed
132	Hill-top Bronze Age cairn
78	Stone setting, modern survey available (Roese 1978)

---

appeared in 1936: the text which accompanied the Ordnance Survey map of long barrows and megaliths in S Wales (Grimes 1936a), and a paper entitled "The Megalithic Monuments of Wales" which was published in the Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society (Grimes 1936b). Important excavations that he directed include Meini Gwyr (Grimes 1938), Bedd yr Afanc (Grimes 1939) and Pentre Ifan (Grimes 1948;1960), though regrettably not all have been fully published.

Since 1945 research has been confined to isolated excavations of individual sites (Savory - Twlc y Filiast in 1953; Lynch - Carreg Samson in 1968; Rees - Carreg Coetan Arthur in 1979-80). Indeed, the Neolithic is the one period unrepresented in the recently published review of a decade's work by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust (1986).

Due to pressure of space Grimes was unable in his 1936 paper to provide detailed descriptions of each site, or to explain why he had omitted others as "not genuine" (1936b,106). It is the intention of the present study to correct this deficiency with regard to the chambered tombs of Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire. This will complete a modern documentation of the Welsh chambered tombs - a process started by Frances Lynch (N Wales) and John Corcoran (SE Wales) in Megalithic Enquiries in the West of Britain (Powell et al 1969), and continued by Christopher Houlder in the forthcoming Ceredigion County History.

*almost* To this end, <sup>^</sup>every site in the region that has ever been described as a possible cromlech, burial chamber or long mound has been visited, <sup>\*</sup> reassessed and, where necessary, reclassified. Many sites have been resurveyed, and the accompanying descriptions make full use of available antiquarian and archaeological accounts.

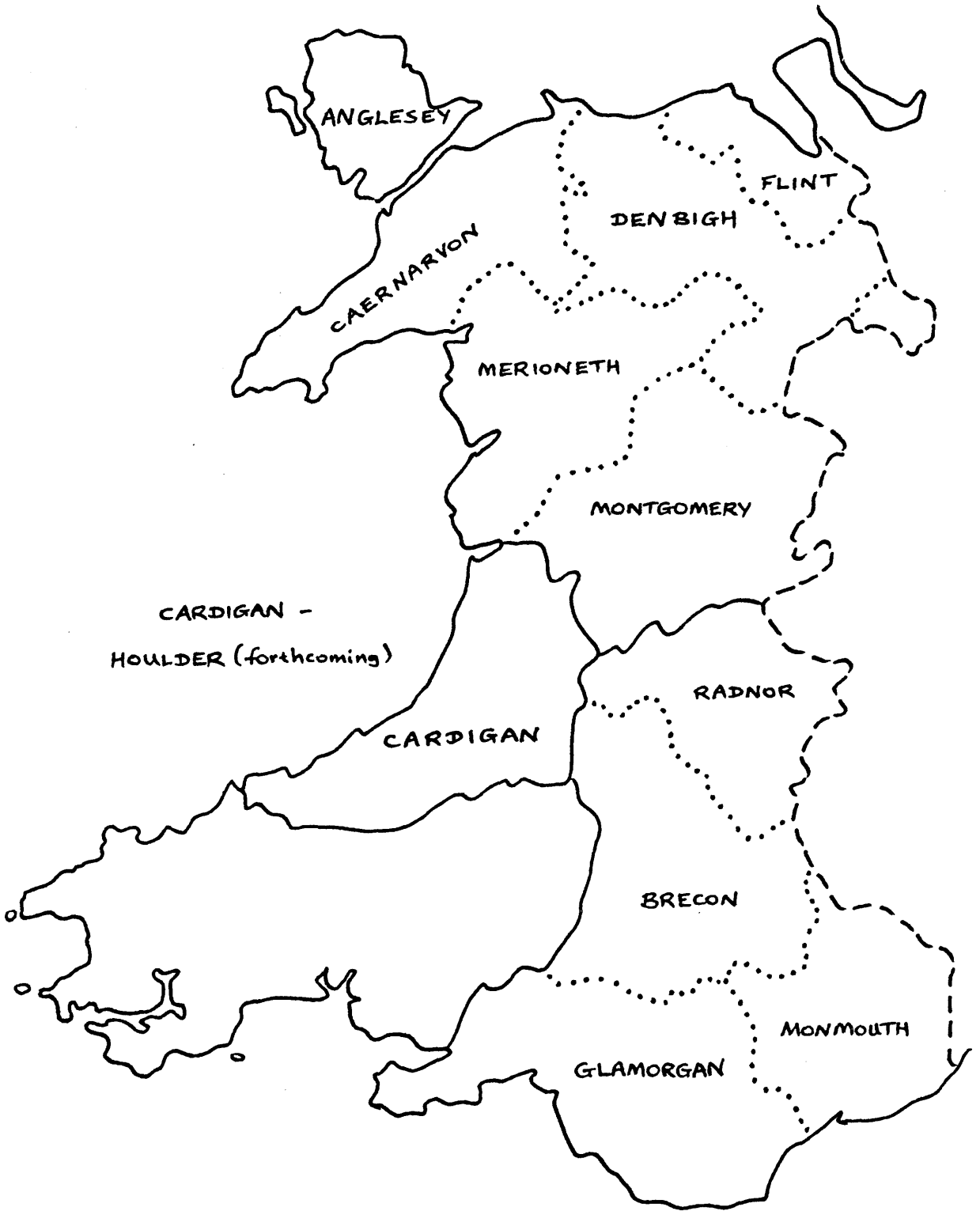
SW Wales still presents major problems to any study of its megalithic sites. Within the region there was a wide range of site type (eg. chambered tomb, stone circle, stone row, standing stone complex), and excavation continues to demonstrate how misleading surface indications can be. With these limitations in mind, the Site Inventory has been prepared under the following seven headings:

Section A Chambered Tombs

B Grouped Megaliths (Probable Burial Chambers)

C Lost Sites

N WALES - LYNCH (1969)



SE WALES - CORCORAN (1969)

Fig 2 : Welsh County Map - previous modern studies

Section D Stone Settings

E Round Barrows with large capstones

F Standing Stones traditionally described as burial chamber remnants

G Misidentified sites

It would be foolish to claim that on present evidence we can confirm or deny the status of many of the sites under consideration. Indeed, the division between Sections A and B of the Inventory has been drawn in deference to previous studies. No attempt has been made to assign new code references (Powell et al 1969, xiv-xvi) to the Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire monuments; wherever applicable the County Number given by Daniel (1950) is quoted. Each entry in the Inventory is headed by the name of the site, the parish in which the site lies, and the site's National Grid Reference. The NGR is quoted as accurately as possible, to eight figures whenever this is available (generally from the Dyfed Archaeological Trust SMR).

The discussion which follows the inventory reviews our current knowledge of the Neolithic in SW Wales, and examines the validity of the typological forms which have been 'recognized' within the SW Wales group of chambered tombs.

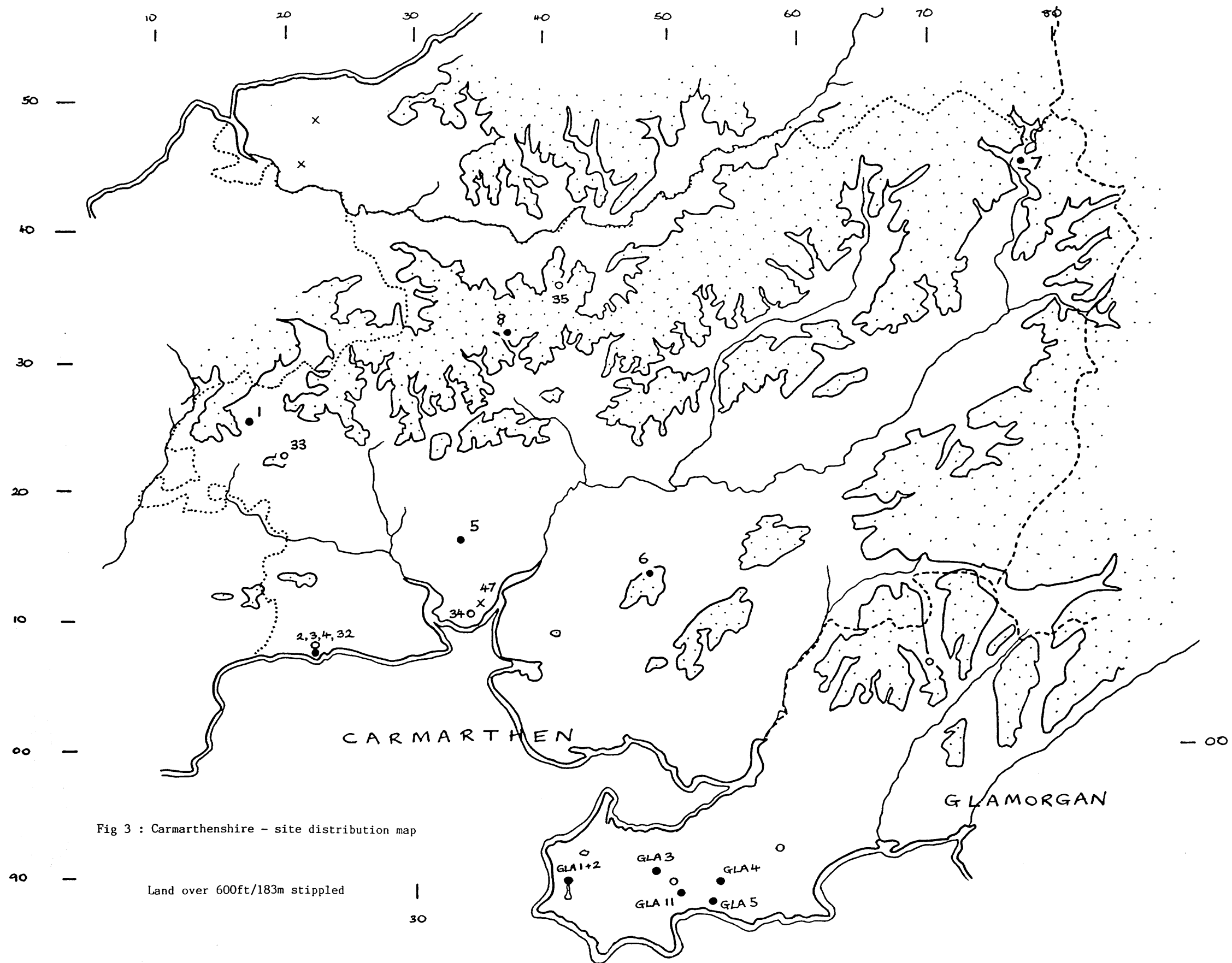


Fig 3 : Carmarthenshire - site distribution map

Land over 600ft/183m stippled

30

Fig 3: Carmarthenshire site distribution map

Extant burial chambers	1. Gwal y Filiast
	2. Morfa Bychan A
	3. Morfa Bychan B
	4. Morfa Bychan D
	5. Twlc y Filiast
	6. Mynydd Llangyndeyrn
	7. Gelli
	8. Cerrig Llwydion
Probable Burial chambers	32. Morfa Bychan C
	33. Cefn Brafle
	34. Fron Ucha
	35. Yr Hen Llech
Well documented lost sites	47. Waun y Felin

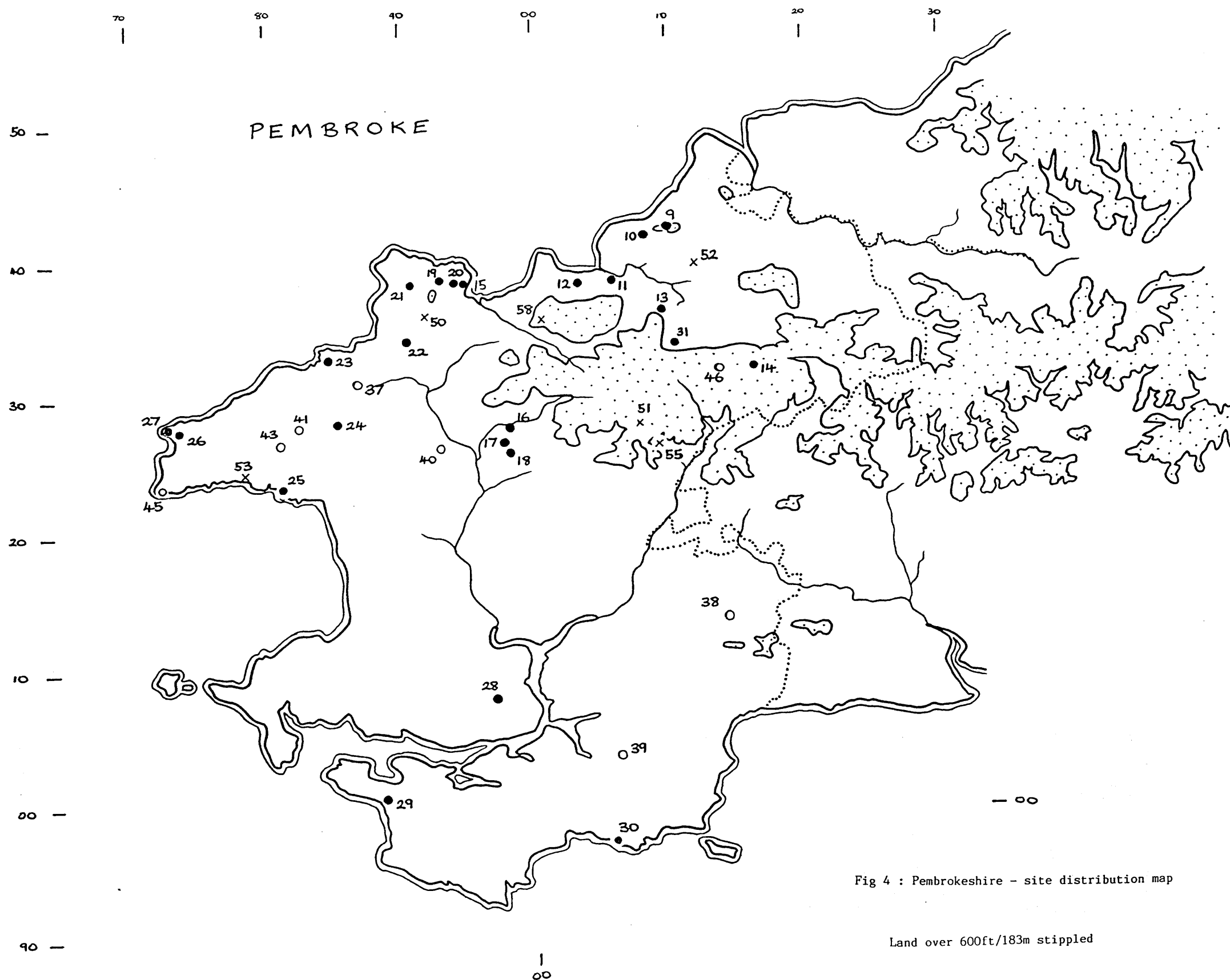




Fig 4: Pembrokeshire site distribution map

Extant burial chambers

9. Llech y dribedd
10. Trelyffaint
11. Carreg Coetan Arthur
12. Cerrig y Gof
13. Pentre Ifan
14. Mountain
15. Carn Wen
16. Colston
17. Garn Turne
18. Parc y Llyn
19. Carn Wnda
20. Penrhiw
21. Garngilfach
22. Trellysycoed
23. Carreg Samson/Longhouse
24. Treffynnon
25. St Elvies
26. Carn Llidi
27. Coetan Arthur (St Davids)
28. Hanging Stone
29. Devil's Quoit
30. King's Quoit
31. Bedd yr Afanc

Probable burial chambers

37. Trewalter Llwyd
38. Llan
39. Cuckoo Stones
40. Quarry Bach
41. Tresewig
43. Llecha
45. Lower Treginnis
46. Carn Menyn

Well documented lost sites

50. Ffynnon Druidion

51. Eithbed

52. Trefael

53. Llandruidion

55. Prysg

58. Coetan Arthur (Llanllawer)

INVENTORY - SECTION A

1. Gwal y Filiast (Llanboidy) SN 1705 2564 CRM 1    DAT SMR 1138

"Gwaly Viliast or Bwrdd Arthur in Llan Boudy parish, is...a rude stone about ten yards in circumference, and above three foot thick, supported by four pillars, which are about two foot and a half in length" (Lhuyd 1695,col 628).

This is the earliest account of the impressive burial chamber which stands on the wooded slopes above the Afon Taf, S of Dolwilym House. The polygonal chamber is open to the SW, though Barnwell (1872,133) recorded a fifth upright which had filled this gap. This would suggest that the entrance to the chamber was at the E, facing up the slope. In this entrance there are two further stones - the S slab is 0.35m high and may be broken, while the N stone, also 0.35m high, has a rounded surface and may have functioned as a sill-stone (Lynch 1975,26).

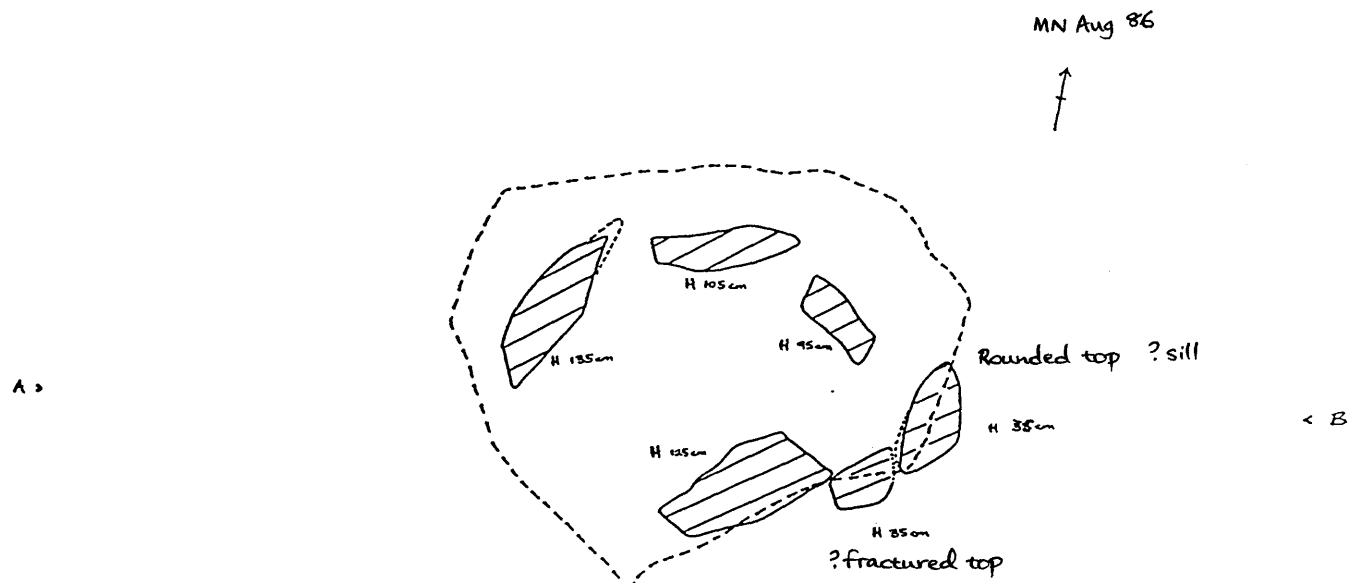
Amongst the outcrops on the hillside Barnwell believed that he could trace "the remains of the circle of isolated stones which...surrounded the base of the tumulus" (1872,133). Gardner Wilkinson was less imaginative, recording only one upright slab in the vicinity of the chamber (1871,plate 30 no 7). This stone is still present, 5m to the N of the sill-stone. No trace of a passage is evident, and indications of a covering cairn are very slight. Indeed, the slope to the W is such that careful revetment would be required to support a cairn of any size.

Fig 5

Visited August 1986

Fig 5

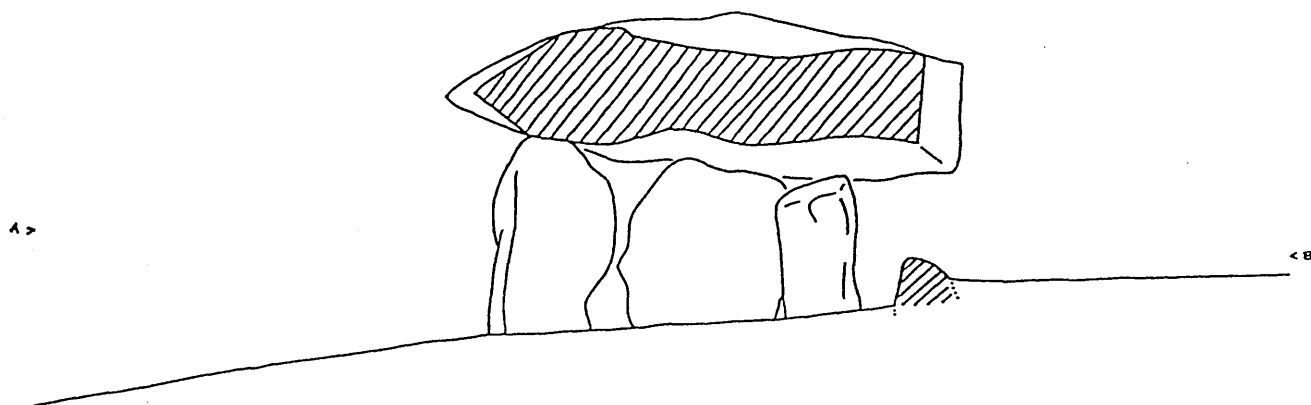
GWAL Y FILIAST  
SN 1705 2564



5m N of "sill-stone" stands one upright  
slab 140cm (E-W) x 75cm x 95cm high

1m

All heights taken on chamber side

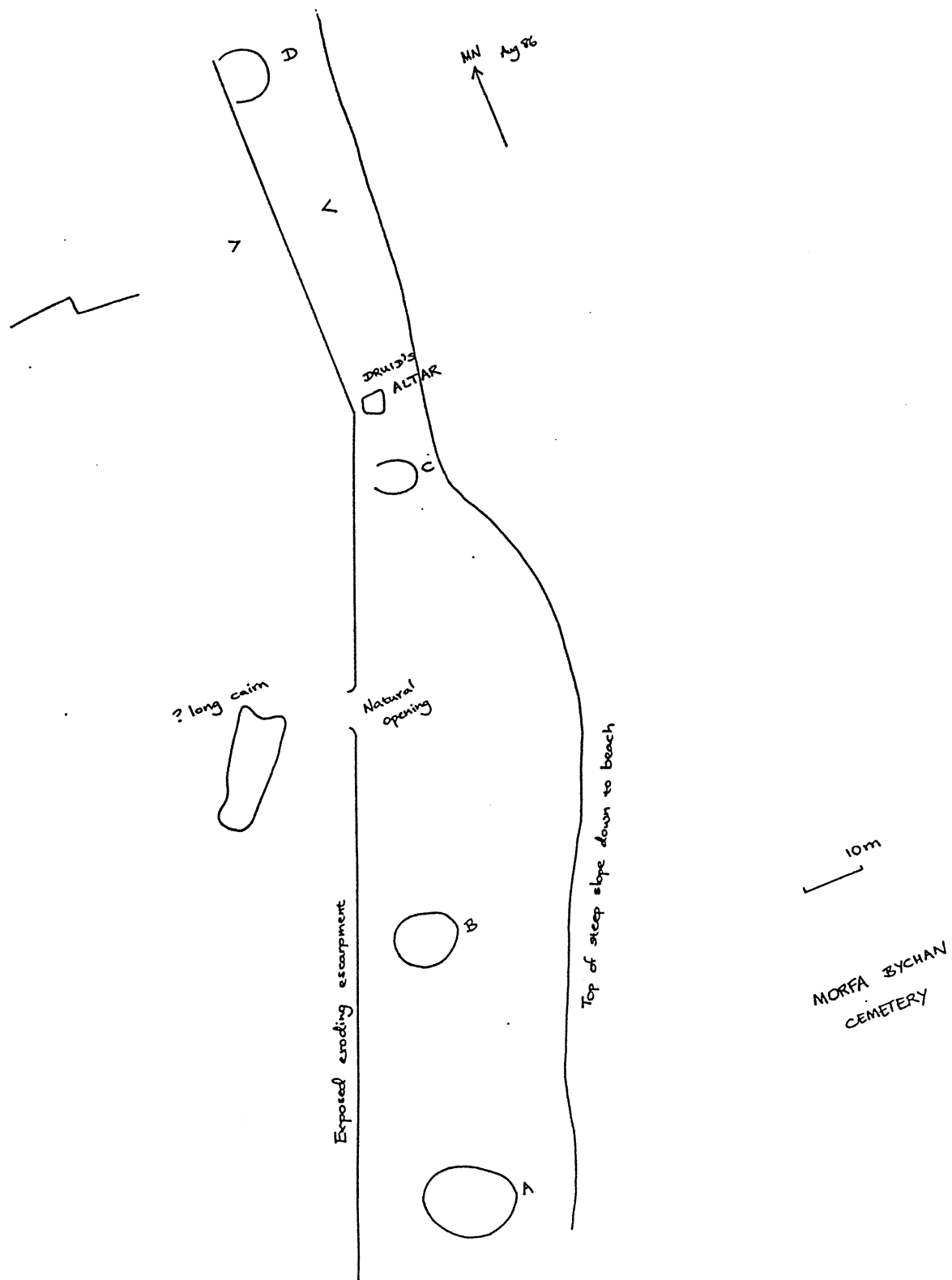


On a terrace to the N of Ragwen Point, bounded by a low limestone escarpment on the W and a steep slope to the E, stand three (?four) chambered cairns (fig 6). Morfa Bychan A, the most southern cairn, was first recorded by Gardner Wilkinson (1870,112) - his drawing shows a circular cairn surrounding a central chamber with a displaced capstone. While the NW portion of the chamber is shown much as it survives today, the uprights on the SE side are more deranged than at present; these stones were restored to their current positions during the excavation of the chamber by Treherne, Gibbins, Clarke and Ward in May 1910 (Ward 1918,69-70).

"The floor deposits were stratified...the following sequence in descending order to the natural subsoil was observed: 1. black mould with small pieces of grit-stone, 2 to 4in thick 2. a layer of larger stones which in places looked like a rude pavement, 3 to 5in 3. yellow sandy soil with many largish stones, about 6in and 4. dark earth with bluish clay and a few bits of charcoal, 4 to 6in, directly lying on the subsoil...several bones were found at or near the surface, but not a fragment of bone was seen below. The only objects of human handiwork were 11 small pieces of flint and one of flint-like chert...these stone objects were found scattered about the southern half of the chamber, most of them at a depth of 3 to 4in" (Ward 1918,70-1). After the excavation the chamber floor was packed with blocks of stone; this has minimized further deterioration of the structure (Matthews 1927).

Ward (1918,71) described the cairn as "roughly oval, with the longer diameter NW and SE...the elongation of this patch is undoubtedly due to its situation close to the brow of the terrace and the consequent trailing of material in that direction". This explanation was clearly accepted by Grimes - his plan of the site (1936b,fig 24) included "the approximate line of brow of steep slope". There is no evidence of a passage, although Ward (1918,76) suggested that the chamber may have been entered over the two lower stones on the S side, and approached by a passage hidden below the displaced capstone.

Fig 6



A fresh survey of this site has revealed detail which may indicate an alternative explanation for the anomalous shape of the cairn. To the SE of the restored chamber erosion has disclosed a marked step in the cairn structure; beyond this the SE portion continues at a lower level. In this crescentic area there remains one upright stone (0.75m high), together with a large slab lying on the cairn material - these stones have been previously recorded, without comment, by Grimes. It is possible that the primary monument consisted of the main chamber (?closed) set in a small round cairn. To the SE an additional chamber was constructed, and the cairn extended to include it. Indeed, hollows in the southern portion of the added crescent may indicate the previous existence of further secondary structures.

Figs 7 & 8

Visited August 1986



MN Aug 86

Approx cairn edge

1m

cairn indistinct

? capstone  
lying on cairn tumble

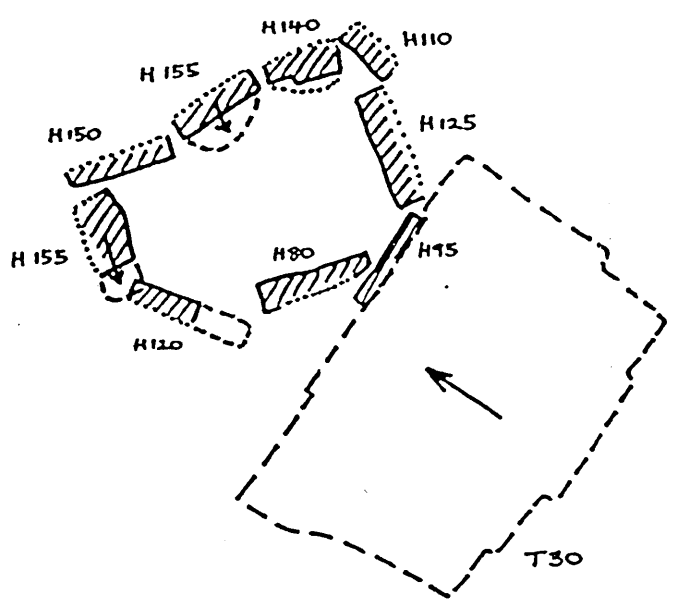
? Natural

? inner  
cairn

A >

< B

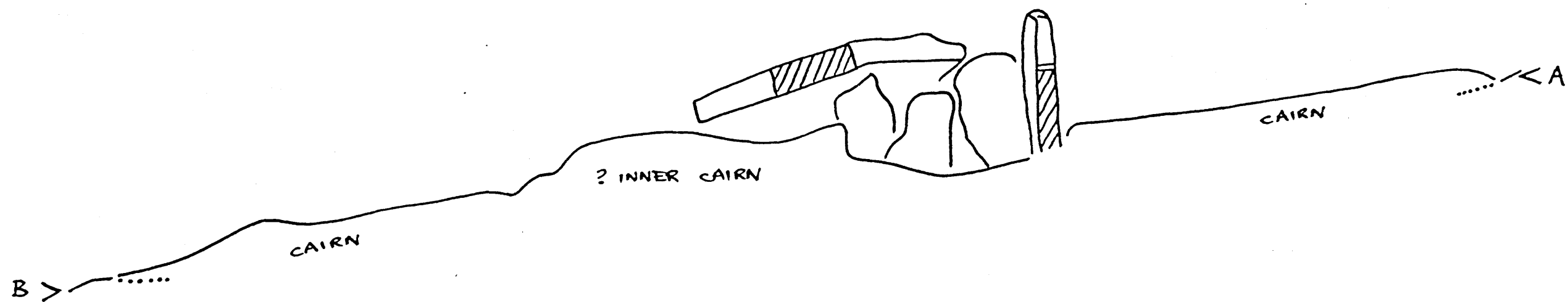
Natural  
T25



MORFA BYCHAN A

SN 2213 0743

Fig 7



MORFA BYCHAN A

Fig 8

Elevation of south-western side

Once again, the earliest illustration of this monument is that by Gardner Wilkinson (1870,42-3). It is shown as a pear-shaped cairn, surrounded by a kerb of stones, with some spill of cairn material down the slope to the S. The chamber is shown with 6 uprights, open to the NW; the capstone is displaced.

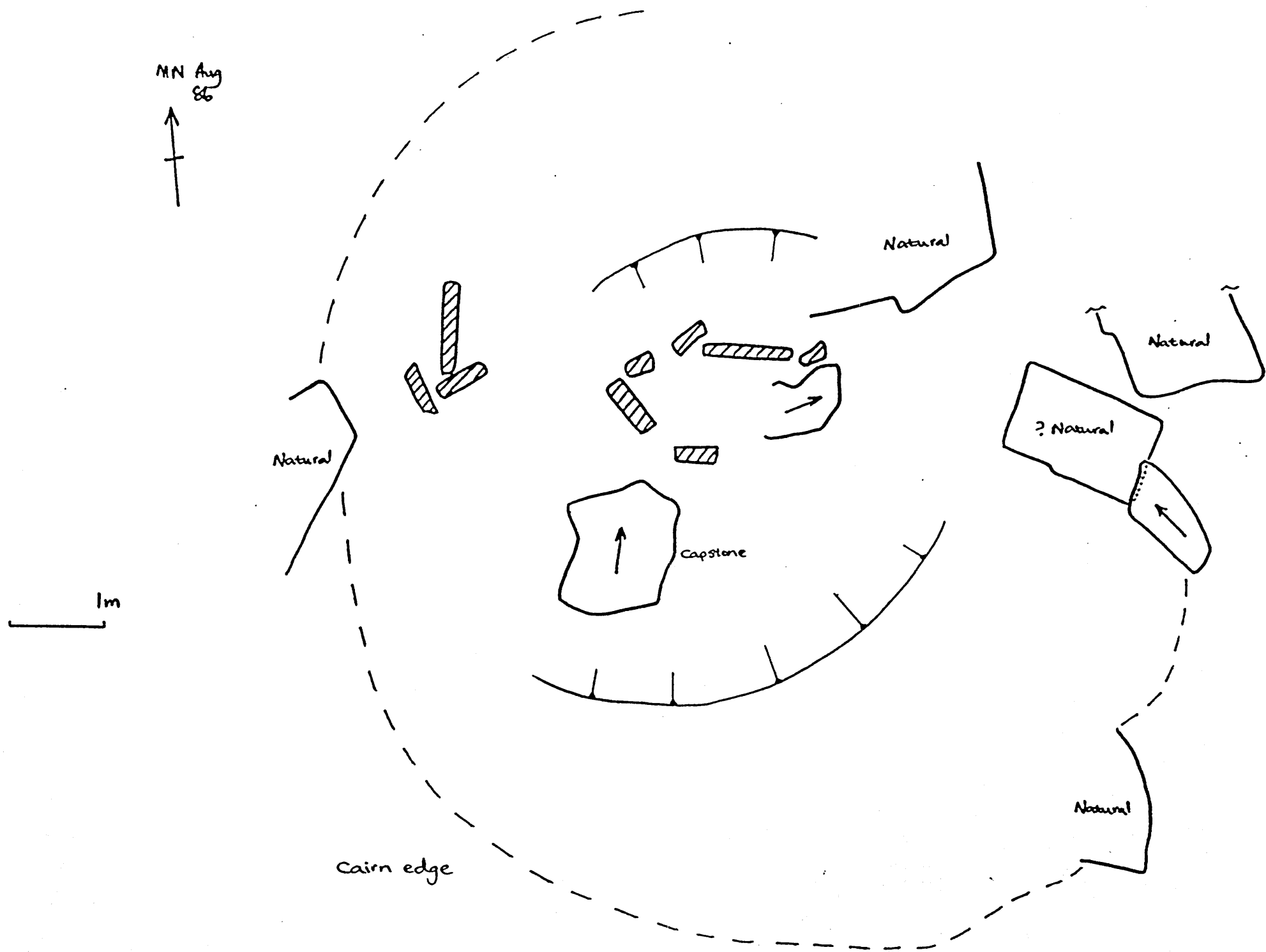
The plan of the chamber by Ward (1918,fig 7 no 2) compares well with the present remains - since his time the E upright has fallen outwards, and a stone that he shows between the E and S uprights has disappeared. This may be the stone that has 'appeared', leaning against the NE of the chamber remnants.

The disturbed chamber was excavated by Treherne, Gibbins, Clarke and Ward in May 1910. "A basin-shaped cavity", the legacy of previous diggers, "contained a considerable deposit of black mould - the decayed residue of leaves blown into it. The excavation was accomplished in a day (May 17), and nothing more noteworthy was found than three chippings of flint" (Ward 1918,69).

The chamber was built on a natural ledge immediately to the S of an outcrop. In its disturbed state it is impossible to be certain whether the chamber had a proper entrance; a potential gap at the SW is presently filled by fallen stones. The surrounding cairn is round in shape, and survives well on the S side. A second structure seems to have existed within the limits of the cairn to the W of the main chamber; ruinous now, its largest slab was included in Gardner Wilkinson's drawing. No evidence for a substantial kerb remains.

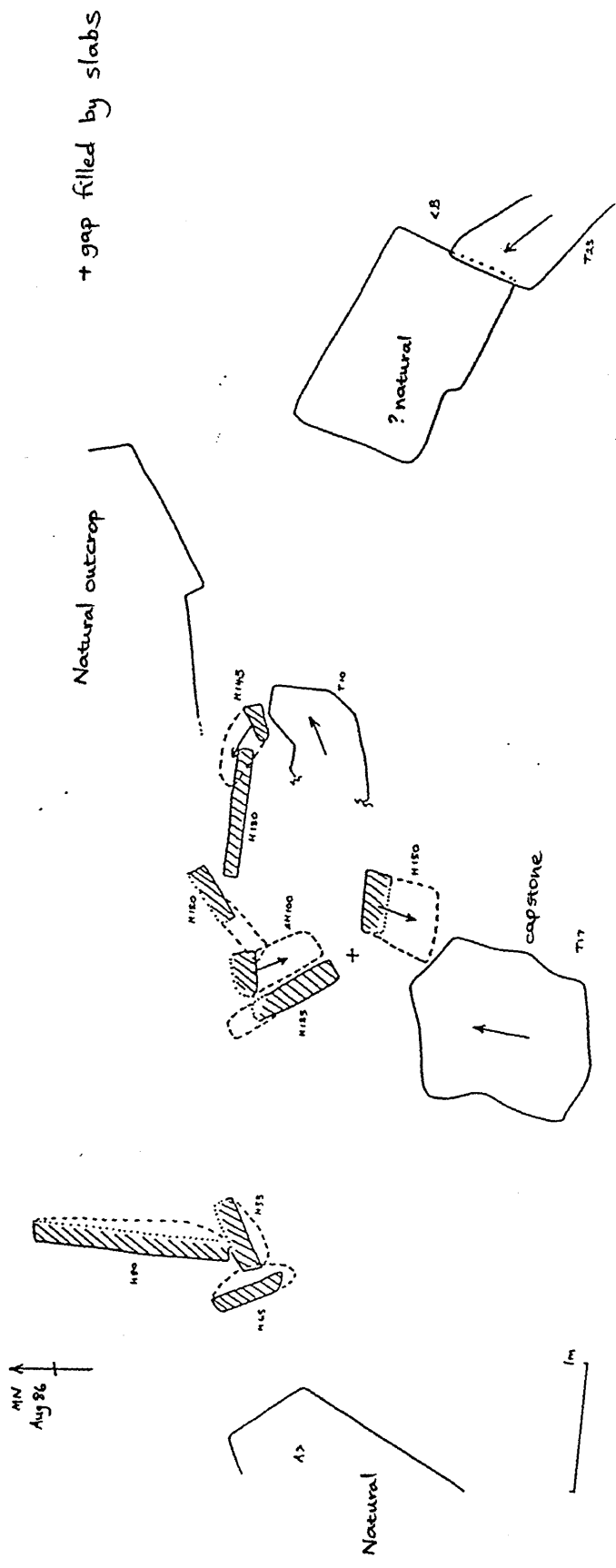
Figs 9 & 10

Visited August 1986



MORFA BYCHAN B

Fig 9



MORFA SYCHAN B  
SN 2214 0748

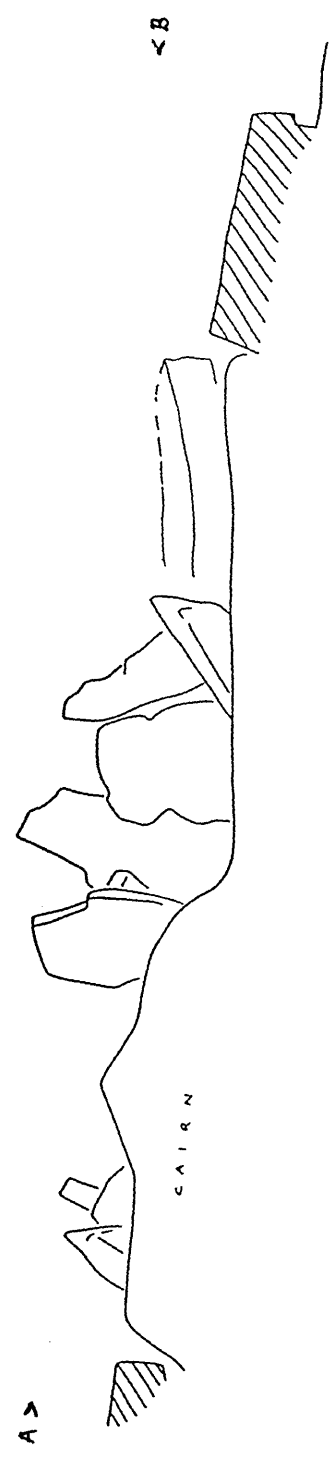


Fig 10

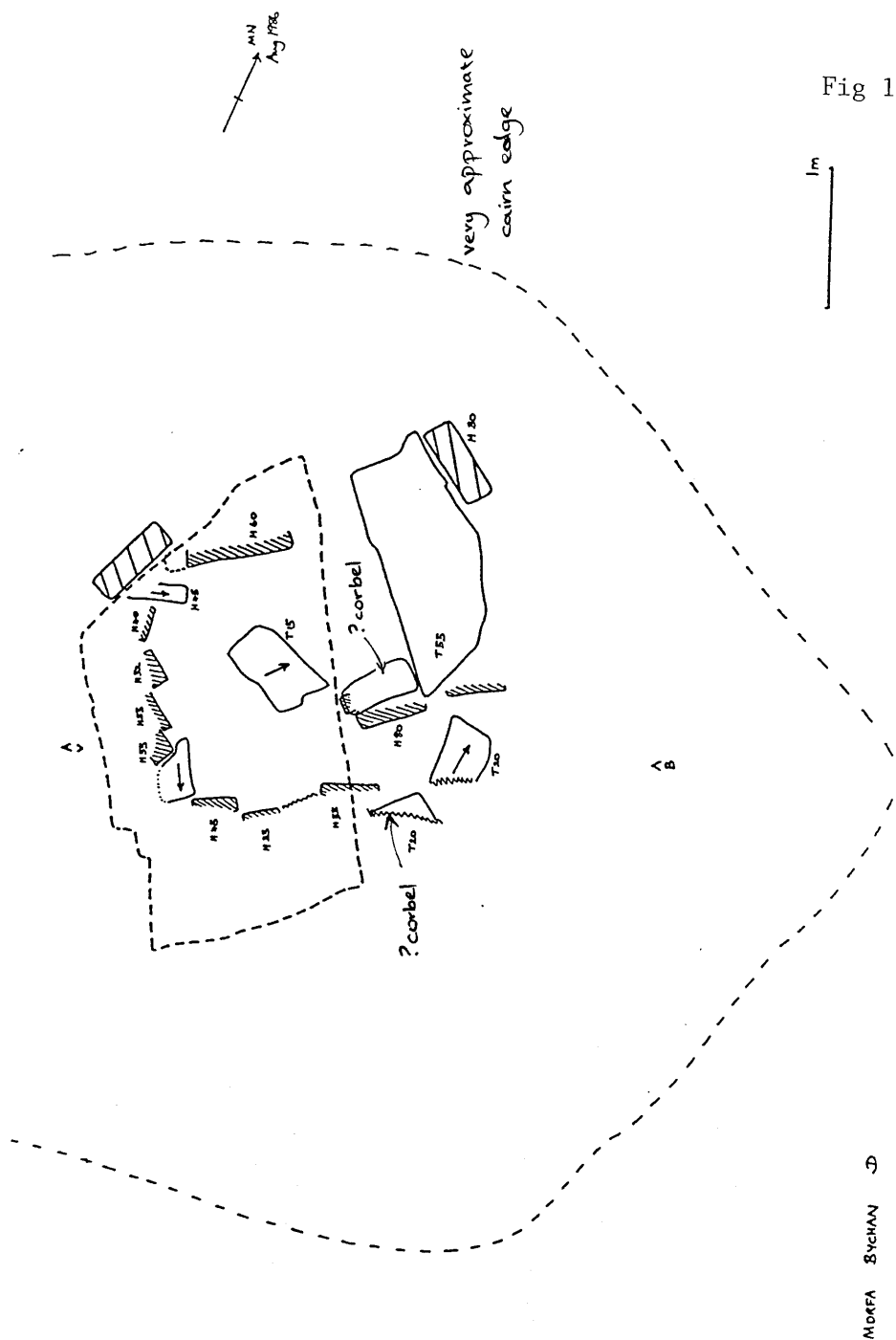
This burial chamber was discovered by Treherne and Evans on June 11 1910, and was excavated two days later (Ward 1918,64). Clearance of loose cairn material revealed a sunken approach passage to the E of the massive capstone. The entrance was closed by a thin slab - beyond this the excavators found the chamber filled by "a considerable accumulation of brownish soil, on the surface of which lay bones of recent animals". The S side of the chamber was cleared down until "the old floor level was reached, but no object of archaeological interest was found". The N side was thought too unsafe to risk excavation on account of a number of wall-slabs that had slipped inwards (Ward 1918,72-4). Such is the accuracy of Ward's plans that it is easy to document the changes that have occurred since the excavation - three slabs (two fallen, one upright) have disappeared from the N corner of the chamber, and the S side of the passage has partially collapsed.

The construction of the chamber may have been achieved by the underpinning of a natural slab by the many small wall-slabs. The large block to the N of the passage is too deeply set to have ever functioned as a capstone to the passage; indeed, there is little evidence that the passage was ever roofed. The extent of the cairn is unclear, but it is possible that in its original state it completely covered and obscured both the capstone and its approach passage.

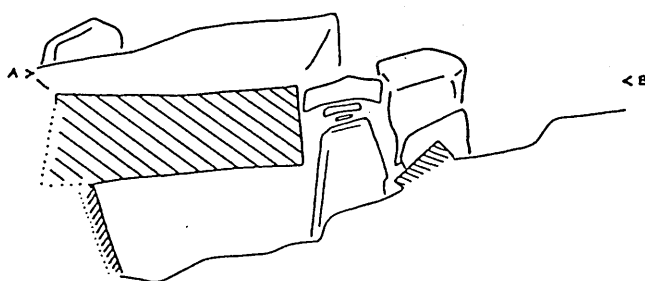
Fig 11

Visited August 1986

Fig 11



MDKFA BYCHAN D  
SN 2216 0762



This disturbed burial chamber stands alongside a brook in a steep-sided valley (Savory 1953;1956). Excavation of the site in 1953 revealed the remnants of an elongated cairn (c.60ft by 30ft; c.18.4m by 9.2m), aligned NNE-SSW. The cairn was an irregular construction with no distinct edges; the E side had been severely eroded by the action of the brook.

The chamber consists of three uprights which stand partly in shallow sockets, partly upon smaller stones. The S end of the chamber is marked by a low "sill" (4in/10cm high) consisting of five small slabs set on edge. Turf now obscures these slabs, though the top of a taller "jamb-stone" is visible adjacent to the E upright. The capstone has been displaced and rests upon the ground and the W upright. A small hollow (12in by 8in by 6in; 30cm by 20cm by 15cm), filled with dark earth, was found dug into the clay floor of the chamber. Charcoal flecks occurred on the surface of the clay throughout the chamber and immediately outside it.

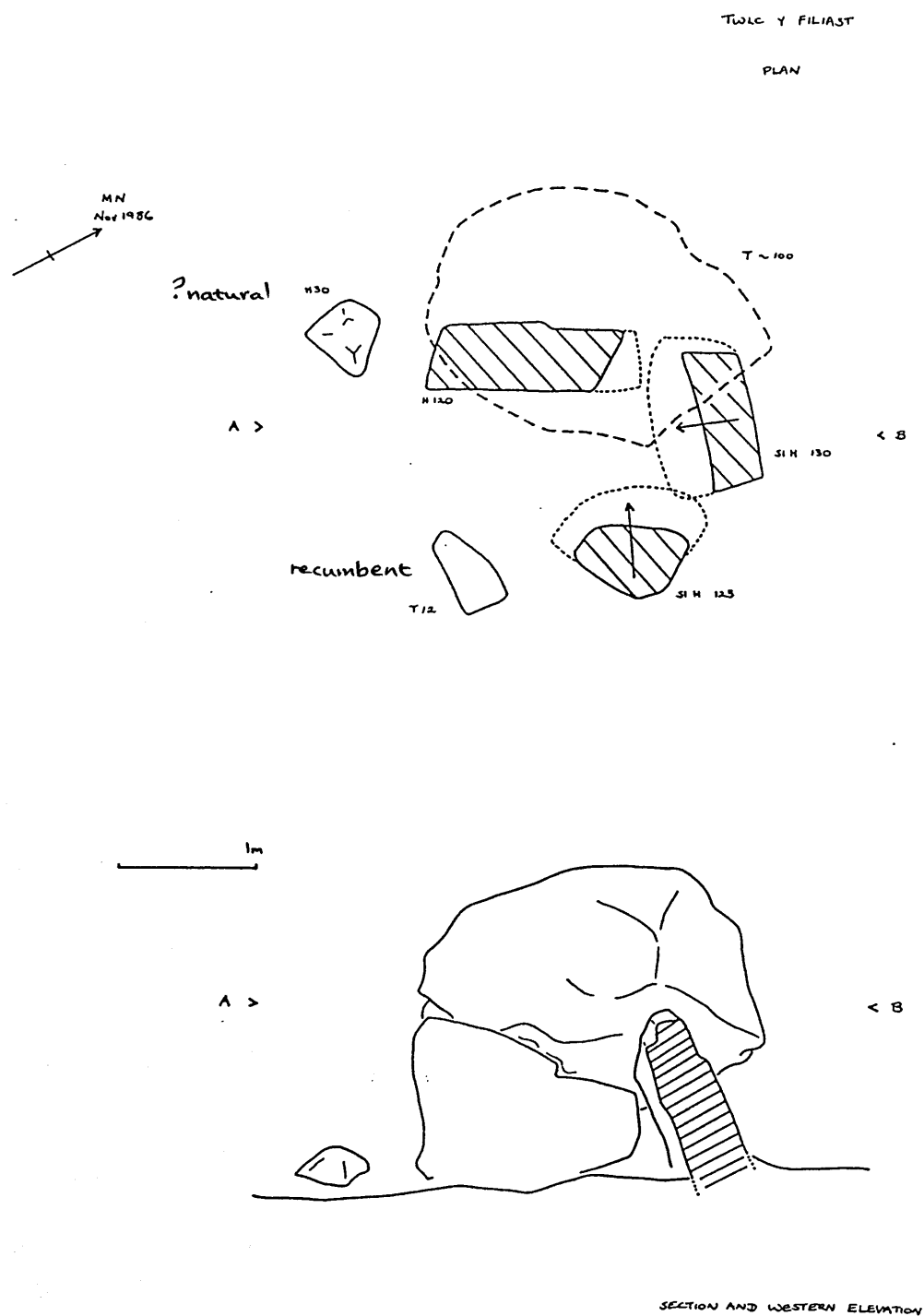
To the S of the chamber the excavator found traces of an "antechamber", indicated by three stone-holes, with a fallen slab (0.6m long) lying over a fourth. Within the area defined by these stone-holes a second pit had been dug (2ft by 1ft by 6in deep; 60cm by 30cm by 15cm); its base and sides yielded flecks of charcoal and burnt bone.

Excavation to the SW of the "antechamber" revealed a curved line of low blocks which had the appearance of rudimentary "forecourt revetment". Comparable features on the SE side had been virtually destroyed by water action. Within the presumptive "forecourt" was found a slanting "pillar" (18in/45cm high) and an oblong pit (5ft by 2ft 4in by 1ft deep; 1.5m by 70cm by 30cm). The area is now heavily overgrown; only one block is visible on the SW side - it is 25cm high and looks decidedly natural. Any "forecourt revetment" would have stood to no great height, and the "forecourt blocking" described by the excavator may have been little more than brook-strewn stones.





Fig 13



No prehistoric material was recovered from the chamber - indeed, the only other finds came from the charcoal-flecked clay surface below the cairn. Immediately to the NE of the chamber were found a small flint scraper, a stone "pendant", and some disintegrated fragments of pottery.

Figs 12 & 13

Visited November 1986

6. Mynydd Llangyndeyrn (Llangyndeyrn) SN 4854 1328 CRM 7 & 8

DAT SMR 1698/1699

Beneath a N-facing outcrop, and amidst a Bronze Age complex of cairns, ring-cairns, standing stones and enclosures (Ward 1976), stand two burial chambers known as Bwrdd Arthur and Gwal y Filiast. "The remains seem to be those of a double cromlech or of two closely adjacent cromlechs, but the whole is too confused to admit of certainty" (RCAM 1917,483).

The E chamber has collapsed - the capstone (2.7 by 2.0 by 0.5m) trapping one fractured supporter beneath. Two other sloping ?supporters survive. The southern edge of the capstone (2.6 by 2.0 by 0.4m) of the W chamber rests upon cairn material, while the northern edge is supported by three partially displaced uprights. Three other slabs, possible orthostats, lie immediately adjacent.

The chambers are flanked by two natural earthfast slabs, that to the E being particularly massive with a level upper surface. It is tempting to envisage a common crescentic forecourt area with the tombs framed by the flanking slabs and the splendid natural backdrop. The cairn is too disturbed to allow accurate assessment.

Figs 14, 15(W) & 16(E)

Visited April 1986

Fig 14

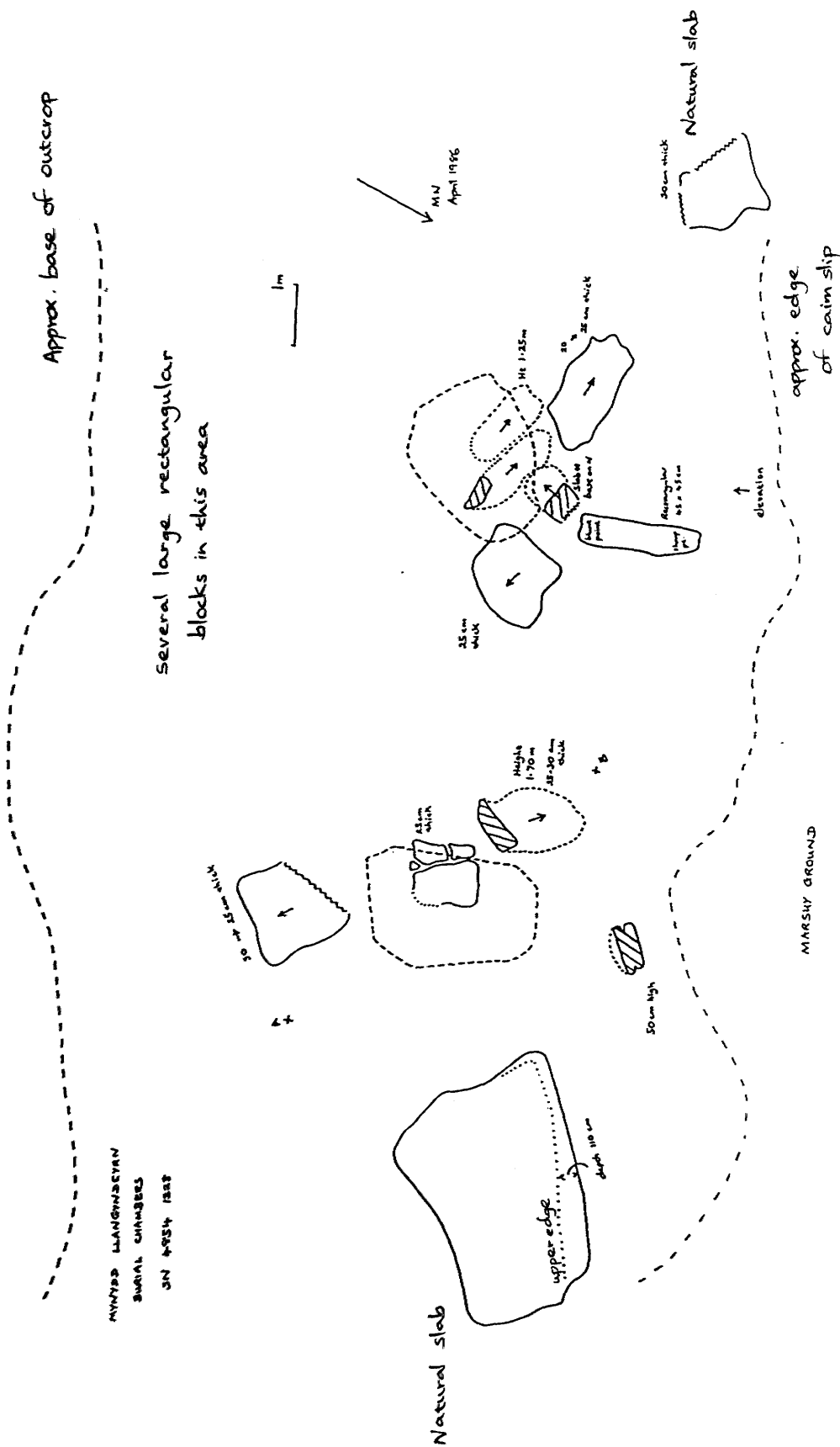
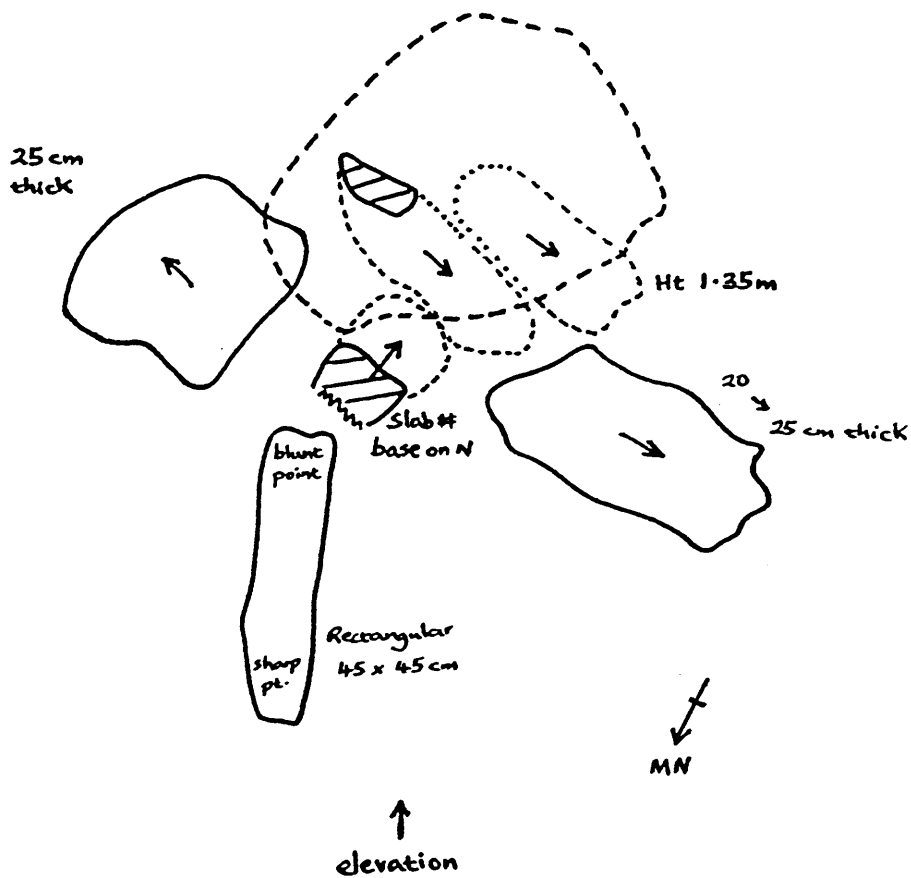


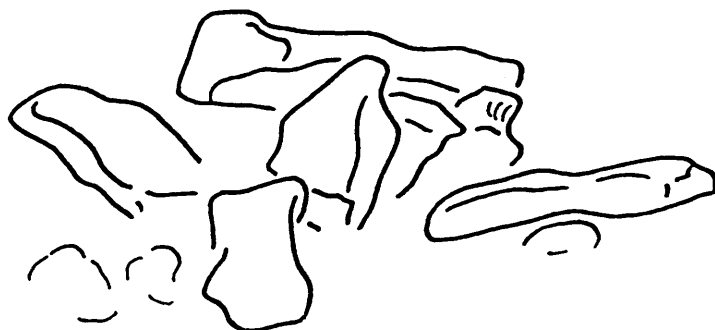
Fig 15

MYNYDD LLANGYNDEYRN

W CHAMBER



W Chamber  
Elevation

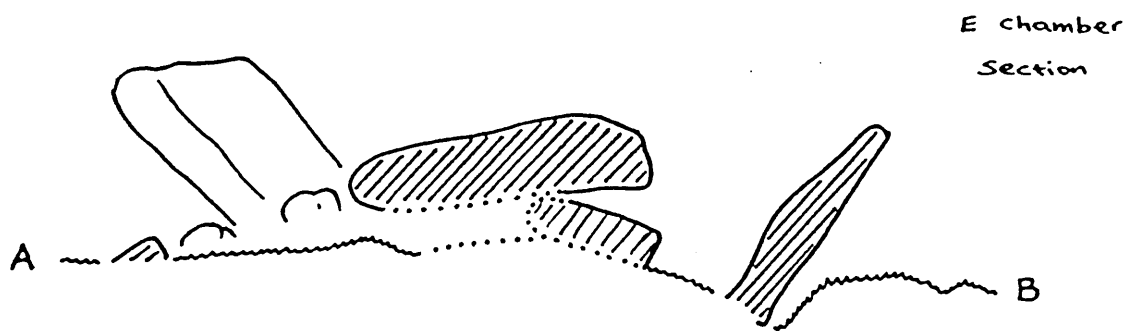
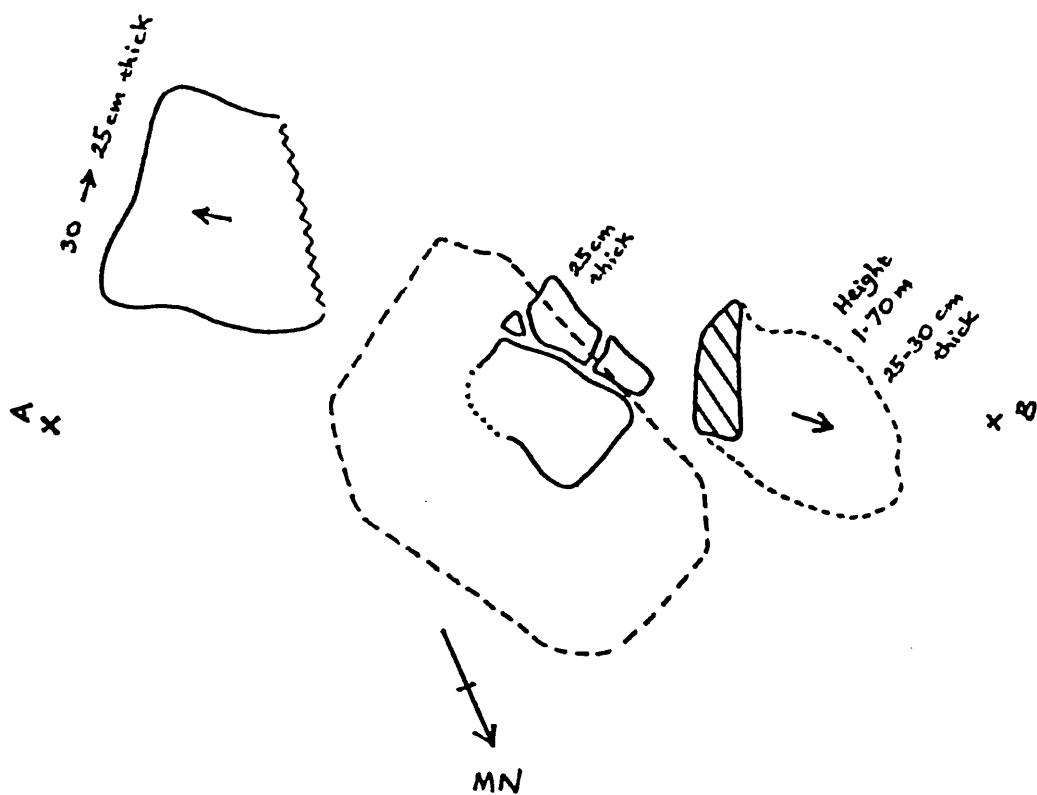


1m

Fig 16

MYNYDD LLANGYNDEYRN

E CHAMBER



This disturbed mound lies in the bottom of a steep-sided valley, on the northern edge of a terrace to the S of the Afon Tywi. The ovoid mound is orientated E-W and is c.13m long, though its E end may have been disturbed by the construction of a farm lane. Four orthostats are visible, the most robust being a slab 2.5m long, 0.5m wide and 0.5m high; the other three barely protrude through the turf.

The site was first recorded by Grimes (1940) - he assumed that the chamber lay to the N of the largest upright, with the other stones framing the western end. The two partially turf-covered slabs to the S were interpreted as displaced capstones.

The N-S section shows how impractical it is to expect a capstone to have spanned the alleged chamber. Whatever the nature of the stone structure to the N side of the mound, it seems probable that a chamber lies to the S of the 'main' upright and that the capstones are far from displaced.

Figs 17 & 18

Visited May 1987

**GELL**

SN 7703 4583

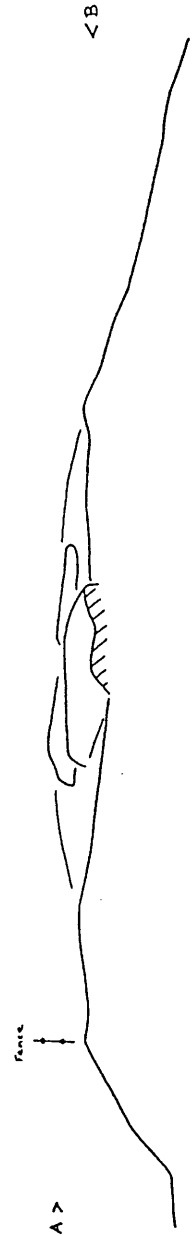
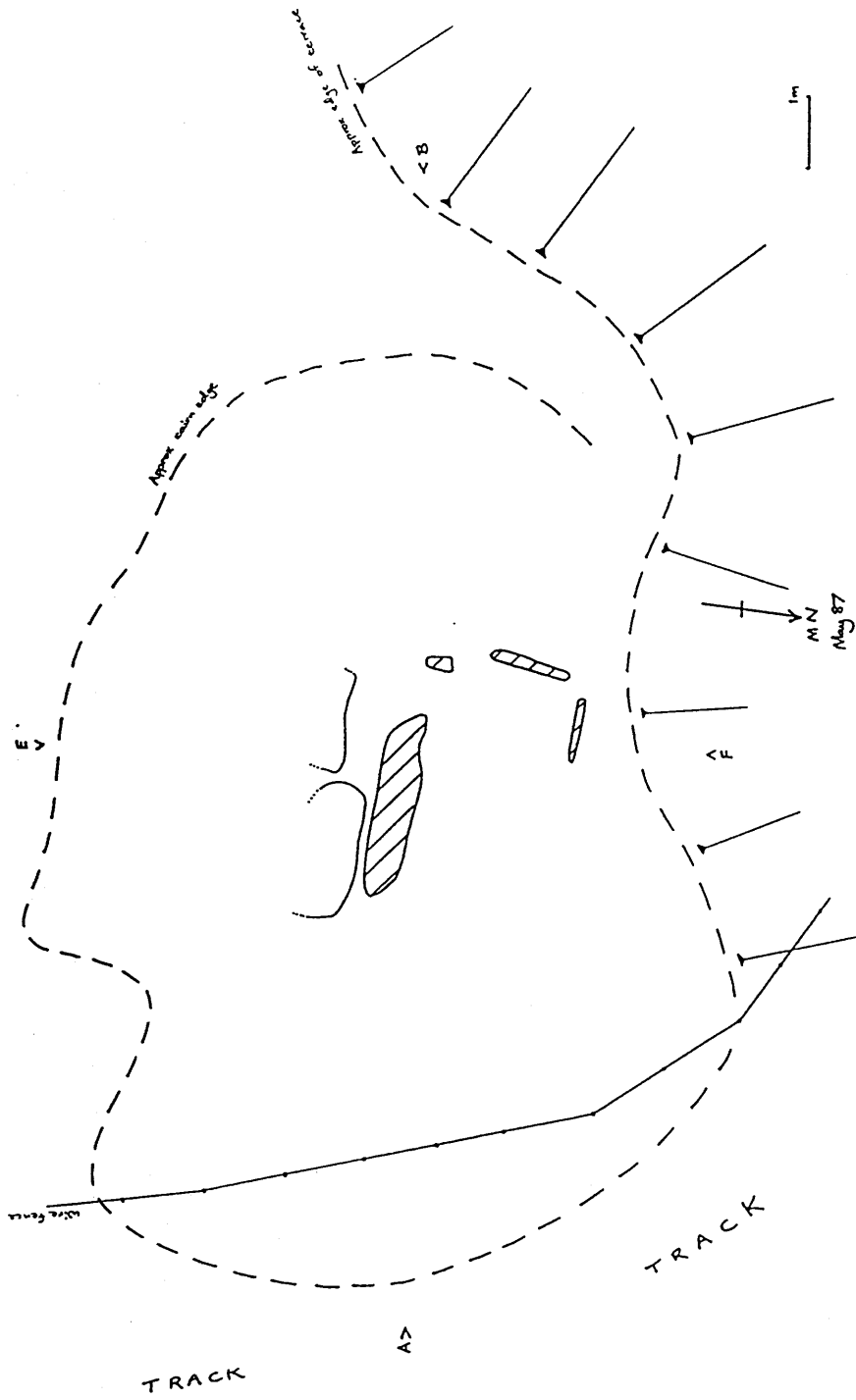
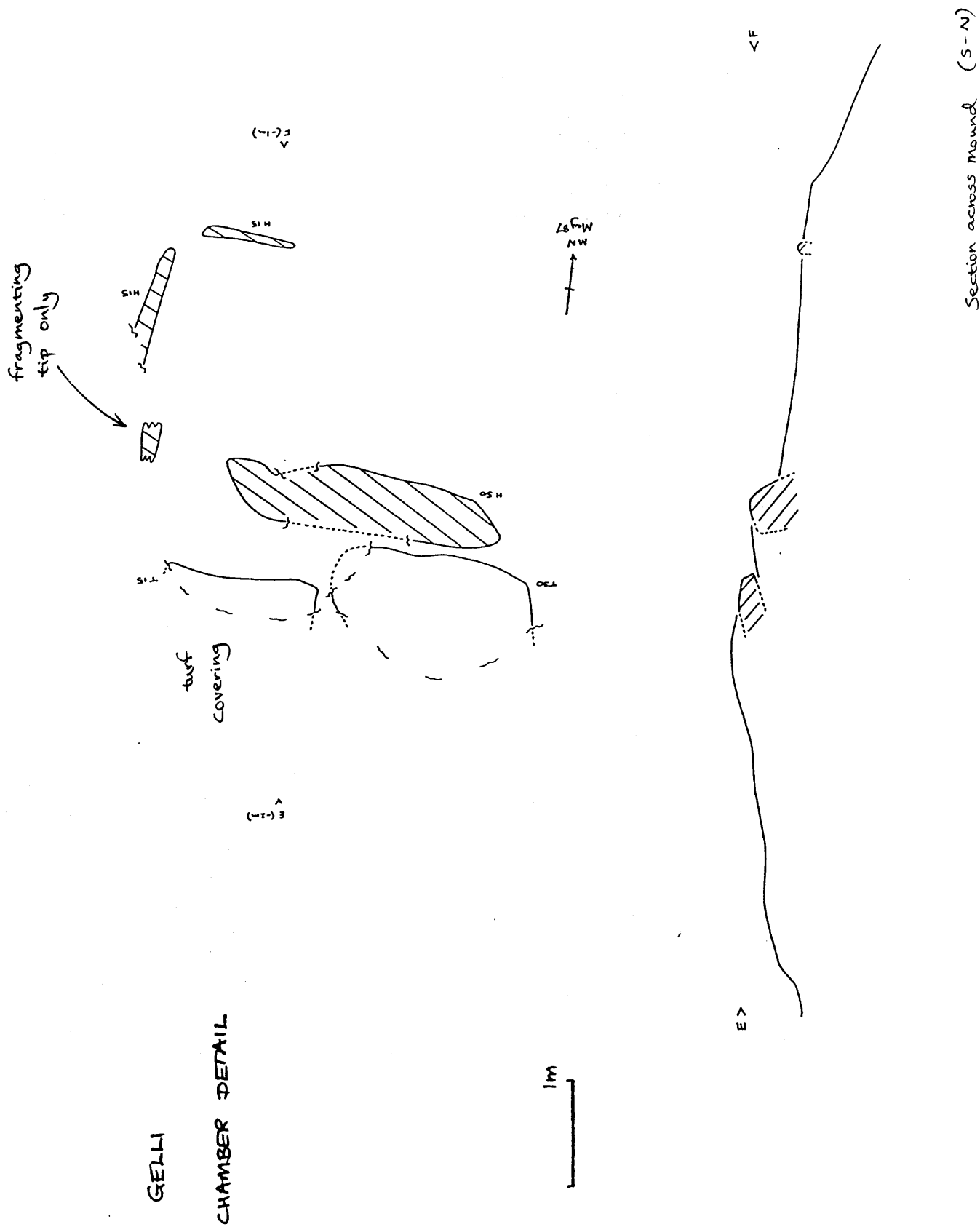




Fig 18



"On the side-land summit of a high mountain, facing the south, is a centre stone of a huge magnitude, from 10 to 15 tons, horizontal, oblong, two feet thick, supported by four uprights, one of which has declined from its original position, and sunk deeper into the ground. Four other similar, but smaller stones, of about four or five tons, surround it: but these have all slipped from their respective fulcra, and now lie in a shelving position. Scattered about, at various and irregular distances around, are several smaller stones, disturbed and broken up by the masons building the house of Nant y clawdd ucha...a crug or tumulus adjoins the Temple" (Carlisle 1811, Cynwyl Elfed).

This early account of the monument known as Cerrig Llwydion was used by several writers in their topographical descriptions of the area (eg. Rees 1815; Lewis 1833), and it was not until 1877 that a critical reassessment of the site was made by Barnwell (1877, 82-6).

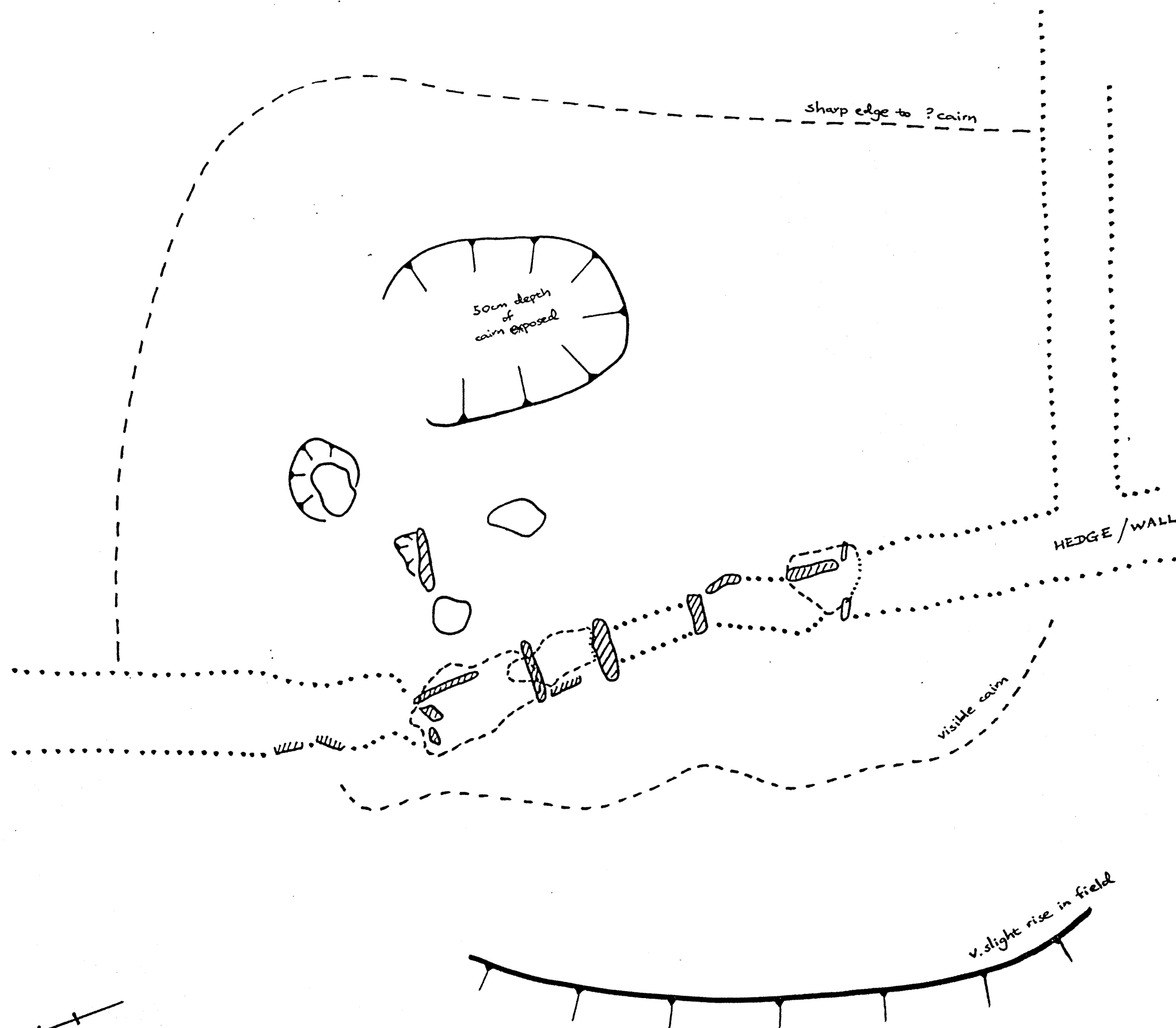
In his paper Barnwell included three engravings which merit consideration. The first is a general view from the W - part elevation, part plan. The chambers are depicted much as they survive today, though two ?side-slabs (?displaced from the W side of the N chamber) are shown lying in a shallow trench on the W side of the fieldwall into which the chambers had become incorporated. To the E of the chambers are seven slabs, two of which are shown standing erect and at a right angle to each other. A tumulus encircles the monument - "rather oval than circular, the diameters being 70 and 50 feet [21.3 by 15.2m]".

The second engraving shows the southernmost chamber, probably viewed from the S, though the representation is a little difficult to reconcile with the present remains. Barnwell describes "two capstones, both dislodged, and resting one end on the ground. A third and still smaller, inclines in the opposite direction".

The final engraving shows the northernmost chambers as seen from the NW. While the capstones and dividing slabs are represented accurately, the supporting stones seem somewhat schematic. The displaced ?side-slabs are again shown. "That the whole line once comprehended three distinct chambers seems much more likely than that it consisted of a large chamber with a covered passage leading to it" (Barnwell 1877, 85).

Fig 19

CERRIG  
LLWYD IDN



MN  
MAY 1986

1m

By 1907 the capstone of the northernmost chamber, shown intact in Barnwell's engravings, had fractured (Jones 1906,141). It is currently supported by two small orthostats to the N and a single cross-slab to the S. To the E the chamber is partially closed by a thin, low slab; another stone is wedged between this and the NE corner of the capstone. The fallen slabs to the W have been removed.

The next chamber southwards is somewhat obscured by the fieldwall, its capstone displaced and partially covered by smaller stones. One ?side-stone remains in situ on its W side.

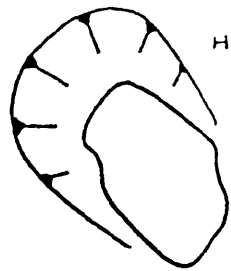
The capstone of the most southerly chamber rests upon the hedge-bank and upon the one surviving side-stone on the E side. Two low cross-slabs remain on the S side of the chamber. Whether this chamber extended the 2m forward to the next cross-slab is uncertain, but Barnwell's account might suggest that it did.

The shape and extent of the cairn are equally difficult to define. To the W tumbled stone extends for 1-3m, although a slight rise is visible in the field 8m from the wall. To the E a raised patch of rough ground stretches 13m from the wall, its sharp edge the result of a modern ditch and cattle trample. One of Barnwell's detached uprights remains (0.65m high) - to the SE of this a hollow exposes 0.5m of cairn material.

The denuded state of this monument makes its interpretation and classification difficult. It has been described as a segmented cist (Houlder 1978,175), and as such it is without parallel in S Wales. Portions of three chambers survive, but it is quite possible that more existed formerly, including some form of structure to the E of the line of chambers.

Figs 19 & 20

Visited May 1986



Hollow 40cm deep

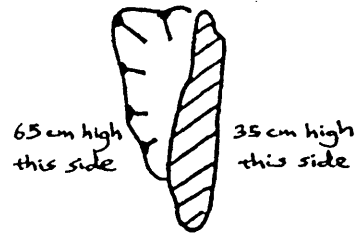
Not in situ  
20 cm thick

Pit ~ 40cm deep beneath

CERRIG LLWYDION

SN 3738 3258

Fig 20



65 cm high  
this side

35 cm high  
this side

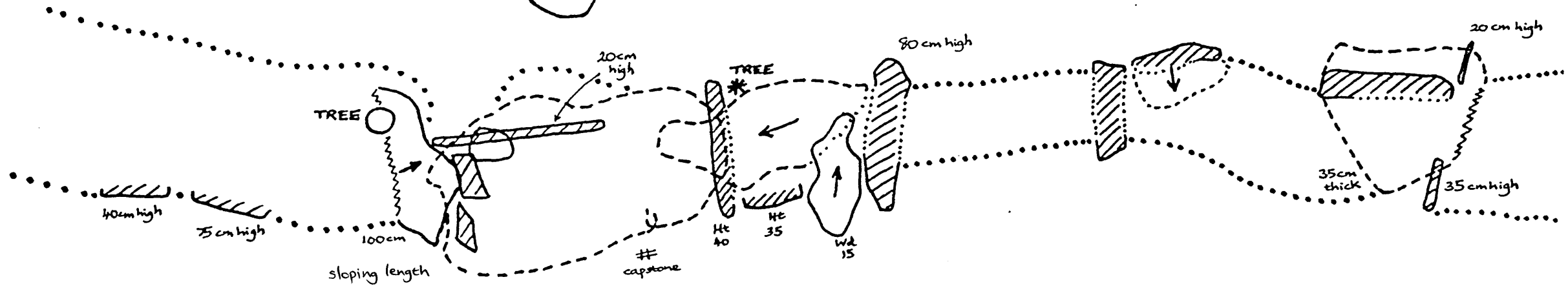


20 cm thick

MN ←  
May 1986



15 cm thick



ELEVATION OF WEST SIDE

"I had almost forgot to acquaint the Reader, that there is also in Nevern parish, besides the Gromlech, another monument call'd commonly Llech y Drybedh (that is Tripodium) and by some the Altar-stone. It's somewhat of an oval form, and about twelve yards in circumference, placed on four stones (whereof one is useless as not touching it) scarce two foot high. At the South-end, 'tis about four foot and a half in thickness, but sensibly thinner to the other end where it exceeds not four inches..." (Lhuyd 1695,col 638).

It is clear from this and later accounts by tourists (eg. Evans 1804,309) and local antiquaries (eg. Fenton 1810,534-5) that this much visited burial chamber has survived the last four hundred years reasonably well. Indeed, the earliest drawing by Colt Hoare (Fenton 1810,frontispiece) shows the chamber as it survives today.

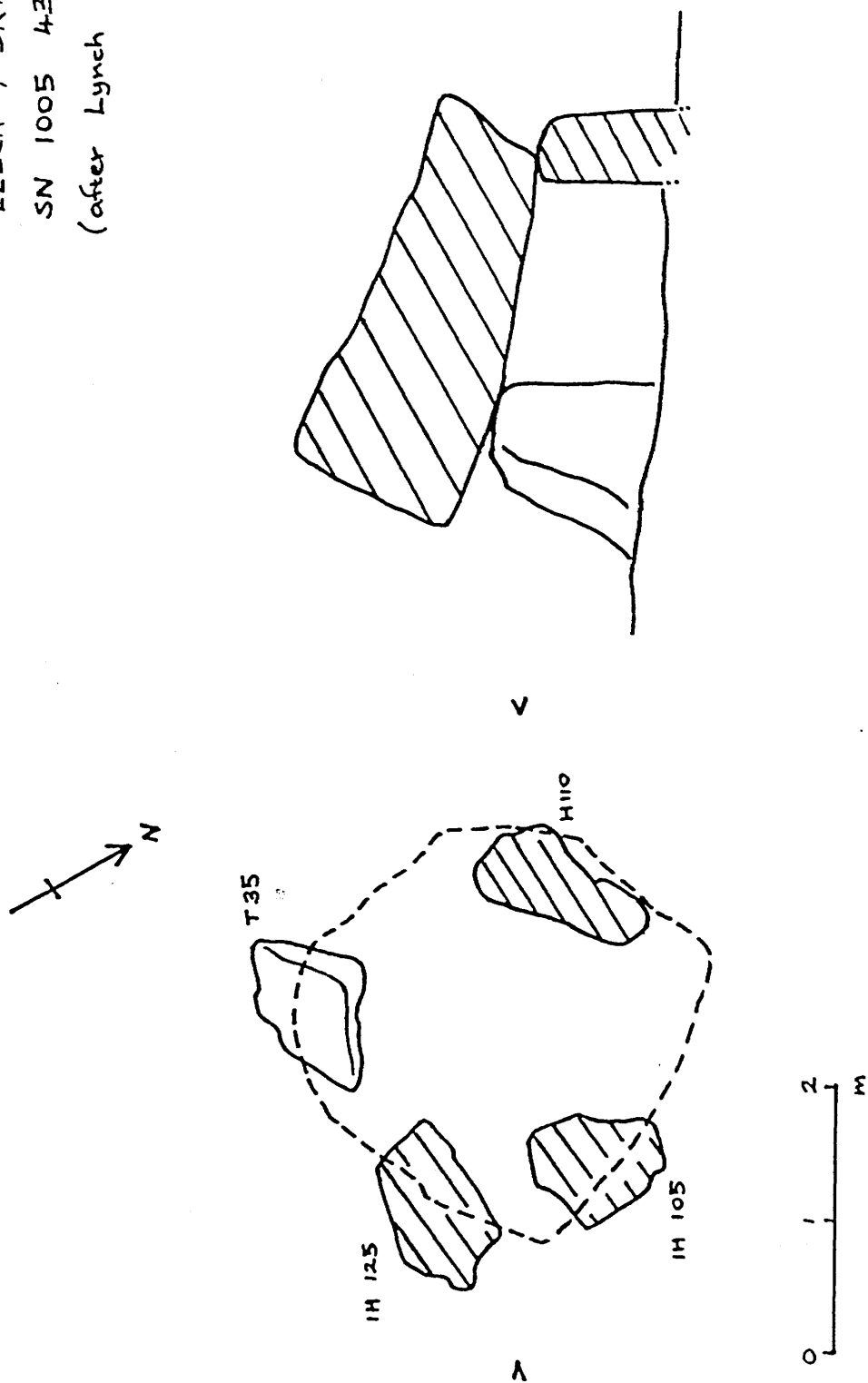
The most recent survey of the monument is that by Frances Lynch (1972,77-8). "It clearly belongs to the Portal Dolmen tradition, but it is not an entirely classic example. Situated on the highest point of the plateau surface NW of Nevern...the tomb is built of extremely massive and unwieldy stones, and this may explain some of its peculiarities, notably the odd angle at which the portal stones are set, neither well-aligned to the chamber, nor parallel to one another...The portal...lacks a closing slab...the portal stones are very slightly higher than the backstone but the real impression of height in the front is produced by the enormous wedge-shaped capstone...Only the back-stone of the chamber survives, but there is a slab which might have been part of a side stone lying close to the S...The field in which the tomb stands has been cultivated for many years and nothing remains of the cairn".

Such are the peculiarities of the site that the present writer finds it difficult to agree whole-heartedly with the classification proposed by Lynch. So too does Grimes (1936a,12) who sees it as a simple, if irregular, chamber.

During October 1977 a trench was dug (E-W) across the field some 10m to the N of the chamber. No prehistoric finds were observed in the

Fig 21

LLECH Y DRIEDD  
SN 1005 4319  
(after Lynch 1972)



disturbed ground (DAT DRF).

Fig 21 (after Lynch 1972)

Visited March 1987

10. Trellyffaint (Nevern) SN 0822 4252 PEM 2 DAT SMR 1593

"One mile and a quarter NNW of Nevern is the cromlech of Trellyffant, or Trellyffan, near Tredryssi. The capstone measures 6ft 10in by 6ft, about 2ft 4in thick, and the same from the ground [2.1 by 1.8 by 0.7m] ...the ground around this monument is slightly raised, being possibly part of the mound once placed over it" (Gardner Wilkinson 1871, 230).

There are two late nineteenth century drawings of this site - a small sketch by Gardner Wilkinson (1871, pl 31 fig 4) and a larger engraving by Barnwell (1884, pl B). Neither of these show the subsidiary chamber to the NW, first recorded by the RCAM (1925, 760) - "Adjoining this cromlech is a large stone and several small ones, suggesting the possibility that this had originally been a double cromlech". The fieldworker for the RCAM was also the first to notice that the capstone is "pitted with a number of cup-like depressions".

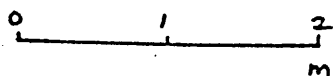
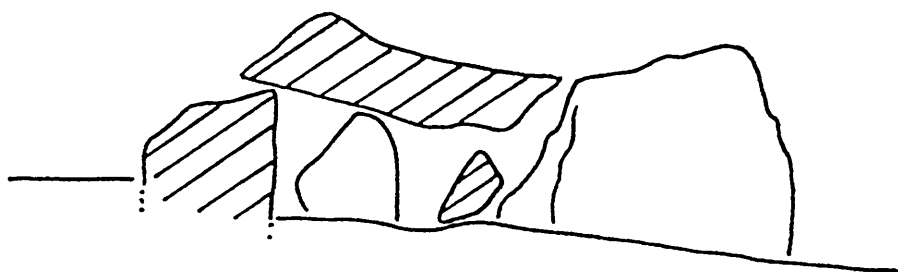
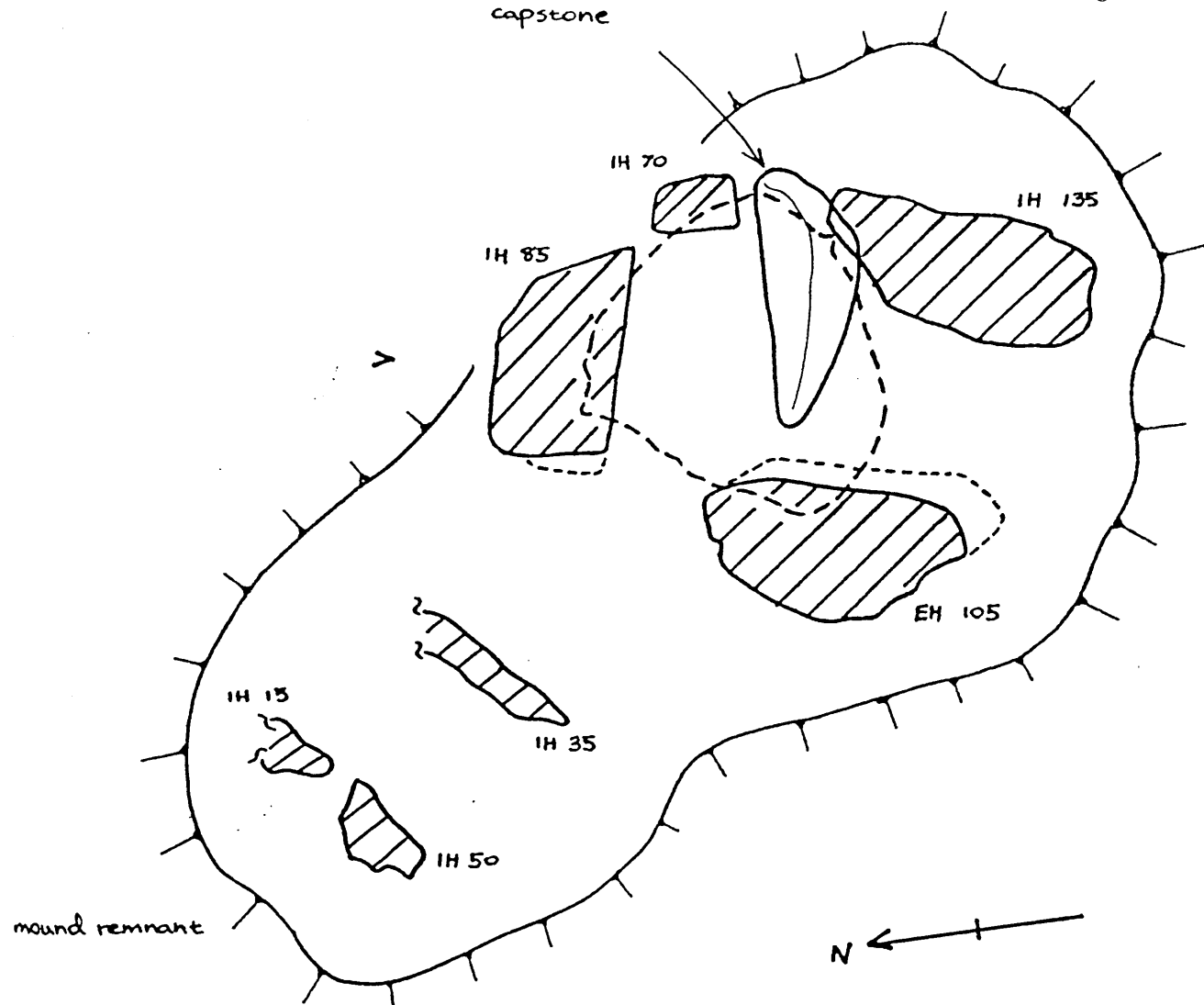
"The main chamber...is designed around three main stones: the portals and a large back-stone...as in most Portal Dolmens, the side stones play an insignificant part. The one that survives on the east is small and does not adequately fill the space, which may originally have been closed with dry-stone walling. At present this gap is filled by a piece which has fallen from the capstone and now lies across the chamber.

The capstone is relatively small and covers only the chamber area. Though it must have rested on the back of both portal stones it does not span the portal area. It is likely, therefore, that the monument originally had two capstones...the missing front capstone would have lain like a lintel over the front of the portal stones, and would have rested at the back on top of the second capstone...Only three stones of the second chamber are visible. They are all rather slight, but rise to about the same height as the back-stone. The chamber must have been rectangular and seems to be entirely separate from the large one...Both chambers must have been covered by the same cairn, the basal layers of which survive around the stones" (Lynch 1972, 78-9).



Piece of  
capstone

Fig 22



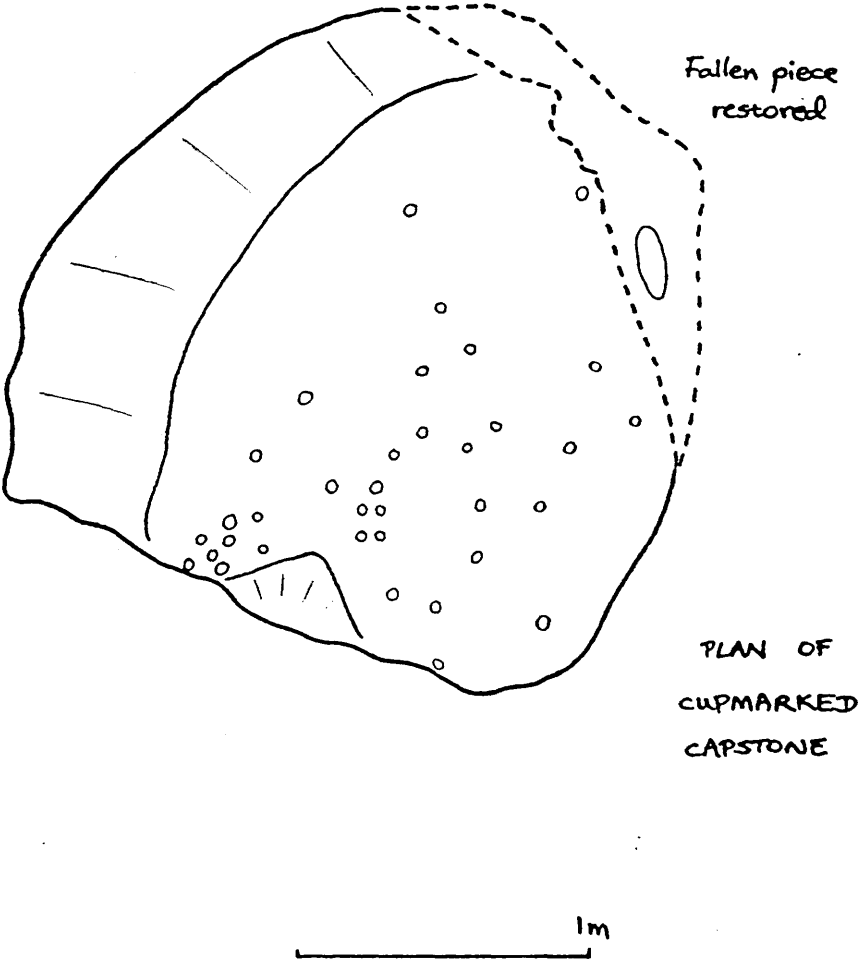
TRELLYFFAINT

SN 0822 4252

(after Lynch 1972)

Fig 23

TRELLYFFAINT  
SN 0822 4252  
(after Lynch 1972)



It is easier to agree with the classification of Trelyffaint as an open-portal tomb than it is in the case of the neighbouring Llech y Dribeidd. The suggestion of a possible second capstone is perhaps of wider significance - comparable structures are known in both N Wales and Ireland.

Figs 22 & 23 (after Lynch 1972)

Visited March 1987

11. Carreg Coetan Arthur (Newport) SN 0602 3935 PEM 3      DAT SMR 1462

"In a small field, between Newport and its harbour, is another monument, still larger, and quite perfect, of the same kind [as Cerrig y Gof]; the upper stone is shaped like a mushroom, and is upwards of nine feet in diameter" (Wyndham 1775,93).

Apart from a brief mention by George Owen, this is the earliest account of the Penbont cromlech (Daniel 1950, PEM 3). Two early illustrations of the monument exist - a thumb-nail sketch and plan by Gardner Wilkinson (1871, pl 31 fig 5) and an engraving by Barnwell (1872). Both of these show the remains in much the same state as when planned by Frances Lynch (1972, fig 2).

"The surviving stones are part of a small, single-chambered Portal Dolmen with all the typical features. The H-shaped front, two tall portal stones with a high closing slab between them, clearly existed at this site, though unfortunately the eastern portal stone has been removed. The extra height of the portal area, slight but noticeable, is enhanced by the shape of the capstone...The chamber behind the portal is small and rectangular. The western side stone is missing...There is a very slight rise in the ground some 2m in front of the portal which may cover blocking material, and there are some large boulders in the general vicinity" (Lynch 1972, 69-70). This classification of the burial chamber as a Portal Tomb is not accepted by Grimes, who sees it as a simple polygonal chamber (1936b, 132; 1960, 11).

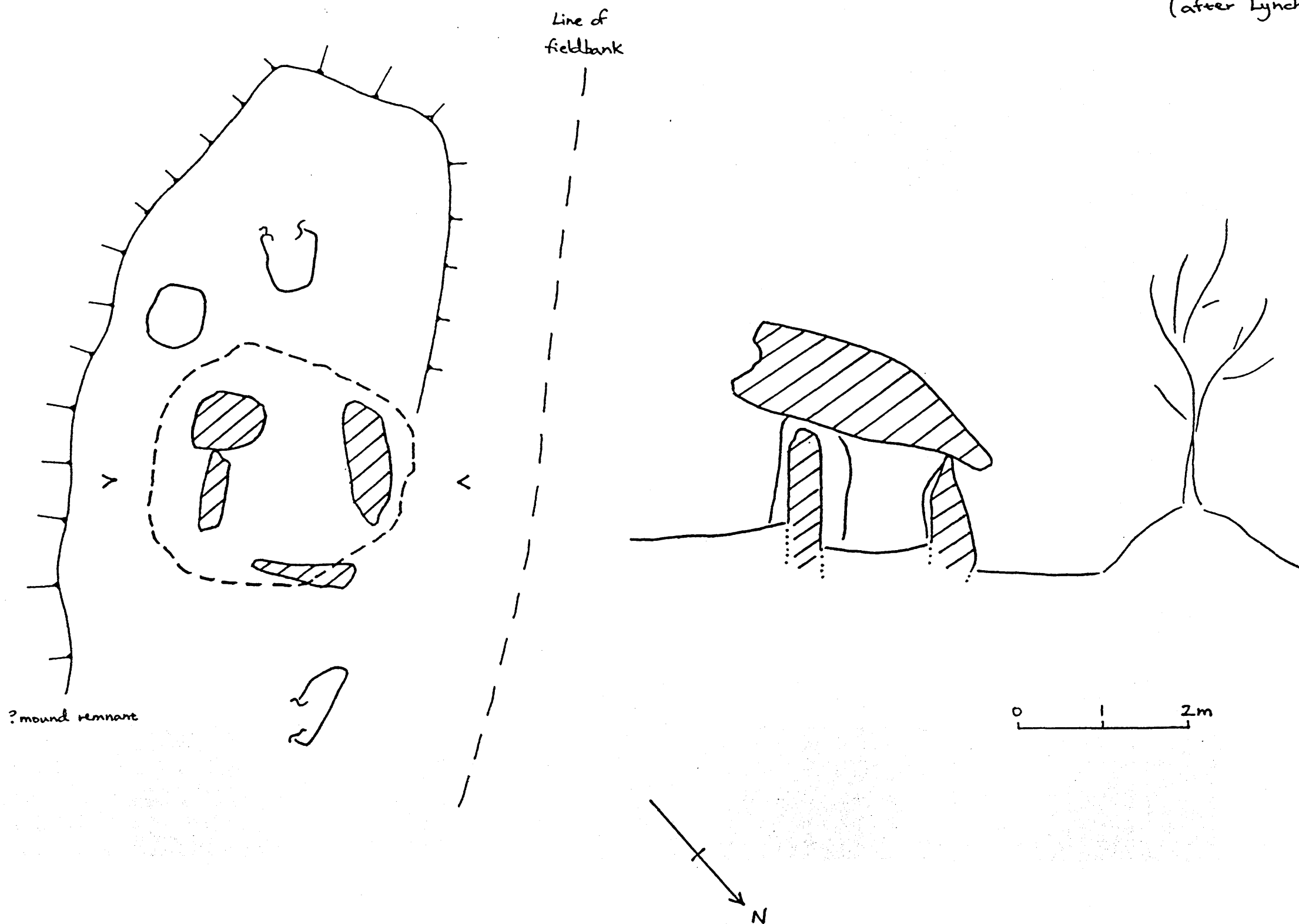
Fig 24

CARREG COETAN ARTHUR

(prior to excavation)

SN 0602 3935

(after Lynch 1972)



The site was excavated during 1979 and 1980 by Sian Rees on behalf of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments. While the following description reflects her interpretation of the findings, it is very much in the nature of an interim report. The full account of the excavation will appear in Archaeologia Cambrensis.

In an attempt to define the extent of the cairn, a sizeable area was excavated on either side of the hedge-bank that runs across the site. Beneath this bank survive the footings of an earlier wall; shallow ditches run along either side, that on the SE having to curve so as to pass around the NW chamber upright.

Apart from one patch of ?cairn stones, nothing survives to the NW of the hedge-bank. To the SE agricultural activity has resulted in a substantial build-up of plough-soil (in places more than 1m deep) against and within the chamber. What previously appeared to be a small, neat chamber is now exposed as a much taller structure. For example, the SE chamber upright (the putative portal blocking stone) stands more than 2m high, whereas before only the upper 1m was exposed.

There was no evidence for the former presence of slabs in any of the gaps in the chamber walls. The SW gap was too disturbed to allow meaningful excavation, but in both the N and E openings the old ground surface (OGS) was found intact, with no trace of stone-hole or supportive footings. This finding is of most significance with regard to the E gap, where a matching 'portal stone' had been expected (Lynch 1972,69). While the evidence does not preclude the former existence of a non-seated, non-weightbearing stone, this would be an extremely odd situation. Portal stones are usually an integral part of the construction of a Portal Tomb, and any movement of either of them generally results in the collapse of the chamber.

The cairn remnants to the SE of the hedge-bank proved to be equally idiosyncratic. Upon the OGS was found an arc of small stones, looking remarkably like a denuded ring cairn. This band of stone curved around the S side of the chamber, its inner 'edge' 2-3m from the chamber uprights. Within this arc the OGS was relatively bare of stone cover, though in the quadrant between SE and ENE it was sealed beneath a layer of redeposited sub-soil. Quite how much cairn material has been removed over the millennia is uncertain - however it is clear that ploughing

never penetrated as far as the OGS.

What is interesting is the way that the distribution of finds seems to echo the apparent division of the monument as excavated. From the disturbed chamber floor were recovered small amounts of powdery, cremated human bone together with 2 small sherds of corded Beaker and 3 rim-sherds from ?a single pot with decoration similar to that on Grooved Ware. Upon the 'unsealed' OGS lay two patches of cremated human bone and substantial amounts of a 'corky' ware similar to that found at Clegyr Boia (Lynch 1969,170), while beneath the redeposited sub-soil were found marked concentrations of cremated human bone fragments in association with sherds of a fourth pottery type. Of this three vessels are reconstructable (2 from the sealed OGS, 1 from within the redeposited sub-soil) - round based bowls without carination, their slightly thickened rims bearing decoration reminiscent of Abingdon Ware.

The four radiocarbon dates that are available from the chamber and cairn (CAR-391 to 394) are statistically indistinguishable, and suggest a date of c.2700bc for the construction of the monument.

Important though these results are, they perhaps do not live up to the expectations of the eighteenth century - "The landlord of the hovel where we baited, at Newport, on conducting us to these stones, asked our opinion concerning them: and, on our telling him, we conjectured them to be the sepulchral monument of some great man among the ancient Britons, he answered, with much satisfaction, that he entirely agreed with us, and doubted not, but upon digging, the skeleton of a huge giant would be discovered" (Wyndham 1775,93).

Fig 24 (after Lynch 1972)

Visited June 1981

12. Cerrig y Gof (Newport) SN 0365 3890 PEM 4 DAT SMR 1433

"In Newport-parish there are five of these Tables or Altars (that we may distinguish them by some name) placed near each other, which some conjecture to have been once encompass'd with a circle of stone pillars, for that there are two stones yet standing near them. But these are nothing comparable in bigness to the Gromlech [Pentre Ifan] here

described, and not raised above three foot high; nor are they supported with pillars, but stones placed edgewise..." (Lhuyd 1695,col 638).

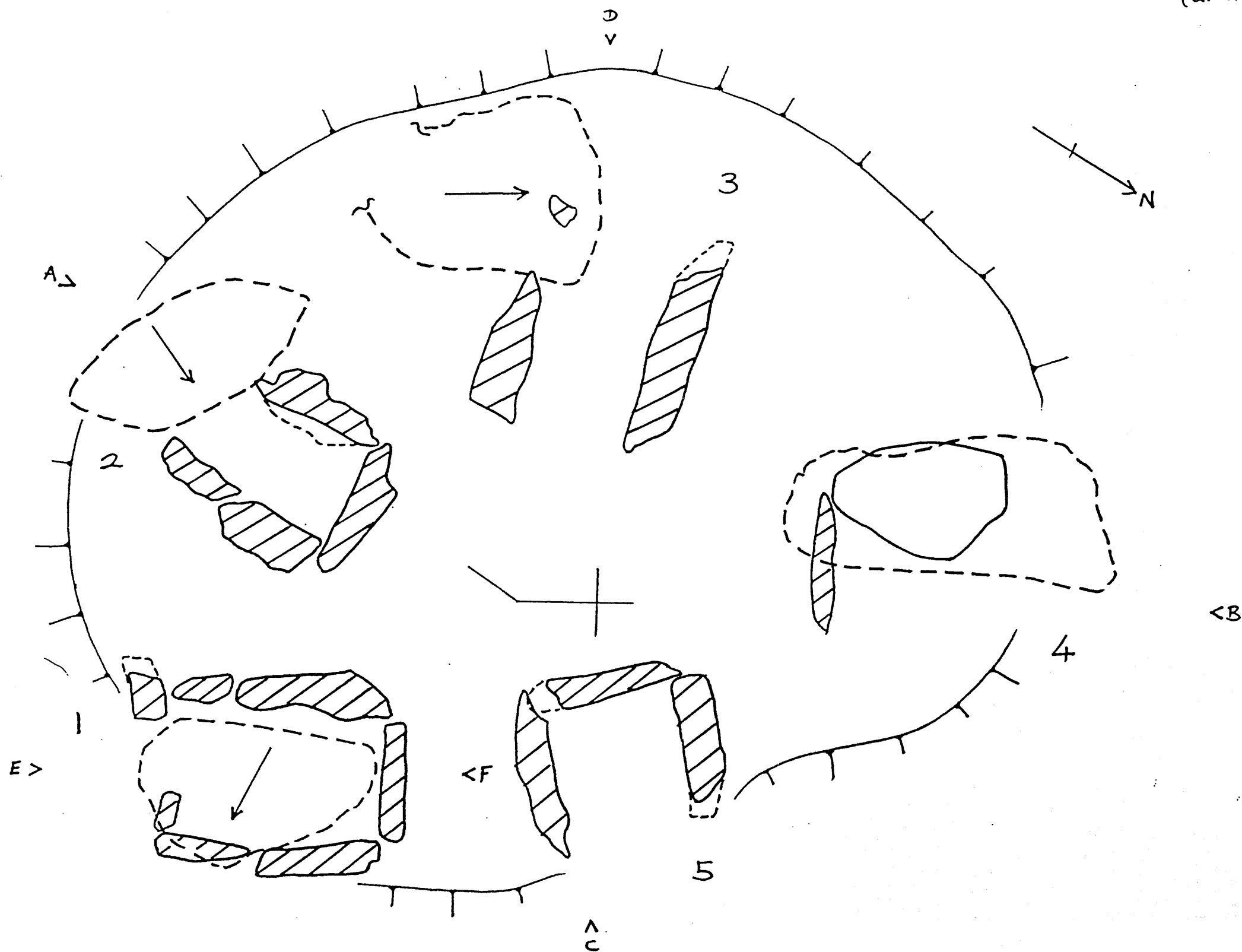
This is the earliest account of the well-known site called Cerrig y Gof. The monument consists of a ?round mound in which are set five rectangular chambers in a roughly radial arrangement.

"Leaving Newport I persue the Fishguard road, and after a pleasant ride of three miles, with the noble mountain of Carn Englyn on the left, and the ocean on the right, with the bold promontory of Dinas and its correspondent headland of Ceibwr here straitening it into the bay of Newport, I come to a singular cluster of Cistvaens, which, having provided myself with labourers, I was prepared to open, permission being politely granted me for that purpose by George Bowen, Esq. of Llwyn gwair, on whose property they were. This group, consisting of five placed in a circle, radiating from a centre once occupied by what is denominated a Cromlech, long since overturned, stood on a gentle rising in a field to the right of the road, and was almost hid, being overgrown with weeds and briars, and, by several upright stones still to be traced, seemed to have been surrounded by an extensive circle of such, forming a mysterious precinct. Having removed the lid stones of the cists, and digging down about a foot through fine mould, I came to charcoal, and soon after discovered pieces of urns of the rudest pottery, some particles of bone, and a quantity of black sea pebbles. I opened them all, and with a very trifling variation of their contents found them of the same character. In the vacant space between each Cistvaen, as well as in the centre over which the Cromlech had been raised, I likewise dug, but found nothing indicatory of sepulture, furnishing a strong presumption that it was for a very different use. The largest lid stone was thirteen feet three inches in length, nor were the others much less, and the whole group was in circumference forty-two yards" (Fenton 1810,554-5).

Fenton gives no indication in his account as to when he explored the chambers. He has been blamed regularly for the disturbed condition of the monument (Barnwell 1872,142;Eyre-Evans 1922,493), but it is clear that the site was in a deranged state as early as July 1774 - "Within two miles of Newport, a beggarly town...the road passes close to the remains of four or five Druid sepulchres, or altars; the stones are

Fig 25

CERRIG Y GOF  
SN 0365 3890  
(after Lynch 1972)



0 1 2m



large, and were originally supported with four upright pillars, like the legs of a table: they are all within the circumference of about sixty yards, and one of them is nearly perfect" (Wyndham 1775,93).

Barnwell (1872) published the first plan of the monument, showing it in much the same state as when resurveyed by Grimes (1936b,fig 29) and Lynch (1972,fig 8). Barnwell did not question Fenton's account of the doubtful central 'cromlech', but added - "It is impossible to say whether the whole work was done at one time, or the chambers added from time to time" (1872,142).

The most recent description of the site is by Frances Lynch (1972,81) - "Only Chamber 1 appears to be complete. It is strictly rectangular, 2.5m by 1.5m, with a single back-stone and four side stones...the front of the chamber is open, but narrowed by two entrance stones set at right angles to the axis...Chamber 2 is relatively well preserved, but the capstone has been pulled off from the front; this suggests that the entrance area has been badly damaged and that some of the stones may have been removed. Chamber 3 has lost its back-stone... Chamber 4 has collapsed to the W and the entire western side has gone. It may also have lost its entrance stones since the capstone is much longer than the surviving side stone. Chamber 5 has no capstone and the front may also have been destroyed, for the remaining stones look very much as if they have been saved from destruction by the presence of Chamber 1.

A good deal of cairn material survives between the chambers and just in front of them. The area is now approximately round, but this should not be taken as a guide to its original shape since it is almost certainly due to agricultural activity...there is no room between [the chambers] for individual cairns, so it is probable that they were all built at once.

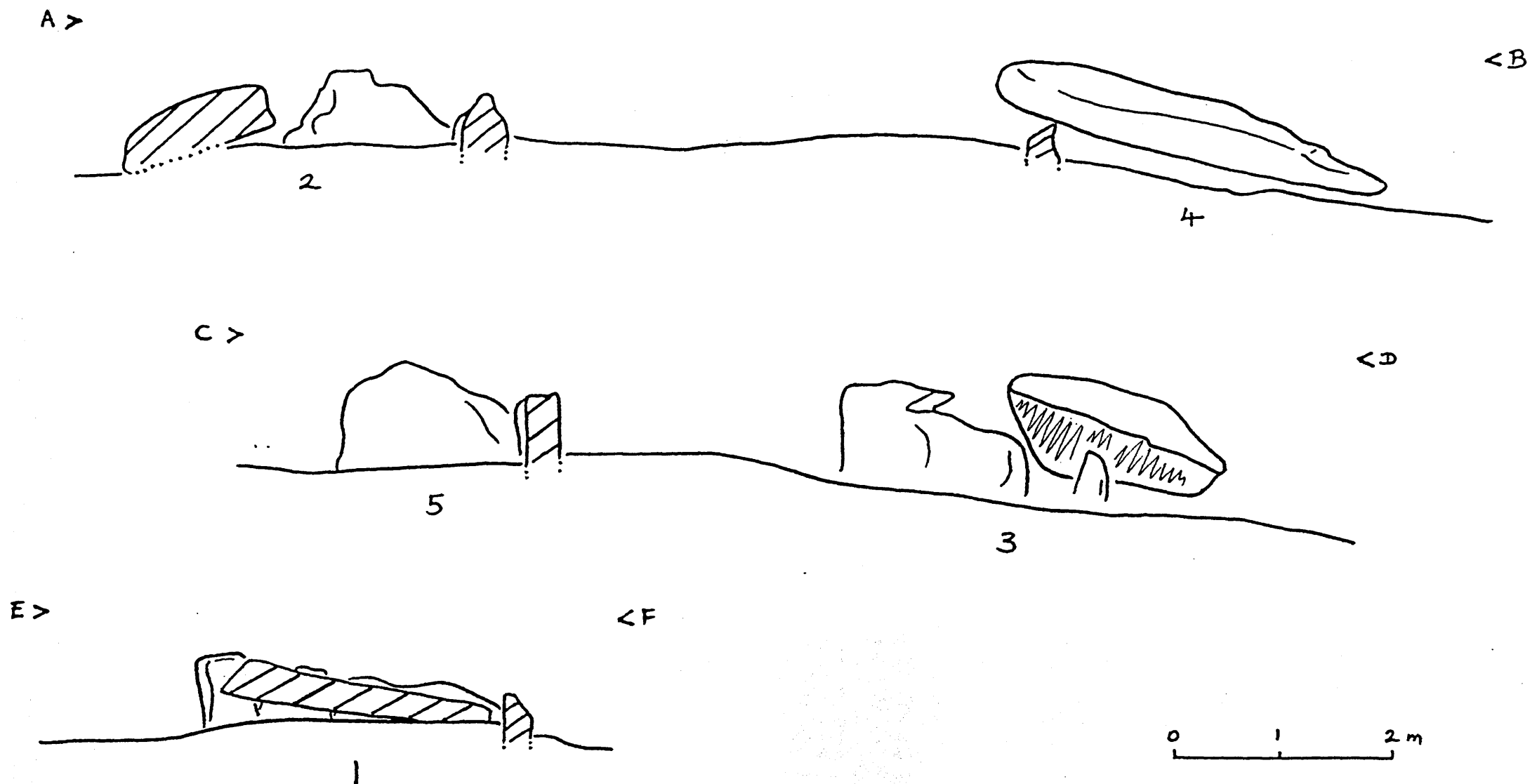
Cerrig y Gof is...a haphazard agglomeration of chambers which must be the local answer to the need for more burial space within a tradition of single-compartment monuments".

Figs 25 & 26 (after Lynch 1972)

Visited May 1988

CERRIG Y GOF  
(after Lynch 1972)

Fig 26



"An other thinge worth the noteinge is a stone called Maen y gromleghe upon Pentre Jevan lande: yt is a huge and massie stone mounted on highe and sett on the toppes of iijee other highe stones, pitched standinge upright in the grounde, yt farre passeth for biggnes and height Arthurs stone in the waye between Hereford and the Haye, or Legh yr ast near Blaen Porth in Cardiganshere, or anye other that ever I sawe..." (George Owen 1603, BM Harleian MS 6250).

The documented history of this well-known cromlech - "the most ink-bespattered monument in Pembrokeshire" (Eyre-Evans 1922, 497) - is fully detailed by Grimes (1948, 6-11), and there is no profit in repeating his detailed account here. The site was excavated by Grimes during 1936-7 (1948, 3-23), and again in 1958-9 in connection with the consolidation of the monument (1960).

Pentre Ifan is a 'classic' Closed-Portal Tomb - the sloping capstone (5m long) rests upon beautifully matched portal slabs and a gabled back-stone. Packing around the base of the high portal-blocking stone rendered it immobile (Grimes 1960, 4). George Owen recorded four slabs closing the sides of the chamber; Grimes could only find stone-holes for those on the W side and suggested that the E side might have been closed by dry-stone walling (1948, 12-13). However, as non-loadbearing side slabs would not necessarily have required stone-holes, there is no reason to doubt Owen's evidence (Lynch 1972, 71).

Excavation of the chamber floor showed it to be part of a large pit, cut into the hillside, in which the chamber had been erected. Finds were meagre - from a charcoal-rich layer directly behind the portal came a few flint flakes and four sherds from the neck of a shouldered bowl, similar to pottery found at Clegyr Boia. A small oval pit, containing a featureless dark filling, was found cut into the floor towards the rear of the chamber. No human bone was recovered.

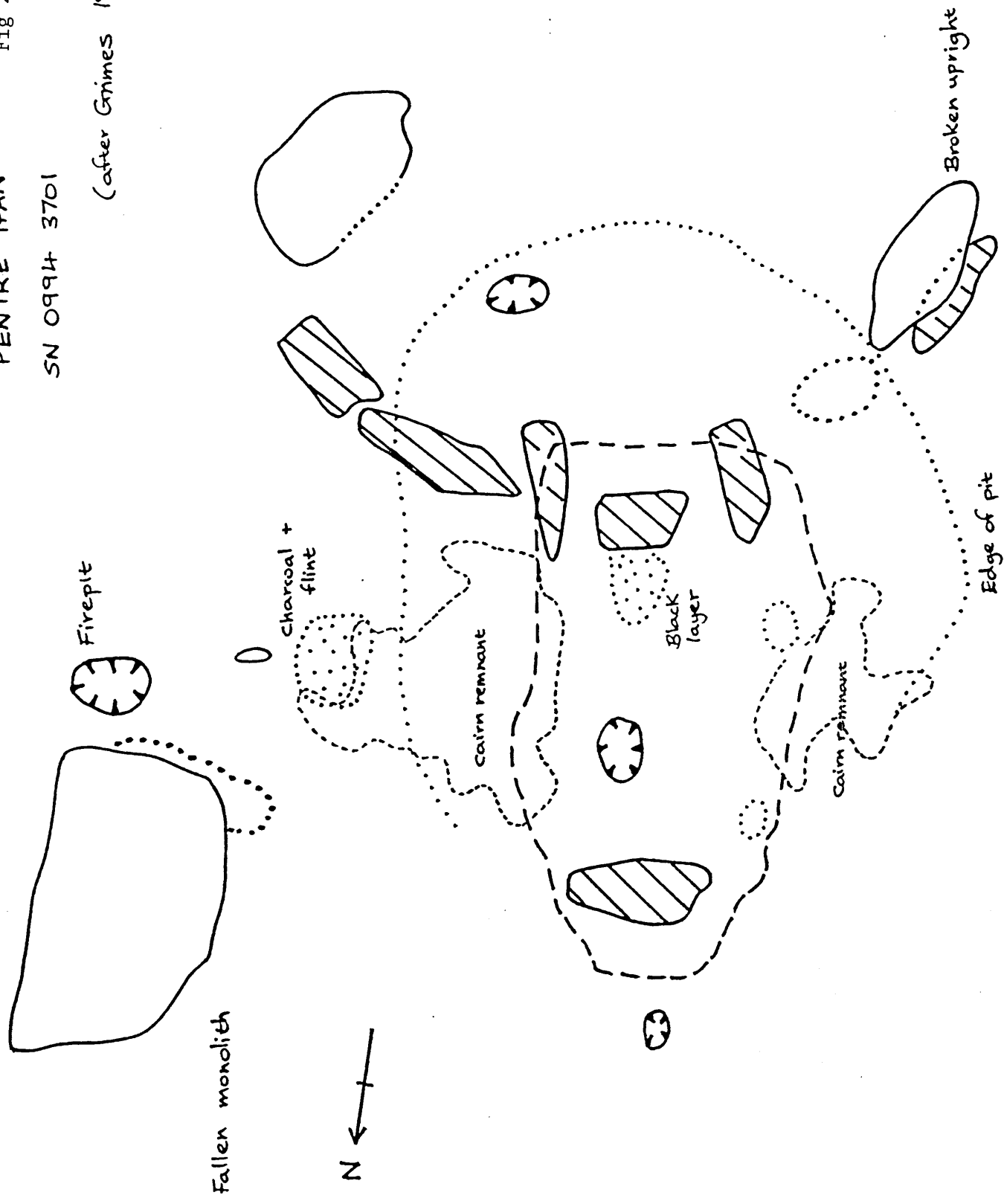
The portal faces up the hill-slope, towards the S. Originally two megalithic slabs stood on each side of the portal, forming a shallow crescentic facade. The floor of the forecourt yielded a small pit, with a soft featureless filling, a small triangular flint arrowhead, and a few fragments of pottery. All were sealed below deliberately placed

PENTRE IFAN

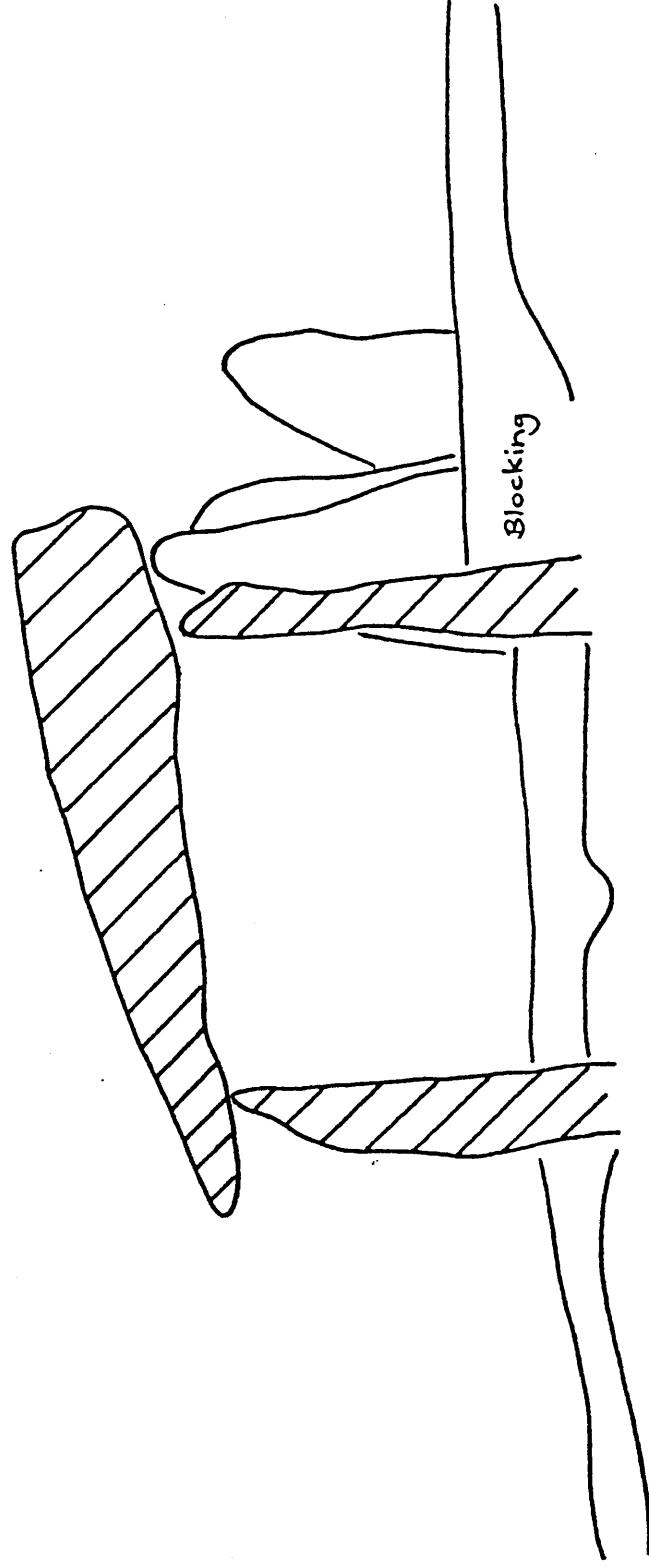
Fig 27

SN 0994+ 3701

(after Grimes 1948)



0 1 2m



blocking material.

Some 3m to the E of the chamber was found evidence of another focus of activity. Here lay a large slab (2.8m long); this had previously stood upright, and had been felled by the apparently deliberate destruction of the N side of its stone-hole (Grimes 1960,5-6). At its base was a round-bottomed firepit, subsequently filled by soft earth containing fine particles of charcoal. Between the firepit and the E side of the chamber was found a further small charcoal stained hole and a shallow depression containing charcoal and two flint flakes.

Very little cairn material has survived. On the evidence of surviving small upright stones and lines of small stone-holes running northward along each side of the the monument, Grimes has argued for a diminutive peristalith defining a long cairn some 40m in length. To the S, projecting horns would flank a deep, semi-circular forecourt, while on the E the cairn would cover the fallen monolith, the firepit, and two further stone-lined 'ritual' pits discovered 10m and 15m to the N of the monolith.

Frances Lynch (1972,71-6) has argued that Pentre Ifan is a composite, two-phase monument. In its earlier phase, she suggests, the monument consisted of the portal chamber set in a squarish cairn with a low forecourt area. "At a later date this relatively small tomb was monumentalised by the addition of a tall facade on either side of the portal, and a doubling of the length of the cairn" (Lynch 1976,67). Due to the denudation of the cairn it is not possible to test this interesting suggestion, but it could be viewed as simply a 'best-fit' explanation to account for the duplication of the lines of stone-holes that flank the monument.

Lynch's proposal was made at a time when it was becoming clear that certain tombs "reached their final form as the result of one or more distinct, and not necessarily related, additional building phases" (Masters 1981,170). Seventeen years on, and in the light of subsequent discoveries, it is possible to offer an alternative explanation for the form of Pentre Ifan; however, it is no more proven or provable than Lynch's scheme.

In its 'classic' closed form, the H-setting of stones at the head of a Portal chamber is a unitary structure, incapable of being opened or

- Stone
- Stone hole
- ⑦ Fallen slab
- ⊗ Pit
- ⊙ Cairn remnant

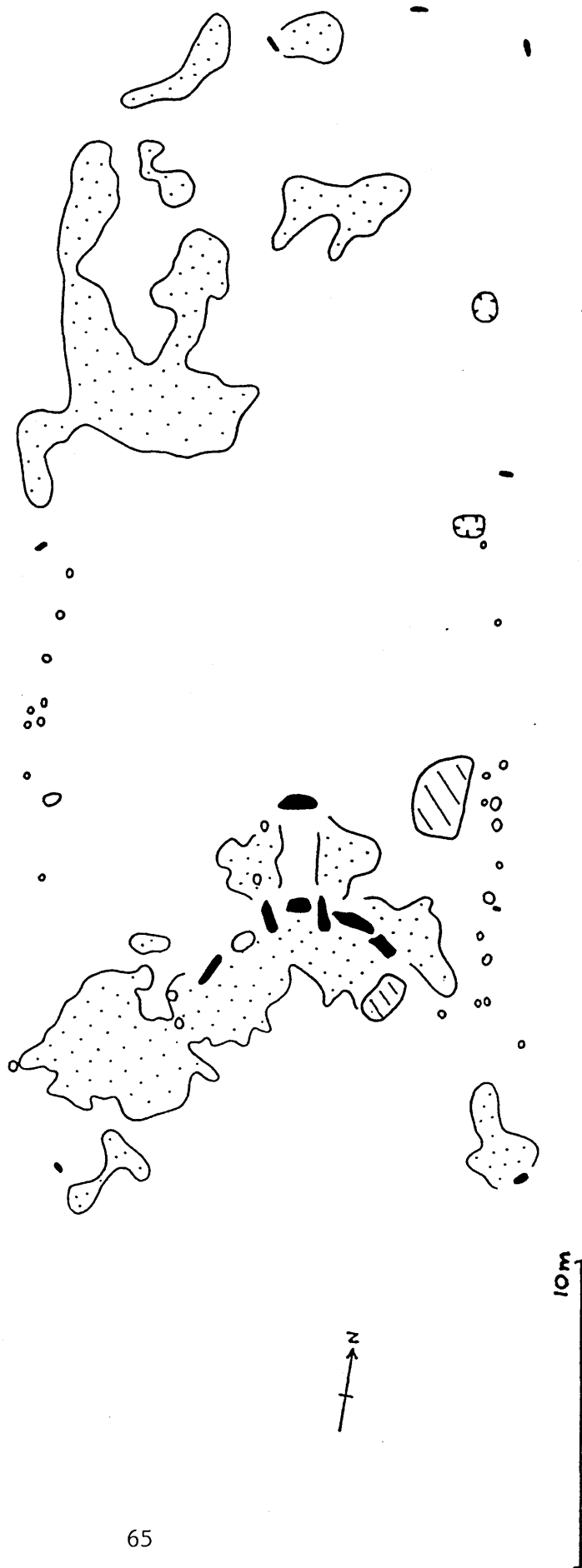


Fig 28 PENTRE IFAN (after Grimes 1948)

closed. It is a non-functional 'entrance' (Powell 1969,269), and may be compared with the blind entrances found in the forecourts of many laterally chambered Cotswold-Severn cairns (eg. Ty Isaf, Pipton, Gwernvale and Penywyrldod [Talgarth] in the Black Mountains). Access to a Closed-Portal chamber, whether for the inclusion of a single 'foundation' deposit or for repeated deposition, was usually gained from the side. This is similar to the situation envisaged at several non-megalithic mortuary structures, where axial access was blocked by the large terminal posts associated with the mortuary area (eg. Lochhill, Street House and Fussells Lodge). At such NM sites there was often a timber facade, defining a forecourt area; as there was no direct access from this forecourt to the mortuary area it is quite possible that activities in the two areas were not immediately connected. The covering mound at these NM sites was often a later addition, raised only when activity concerning the mortuary structure had been completed. Such mounds were not always large structures - at Street house the trapezoidal cairn stood only two courses high (Vyner 1984,165).

If one is seeking a multi-phase history for Pentre Ifan, it is possible to see the chamber and its facade as a free-standing primary phase. The stability of the chamber is self-evident; cairn support would only have been required by the side-slabs. Indeed, a spread of stone survives on either side of the chamber at the requisite positions.

Access to the chamber is likely to have been from the E, where the blocking arrangements (whatever their nature) would have been less permanent than on the W. Consequently it is tempting to suggest that the monolith, firepit, and charcoal-filled hollows on the E side were all contemporary with the use of the chamber.

It is clearly demonstrated by the surviving E portion of the facade that it did not rely on the backing of a cairn for its stability. Examination of the base of the damaged Stone VII showed that it had been supported partly by the forecourt-filling, partly by 'cairn' material (Grimes 1948,14-15), and in view of this finding it may be necessary to reconsider exactly when the forecourt-filling was introduced.

There is little evidence for Lynch's primary square cairn. Indeed, the existence of a long cairn is indicated merely by two surviving patches of stone on the W of the monument and the claimed 'peristalith'.

While the present writer sees no reason to doubt the authenticity of the long cairn, he would see it as a late addition to the monument, and would also comment on the extreme denudation that the cairn has apparently suffered. It has been a frequent suggestion that the majority of Portal Tombs were either free-standing, or else set in minimal cairns (eg. Kinnes 1975,25). Could it be that the long cairn around the chamber at Pentre Ifan was a very low structure, and hence very prone to stone-robbing and agricultural damage?

Figs 27 & 28 (after Grimes 1948)

Visited May 1988

14. Mountain (Mynachlog Ddu) SN 1657 3286 PEM 6 DAT SMR 947

"A large and impressive cromlech, the capstone has slipped off the legs into a modern ditch..." (PAS,Pemb 11SE no 7). A local writer in 1885 (quoted by Lewis 1969,137) refers to this burial chamber as 'Llech y Gwyddon'.

"When perfect this cromlech must have been a fine example of its class. Five supporters remain, four being prostrate and one leaning slightly over. The capstone is about 12 feet [3.65m] in length; it is partially concealed by a low hedge which is carried over it. The remains stand in the centre of a low mound..." (RCAM 1925,728).

Although mentioned by both Grimes (1936a,no 30) and Daniel (1950, PEM 6), the first published plan of the monument is that by Frances Lynch (1972,fig 9). "The site...is so ruined that nothing can be said about it beyond remarking on the size of the fallen supporters. One of these is over 3m long and three others are more than 2m...such a size would be appropriate to a Portal Dolmen, but it is impossible to attempt any kind of reconstruction" (Lynch 1972,81-2). The remnants of the ?round mound, c.0.6m high and 7m wide, are best seen on the E side of the hedge bank (Rees 1981,SAM inspection).

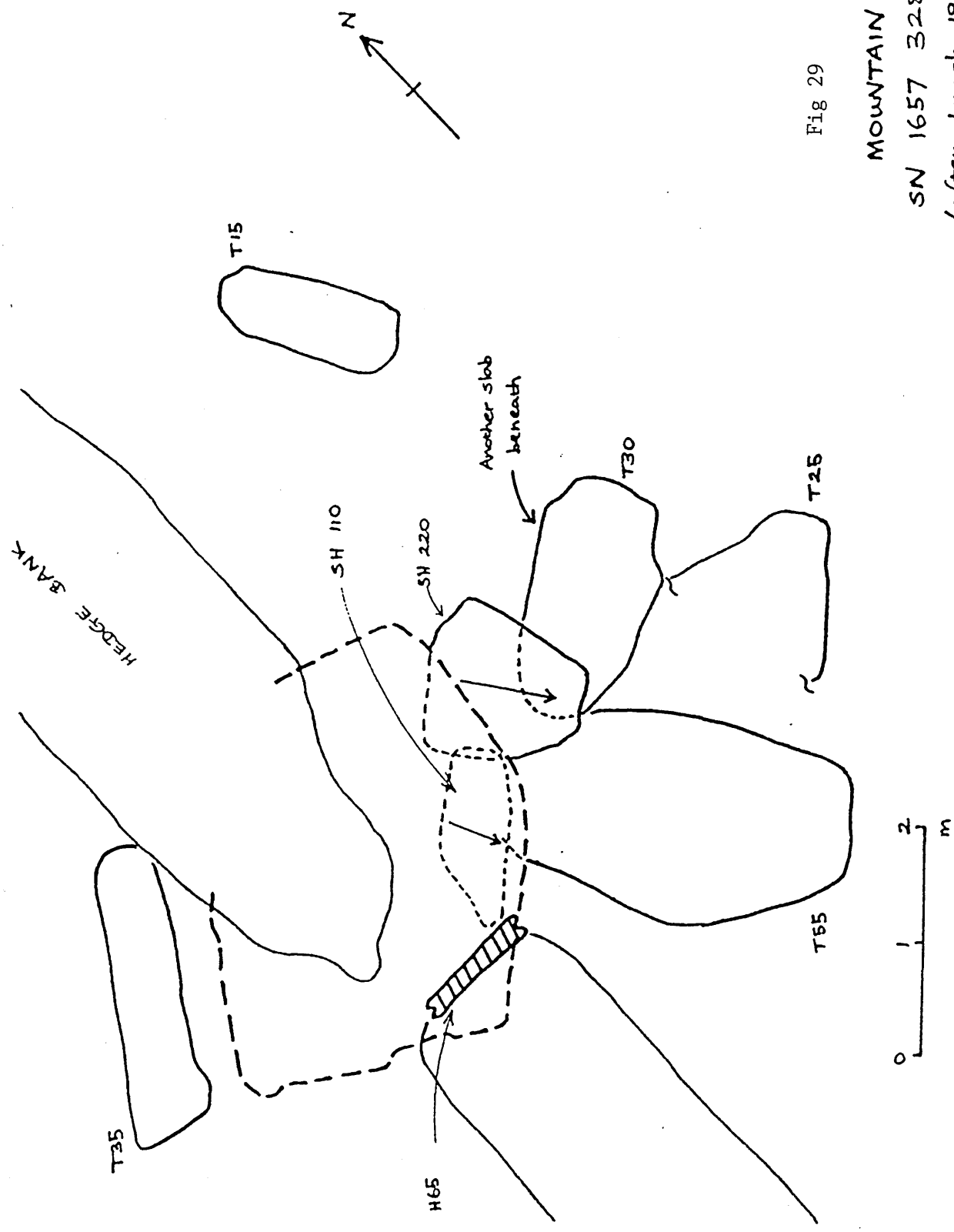
Fig 29 (after Lynch 1972 with additions)

Visited May 1988



MOUNTAIN  
 SN 1657 3286  
 (after Lynch 1972)

Fig 29



"The hill...is lofty and steep, studded with rocky excrescences, peeping through the matted heath and furze...the ascent is by winding sheep track. Near the summit...numerous and majestic remains...appear. The most remarkable are three cromlechs in a line, one erect on columnar stones, the other two partly overturned" (Fenton 1810,16).

The three chambers lie on the eastern side of a deeply fissured rock outcrop, high above the sheltered bay that is now Fishguard harbour. The northern chamber consists of a capstone resting upon a thick fallen slab, with a further small stone trapped beneath. At the middle chamber two large fallen stones underlie the SW edge of the capstone, with another displaced slab a metre to the W. Three small slabs remain (?in situ) beneath the capstone - their original function is unclear, for they are rather low and slight in comparison with the fallen uprights.

The southern chamber, locally known as 'Carreg Samson', is the best preserved of the three. Five uprights enclose a polygonal chamber; the capstone has been displaced towards the NE, from where a side-stone may have been removed. A single stone, 1.35m high, stands just beyond the burial chamber on its W side. Daniel (1950,200) has claimed that each of the burial chambers is set "in a small round barrow"; this assertion is not supported by present surface evidence.

In addition to the three "perfect" cromlechs, Owen Pughe (1855,274) recorded that "two others have been demolished for common purposes". However, the total described in the PAS ("nine cromlechs more or less perfect") must include several misidentified natural slabs, in which the area abounds (Pemb 4SE,no 3).

Figs 30(cemetery), 31(N chamber), 32(Middle chamber) & 33(S chamber)  
Visited May 1987

Fig 30

CARN WEN

CEMETERY

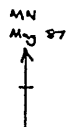
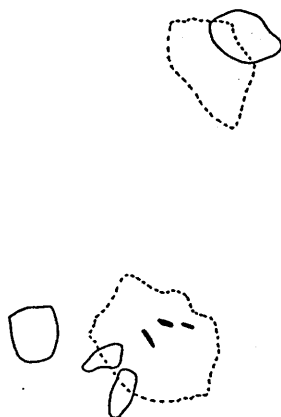


Fig 31

CARN WEN (NORTH)  
SM 9483 3903

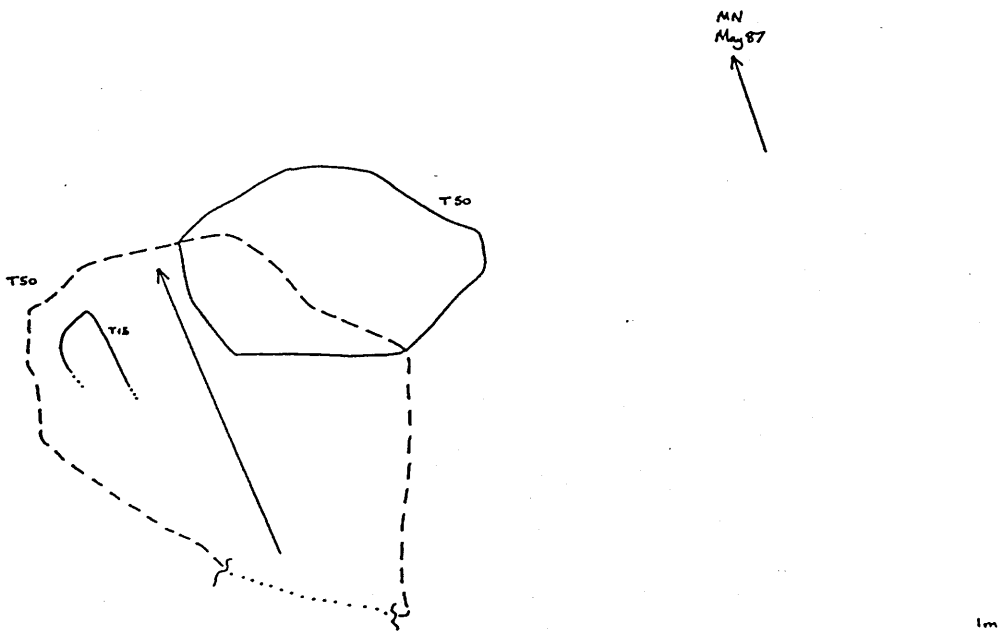


Fig 32

CARN WEN (Central)  
SM 9483 3902

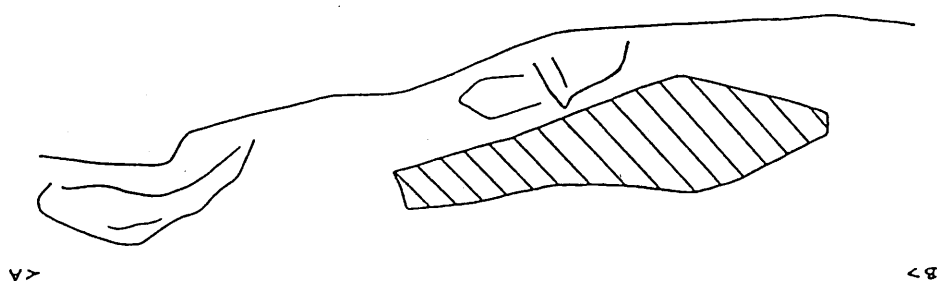
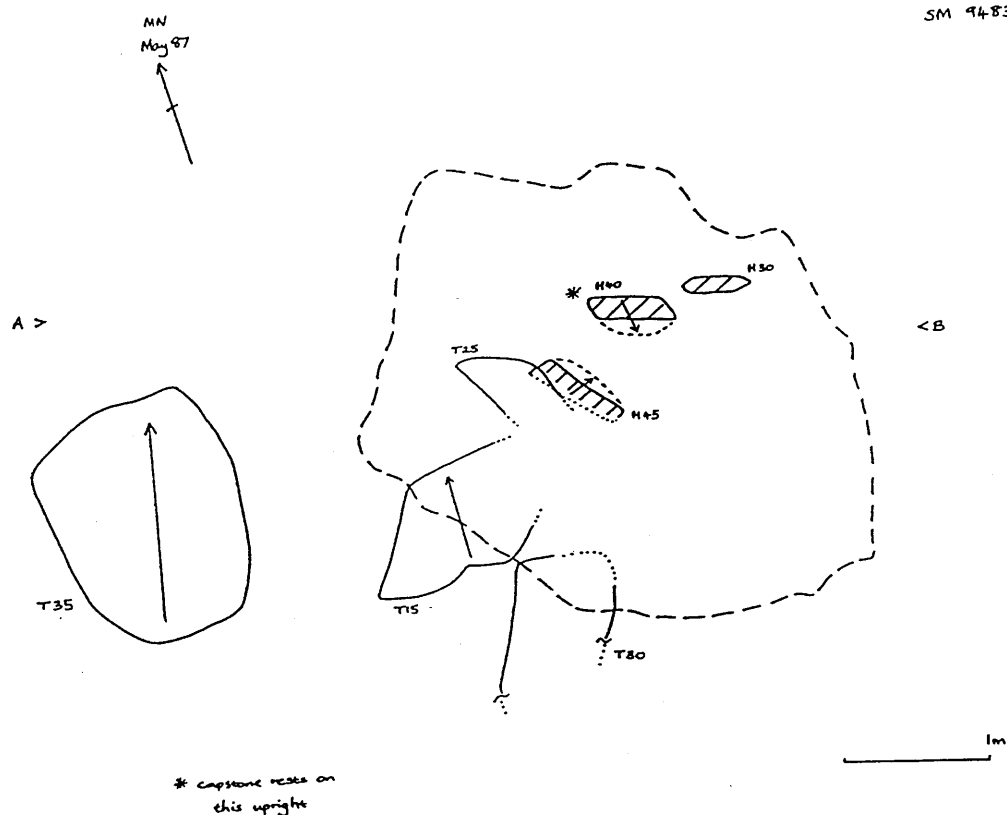
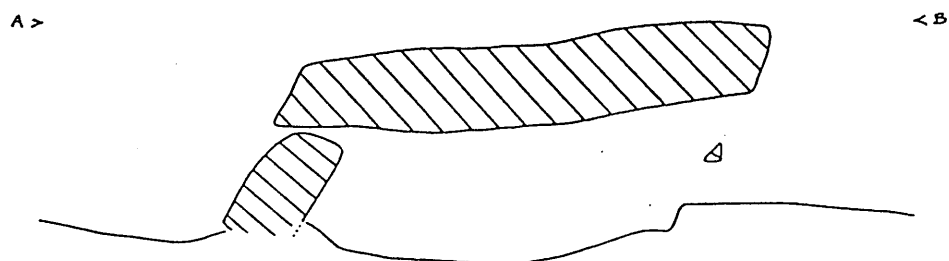
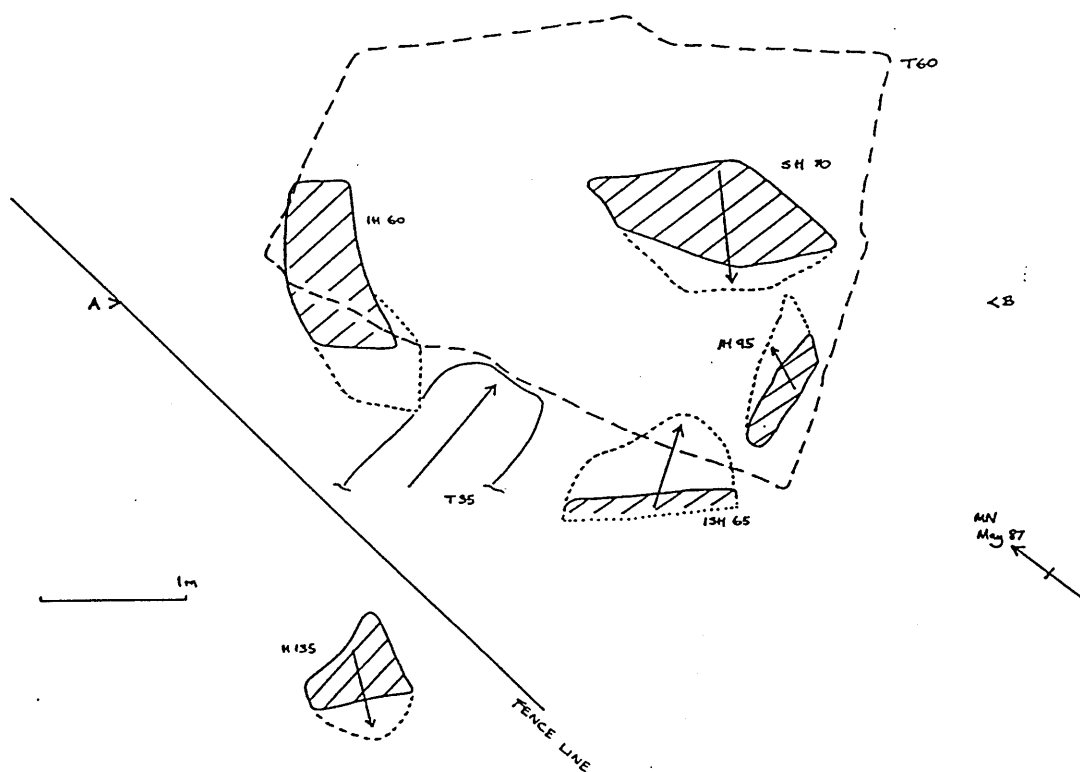


Fig 33

CARN WEN (SOUTH)  
SM 7483 3900



"About half a mile SE of Little Newcastle village, on the farm of Ffynnonau, is a small but perfect cromlech, and on its S side the ruined remains of a second. The first cromlech is separated from the road to Beulah bridge by a fence which is carried over the mound on which the stones are placed. The capstone, measuring 82in by 75in, with a thickness of 37in [2.1 by 1.9 by 0.95m], is supported on three short stone pillars. The structure stands E and W..." (RCAM 1925,396).

The remnants of this monument lie on the N side of a hedge, on a slope which overlooks a stream to the N. The capstone has two large supporters remaining at the front of the chamber, while the tip of a back-stone protrudes through the chamber filling. This is likely to be mostly modern silt, for a local resident recalls playing in the chamber as a child (Stenger in DAT DRF).

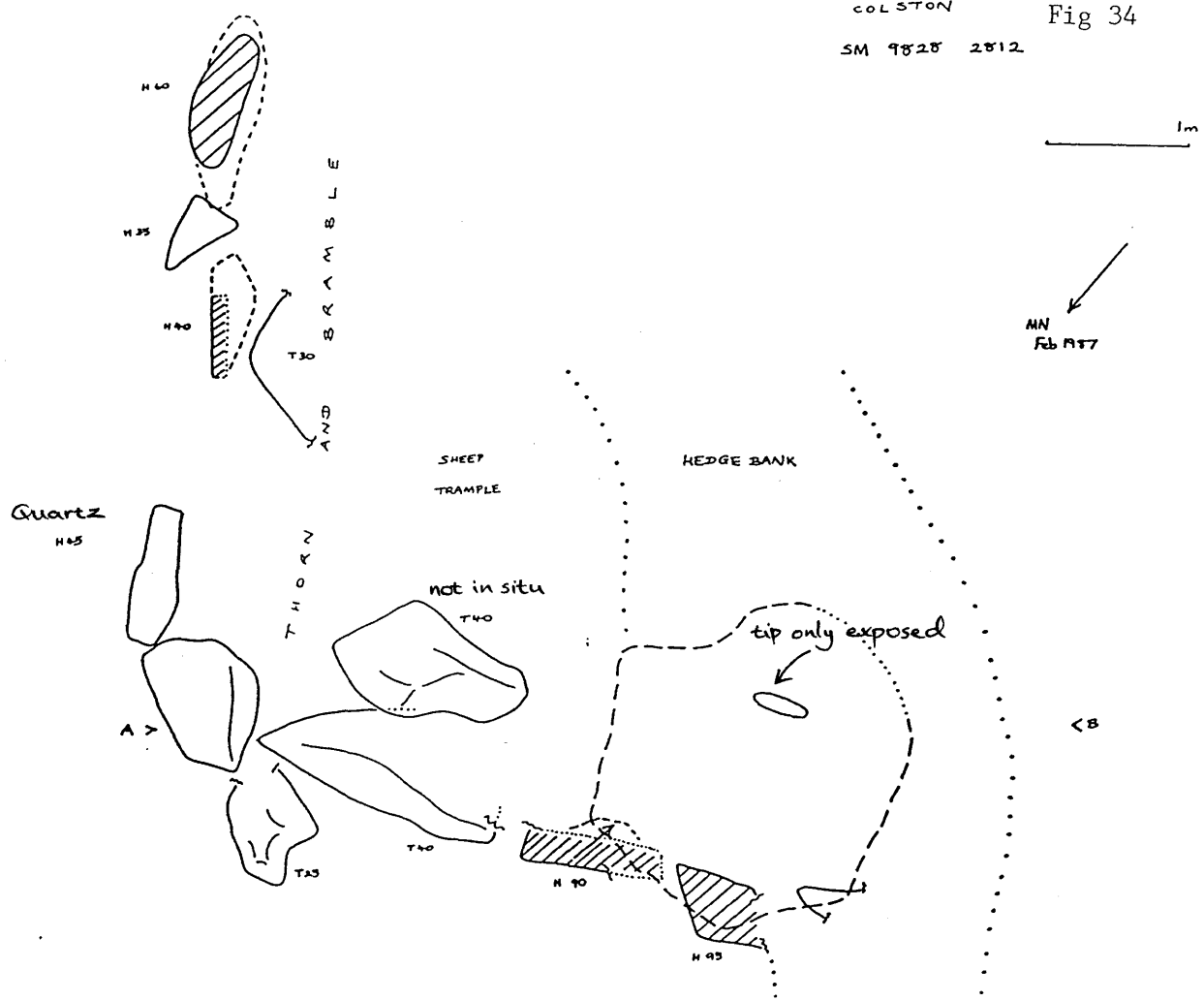
Two recumbent slabs continue the line of the chamber entrance towards the NE; from here a broken line of four slabs runs SE. The area is heavily overgrown, and other slabs lie partially concealed beneath thorn bushes. The stone which lies above and behind the 'facade' is not in situ; it may well be the stone that previously (pre-1981) projected out at right-angles to the 'facade'.

The road and the associated hedge have greatly disturbed the mound behind the chamber. It is now extremely difficult to assess the shape of this mound, but there is a strong possibility that it was long rather than round (Lynch, pers comm).

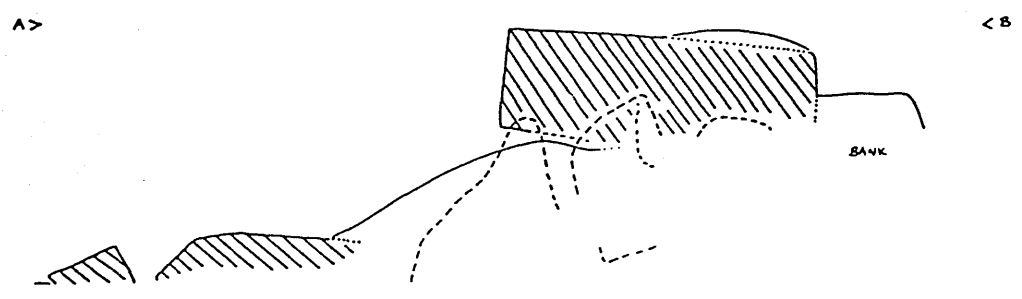
While there is no evidence for a second chamber, the true nature of the lines of stones to the E of the chamber will remain unclear until excavation is carried out upon the monument.

Fig 34

Visited February 1987



Section - entrance stones  
projected onto section line





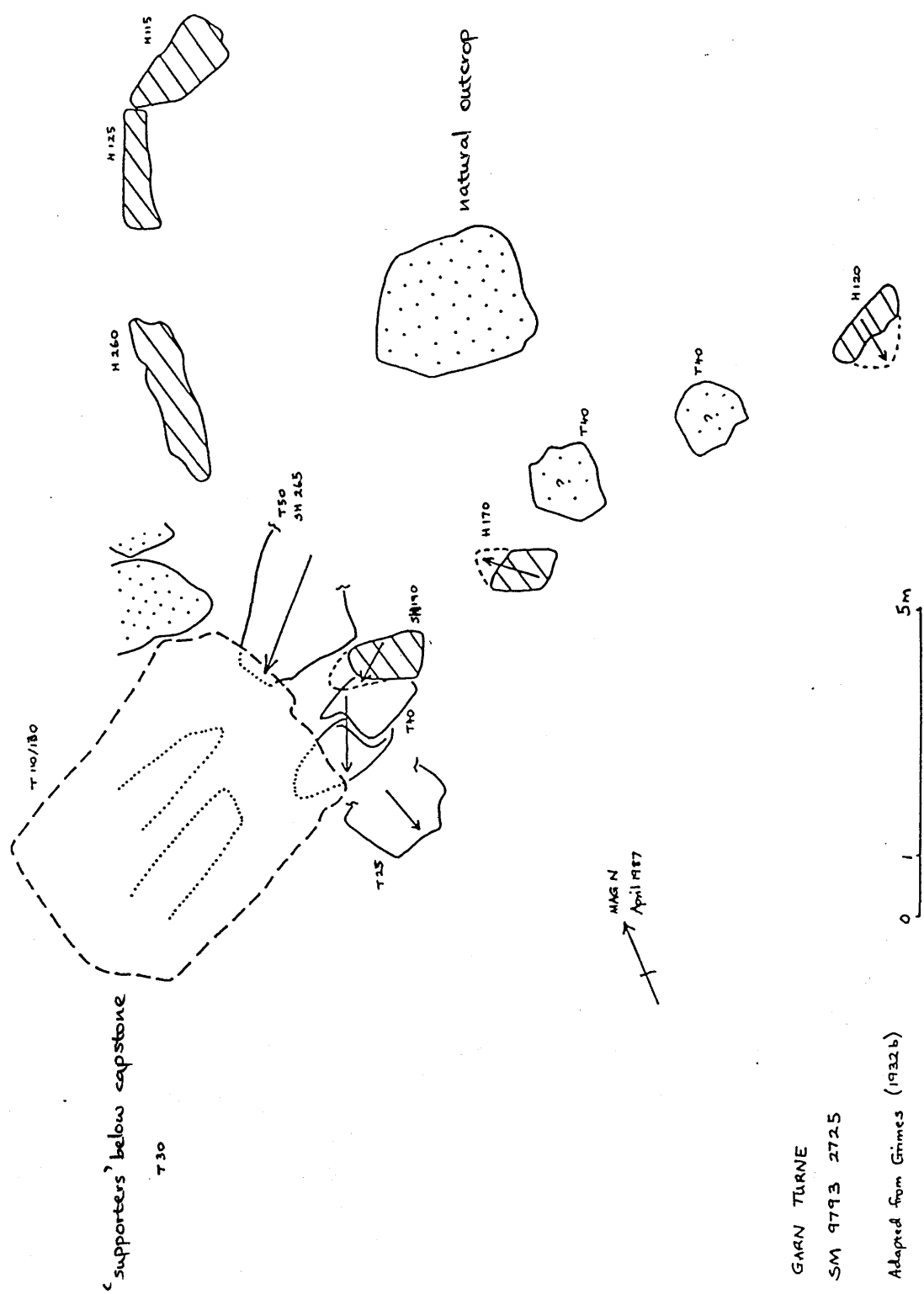
"Repassing the Sealy below Little Newcastle I turn to the right, and enter a field covered with detached fragments of broken rock, called Carn Twrne...it appears to have been a great resort of the Druids, if to them are to be ascribed those monuments called cromlechs, for here occurs one, now dislodged from its supporters, of a dimension exceeding that at Pentre Evan, for it measured in length about sixteen feet and a half by thirteen and a half in breadth, and from four to five feet five inches in thickness, and its circumference sixty-three feet eight inches [5m by 4.1m by 1.2-1.65m, circumference 19.4m]. This immense incumbent stone and its three columnar props stood in a circle of upright stones, some of them yet standing" (Fenton 1810,337-8).

In 1864 a party from the Cambrian Archaeological Association visited the monument - "After invigorating themselves with a substantial lunch...the excursionists proceeded for some time along the Via Julia until they came to the Roman station...a short distance beyond is a striking group of trap-rocks...amongst these are the remains of a large cromlech and gallery...there is also a fine pillar stone" (Anon 1864,358).

The site is next mentioned by Gardner Wilkinson (1871,224) - "Three-quarters of a mile to the north [of Parc y Llyn, and] a mile east of St Dogwells, is the large fallen cromlech of 'Old Coldstone'...several upright stones are still standing near it; and at a short distance is a longstone, 7ft 2in high, 2ft 3in broad, and 3ft thick. This, if standing, would be one of the largest cromlechs in Great Britain". His small plan and elevation (Gardner Wilkinson 1871,pl 30 fig 2) shows the monument exactly as it was when surveyed by Grimes (1932b,fig 4).

Grimes has consistently described this monument as being of 'Pentre Ifan type' (1932b,92;1936a,13;1960,12), although this association is based on the presence of the asymmetric, funnel-shaped orthostatic facade rather than on the form of the chamber. Even allowing for its collapsed condition, it is extremely difficult to see how the structure could have stood as a recognizable Portal Tomb. The capstone is immense (c.60 tons), and one must doubt whether it was ever entirely raised from the ground. It is possible that the tall uprights in front of the chamber

Fig 35



GARN TURN  
SM 9793 2725  
Adapted from Grimes (1932b)

were part of the facade, rather than supporters, and that the capstone was earthfast at the SW, with its NE end raised on slightly lower stones such as the pressure-fractured slab at the E corner.

Various claims have been made for the presence of a peristalith (Grimes 1932b,92), a long cairn (Rees 1981,SAM inspection), and an orthostatic kerb (Stenger 1982,DAT DRF) amongst the natural outcrops to the S of the chamber - all are extremely doubtful.

Fig 35 (after Grimes 1932b with additions)

Visited April 1987

18. Parc y Llyn (Ambleston) SM 9823 2659 PEM 12

DAT SMR 2416

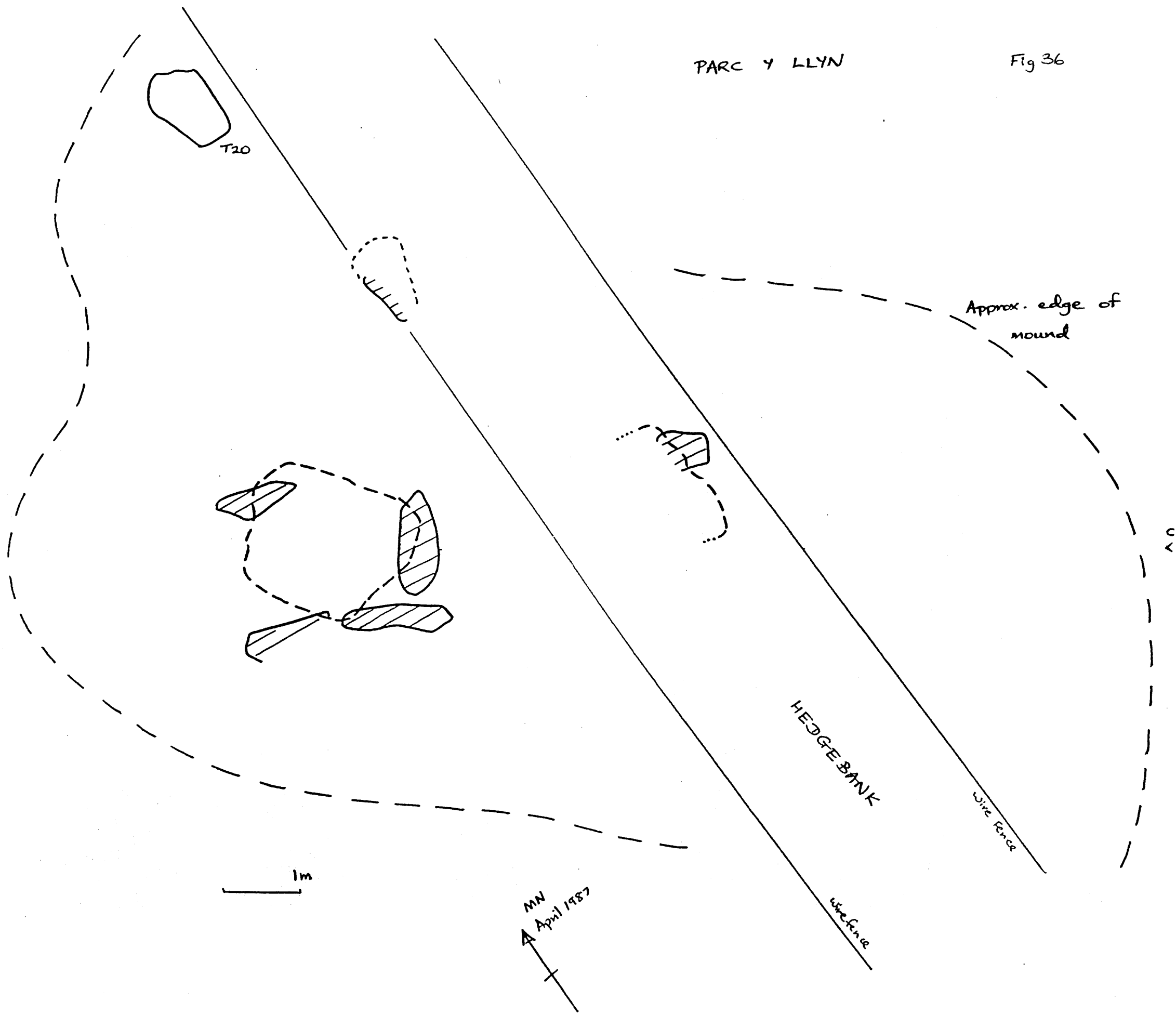
"At Ffynnonnau ('The Wells') two miles west of the Roman Station, and a little beyond Carn Tarn, is a low cromlech, supported on three stones, having a capstone 8ft long by 6ft broad, and 1ft 6in thick [2.45 by 1.8 by 0.45m]; with many small stones lying about it" (Gardner Wilkinson 1871,224). "In the hedge to the east, and largely concealed by it, is what may have been the capstone of a second cromlech...both remains stand on a slightly elevated platform of 180ft [55m] circumference" (RCAM 1925,1).

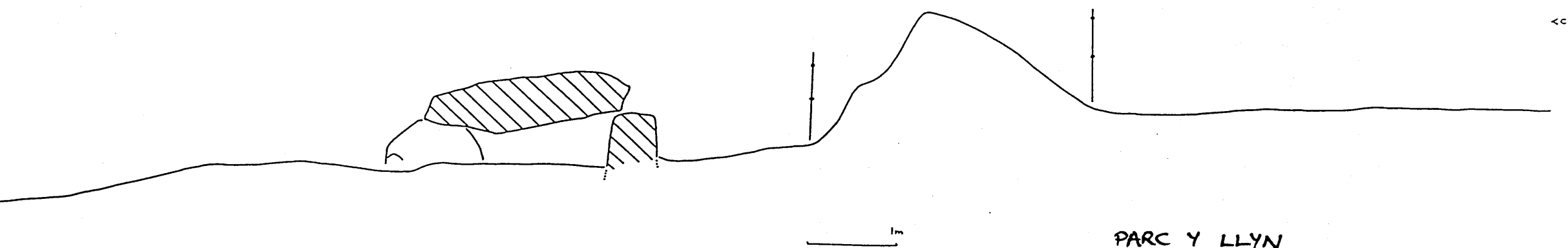
The NW chamber is a rectangular structure, consisting of a capstone and four surviving uprights, with its original entrance presumably at the NW. The capstone has slipped northwards, probably following the removal of a side-stone at the NE, with consequent tilting of the N and SW orthostats. The SE chamber is visible only from the eastern side of the hedge-bank, and consists of a tabular slab (1.75m wide, 0.4m thick, and at least 1.4m deep) embedded in the bank and resting upon an upright at its NE corner. Cairn remnant around the NW chamber and an obvious ground swelling to the E of the hedge-bank would suggest that the chambers were formerly enclosed by an elongated cairn, perhaps 15m in length.

The Ordnance Survey (OSR 1966) expresses some doubt concerning the second chamber - it is likely that the Field Officer examined only the single upright in the hedge to the NE of the NW chamber and failed to check the E side of the hedge-bank.

PARC Y LLYN

Fig 36

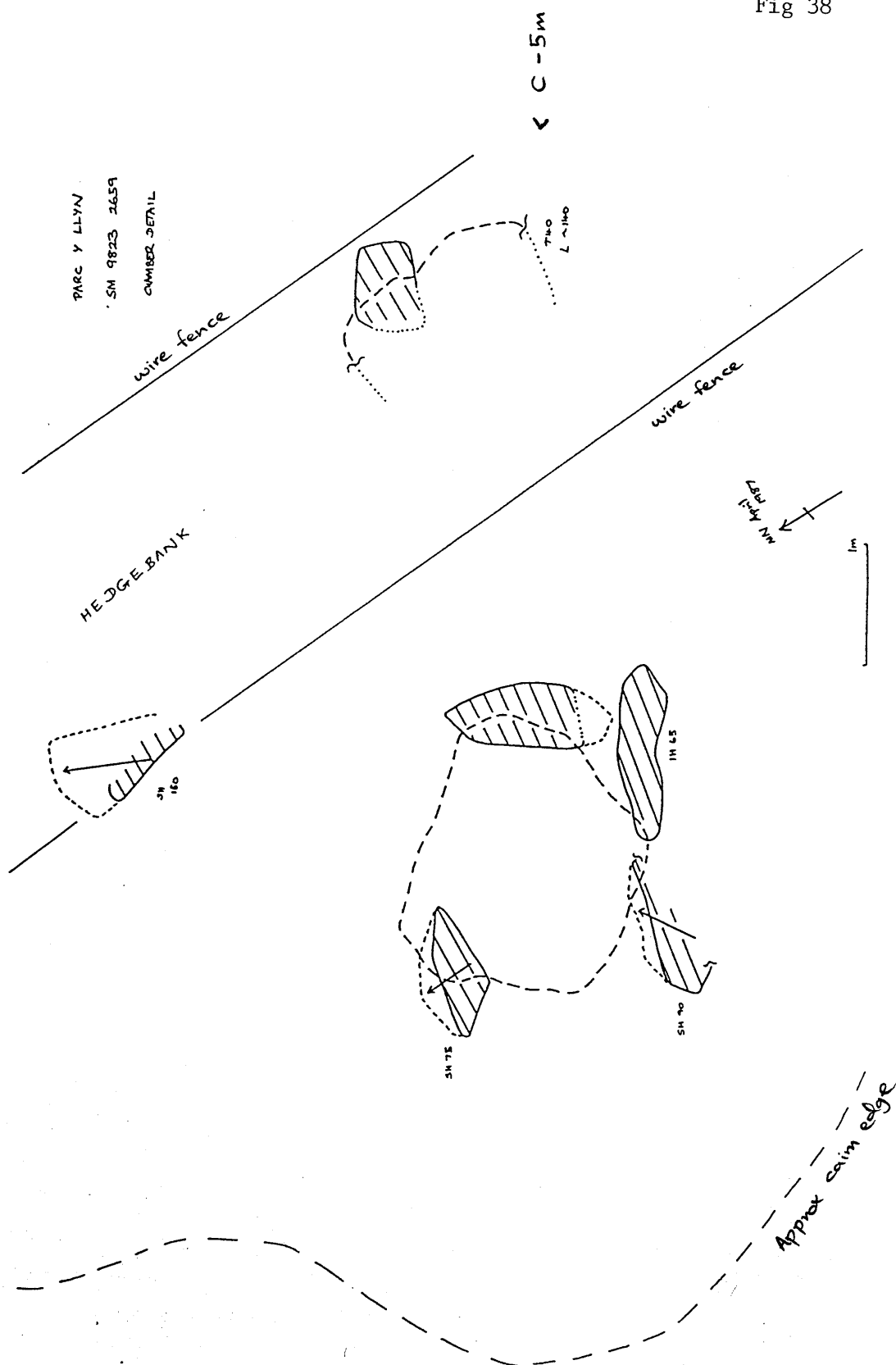




PARC Y LLYN

Fig 37

Fig 38



19. Carn Wnda (Llanwnda) SM 9331 3923 PEM 13

DAT SMR 2497

"Proceed to the village of Llan Wnda...where, on the verge of the rocky eminence just above it, stands a Cromlech, resting obliquely on one stone about five feet high from the ground [1.5m], whose dimensions are fifteen feet by nine, nearly of an equal thickness of two feet [4.6 by 2.75 by 0.6m]" (Fenton 1810,18). "From the quantities of red and black ashes mixed with portions of what seemed to be decomposed burnt bones and small fragments of very rude pottery, which I found...in the hollow below, I felt no hesitation in forming the conclusion that it had been a place of interment" (Fenton 1848,284).

By 1883 these finds by John Fenton were being described as "an urn and bones" (Anon 1883,344), while the PAS (Pemb 4NW,no 7) records that "a small urn containing calcined bones was discovered...it was of coarse manufacture and crumbled to pieces".

This 'sub-megalithic' chamber is set high on the western side of the rock outcrop, Carn Wnda; the capstone is earthfast at its eastern edge, and rests on a single upright to the W. The pit shown by Grimes (1936b,fig 31) beneath the capstone is now indistinct, being lined by an irregular tumble of small stones; however, on the S side of the chamber four courses of dry-stone walling survive.

Fig 39

Visited May 1987

20. Penrhiw (Llanwnda) SM 9422 3907 PEM 14

DAT SMR 2499

"On the field known as Parc y gromlech, next N of Penrhiw farm-house stands a cromlech, the chamber of which is now filled with field gathered stones. The capstone has been overthrown and lies at the feet of its quondam supporters"(RCAM 1925,548vi).

Fig 39

CARN WNDJA

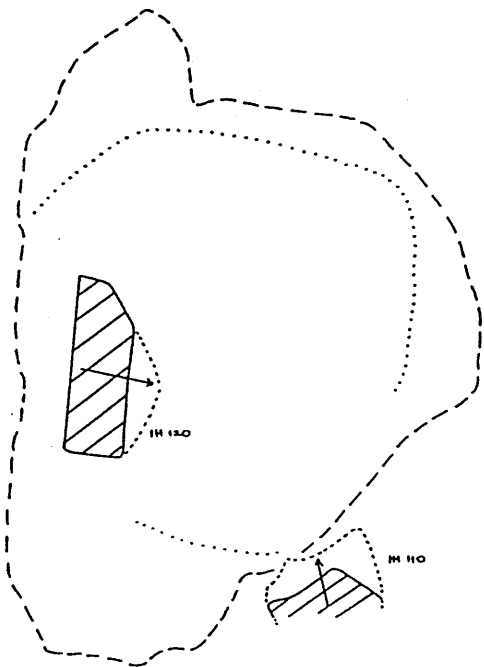
SM 9331 3923

MN  
May 87



A >

< B



.... stone lined edge  
of chamber



A >

< B

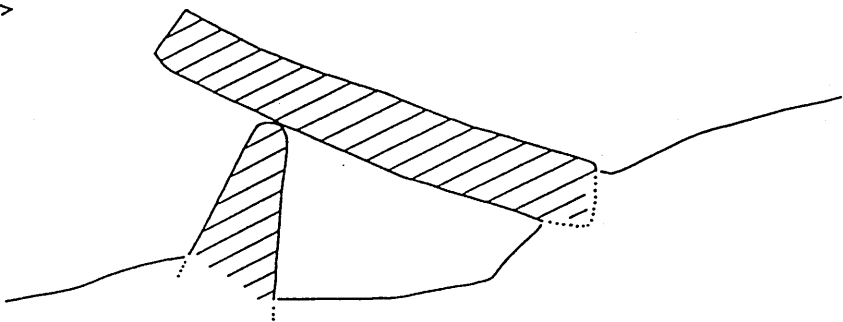
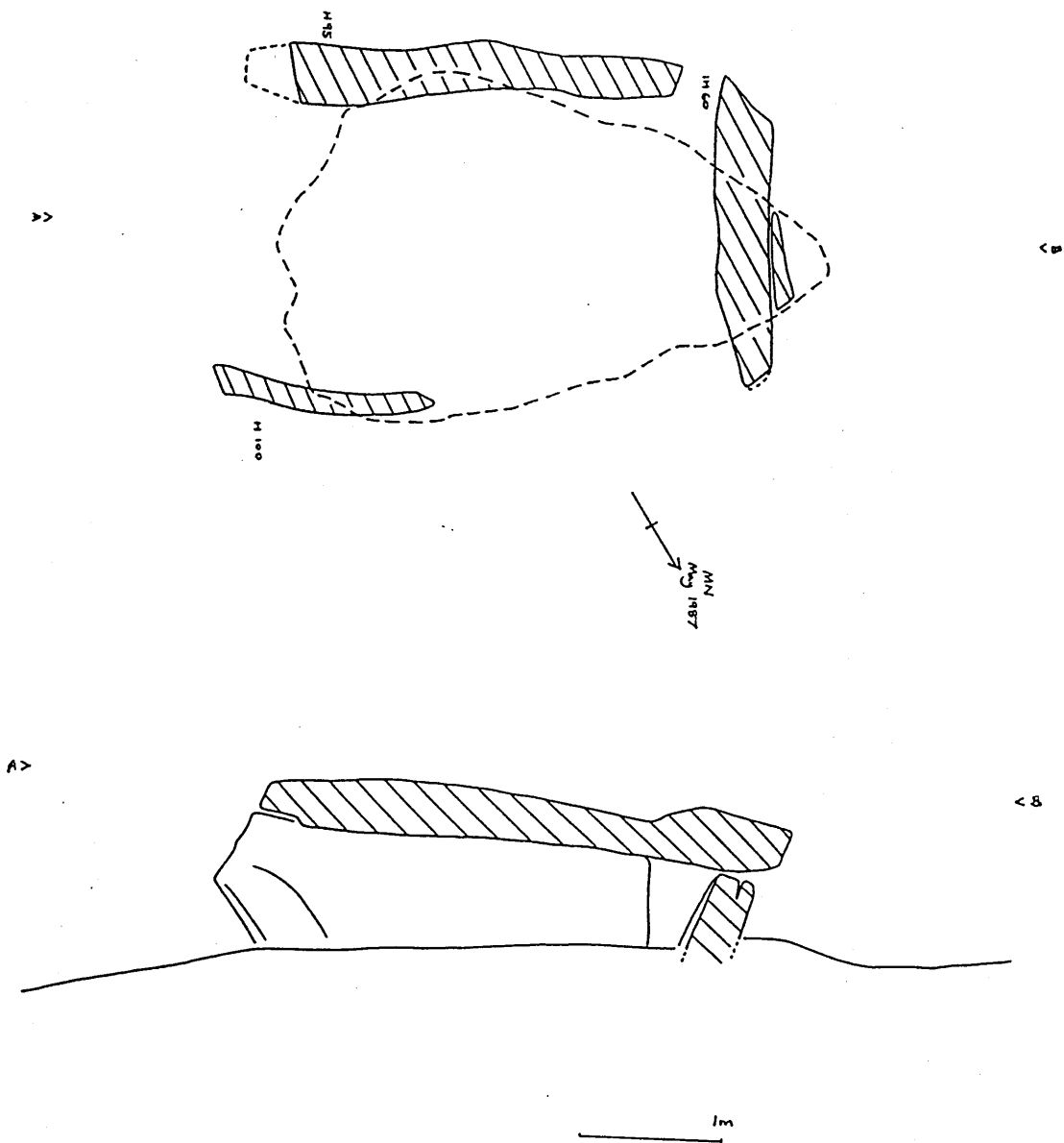




Fig 40

PENRHIW  
SM 9422 3907



The remnants of this burial chamber stand in an arable field, close to a small rock outcrop and some 600m W of the Carn Wen 'cemetery'. The capstone, which was still displaced when the chamber was planned by Grimes (1936b, fig 28), has now been re-erected upon the three surviving supporters. The little that remains of an enclosing mound is being rapidly dispersed by careless ploughing.

Fig 40

Visited May 1987

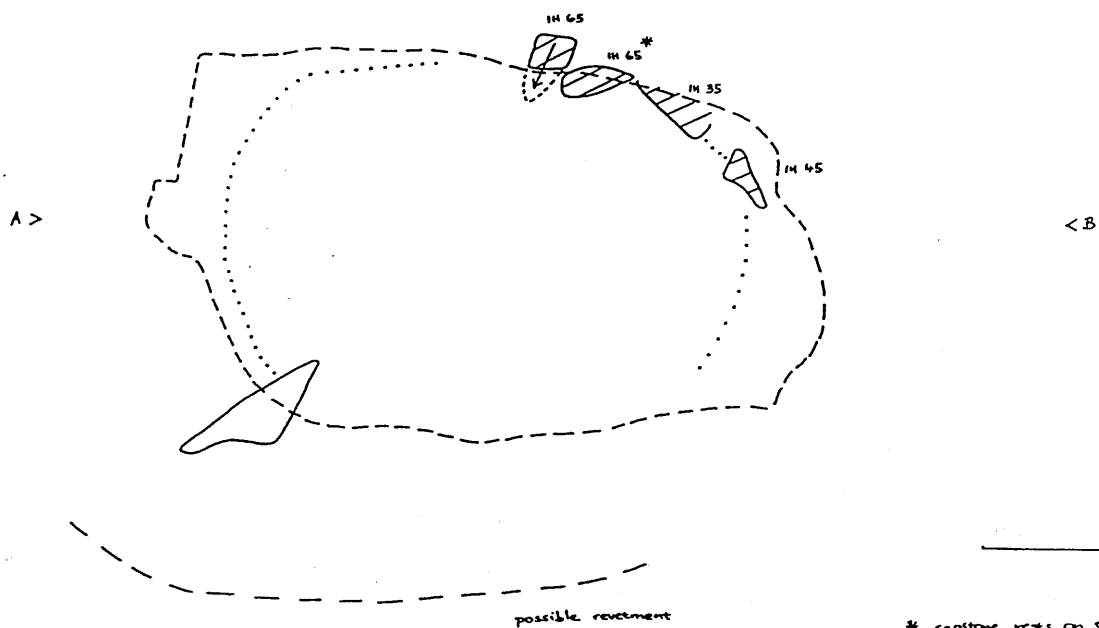
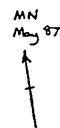
21. Garngilfach (Llanwnda) SM 9089 3898 PEM 15

DAT SMR 2493

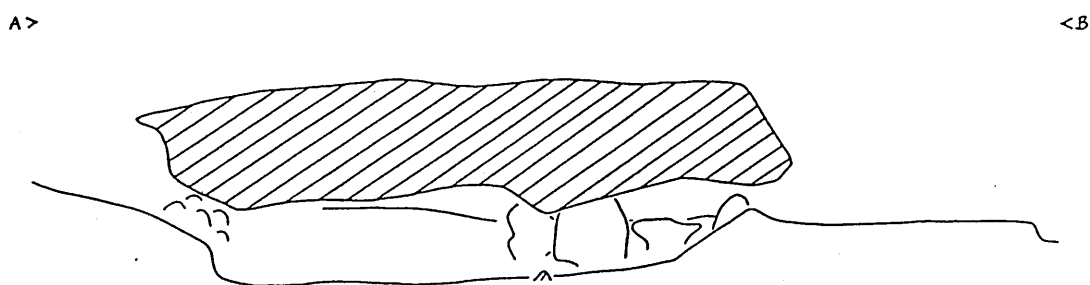
"The side to the west [of Carn Culhwch] seemed to have been appropriated to druidical ceremonies from the many Cromlechs, some overturned, and some in their original position. There is one more remarkable than the rest; a large unshapen mass of serpentine, fifteen feet by eight, and two and a half average thickness [4.6 by 2.45 by 0.75m]; under the edges of it are placed nine or ten small pointed upright stones, imbedded in a strong pavement, extending for some way round. These small supporters are fixed without any regard to their height, as only two or three bear the whole weight of the incumbent stone, one of which is so pressed by it, as to have become almost incorporated with it. On the upper surface of the Cromlech are three considerable excavations near the centre, probably intended to have received the blood of the victim, or waters for purification, if (as it is the most general opinion) they were used as altars...this stone has a small inclination to the north-east. Its height from the ground is very inconsiderable, being scarce one foot high [30cm] on the lowest side; and on the other only high enough to admit of a person creeping under it, though once entered, the space enlarges from the upper stone having a considerable concavity. The earth below is rich and black...(I have since learned that the blackness I refer to, appears to have been chiefly the effect of fire, as many bits of charcoal and rude pottery have been picked up there" (Fenton 1810, 22-3).

Fig 41

GARNGILFACH  
SM 9089 3898



\* capstone rests on this stone  
..... stones lining wall of chamber



One can still recognize many of the features described in this unusually full account of the 'sub-megalithic' chamber which is set beneath the southern side of a rock outcrop close to Garngilfach. At present the capstone rests chiefly upon irregular masses of small stones at its NW and SE ends - these may represent the tumbled remnants of more formal dry-stone walling. Certainly the edges of the chamber would appear to have been defined by a combination of small orthostats (of which four survive) and low walling. To the S there are traces of a stone revetment which has helped to stabilize and to close the southern side of the chamber.

This monument has been variously called "Gillach Goch" (Barnwell 1872,fig), "Gilfach" (PAS,Pemb 4NW,no 13), "Carn Gyllych" (RCAM 1925,548iii;Grimes 1936a,no 57;Daniel 1950,PEM 15), and most recently "Garngilfach" (OS maps;DAT SMR). Of the later accounts only Barnwell (1872,137) adds anything to our knowledge of the site, recording that a "Mr Blight did succeed in getting under the stone, but found only a fragment of flint, which must have been placed there, as there is no natural flint in the country".

Fig 41

Visited May 1987

22. Trellysycoed (St Nicholas) SM 9059 3492 PEM 16      **DAT SMR 2578**

"On high ground, just above the village of Trellys, is a Cromlech, and, what is not commonly seen in a stone of such size, of whitish spar almost horizontally placed, and resting on two supporters only" (Fenton 1810,28). "It stands on a very slight mound, a short way from some abrupt rocks which mark its position from a distance" (Gardner Wilkinson 1871,231-2), and is known locally as "Ffyst Samson" (PAS,Pemb 9NW,no 9).

The rectangular chamber stands amidst the irregular remnants of a ?round cairn, just to the SW of the rock outcrop called Carn Llys; the elevated site affords wide views towards Strumble Head and the sea.

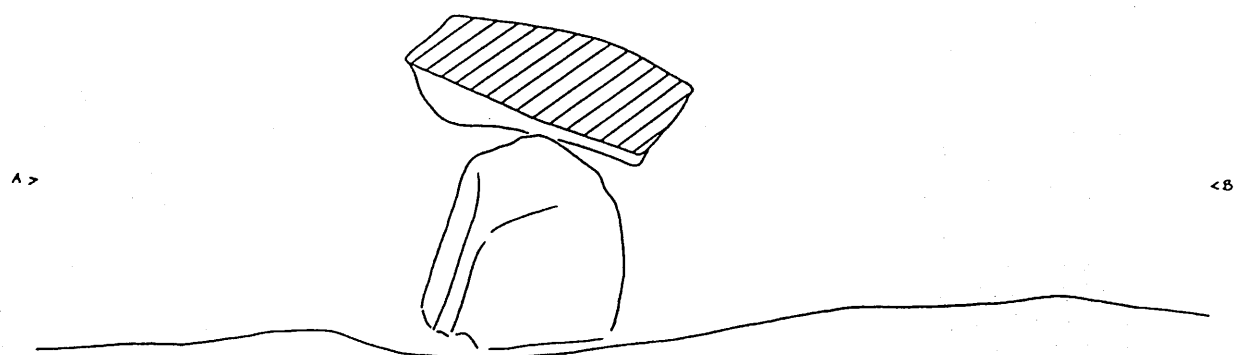
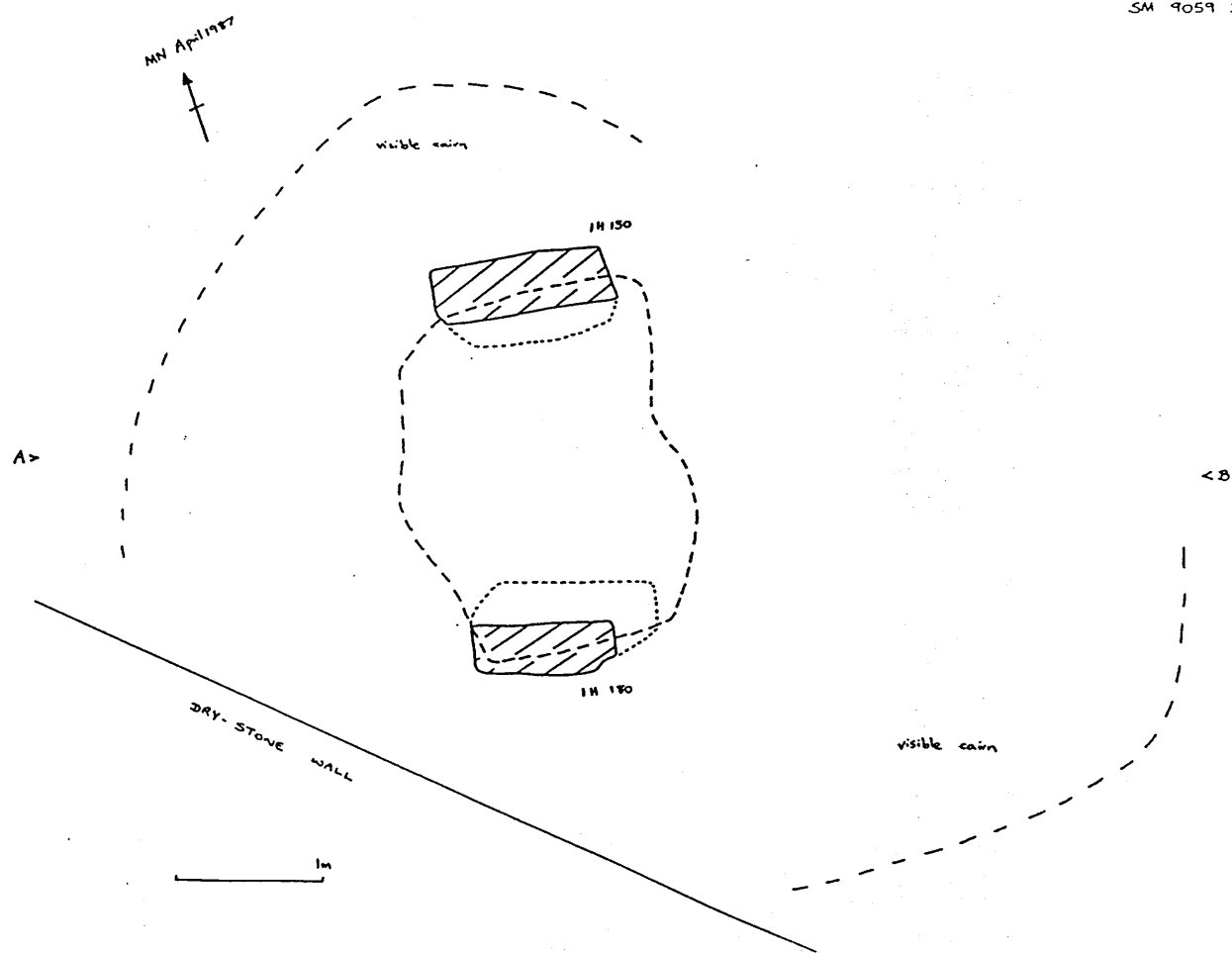
Fig 42

Visited April 1987

Fig 42

TRELLYSY COED

SM 9059 3492



"From Abercastle ascend to the Long House, and in my approach to it on the left hand observe a most perfect cromlech. The incumbent stone is from 16 to 18 feet long [4.9 to 5.5m], very thick to the north, but rather thinner as it inclines towards the south and the west. It is of a curious texture, having flint and spar bedded all through it, as have the columnar stones it is supported by, which are six in number, four only in contact with the altar stone, and those the four end ones; the tallest, upright and much the thickest, is 5 feet 6 inches high [1.65m]" (Fenton 1810,31).

Carreg Samson stands on gently sloping land, at the head of a narrow creek that runs down to a sheltered inlet at Abercastle. The monument was excavated during August 1968 by Frances Lynch (1975).

The tomb was erected in an irregularly-cut and partially back-filled pit. The oval chamber (3.4m by 1.7m) was originally walled by seven orthostats - six survive. The entrance, at the NW, may have been approached by a passage; three possible stone-holes were found, suggesting a passage of about 2m in length. The extent and nature of any covering cairn remains uncertain.

The chamber floor (laid yellow clay) had been disturbed by the digging of three deep holes. However, fragments of burnt bone were recovered from the undisturbed floor at the E end of the chamber, while the NW quadrant yielded a quantity of sherds from a single pot. This hemispherical bowl, with a simple slightly-everted rim, "may be regarded as Early Neolithic, but it is not directly comparable with the material from Clegyr Boia or Dyffryn Ardudwy" (Lynch 1976,75).

Fig 43 (after Lynch 1975)

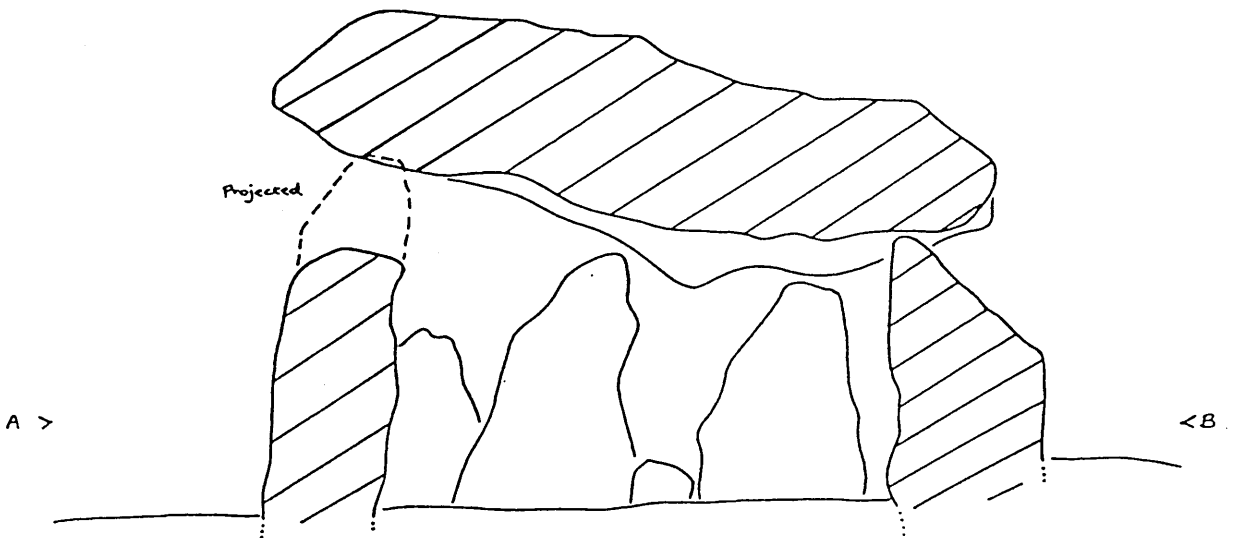
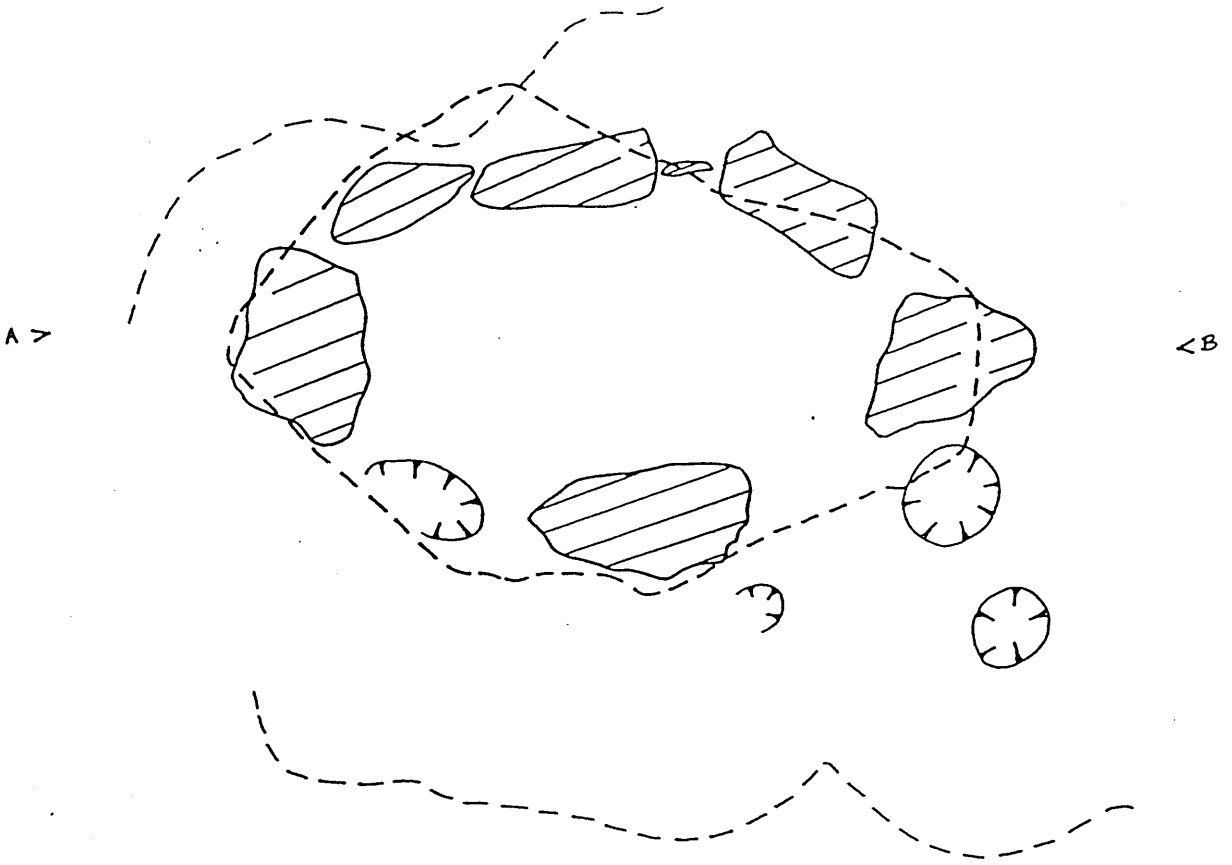
Visited June 1981

Fig 43

CARREG SAMSON

SM 8483 3350

(After Lynch 1975)



1m

The remains of this rectangular chamber stand in pasture with good views to the S towards the River Solva. Three uprights (c.1m high) form the sides of the chamber - the eastern side-stone is missing, but the gap is partially closed by the displaced capstone. "The interior has been filled with field-gathered stones...some years ago several flagstones were met with in the course of ploughing a few yards from the cromlech. There are no traces of a mound" (RCAM 1925,435).

Fig 44 Visited March 1987

"In this small parish [St Elwys] on the farm of Llechvaen there is a large druidical monument of the Cromlech kind" (Fenton 1810,141). "Two cromlechs, both cap stones thrown down. Twelve years ago the tenant blasted and carried off two legs of the eastern cromlech, but at the request of the writer [H.W.Williams] ceased this work of destruction. The cromlechau stand within two yards of each other. Each has only two legs left. The capstone of one measures 12ft x 12ft and is about 3ft 6in thick [3.65 by 3.65 by 1.05m]" (PAS,Pemb 21NW,no 4).

This monument is situated on coastal farmland to the E of Solva harbour. Of the disturbed W chamber two uprights and a large slanting capstone remain. Smaller stones protrude through the turf-covering of a small mound which abuts the W side of the chamber; this is unlikely to represent original mound material, and is probably the remnant of the hedge-bank which formerly crossed the site (Daniel 1950,PEM 20).

The E structure consists of two broad uprights and a presumptive capstone, although the uprights seem too widely spaced for the ?capstone to have spanned the gap. Any surviving mound has been severely eroded by animal and vehicular disturbance (DAT DRF 1982), though the recent provision of an enclosing fence should protect the site in future.

Grimes has claimed (1936a,13) that the monument has been excavated without result, but it has proved impossible to confirm this.

Fig 45 Visited July 1987



Fig 44

TREFFYNNON  
SM 9536 2866

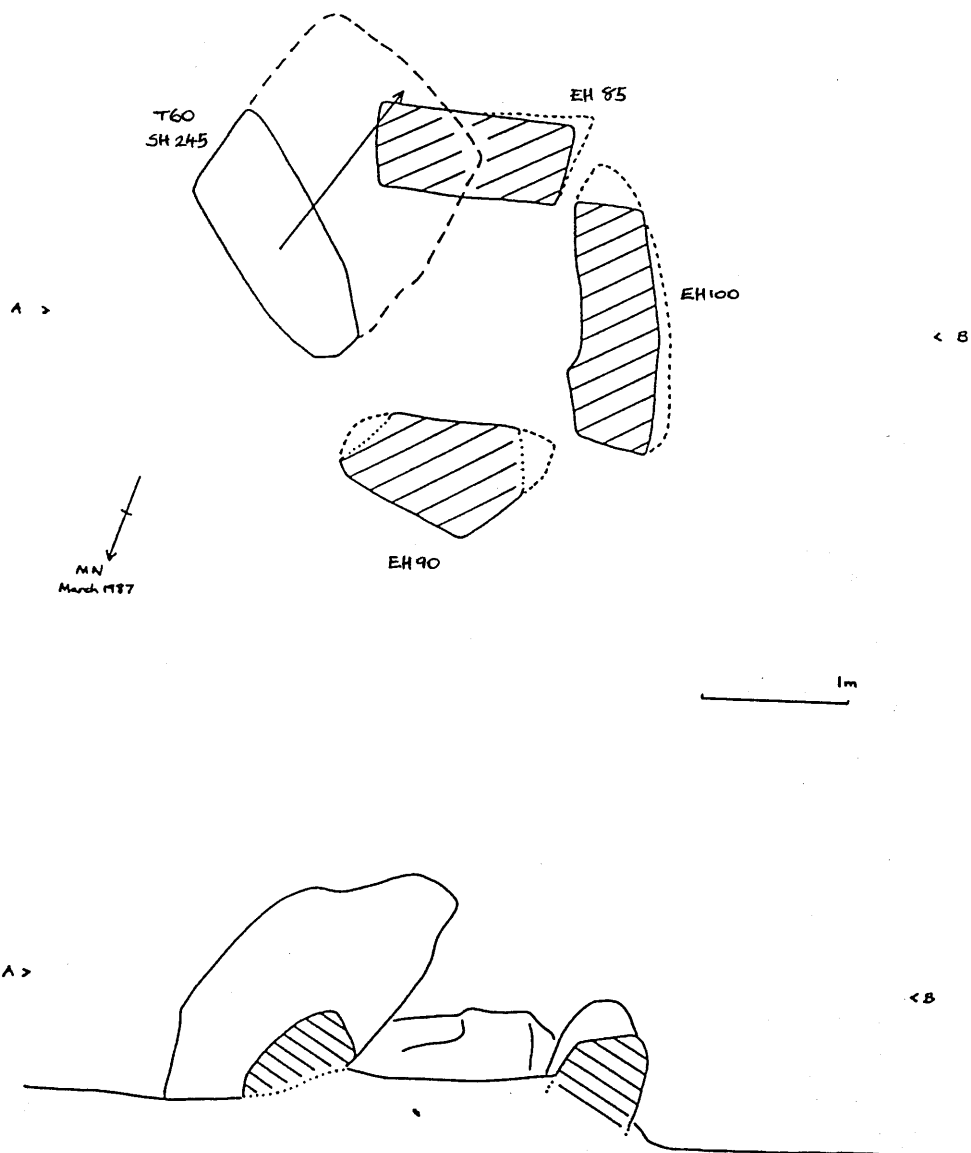
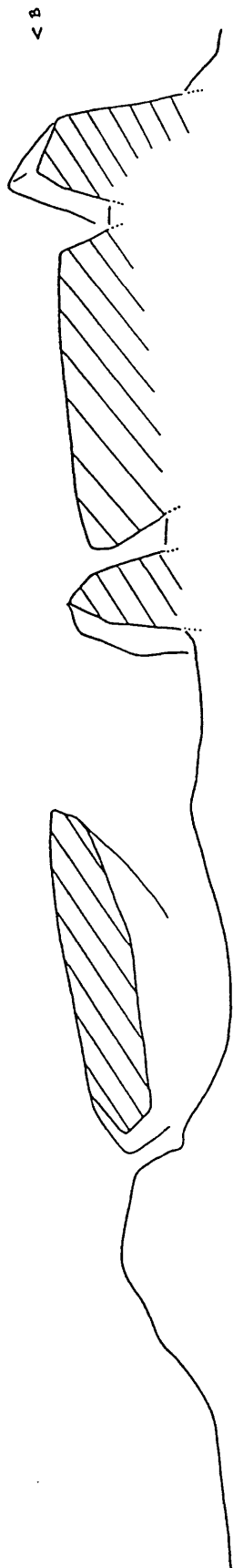
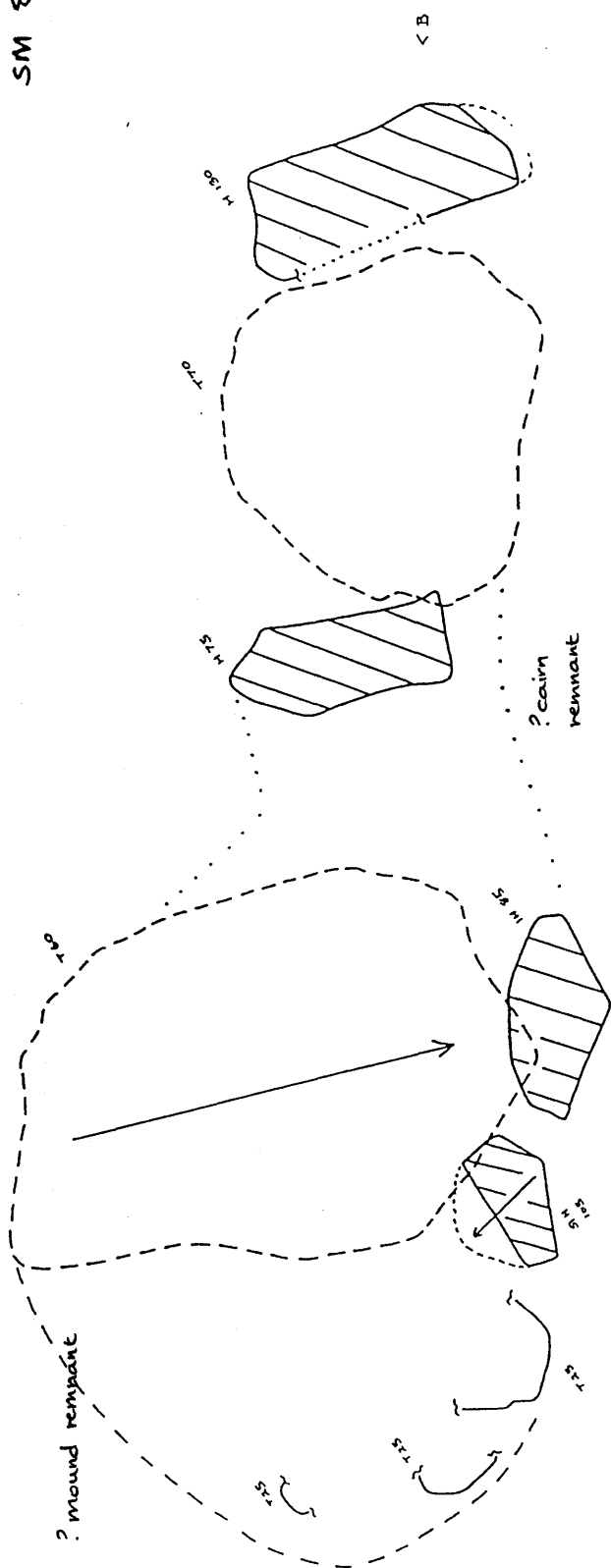


Fig 45

ST ELVIES

SM 8120 2394

MN July 1987



"A few days ago, in walking over Carn Llidi, the picturesque rock which towers over Whitesand Bay, to the north-west of St Davids, I discovered the remains of a double cromlech on the northern slope of the hill, and near the western extremity of its rocky portion. The two cromlechs, which stood side by side, differ in size; the larger one being on the northern side, and the other standing close under the rock. The capstones of both are dismounted; that of the former is some eight or nine feet in length [c.2.5m], and the other considerably smaller. Three of the supporters of the lesser cromlech are in situ, and stand close together, presenting the appearance of a wall..." (Jones 1863).

The chambers are now more overgrown than when first surveyed by Grimes (1936b,fig 30). The capstone of the W chamber rests upon a single orthostat at the SW, though a second lies trapped beneath. The 'third' upright shown by Grimes at the NW appears to be part of the chamber lining. The E chamber survives as three uprights and a displaced capstone. Grimes has suggested that the capstone formerly rested upon the natural ledge in the rock-face (1936b,135), but the relatively short length of the capstone makes this unlikely. No cairn is now evident, though Grimes (1936a,12) thought it probable that one has existed originally.

Fig 46

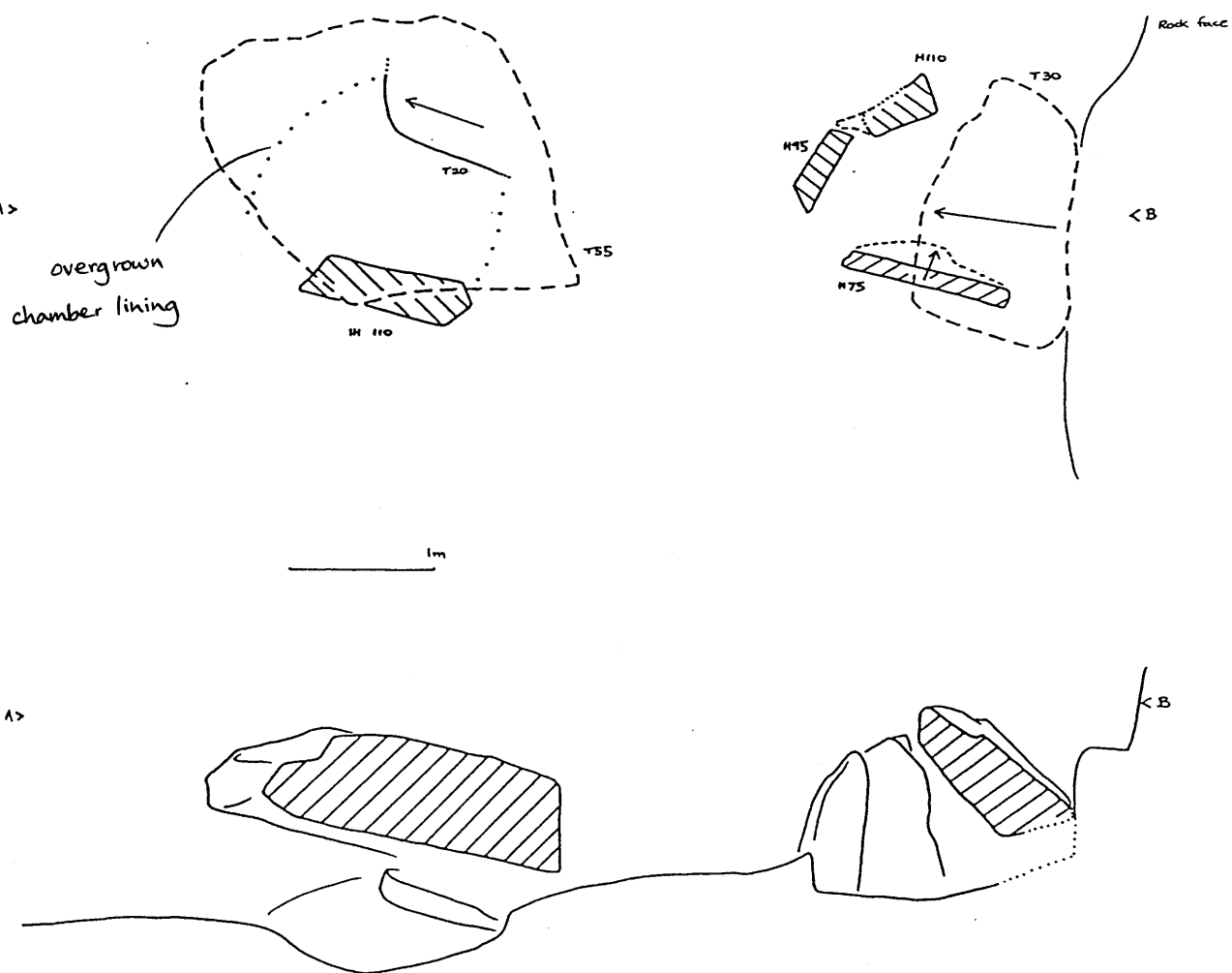
Visited July 1987

"At a little distance from [St Davids] Head, upon a plain, is a famous Druidical altar, of one solid stone, 12 feet long, 8 feet broad, and averaged at 2 feet thick [3.65 by 2.45m by 0.6m]; it formerly was supported by several stones, but now rests only on one" (Manby 1801,70). This single orthostat "carries the eastern angle of the cap-stone...at the northern angle lies a fallen supporter, five feet in height [1.5m]; and two stones, which probably played the same part, lie on the west side, one five feet high [1.5m], and the other three feet six inches [1.05m]. The south-eastern end has been built up, and several loose stones lie to the east of it" (Jones and Freeman 1856,26).

Fig 46

CARN LLIDJ  
SM 7352 2789

MN  
July 87



In addition to these features, the earliest engraving of the site (Longueville Jones 1865) shows an upright close to the SE side of the chamber. This is not shown in the slightly later engraving by Barnwell (1872), nor is it mentioned by any other writer, and one can safely dismiss it as an engraver's embellishment.

The chamber is much disturbed, having been excavated in 1898 without result (Baring Gould et al 1899,130); however, traces of a dry-stone lining survive. A possible revetment of the chamber at the SE is reminiscent of a similar structure at Garngilfach (No.21 above). Any covering cairn is now thoroughly dispersed, and there is no trace of the 'passage' to the W mentioned by Daniel (1950,PEM 23).

Fig 47

Visited July 1987

28. Hanging Stone (Burton) SM 9722 0822 PEM 24

DAT SMR 3205

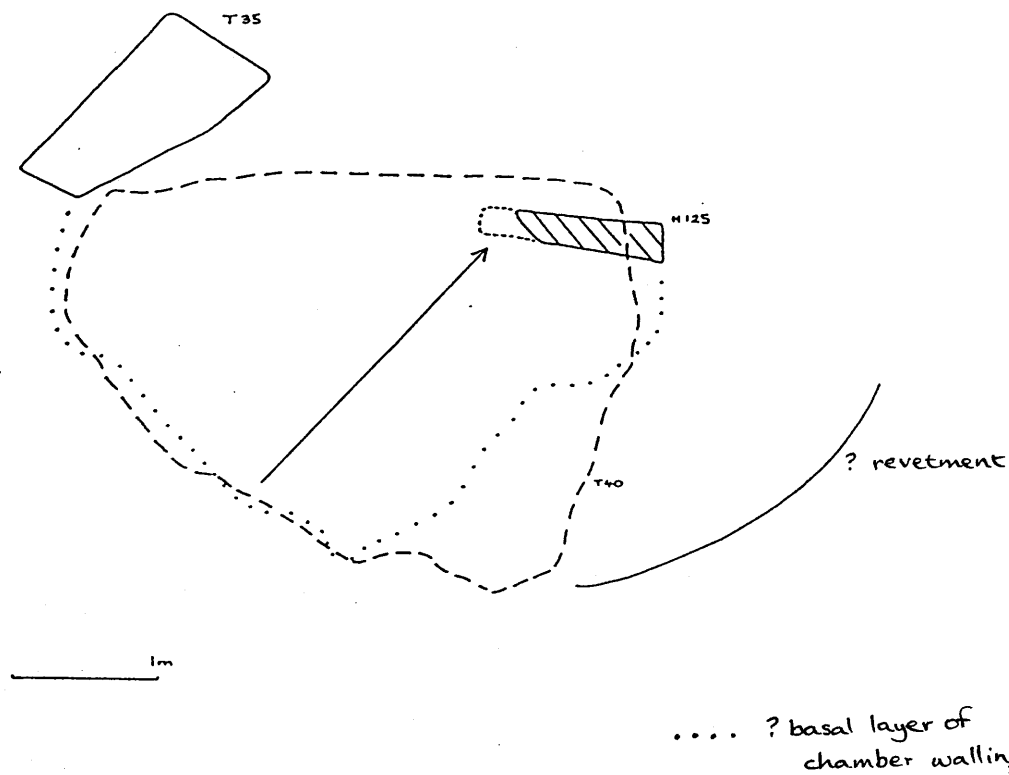
"The excursionists' attention was next directed to the mutilated remains of a cromlech, or sepulchral chamber as these monuments are now almost universally allowed to be...a very fair specimen, of moderate dimensions. The structure at present consists of the remains of its supporters (once probably six in number) and a covering stone. A huge mass of rock lies touching part of it, which looks as if it had at one time formed a portion of the gallery or chamber. There are also the remains of original small, dry masonry, by which the gaps between the larger stones were always carefully filled up. Few traces of its former covering, or tumulus, could be made out. A modern bank across the field adjoins one side" (Anon 1864,346-7).

"The capstone, from N to S, is 10ft 2in by 8[ft 6in], with a thickness of 4ft 3in [3.1 by 2.6 by 1.3m]...the upright stone on the S side is 6ft 1in [1.85m]; that on the E side is 5ft 3in [1.6m]; that on the N side, 5ft 5in [1.65m]" (Barnwell 1872,126). Two engravings accompany Barnwell's paper - these show the capstone and the three supporting uprights, but the adjoining bank is omitted. Also omitted is the large adjacent slab; this is next mentioned by the RCAM (1925, 83) - "there is visible a portion of another large stone, which suggests that the original structure was a double cromlech".

Fig 47

ST. DAVIDS HEAD  
SM 7253 2805

MN  
July 87



Grimes (1936a,13) was first to record "the remains of a passage-way to the NE" of the chamber. None of the early accounts mention this, indeed Barnwell was confident that the chamber ran "nearly N and S, the contrary to the more usual direction of E and W" (1872,127).

Grimes' plan of the monument (1936b,131) shows four uprights beneath the capstone - the fourth being situated between the two supporters on the S side of the chamber. At present a flat slab (0.1m thick) lies here, perhaps no more than a level foundation for dry-stone walling. Traces of just such walling are recorded by Grimes to the E of the N supporter; these survive intact today.

The evidence for the former existence of a passage is confused and somewhat unconvincing. Grimes records an upright to the E of the N supporter, and a companion to this on the opposite 'side' adjacent to the SE supporter. While the former is still evident, there is no trace of the latter. But Grimes does not record the solidly-set stone, present today, which appears to continue the N side of the 'passage'. Lynch (1976,fig 8) does recognize this upright stone, set into the S face of the hedge-bank, and records another stone (not earthfast) on the southern side of the 'passage'. This last stone has since disappeared.

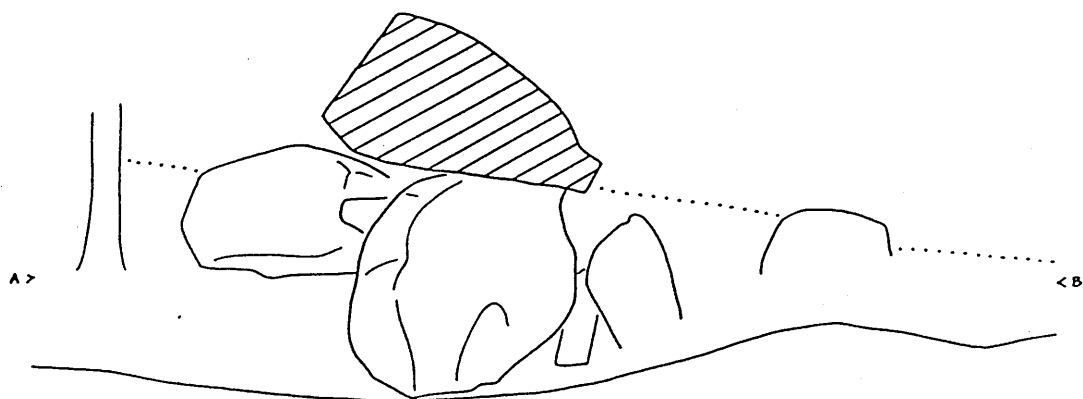
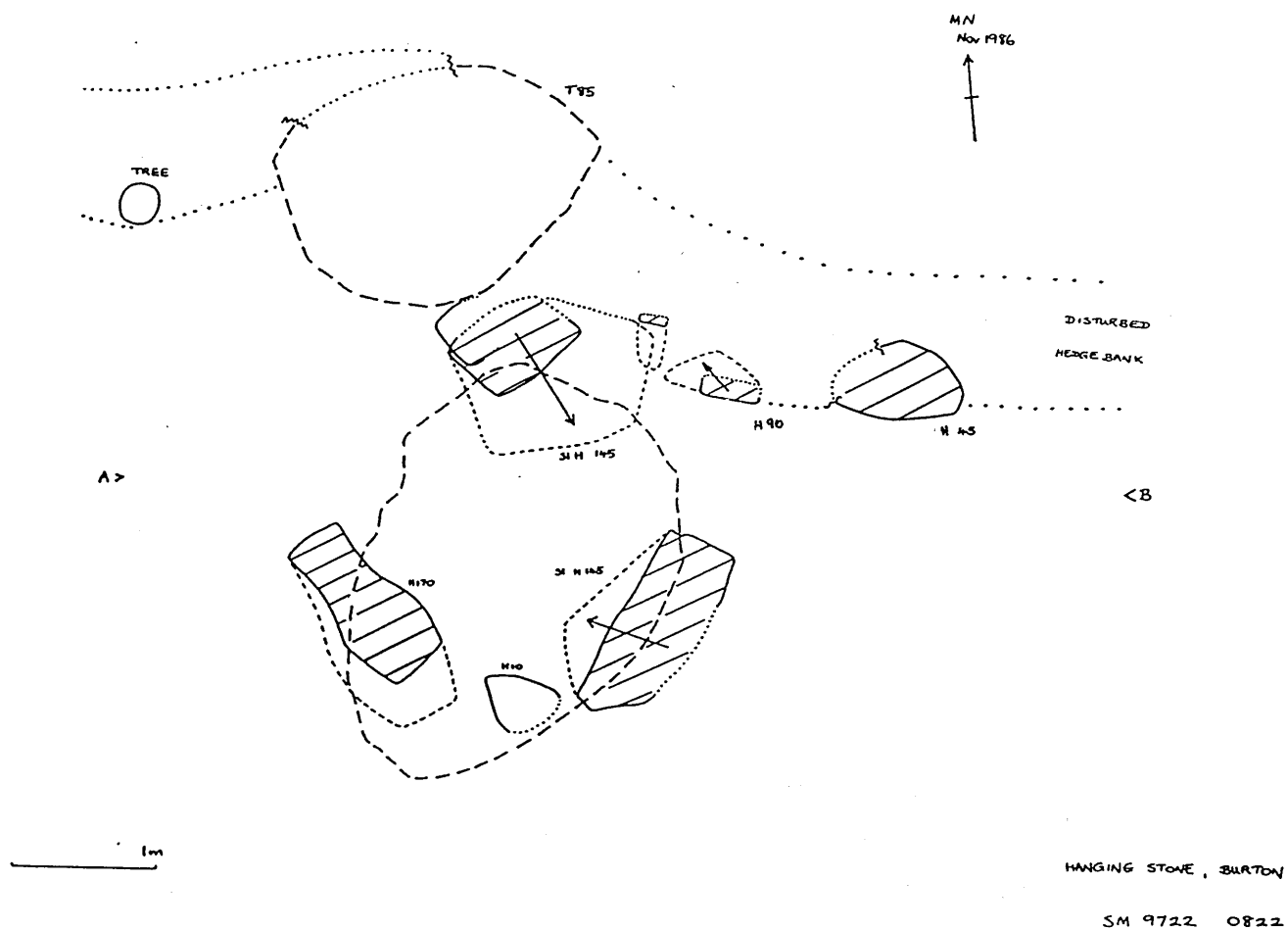
Returning to Grimes' plan, the large slab ("?displaced capstone") which lies upon the hedge-bank to the N of the chamber is clearly shown, as is another stone which partially underlies its northern corner. Cultivation of the elevated field to the N has led to the build-up of soil against the hedge-bank, partially obscuring the large slab and completely burying the smaller stone. To the S a low platform (?cairn remnant), radius c.4m, separates the chamber from a regularly ploughed field.

Grimes (1936a,13) has classified the monument as a Passage Grave, although Daniel (1950,PEM 24) was less definite. While Lynch (1975,26; 1976,75) prefers to describe it as a small 'chamber and passage' tomb, she retains the contacts with the Western sea-ways implied by the concept of the Passage Grave tradition (1975,fig 7).

Fig 48

Visited November 1986

Fig 48





"A little further on, cross an extensive tract of sandy burrows, in the centre of which stands a Cromlech resting on two upright stones, the third being overturned. There seems to have been a low circular agger of earth raised around it, of no inconsiderable area. This is the only druidical relic of the kind I have observed in Castle Martin, such monuments being much less frequent in the lower part of the country than they appear to be near the mountains..." (Fenton 1810,405).

Beyond providing a plan and elevation, there is little that can be usefully added to this account, the earliest of the Newton cromlech. The chamber lies in a shallow depression in sandy pasture, though Longueville Jones (1865,281) recorded "traces of a carnedd of stones". A portion of a further slab protrudes through the turf some 3m NE of the chamber. Two engravings of the monument were published in Archaeologia Cambrensis - that by Barnwell (1872,142) "is rather more faithful" than that by Longueville Jones (1865,281).

Daniel (1950,PEM 25) compared the site with Cors-y-gedol (MER 4) - "the earth-fast appearance of both these chambers is phenomorphic". In this author's opinion the application of the term 'earth-fast' to either of these burial chambers is both inaccurate and misleading.

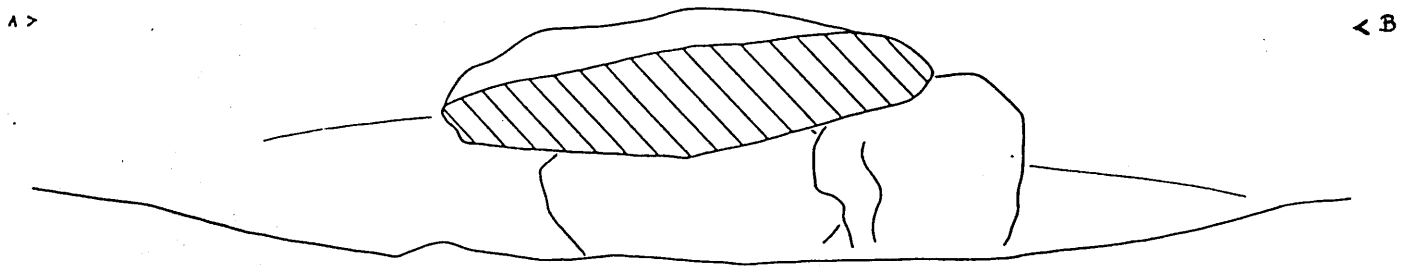
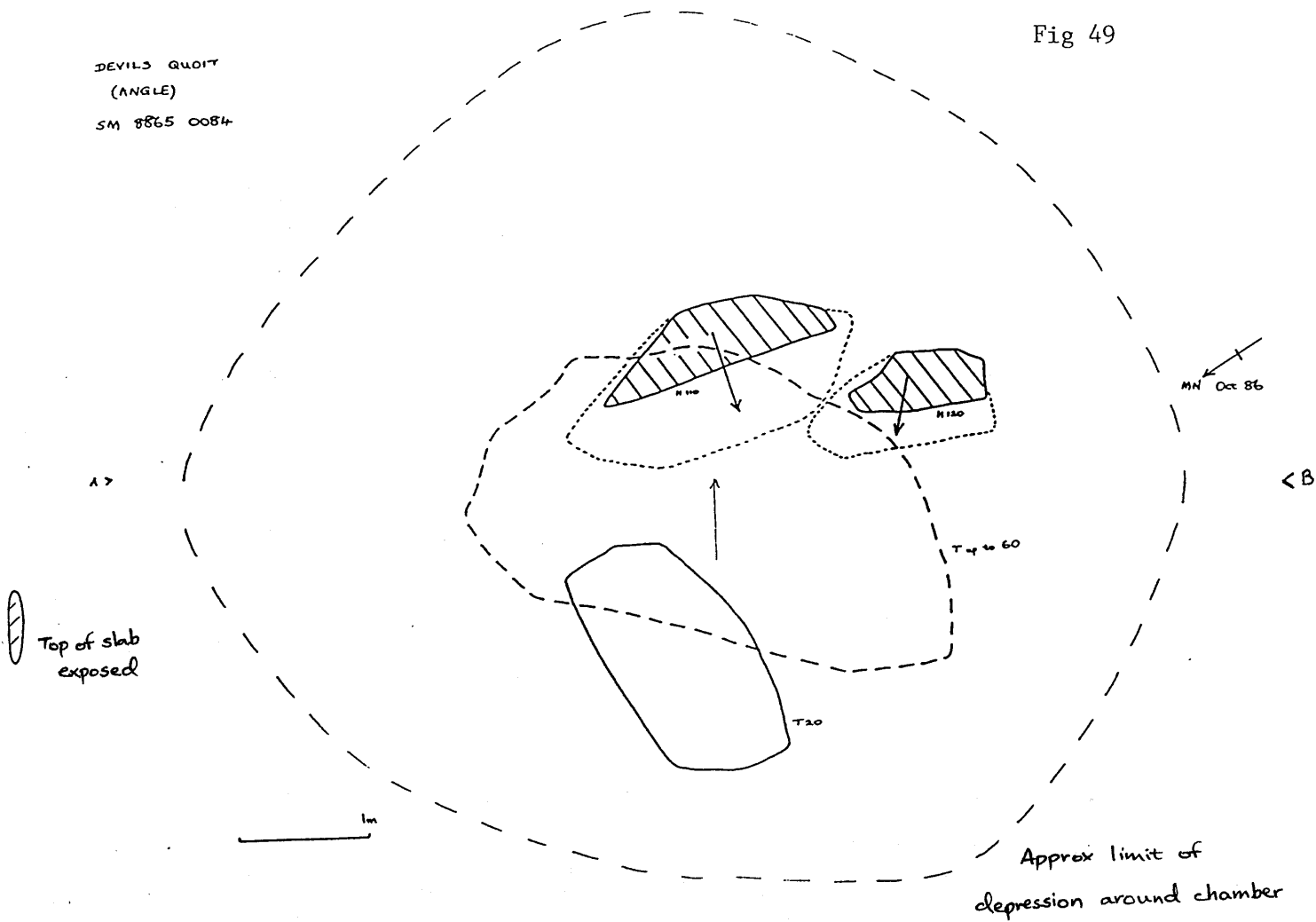
Fig 49

Visited October 1986

"On the south-eastern side of the little cove at Manorbier...is to be seen the cromlech...it is curious from its position, because, instead of lying on an elevated or bare patch of ground, it is just under a ridge of rocks...in this respect it resembles the cromlech near Llanwnda ...the cause in each of these cases has, no doubt, been the convenience of using large slabs from the adjoining, or rather overhanging cliffs" (Longueville Jones 1865,282).

Fig 49

DEVILS QUOIT  
(ANGLE)  
SM 8865 0084



"Its outer end rests on two low supporters standing nearly at a right angle with each other, and the inner end rests partly on the ground, partly on another block, immediately below a wall of rock or line of stone slabs...there appears to be little room for a mound or cairn to stand over this cromlech, as the ground falls very suddenly from it on two sides" (Gardner Wilkinson 1871,237-8). "The capstone, 16ft 9in long by 8ft 6in broad [5.1 by 2.6m]...lies to the NE, and the entrance is at the north-eastern extremity" (Barnwell 1872,127-8).

The siting of this burial chamber, within two paces of the cliff edge, is highly unusual, and as early as 1851 doubts were expressed "as to whether this particular object were a cromlech at all, and not simply an accidental formation" (Anon 1851,314-5). Two features relieve this nagging doubt: first, there is no gap in the limestone formation from which the capstone could have fallen; second, none of the supporters stand in parallel with the vertical strata that underlie the chamber, and so they would appear to have been deliberately positioned.

It has been suggested that "the massive capstone has moved forward off the outcrop formerly supporting its inner edge and caused the collapse of the orthostats that supported its outer edge" (Anon 1977, 172). This suggestion is impractical, for the slabs of the outcrop are too tall for the capstone to have rested upon them. And if the pointed southern end of the capstone had been lodged between the two slabs not only would the SE side-slab have performed no function but also the capstone would have had to 'fall' uphill. It is more reasonable to see this as an 'earth-fast' chamber (Daniel 1950,PEM 26), the capstone of which has slid sea-wards.

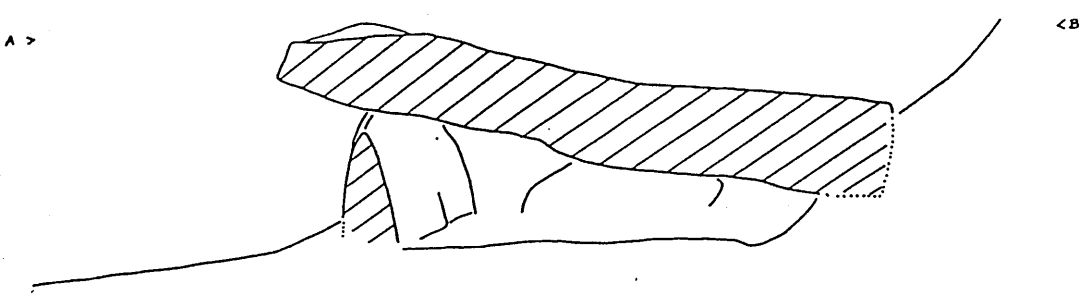
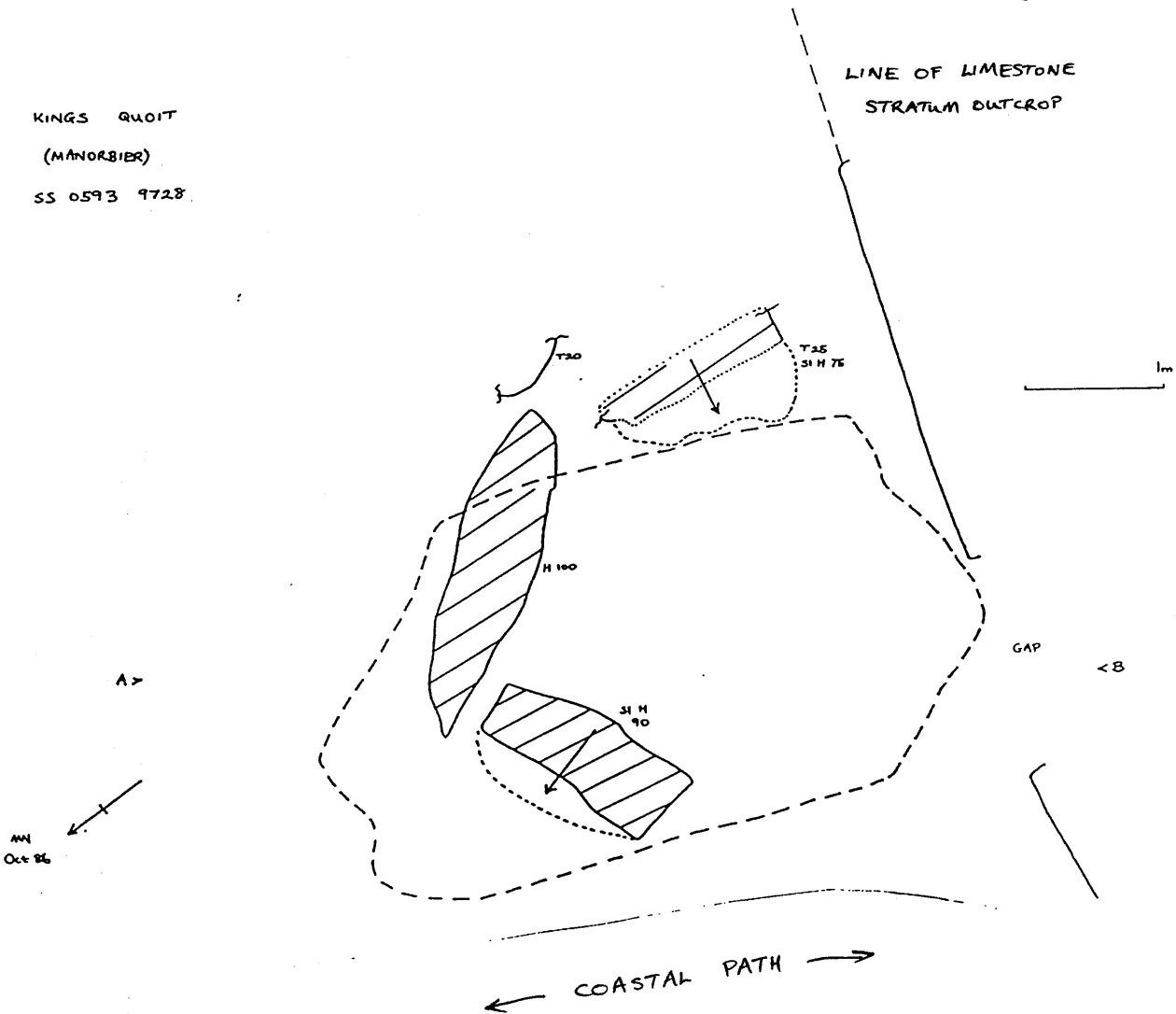
"There are indications of three similar erections to the N of the one still intact and close to it" (PAS,Pemb 43NE no 5). This assertion is suspect; no other structures survive or have been recorded by other antiquaries.

**Fig 50**

Visited October 1986

Fig 50

KINGS QUOIT  
(MANORBIER)  
SS 0593 9728



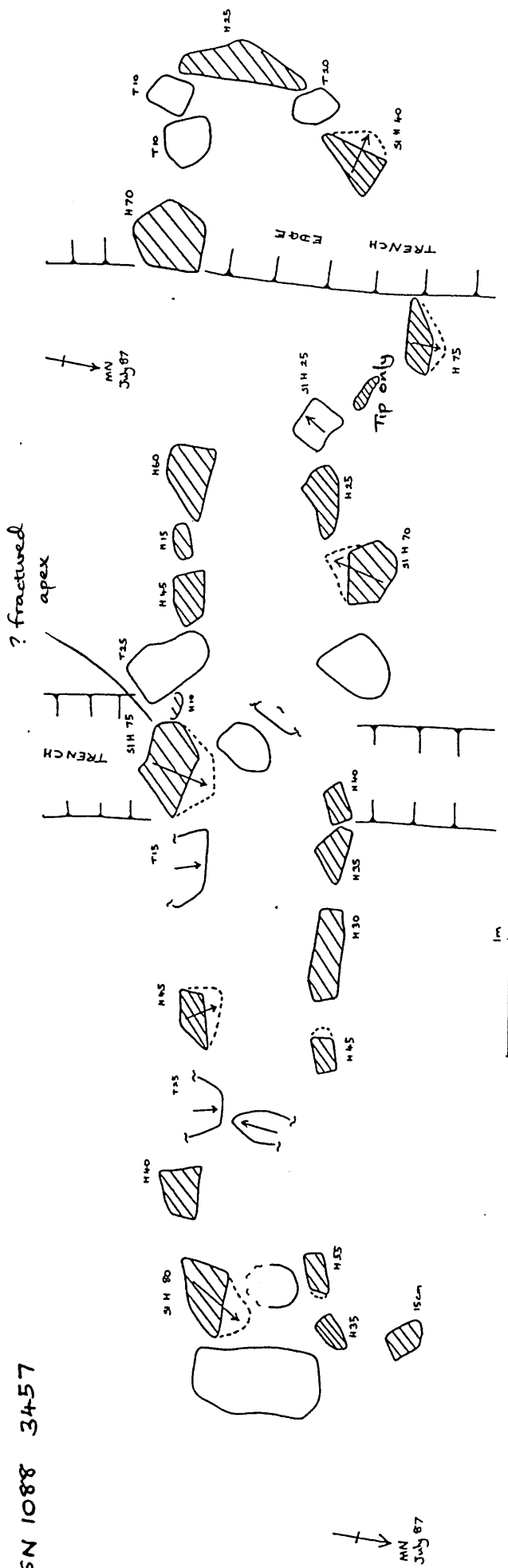
This peculiar monument stands on a low island in an extensive area of raised bog on the slopes below the northern scarp of the Preselau range (Lynch 1972,82). Although mentioned both by Laws (1888,92) and the PAS (Pemb 11NW no 1), the first published account of the site is that by the RCAM - "an oval grass-grown mound, 70ft by 27ft and 2ft high [21.3 by 8.2 by 0.6m]...lies due E and W, and just visible in the turf upon it are some 25 to 30 stones, forming an oval slightly less in size than the mound itself...the surface is much disturbed" (1925,681).

Subsequently the mound was surveyed by Grimes (1936b,fig 21), who considered that the stone structure constituted "a passage, 30ft long [9.15m]...wedge-shaped in plan, tapering from 6ft [1.8m] at the west to 3ft [0.9m] at the east. There are traces of two further lines of stones outside the passage, one on either side of it, and more or less parallel with its long sides" (1936a,14). This rather dubious interpretation of the site-plan allowed Grimes to suggest that Bedd yr Afanc is a "wedge-shaped passage-grave", related to the Wedge Tombs of Ireland (1936b, 128), although he was later to abandon this idea in the light of detail revealed by an excavation of the site that he carried out in 1938 (1939, 258). Clearance of the 'passage' revealed a long gallery, closed at the western end, with the constituent low orthostats linked by dry-stone walling. The "lines of stones" beyond the gallery were not a structural feature but had resulted from differential weathering of the enclosing cairn. There were no finds - no pottery, no flint, no human bones (Grimes 1986, pers comm).

There would seem to have been little deterioration in the condition of the monument during the last fifty years. The edges of the turf-covered cairn are indistinct (dimensions c.15 by c.11.5m); traces of two transverse trenches cut by Grimes remain clearly visible. The gallery has become irregularly silted to a depth of c.0.35m, except at the E end where erosion has exposed what appears to be a flagged floor. However, Grimes does not recall such a feature (1986, pers comm), and it may represent a "natural sub-turf layer" (DAT DRF 1985). The western termination of the gallery is somewhat disturbed; it remains unclear whether an expanded 'chamber' existed at this point.

BEED YR AFANC Fig 51

SN 1088 3457



If Bedd yr Afanc does represent the denuded remains of a chambered tomb, and this is not beyond dispute, then "it appears to be a type unique in these islands" (Lynch 1972,82). Excavation of the undisturbed portions of the cairn may yet provide material for radiocarbon estimations, and thus at least allow us to determine the date of this enigmatic monument.

Fig 51

Visited July 1987

INVENTORY - SECTION B



32. Morfa Bychan C (Marros) SN 2216 0754    CRM 3                      ~~DAT SMR 3824~~

This structure lies immediately to the S of the 'Druid's Altar', a natural stack of rock eroded from the escarpment. It was first recorded by Gardner Wilkinson (1870,43) - illustrated as a Y-shaped setting of upright slabs, and described as "an irregular enclosure of uncertain time". Ward (1918,67) detailed "four slabs set on edge, in a line nearly 11 feet [3.35m] long, with two others near their south side". Ward (1918), Treherne (1911,59), the RCAM (1917,618) and Daniel (1950, CRM 3) have all suspected this to be a wrecked chamber.

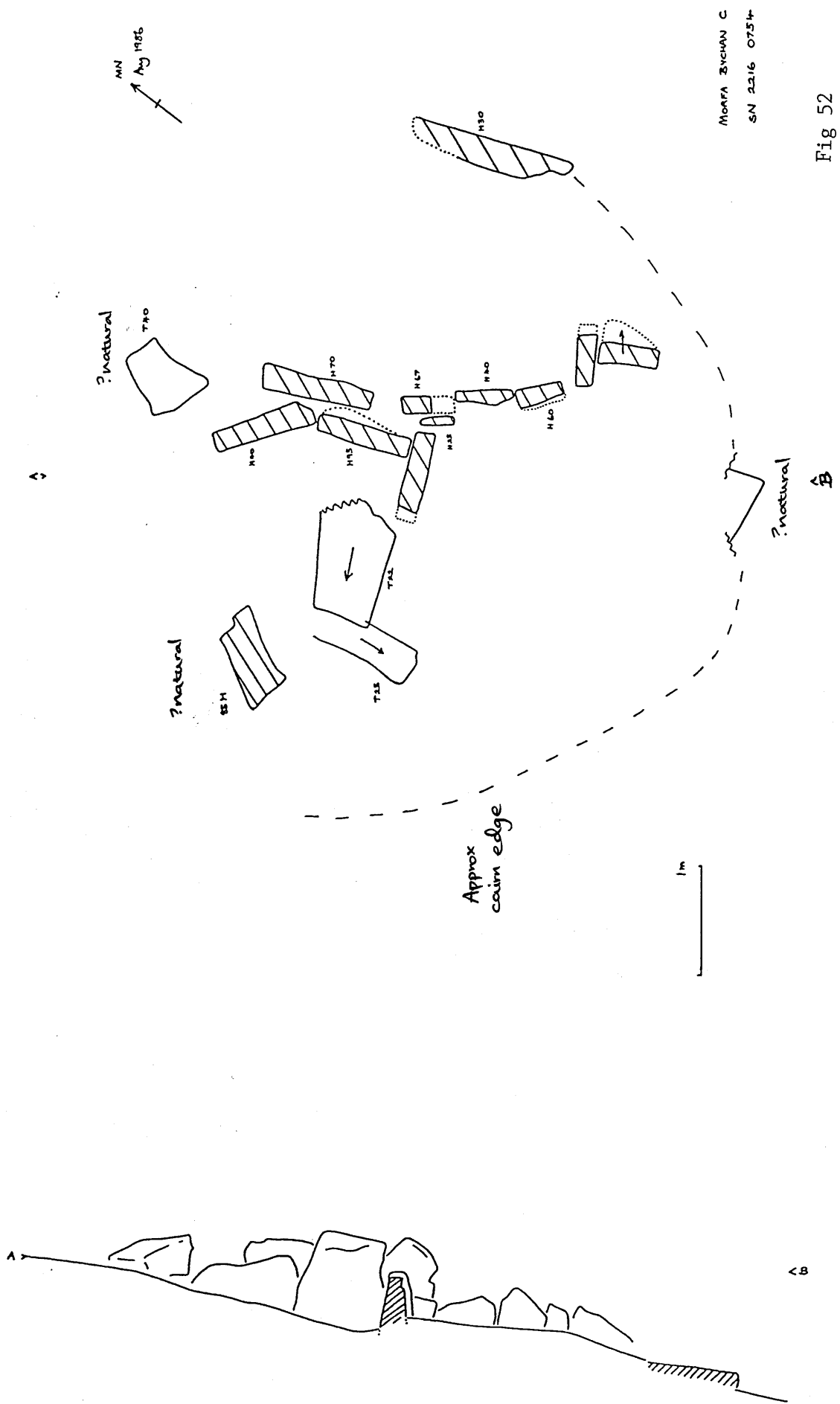
Present surface indications would support their suspicions. The chamber is ruinous; the NE side survives relatively intact, but that to the SW is much disturbed. A denuded cairn surrounds the uprights and backs onto the escarpment. The remains would suggest the existence of a small chamber behind the single cross-slab (?septal stone) approached by either a low passage or, more probably, a narrow forecourt.

Fig 52

Visited August 1986

33. Cefn Brafle (Llanboidy) SN 1957 2294    CRM 13                      ~~DAT SMR 940~~

"In a field called 'Parc y Bigwrn', and in Pensarn farm...are the remains of a cromlech destroyed about 60 years ago. Two of the supporters are still erect, and near them lie the remains of the rest of the chamber. One of them, nearest the hedge, is 8ft 6in by 4ft 6in, the average thickness being 3ft [2.6 by 1.35 by 0.9m]. Another was broken about 60 years ago, into two parts, and one of them removed on a sledge drawn by six horse. All that now remain are six in number, including the part of the broken stone not removed. They vary in dimension from 7 to 8ft, to 4ft in length [2.15 to 2.45, to 1.2m]. Their average breadth is about 3ft 6in [1.05m]" (Barnwell 1872,134).



MORFA ZYCHUAN C  
SN 2216 0754

Fig 52

Barnwell's engraving (1877, plate 5) illustrates these six stones: the recumbent quartz slab adjacent to the hedge, the two supporters, with the stump of the broken upright just W of them, and two irregular recumbent slabs. By 1912 only two uprights and the quartz slab remained (RCAM 1917, 214) - the site is unchanged today. The uprights (heights - N 1.25m, S 1.75m) are smothered by ivy; the field to the W has recently been ploughed and reseeded (August 1986).

Fig 53

Visited August 1986

34. Fron Ucha (Llanstephan) SN 3454 1074 CRM 15      **DAT SMR 2182**

"In a field...are three stones of a ruined cromlech. Two of the supporters are erect and in situ; the capstone (114in by 58in, and 28in thick) [2.9 by 1.8 by 0.7m] lies prostrate by the other stones. A third supporter was removed and broken up in 1843; its position is marked by a depression in the soil' (RCAM 1917, 568). Grimes (1936a, no 92) accepted this site as the remains of a burial chamber, but Daniel (1950, CRM 15) was doubtful of its authenticity. An OS field officer was similarly unconvinced - "the surviving stones..appear to be erratics rather than the remains of a burial chamber" (OSR 1967).

The stones stand on a steep slope below a lynchet/fieldbank to the N, with another steep slope immediately to the SW. Only one orthostat remains upright (1.9m high), the other is recumbent (2.8 by 1.3 by 0.65m). The third stone (1.7 by 1.7 by 1.2m) is too cuboidal to be seriously considered as a capstone. While it would be wrong to dismiss this site without further investigation, the surface evidence is far from convincing.

Fig 54

Visited June 1986

Fig 53

DEFN BRAFILE

SN 1957 2294

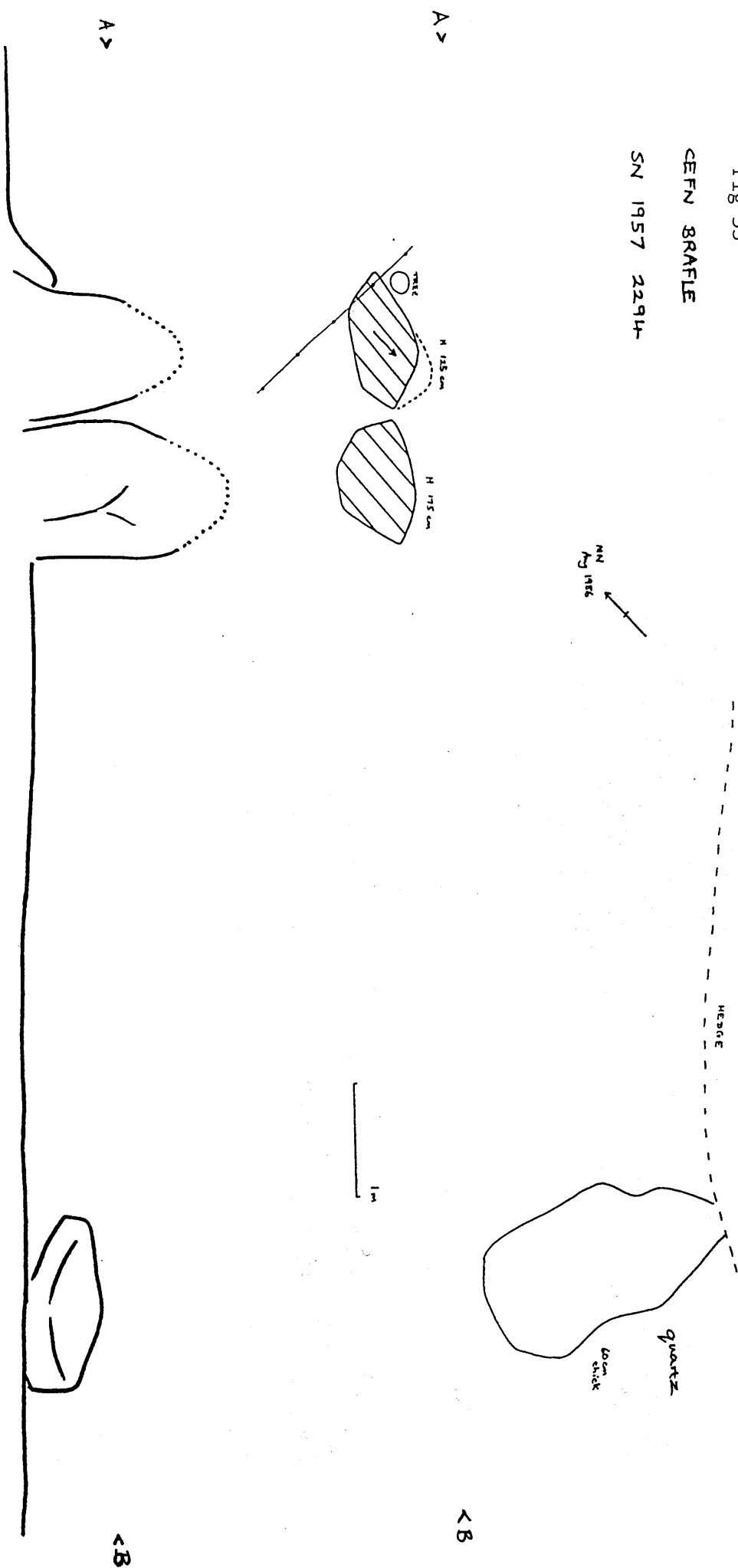
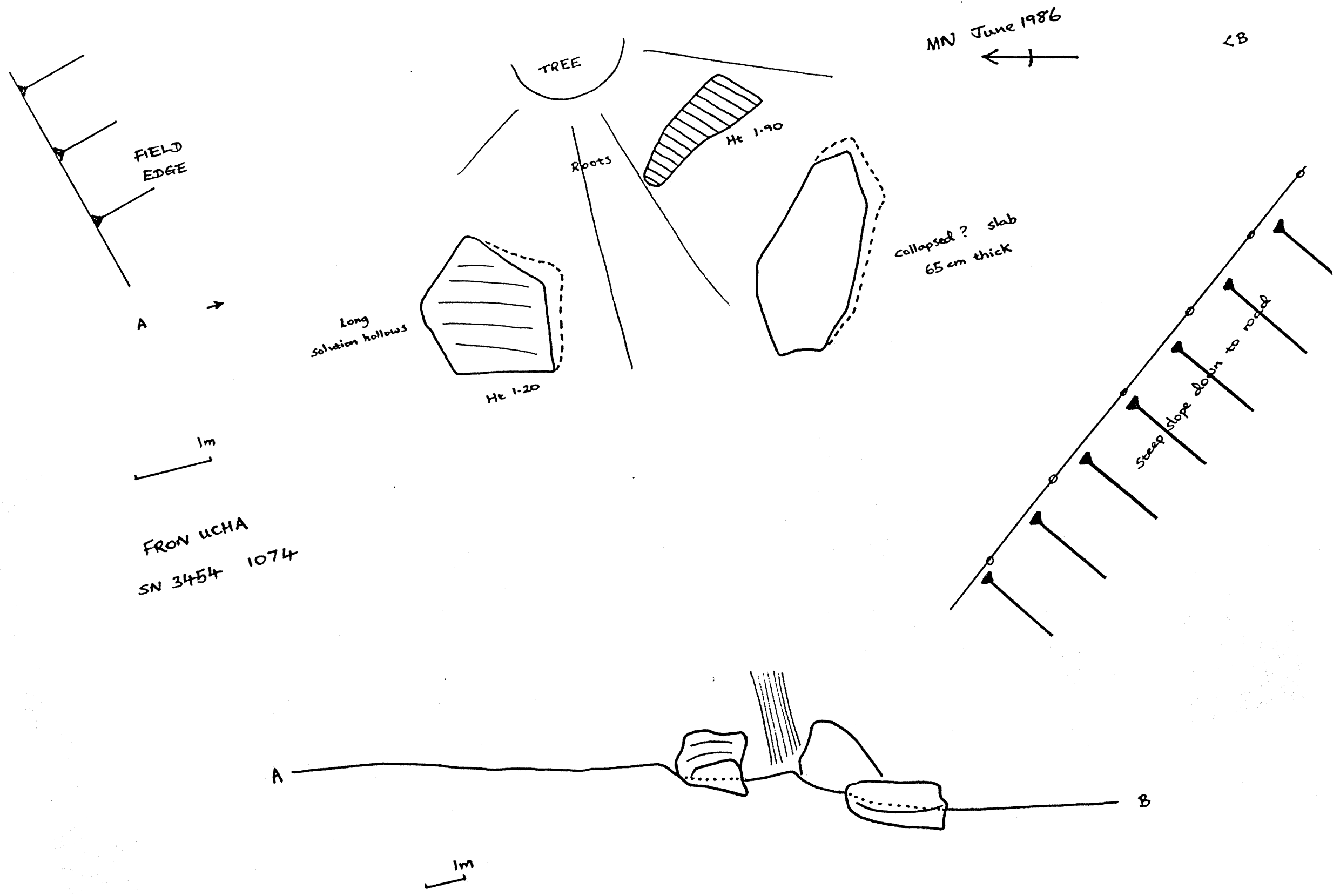


Fig 54



"In the field next to the mounds...are the remains of a fine cromlech, which is known to have been in perfect condition so late as the year 1825. The supporting stones have fallen, and the capstone 8ft by 6ft [2.45 by 1.6m], reposes partly upon them. The stones are part of a well defined tumulus, which may have originally covered the stone structure. The mound had a base circumference of 200ft [60m], and has a present height of 2ft [0.6m]" (RCAM 1917,465).

This monument, which is also known as Coetan Samson (Grimes 1936a, no 26), was classified as a "large cist" by Daniel (1950,209), but this is an inadequate description of what must have been an impressive burial chamber. The generally rectangular capstone lies partly on the ground, partly on fallen supporters. A piece has broken from its NE corner, the fracture having occurred through a circular depression in its upper surface (diameter 30cm, depth 10cm). Only one thin supporter remains in situ; the tip of this has broken off under the weight of the capstone. Four other sizeable slabs, possible supporters, lie close by on the surface of the cairn, which would appear to have been circular, with an approximate diameter of 11m.

Figs 55 & 56

Visited May 1986

"West of the four well known scheduled chambered cairns below the low limestone cliffs of Ragwen Point is a previously unplanned, possible long cairn...it is wedged shaped, aligned NE to SW on its long axis, 20m long 10m wide at the SW. The NE end is concave and it stands to a maximum height of 1.5m" (Murphy 1985,36). This cairn was first recorded by Treherne (1926,25) - "To the right, or western side, of the altar is a heap of stones, suggesting a cairn. It has hollows here and there which local gamekeepers attribute to their endeavours to recover derelict ferrets"!

Fig 55

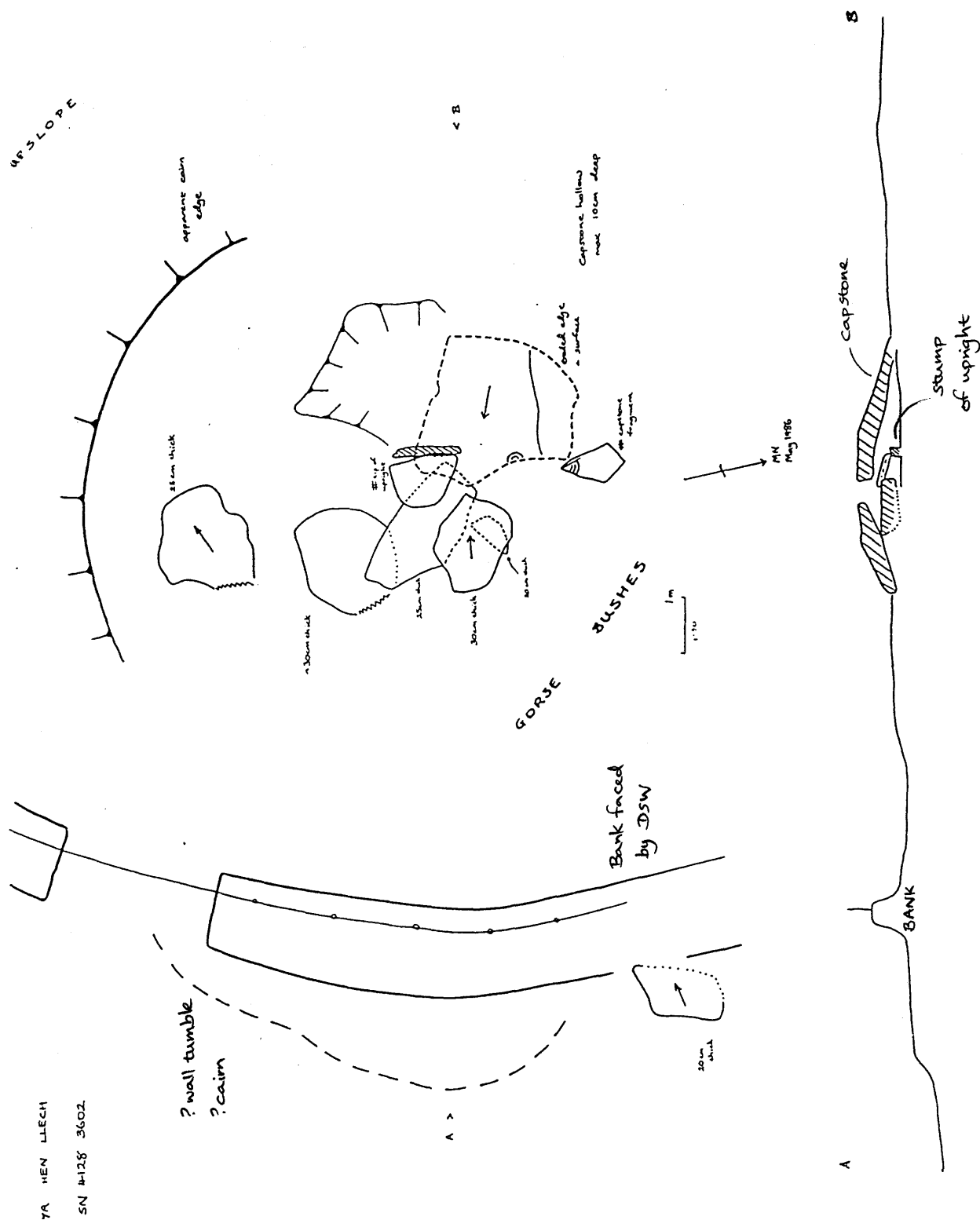
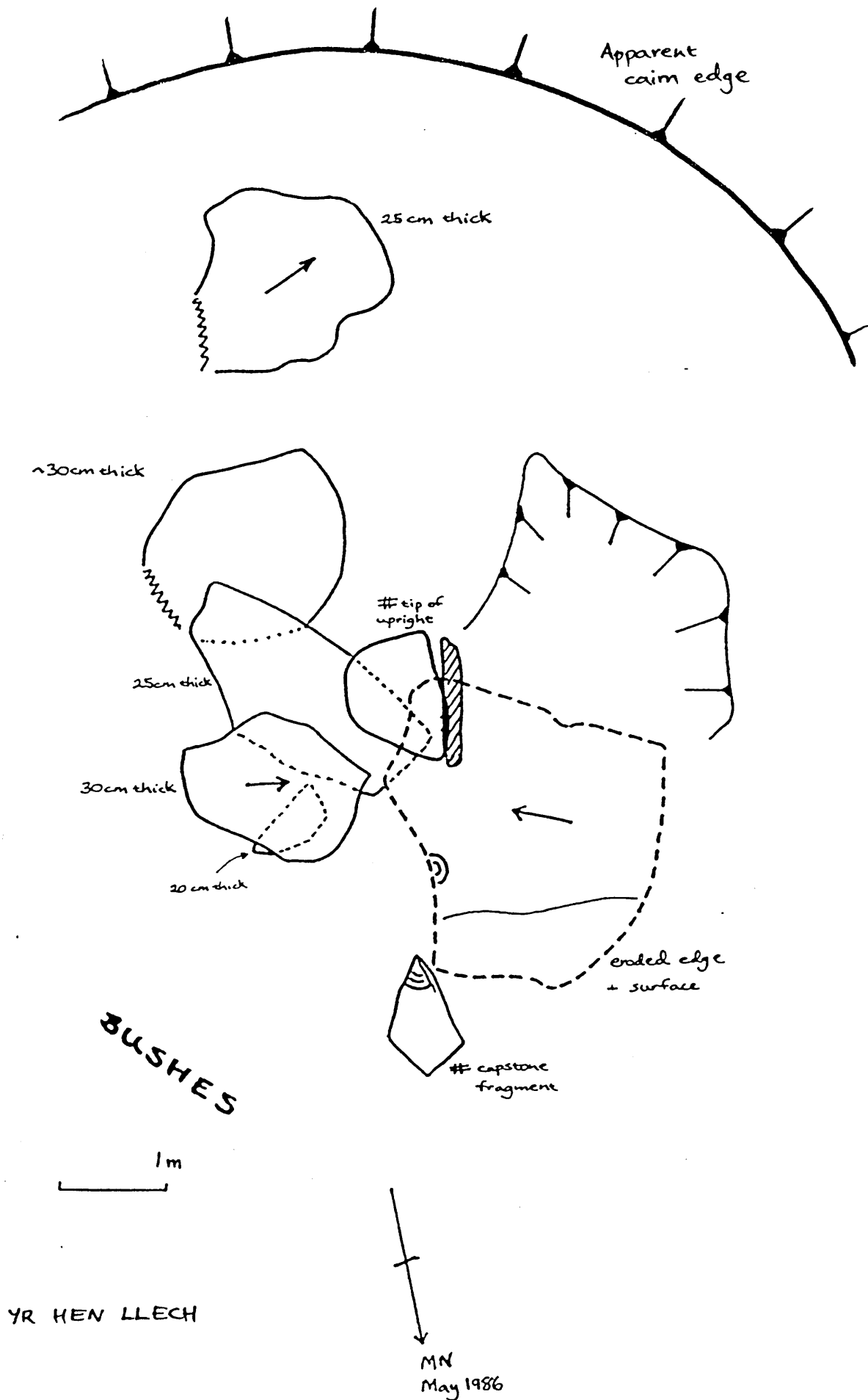


Fig 56





Whether this elongated cairn is of prehistoric date is questionable; the concavity at the NE end is merely the result of partial exposure of cairn by turf removal. However, it is conveniently positioned only 15m W of a natural gap in the escarpment which allows access down to the terrace on which stand the chambered cairns.

Fig 6

Visited August 1986

37. Trewalter Llwyd (Mathry) SM 8682 3176 PEM 17

DAT SMR 2859

"About a mile from Mathry, turn to the right at Treslanog, where I encounter abundant relics of Druidism, particularly a cromlech, fourteen feet long and eight broad [4.2 by 2.45m]. The stones on which it rests are massive, and about four feet [1.2m] high on one side, but scarce three [0.9m] on the other; at one end there seems to be a kind of cistvaen, one side of which, together with the cover stone or lid, has been taken away. I was told that not many years ago there existed near several monuments of a similar form, now destroyed and used for building" (Fenton 1810,30).

Gardner Wilkinson provides the only other worthwhile description of this site - "I looked in vain for two cromlechs to the west of Mathry [Trewalter Llwyd and Glandwr], and found only one, half concealed in a fence, of which it forms a very efficient part. The capstone is 13ft long by 8ft 8in, and 4ft 5in thick [3.95 by 2.65 by 1.35m], resting on one of its supporters, which is 5ft 5in [1.65m] high. Another fallen pillar measures 7ft 6in [2.3m] in length" (1871,232). His thumb-nail sketch of the site reveals the N side of the structure much as it is today, although a supporter he shows beneath the SE corner is no longer visible and may be covered by the hedge-bank. The "fallen pillar" lay immediately S of the capstone and may have been the remnant of Fenton's "cistvaen". It has since been removed.

The OS field officer was doubtful of the authenticity of this site (OSR 1966) - this is an unnecessarily harsh assessment. No obvious mound survives.

Fig 57

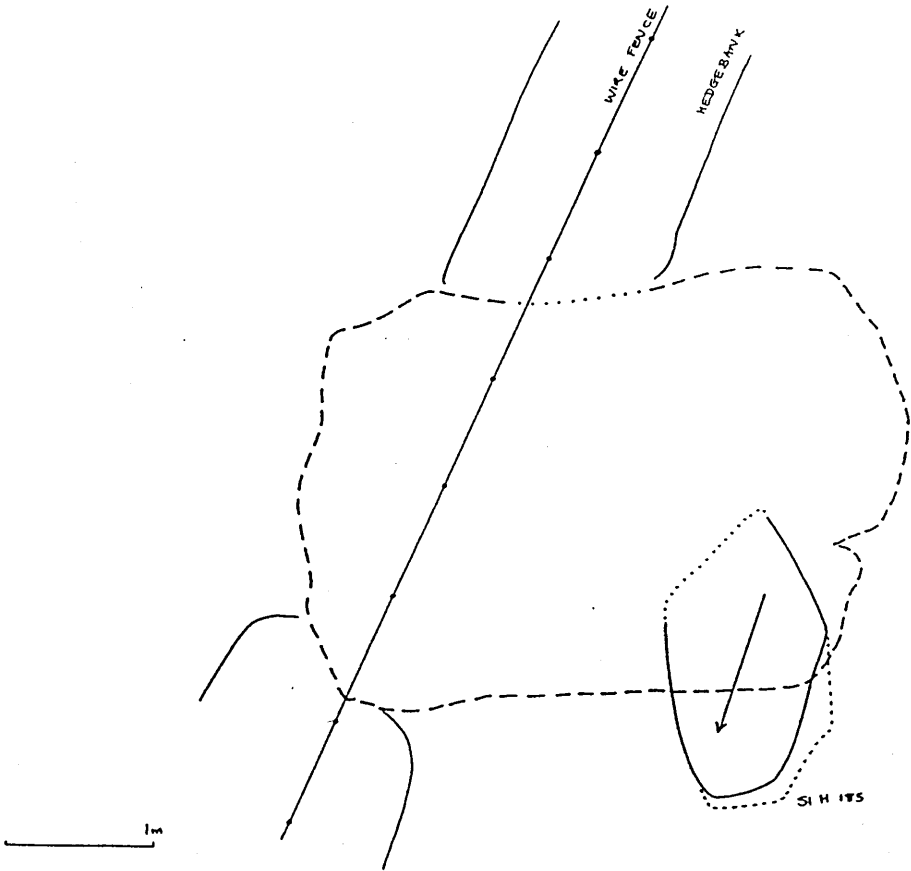
Visited April 1987

Fig 57

TREWALTER LUNY.D  
SM 8682 3176

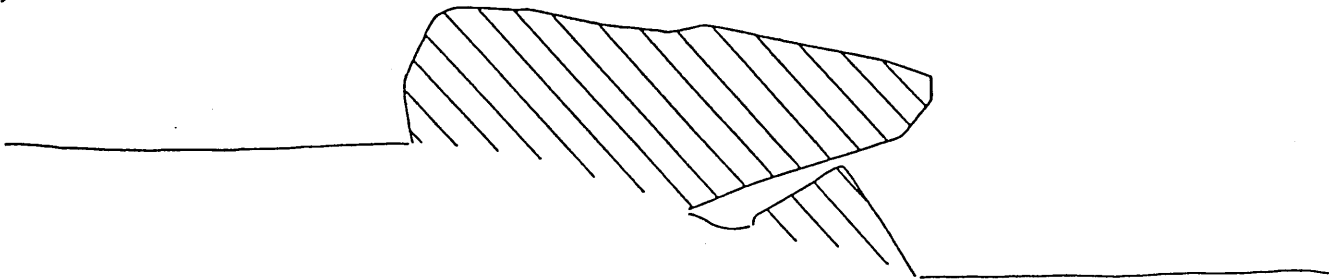
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"Mr A Lascelles states that when he remembers this place (some 30 years ago) there were several complete cromlechs. Now there are groups of one, three and six stones..." (PAS,Pemb 29SE no 2). The RCAM describes the site thus - "What is now visible are the remains of a group of certainly three structures. That to the N consists of 4 stones, one, 6ft [1.8m] in length, prostrate, and recently broken at one end; a second stone, about 2ft [0.6m] above the ground, and two stones of similar height in close proximity to each other. About 180ft [54m] to the SW are portions of another cromlech comprising one erect stone 3ft high [0.9m], 5ft [1.5m] in length, and 1ft thick [0.3m]; one other erect stone 3ft [0.9m] above ground and 18in [0.45m] thick, and by their side, a prostrate boulder, probably a capstone, 9ft 6in long by 3ft 6in broad [2.9 by 1.05m]. Distant 25 ft [7.6m] from the last cromlech is a third consisting of four stones all prostrate, and partially buried in the soil" (1925,405).

The remains are situated on the S side of the Lampeter Vale, their elevated position giving excellent views to the N and E. The northern structure lies at the junction of level pasture and the slope that runs down to the N. Three stones survive: one sizeable block (?earthfast ?fallen) stands to a height of 0.7m, a second (length 1.1m) has fallen towards the N, while a third smaller stone lies to the W of the first. There is no obvious cairn remnant.

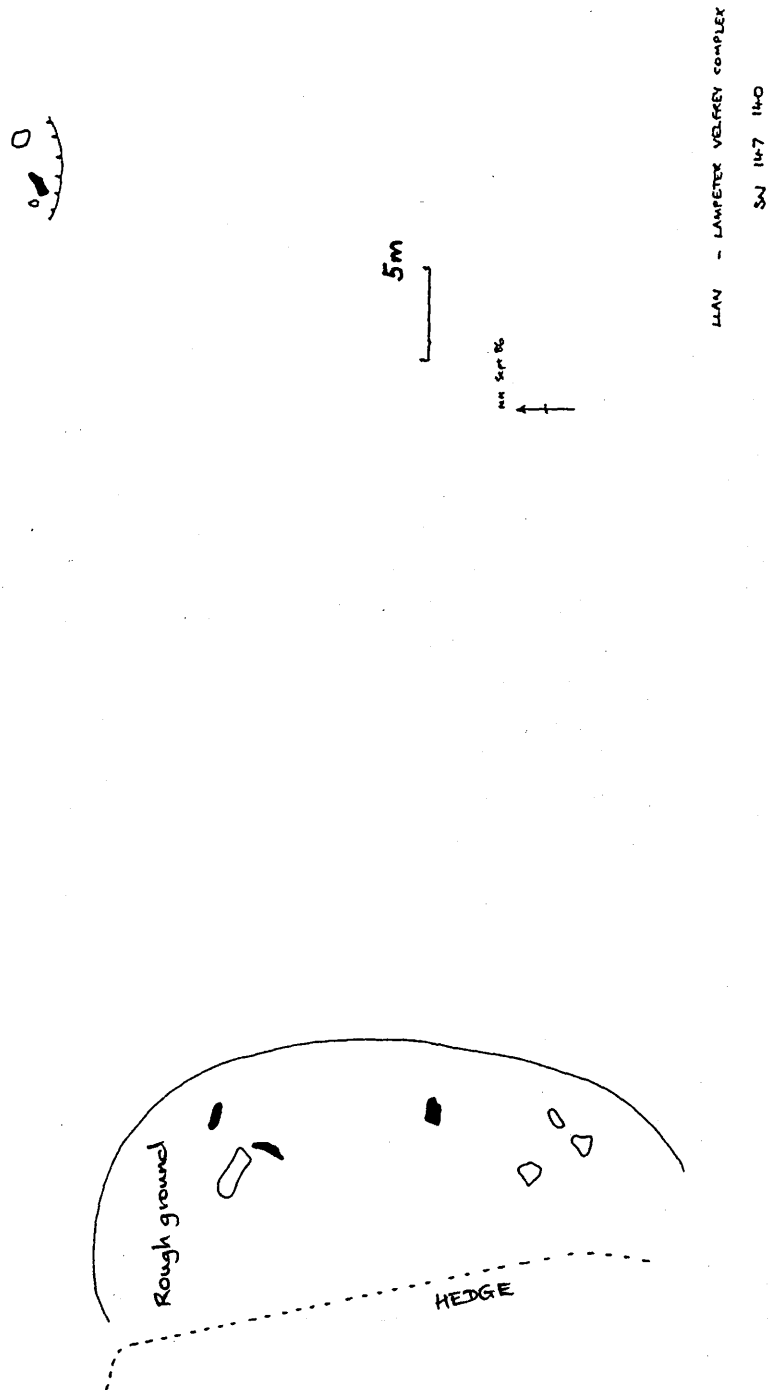
The NW structure consists of three stones: two uprights (1.05 and 0.85m high) and a single recumbent slab (3.0 by 1.0 by 0.3m). Evidence for a third structure at the SW is very unconvincing - a solitary squat upright stands some 8m to the S of the NW structure. Three coarse conglomerate slabs lie a further 7m distant; there is little to suggest that they are associated with the solitary upright.

Grimes (1936a,no 83-4) accepted that this was the site of two burial chambers, but Daniel considered this doubtful (1950,PEM 30). It is indeed difficult to envisage the original appearance of the structures.

Figs 58(general plan), 59(W) and 60(NE)

Visited September 1986

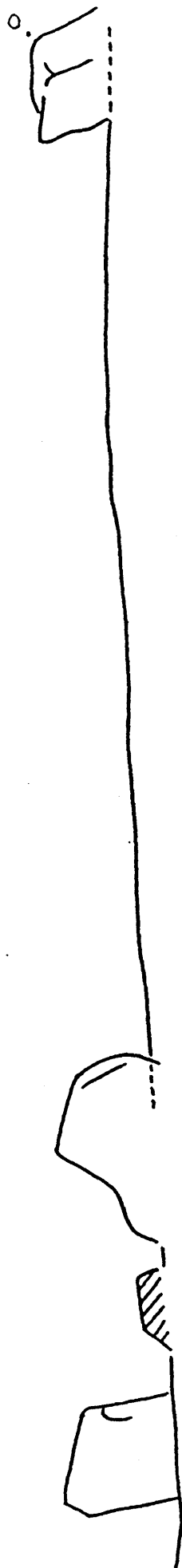
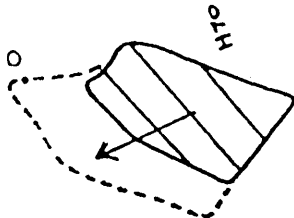
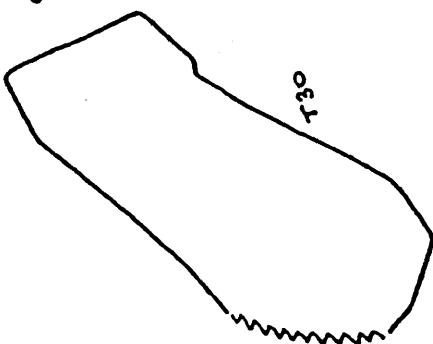
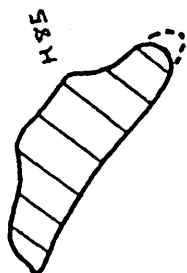
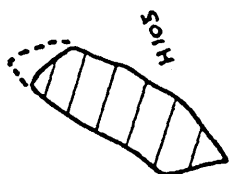
Fig 58



LAMPETER VLFREY  
W STRUCTURES

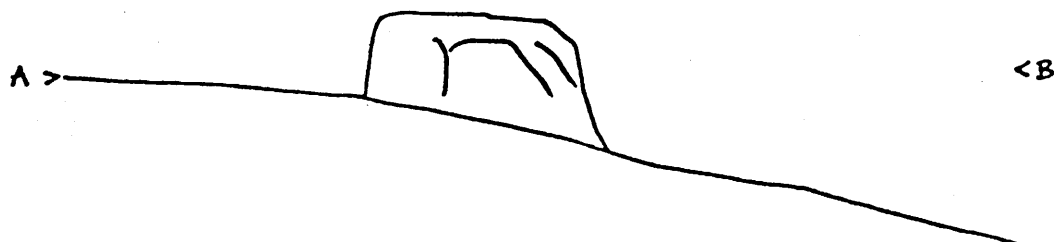
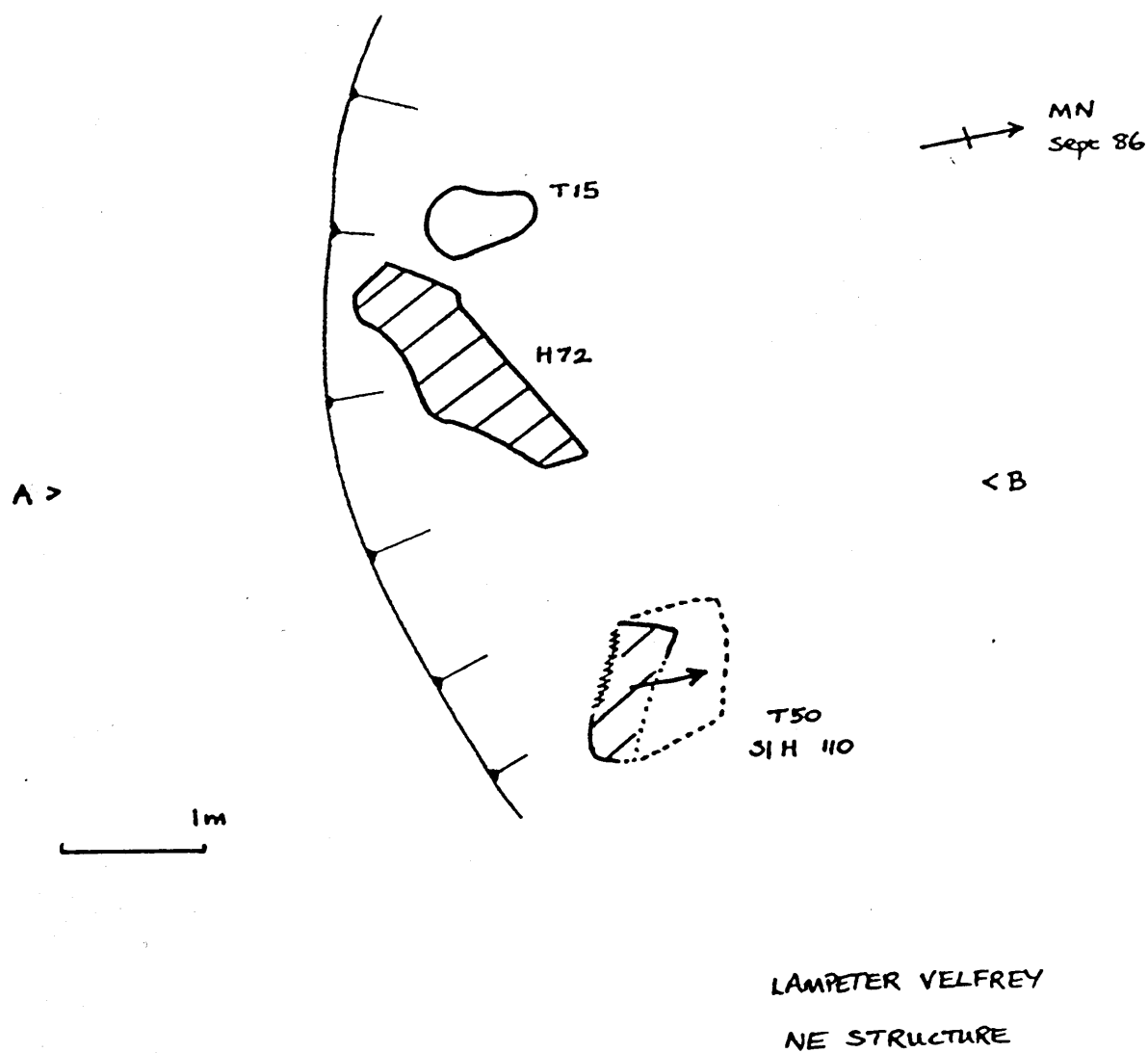
Fig 59

MN  
sept 1986



3

Fig 60



"This cromlech stands (or rather lies) in a field on Pincheston called Cuckoo's Stone (no 247). The four or five legs have fallen: an ash tree growing in their midst has helped them in their downfall. The capstone measures 6ft by 4ft 9in by 1ft 10in [1.8 by 1.45 by 0.55m]. It is a 'light brown, slightly stained quartzite' " (Spurrell 1921,70). The RCAM (1925,119) added that the capstone "shows a flat surface to the chamber, and has a somewhat irregularly-shaped top. The structure occupies a slight eminence, and around it are some of the base stones of the covering cairn".

Neither of these descriptions is entirely accurate - the remains stand in a small depression on an E-facing slope, and the tree which has helped to disturb the monument is not an ash but a hawthorn.

The dismissal of this site by the OS field officer (OSR 1965) as "a collection of rather shapeless erratic boulders" is premature. Two small upright slabs (height 0.45m) set roughly at right angles would appear to form the NW corner of the chamber. The rectangular capstone has slipped eastward from these, causing the supporter at the NE to fall eastward and that at the SE to fall southward. Cairn material is exposed at the base of the thorn-tree.

This description does not account for all the large stones that remain - two substantial blocks (both 0.85m high) stand S and SE of the chamber. It is possible that excavation might reveal detail of a more complex structure.

Fig 61

Visited October 1986

40. Stone Hall/Quarry Bach (St Lawrence) SM 931 272/SM 9300 2687

DAT SMR 2389

"A house of no archaeological interest, said to be named from 'the cromlech formerly there' [PAS,Pemb 16SE no 14], but of which there is no trace or tradition" (RCAM 1925,1062).

Fig 61





The cromlech was described by 'Tegid' (Rev.J.Jones) - "One end only of this cromlech is supported; and it is so large that one is astonished at the strength that must have been used to lift up even this one end of it" (1847,374). This structure survives to the NW of Quarry Bach - "at SM 9300 2687 are the remains of a probable burial chamber consisting of a capstone 2.0 by 4.1 by 0.4m, resting at its northern end on a prostrate slab of different composition" (OSR 1966). The stone lies on an east-facing slope above the Afon Cleddau, with good views towards the Preselau mountains. Minimal traces of a mound remain.

Fig 61

Visited April 1987

41. Tresewig (Llanhowell) SM 8258 2839

DAT SMR 2737

This site was first recorded by Grimes, who described it as "a rectangular chamber with portal stones" (1960,11). A fuller description is provided by the OS field officer - "the remains of this burial chamber are incorporated in a modern hedge-bank. They consist of a capstone 2.2 x 1.8 x 1.2m, resting on its side on one supporting stone. The latter is 1.5m high and 2.1m long. On the E side of the chamber opening are two 1.5m high upright stones. In and around the hedge lie several other stones...there is no trace of a barrow" (OSR 1966). By 1981 the hedge-bank had been removed and further stones piled against the chamber remnants (Rees 1981,SAM inspection).

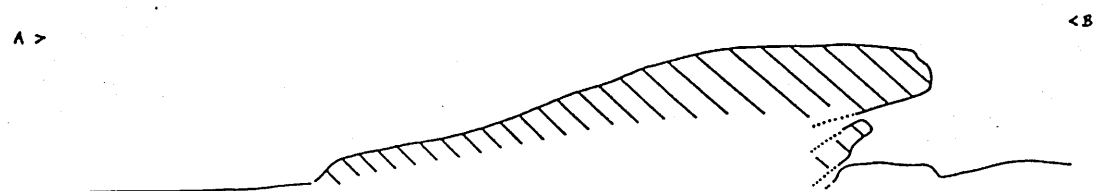
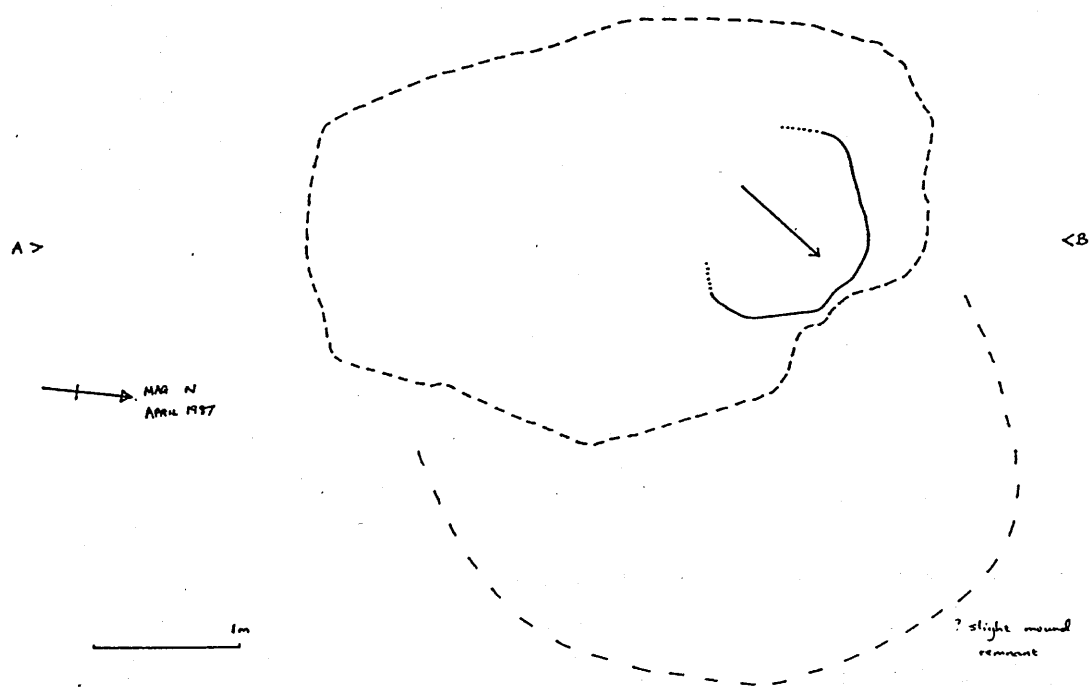
The capstone and ?in situ side-stone are still identifiable, with remnants of hedge-bank material wedged between them. On the eastern side the S 'portal' stone seems undisturbed but rests upon bank material, while the N 'portal' has been moved. Two large blocks of stone have been propped against the chamber remnants - the one to the N (2.0 by 1.4 by 0.7m) rests against the capstone, while that to the S (2.4 by 1.0 by 0.7m) lies adjacent to the side-stone. Ploughing has recently been carried out right up to the chamber, which now stands isolated in the middle of an arable field.

Visited May 1987

Fig 62

QUARRY BACH

SM 9300 2687



These large stones, the possible remnants of a burial chamber, were first recorded by Grimes (1948, personal 6" map). Five stones lie both in and upon an overgrown field-bank on the false-crest of a slope that runs southward into a small valley. A road passes immediately to the S of the hedge, and a modern block-built farm entrance hems in the remains on their W side.

An OS field officer (OSR 1965) wrote that "the stones are apparently in no particular order and may be field clearance", although a local inhabitant told of how he was warned to avoid the stones "as they constituted a burial chamber" when blasting others in the vicinity in about 1900.

The five blocks of ?quartz conglomerate are too disturbed to allow accurate interpretation. Only one stone (that closest to the base of the block-built wall) is still possibly in situ; the slab immediately to the W and above this is possibly a capstone.

Fig 63

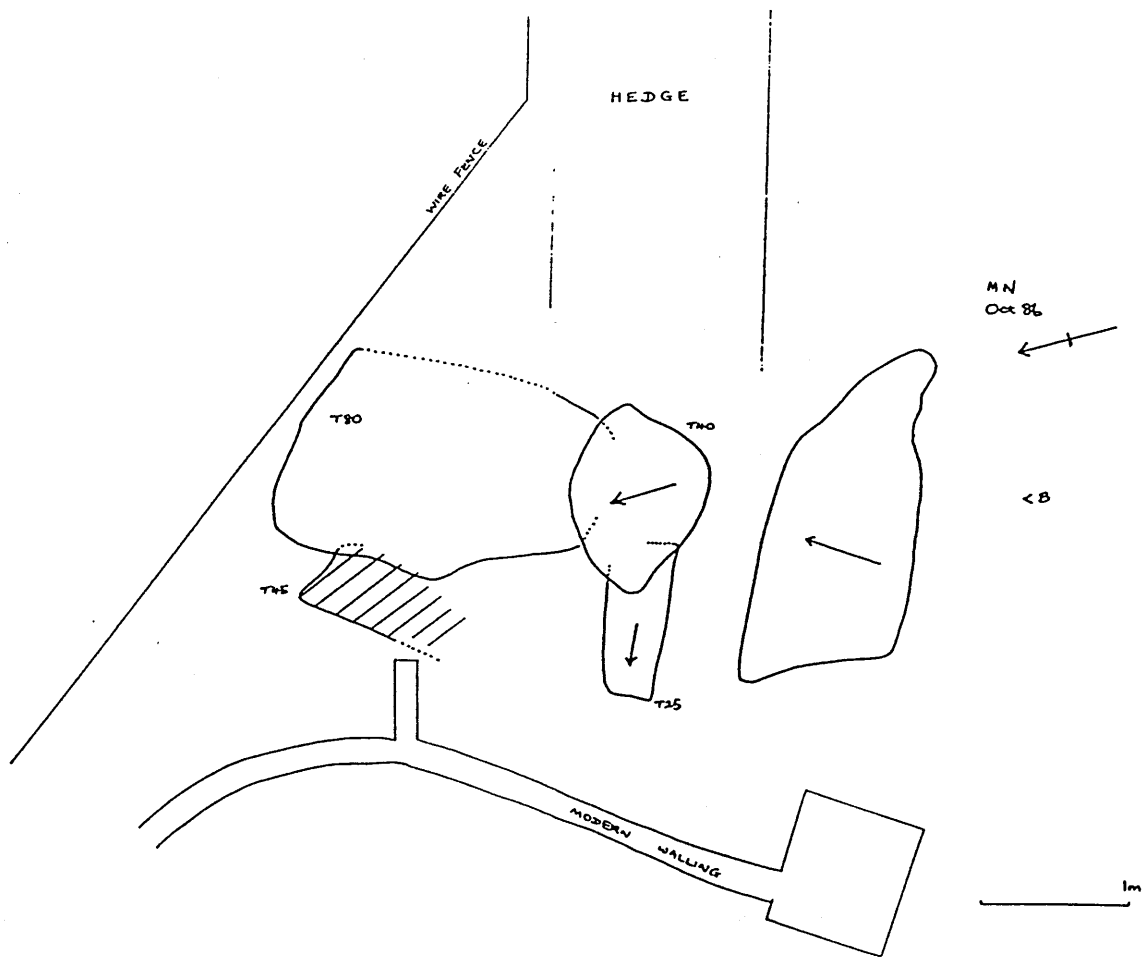
Visited October 1986

At the edge of a field on Llecha farm stands a tall rock outcrop; 13m to the SE, and close to a small brook, lies a hexagonal block of stone that has been the subject of much argument. The block (greatest length 4.7m, greatest width 3.5m, and depth 1.15m) is earthfast along its NW side, but is slightly raised at the SE where it rests upon a ?fallen stone (1.2 by 0.6 by 0.25m) which protrudes from beneath. Another small stone (0.9 by 0.7 by 0.25m) rests against the SW corner of the block.

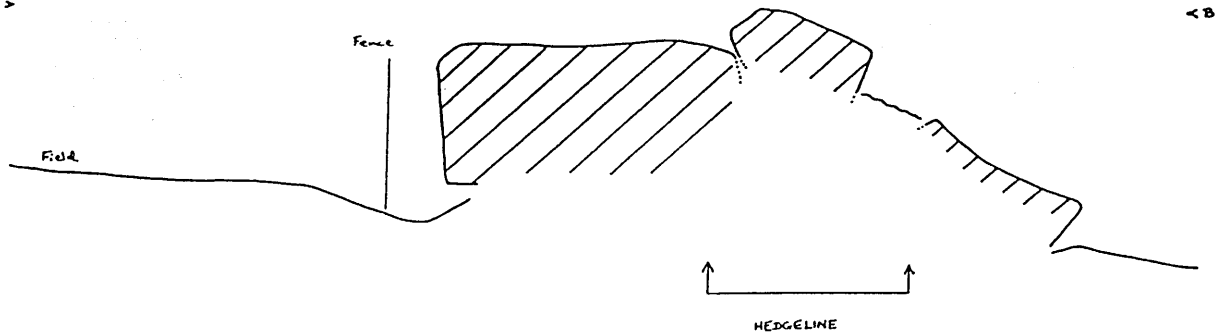
Fig 63

KINGSTON  
SR 9904 1922

A >



A >



H.W.Williams, writing in the PAS (Pemb 15SW no 4), described "two cromlechs"; it is likely that his first 'capstone' was merely part of the outcrop, for his second, which "measures 15ft by 10ft by 5ft thick [4.6 by 3.05 by 1.5m] and partly rests on the underlying stones", is clearly the block just described. A party from the Cambrian Archaeological Association (Anon 1922,446) was unable to agree on whether the block represented a collapsed burial chamber, but both the RCAM (1925,500) and Grimes (1936a,no 69) were convinced of its authenticity. Although Daniel (1950,206) and the Ordnance Survey (OSR 1966) consider it to be a natural feature, the site should not be dismissed without further investigation.

Visited May 1987

44. Cold Comfort (Haycastle) SM 9442 2563

DAT SMR 10471

Fieldworkers for the Dyfed Archaeological Trust have recorded a stone heap, built into a hedge-bank at the SE corner of a field, which they feel may represent a collapsed burial chamber (DAT SRF 10471).

The site is on raised ground above the Western Cleddau, with good views towards Ambleston and St Dogwells. Two tabular slabs (2.5 by 1.5m) lie one on top of the other, with a third smaller stone propped against their W side. Other small blocks lie within the bank close to the lower slab. The stone heap is probably the result of field clearance, though there is the very faint possibility that the lower slab is the remnant of a burial chamber.

Visited April 1987

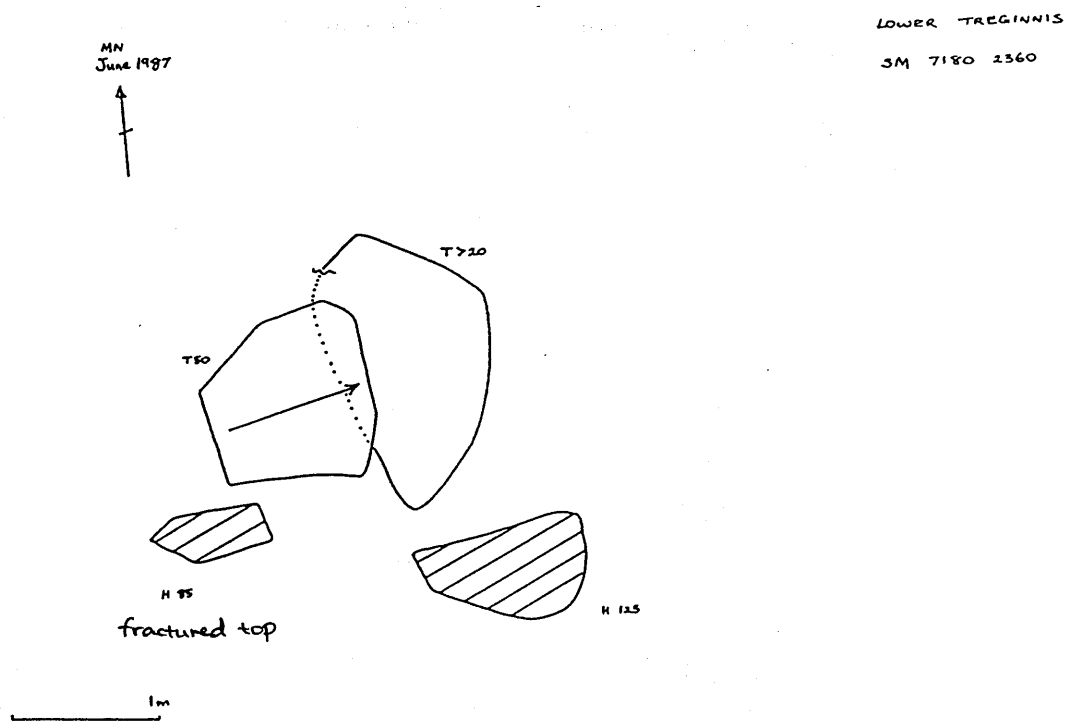
This site stands on a headland overlooking Ramsey Sound, amidst a small patch of rough ground; it was first recorded by M.D.Freeman (1976, 27). A turf-fast slab (c.2 by 1m) lies beside two upright stones (E 1.25m high; W 0.85m high with a fractured apex). A fourth block partially overlies the recumbent slab - one could easily interpret this block as a fallen upright, but it was not mentioned in Freeman's account. The stones stand in a small depression within a possible cairn, but this is irregular and poorly defined. Recently (June 1987) a drainage ditch has been cut alongside a fieldwall some 7m N of the stones; this has exposed a concentration of stones at the base of the ploughsoil directly opposite the megaliths, but it is unclear whether this represents spread cairn material.

Fig 64

Visited June 1987

"We took an unwilling leave [of Eglwysrw] and pushed on to Narberth. The day was miserably wet, and the country through which we passed in unison with it - rude, rocky, barren. Our first effort brought us to the summit of Presele mountain, a long, but not steep ascent, the face of which exhibits the most singular and curious appearances; masses of rock starting out of the ground, in fantastick shapes and uncommon groupes, easily mistaken at a little distance, for the immense remains of architectural prodigies. Here we found a fine cromlech, consisting of three upright stones, and a super-incumbent one of enormous magnitude (The name of this cromlech is Llach-y-Flaiddast, the great stone of the female wolf...)" (Warner 1799,342-3).

Fig 64



This would appear to be the earliest account of the ?chambered cairn which lies just beyond the western termination of Carn Meini. Also known as Coetan Arthur (Lewis 1969,20), this disturbed cairn is c.15m in diameter and c.1.5m high (OSR 1974), its centre dominated by a large ?capstone 2.8m long, 2.5m maximum width, and 0.6m thick. Beneath the ?capstone are three fallen slabs of a size suitable for chamber orthostats (1.5, 1.35 and 1.15m long). It is quite possible that these four stones represent the remnants of a collapsed chamber. A small scale plan of this site appears in the Mynydd Preseli Project (1983 - 1st interim report), edited by Peter Drewett.

C.S.Briggs (quoted on DAT SRF) believes that the 'cairn' may be the result of stone quarrying, but his arguments are not altogether convincing.

Visited June 1987



INVENTORY - SECTION C

This is a diverse group, ranging from well-documented monuments that have subsequently been destroyed, to sites at which all that survives is a local tradition or place name. The latter forms of evidence are notoriously unreliable, so while the sites are included in this inventory most have been omitted from the distribution maps.

47. Waun y felin (Llanstephan) c.SN 3504 1126

DAT SMR 2210

The RCAM (1917,579) recorded a "small cromlech" which had stood "about 20 yards [c.18m] E of the leet which serves Llanstephan Mill". The farmer remembered "a somewhat slight capstone supported on three pillars". Two uprights were broken for road metalling - then in 1910 the third was rolled into the leet and the capstone buried. Nothing remains at the site, though a slab of a size suitable for an upright lies in the stream at SN 3507 1110. The location, in a valley close to a stream, invites comparison with the nearby Twlc y Filiast (see above - no 5).

Visited June 1986

48. Cwm Sawdde (Llangadog) c.SN 7107 2582

DAT SMR 4045

The RCAM recorded the former existence of a cromlech 300yds [270m] SW of Cwm Sawdde house (1917,430). The OS considered the local tradition evidence enough to include the site on their 6in maps. No trace of the monument survives.

Visited June 1986

49. Llech yr Ast (Llangeler) c.SN 40 35

DAT SMR 1770

"At Bwlch y ddwyros farm, about 500yds [450m] to the west [of Yr Hen Llech] are a few stones known as Llech yr ast, which probably marks another ruined cromlech, but the remains are too scattered to permit of certainty" (RCAM 1917,465). This somewhat imprecise description is the only evidence that remains to suggest the former existence of a second

chambered tomb in the parish of Llangeler.

A rather liberal interpretation of this entry brought F.Jones (1932, 37-8) to SN 4090 3523, an area of open unimproved hill, where several large slabs and boulders lie adjacent to the field boundary. Two other possible sitings deserve mention: at SN 4085 3550 a large tabular slab (3 by 1.7 by 0.3m) lies against the W side of a fieldbank; and at SN 407 359 two stones (c.1.5 by 1.0m) were incorporated in a wall in the yard of Bwlch y ddwyros farm, but have been removed within the last five years.

Visited May 1986

50. Ffynnon Druidion (St Nicholas) SM 9204 3679 PEM 28 DAT SMR 2498

"In the year 1830 a cromlech on Fynondruidion (Druid's Spring) Farm, near Fishguard, was destroyed by the tenant, who grudged the land on which it stood. While labourers were levelling the site they unearthed two fine neolithic implements, an axe and an adze..now in the Tenby Museum" (Laws 1888,19).

"Only one or two of its stones are left to mark where it stood" (Barnwell 1872,139); "the capstone, 5ft 6in in length, 3ft 6in in breadth, and 1ft thick [1.7 by 1.1 by 0.3m] lies NW to SE; so far as observation is possible, it appears to be supported by two stout pillars" (RCAM 1925,1063). The RCAM published a photograph, claimed to be of the Ffynnondruidion chamber (1925,fig 314); it is in fact of the neighbouring monument Trellysycoed.

The OS field officer (OSR 1963) tentatively identified a broken ?capstone resting on two "pillars" at the site. The site survives in much the same state today - it is no longer possible to recognize anything even vaguely resembling a chamber; the area abounds with erratic boulders.

The axe detailed by Laws survives in the Tenby Museum (ref A8) - "complete polished stone-axe with curved blade and broad thick butt... petrologically identified as quartz diorite. Length 266mm; width 94mm; thickness 52mm" (Darvill and Staelens 1985,265).

Visited March 1987

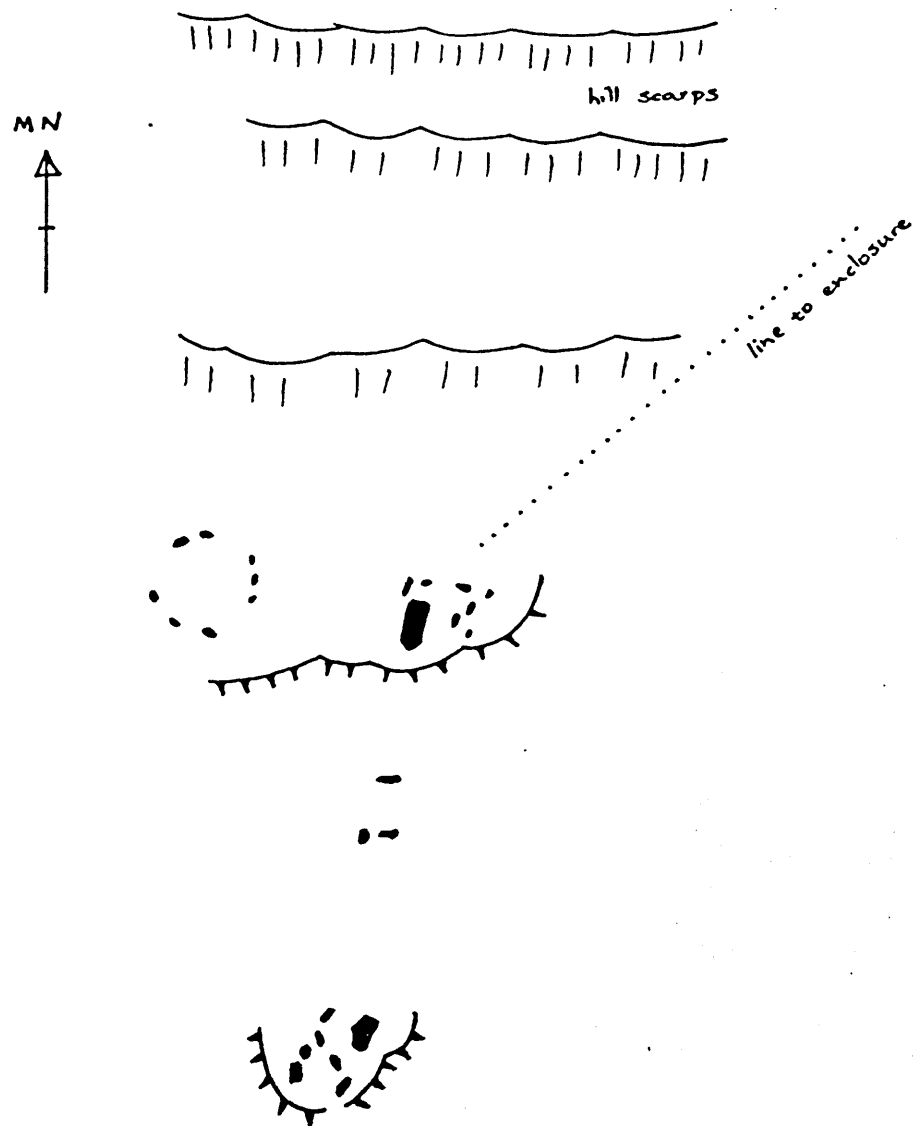
"A little to the N [of Maenclochog] are two fallen cromlechs, or 'Coetan' (so called from our word 'Quoit'), the capstone of the first being 8ft 4in by 5ft 3in, and 6ft thick [2.55 by 1.6 by 1.8m], and one of the stones on which it stood 6ft high by 3ft 6in [1.8 by 1.05m]. Forty feet [12.2m] N by E of this is a large fallen stone; and nine feet [2.75m] beyond it an upright slab, 5ft [1.5m] in height by the same in breadth; twenty nine feet [8.85m] from which is another fallen cromlech, with a capstone 11ft 6in long by 6ft 6in [3.5 by 2m], amidst some fallen stones. Thirty-three feet [c.10m] from it to the W is a small stone circle, 21 feet [6.4m] in diameter; and about eighty yards [c.72m] to the NE, is a circular enclosure within a mound composed of earth, and once encircled by large stones, most of which have been taken away for fences. It is on the slope of the hill, its smallest diameter being about 170ft [c.50m], and within the area on the S side is a spring of water" (Gardner Wilkinson 1871,227). The engraving which accompanies this description shows three groups of megaliths in aline from SSW to NNE (Gardner Wilkinson 1871,plate 30 fig 8).

"The N cromlech is fallen down, but there are remains of two uprights standing" (PAS,Pemb 18NW no 1). The stones illustrated by Gardner Wilkinson (seven plus capstone) do not form a recognizable chamber. Today a large slab (3.4 by 2.05 by 0.3m) survives in the fieldbank at SN 0798 2864 - the correct size and location for it to be the capstone of this destroyed chamber.

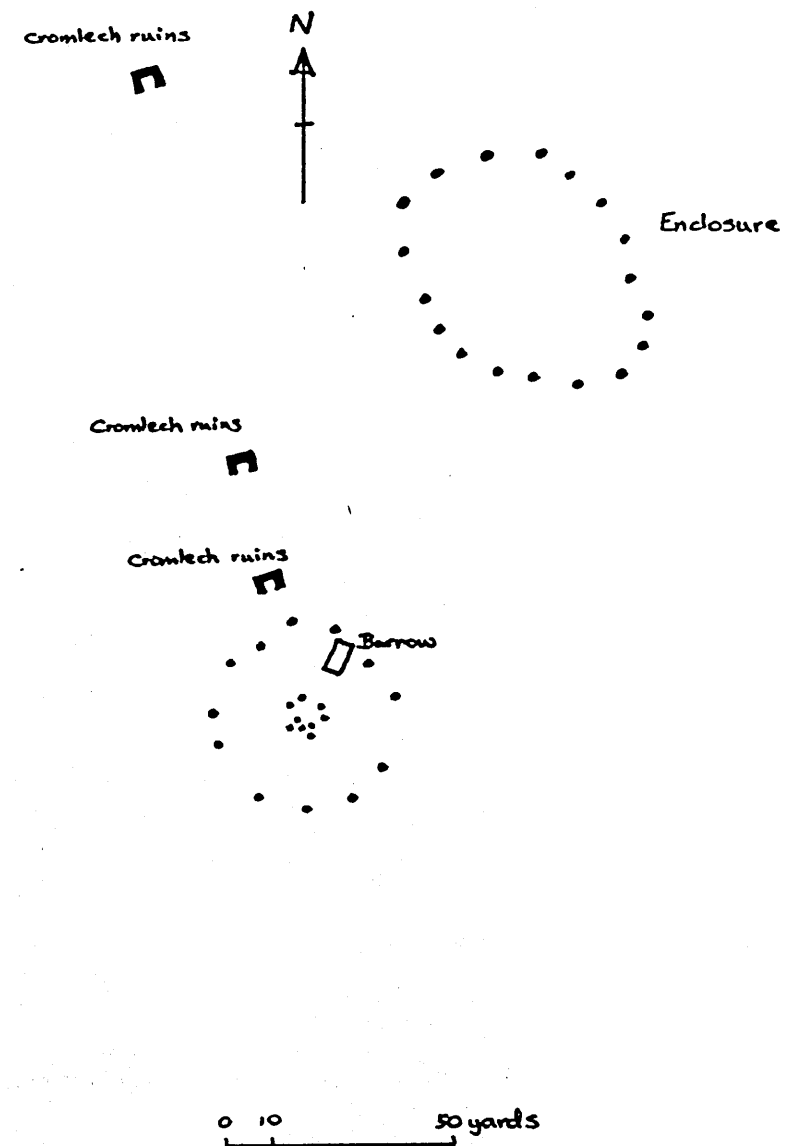
"The middle cromlech has one leg standing, and the remains of another upright, but the capstone has disappeared. The capstone of the S cromlech is lying on the ground, and measures 6ft by 5ft [1.8 by 1.5m]. There are three uprights (one 6ft high)[1.8m] standing, and another lying down (PAS,Pemb 18NW no 1).

Done Bushell published a photograph of "The Three Stones" (1911, 302) - this shows the three uprights and two recumbent slabs. From the plan by Gardner Wilkinson these would appear to have been part of a polygonal chamber. Around the stones Done Bushell thought that he could trace the remnants of a stone circle, with a low barrow within the NE arc - "The

Fig 65



After Gardner Wilkinson 1871  
(Plate 30 Fig 8)



After Done Bushell 1911

Corse Grave" - a dim photograph of which he included in his paper (1911,303). "The Corse Grave, if it be a grave, is 20ft by 7ft [6.1 by 2.15m]. It was opened by my son, Mr Warin Foster Bushell, on April 26th, in the present year. He found within it, on the level of the external surface of the ground, a pavement of flat stone of no great thickness roughly fitted together, and underneath the pavement, in the centre of the barrow, a small amount of black ashes. The stones had been roughly shaped and were of considerable size, some of them being nearly two square feet in area" (Done Bushell 1911,305).

When visited by the RCAM in 1915 they were content to record that around the three supporting pillars survived "a few stones evidently marking the outline of a cairn" (1925,635). Two large slabs now rest against the E side of the hedge-bank at SN 0796 2860 - either is of a size suitable for it to be the capstone of this lost S chamber.

On his plan of the complex Done Bushell (1911,301) recorded a structure well to the N of the other remains. This survives today beneath the hedge-bank at SN 0800 2876. A horizontal stone (1.6 by 0.9 by 0.35m) rests upon an elongated slab (0.65m high) on the S side of a bulge in the bank, some 3m in diameter. Relatively new dry-stone walling is visible to the N of the bulge, indicating that it formed the S side of a now-blocked gateway. Done Bushell's fourth 'cromlech' may prove to be merely the result of field clearance.

A major clearance of the stones was undertaken during the years 1905 to 1909 (Done Bushell 1911,303). Confusion over the extent of the scheduled area has led in recent years to the careful preservation of the ?Iron Age enclosure to the NE (OSR 1974) but the complete removal of the megalithic remains.

Fig 65

Visited February 1987

52. Trefael (Nevern) SN 1030 4030 PEM 32 DAT SMR 1120

On Trevael farm lies a large tilted slab, first recorded by Grimes (1929-31,277). The exposed portion of its upper surface bears at least 28 cupmarks, although a further 17 shallow depressions are evident on

TREFAEL  
SN 103 403

SECTION

PLAN OF UPPER SURFACE

- Cupmark
- Residual cupmark



the lichen-encrusted stone. The average diameter of the cupmarks is 5cm, with one larger example (10cm). This may well be the capstone of a destroyed burial chamber (Lynch 1972,79). The location of this site has been illustrated incorrectly on Lynch's distribution map (1972, fig 1) - the site of the Trefaes maenhir at SN 117 429 (Lewis 1966,16) has been included rather than that of the Trefael slab at SN 103 403.

Fig 66

Visited March 1987

53. Llandruidion (St Davids) SM 7865 2494

DAT SMR 2723

"On the south side of the road in Llandrindion is seen a Druidical altar, entitled to no great degree of attention" (Manby 1801,87). The ?chamber would appear to have been destroyed before Fenton visited the site (1810,134). However, the PAS recorded that "a tump still exists. Henry Williams, the occupier, states - about 30 years ago when ploughing this mound he found in it burnt earth and burnt bones" (Pemb 21NW no 12). "At SM 7865 2494...is a vague circular mound, 20m in diameter and 0.4m high, which appears to be artificial and is probably the tump" (OSR,1966). Both Grimes (1936a,no 67) and Daniel (1950,205) have accepted this field as the site of a destroyed burial chamber. The 'mound' is now very indistinct; a considerable amount of worked flint is present within the ploughsoil.

Visited May 1987

54. Llanunwas (Whitchurch) SM 787 242

No DAT SMR number

"There have also been Cromlechs between this point [St Elvies burial chambers] and Llandruidion at Llanungar and Llanunwas, both in the parish of Whitchurch" (Jones and Freeman 1856,27). No other antiquary recorded the cromlech at Llanunwas - Fenton visited the "demensne of Llanunwas" (1810,134-7) but mentioned only the remains at "Llain Wngar".

However, the annotator of the copy of the PAS in the Haverfordwest Library did illustrate a cromlech in the field to the N of the Llanunwas cliff-fort at SM 787 242. While no megalithic structure remains at this



site, it is interesting that a marked concentration of flintwork has been discovered in this field (Grimes 1932a,fig 1).

Visited May 1987

55. Prysg (Maenclochog) SN 0956 2711

DAT SMR 1336

"Having left Maenclochog, after a ride of a mile I come to Temple Druid...the farm was originally called Bwlch y clawdd...but on it being purchased by Mr Pryce, the new and appropriate English name of Temple Druid was given to it, there being then just above the house a large Cromlech, or supposed Druid altar, now destroyed and removed...the incumbent stone was above thirteen feet [3.95m] in diameter, eighteen inches thick at the sides, two feet in the centre [0.45-0.6m], and about four feet [1.2m] from the ground, raised on upright stones" (Fenton, 1810,352).

Later antiquaries add but little to this account. "This cromlech is, or rather was, at Prysc, not at Temple Druid. It stood, so it is said, in the farm-yard of Prysc, but was taken down" (PAS,Pemb 18SW no 1). Gardner Wilkinson (1871,227) recorded that there were "three supporters".

A 2m high stone stands in the field to the NE of Prysg farmhouse at SN 0968 2710 (OSR 1966) - both the PAS and RCAM (1925,634) have suggested that this may be a remnant of the destroyed chamber.

Visited February 1987

56. Mynydd Preselly c.SN 102 318/107 309

No DAT SMR number

"4 Near road to disused quarry Cromlech

Small cromlech not marked on map

8 NW by W of Glynsaithmaen Burial place

There are two long mounds apparently burial places...they do not appear to be stone age long barrows" (PAS,Pemb 11SW nos 4 & 8)

An annotated copy of the PAS in Haverfordwest Library shows the "small cromlech" at SN 1025 3185, and the two "long mounds" at SN 1075 3088. Field work has failed to locate these structures, although a large

slab (2.5 by 1.0 by 0.5m) was noticed amongst cleared stones in a field corner close to site 4.

Visited November 1986

57. Man y Gromlech (Llanwnda) c.SM 909 389

DAT SMR 2494

The Pembrokeshire Inventory (RCAM 1925,548iii) includes the following extract from an Edward Lhuyd manuscript - "Less than a bowshot from Tre Gyllwch is Man y gromlech, w'ch is one yard an a half long and 4 foot broad, and above 2 thick [1.35 by 1.2 by 0.6m]. One of the supporters is above 4 foot [1.2m] high, the second about 3 foot and a half [1.05m]; the two middle ones are fallen fior'th, the fifth is abt. 3 foot [0.9m]". Two accompanying sketches show a slanting capstone above five orthostats.

It is difficult to know what to make of this account. It obviously cannot be a description of the Garngilfach burial chamber (no 21 above); it is possible that it refers to another site, now lost. Indeed, Laws (1888,18) did record the sizes of capstones at both "Trefculhwch 15ft x 8ft" and "Gilvach Goch 14ft by 8ft", but sadly he failed to clarify the situation in the PAS, of which he was a co-editor.

The field worker for the RCAM suggested that a group of stones at SM 9090 3895, just south of the Garngilfach burial chamber, represented the remnants of this Man y Gromlech; however, these stones are clearly natural (OSR 1966).

Visited May 1987

58. Coetan Arthur (Llanllawer) SN 0068 3617

DAT SMR 1424

"Descending on the west side of the mountain [Mynydd Llanllawer], for about half a mile, we come to an elevated plain, where there is a farmhouse, called Llwyn Vawr...about 200yds [180m] up towards the south, there is a cromlech, supported by one stone, and with its east end resting on the ground, close to which there is another stone apparently displaced from under it, and probably it had other supporters, which have disappeared" (Pughe 1855,272).

"Trellwyn - this cromlech was destroyed about the year 1844" (PAS,

Pemb 10NW no 7). Barnwell (1868,177) mentions "the cromlech destroyed by Fenton, and of which only some small fragments remain" to the NE of the Parc y Meirw alignment. Daniel (1950,204) claimed that this burial chamber was "described and figured by Fenton", but the present author has been unable to trace such a record. The destroyer of this burial chamber remains a mystery - Richard Fenton died in 1821! Nothing now remains at the site indicated upon the OS maps.

Visited April 1987

59. Glynymel (Fishguard) SM 966 369

DAT SMR 2562

Included in Fenton's Historical Tour Through Pembrokeshire is part of a letter to him from his son, who recalled how "the meadow now extending as a lawn from your house was covered with rocky fragments, involving many relics of Druidism, in form of Cromlech and Cistvaen, a singular specimen of the former still remaining undestroyed in your grounds" (1810,583). This 'cromlech' is not recorded by any other antiquary, and no such structure survives today. However, Owen Pughe (1855,271) does mention that "above Glynymel, on the north, is a commanding plot, whereon are two upright stones, seemingly the remains of a Druid circle, on the lands of Cilsave".

Visited April 1987

60. Trefach (Nevern) SN 0639 3505

DAT SMR 1475

"To the west of this stone [Y Garreg Hir], and at a distance of 15yds [13.7m], are five large stones embedded in the turf, having the appearance of belonging to a ruined cromlech" (RCAM 1925,766). These stones were not recorded by the PAS in its account of the standing stone (Pemb 10NE no 3); the only other description available is that by the Ordnance Survey (OSR 1966) - "the possible burial chamber remains are at SN 0639 3505 and stand 0.9m high. No firm conclusions could be reached as to their authenticity". The stones have since been removed, and may lie amongst the boulders cleared to the western edge of the field.

Visited May 1987

Early Ordnance Survey maps show a 'Cromlech' at the western end of the outcrop known as Y Garn, some 600m E of the Garngilfach burial chamber. However, Fenton does not mention it, and despite "a diligent search" in 1865 Barnwell was unable to locate it (1872,138). The PAS (Pemb 4NW no 12) lists the site without comment, though an addition in the annotated copy in Haverfordwest Library admits that while "there are many large stones about...there may have been no cromlech". The stone identified by the RCAM (1925,548iv) as a "supporter in situ, about 5ft [1.5m] in length, and now almost prostrate" was probably a natural slab (OSR 1966); it seems unlikely that there was ever a burial chamber at this site.

Visited July 1981

"Another cromlech has been destroyed within a very few years near the northern extremity of Penbery rock. We are unable to give any account of it" (Jones and Freeman 1856,26). "Penbery - the field in which the cromlech stood is now called Parc-yr-Allor (The Altar Field). The cromlech was destroyed by the late Mr Dd Williams, of Penberry, about 60 years ago" (PAS,Pemb 14NW no 7).

In 1921 "an erect stone 30in [0.75m] high" was all that remained (RCAM 1925,937); this has since been removed (OSR 1966); a "doubtful site" (Daniel 1950,PEM 43).

Visited April 1987

"Penbery- site of cromlech. This field is known as Parc-y-goetan. The Goetan (probably the capstone of a cromlech) is now to be seen in the hedge" (PAS,Pemb 14NW no 6). Daniel (1950,PEM 44) considered this a "doubtful site", a view shared by the OS field officer - "The area

abounds in large, erratic stones and the surrounding hedges are full of them. There is no reason to suppose that any of them were part of a burial chamber" (OSR 1966).

Visited April 1987

64. Cuffern Cromlech (Roch) SM 8995 2225      PEM 46      DAT SMR 4302

"Cuffern Rock - the remains of what may have been a cromlech are on the W side of Cuffern Rock. It rested upon a single stone, the side being supported by rock. It fell down in the memory of men now living" (PAS,Pemb 22NW no 7).

It is possible that the reference by Fenton (1810,151) to a cromlech amidst "a considerable rocky tract" on Plumstone Mountain refers to this lost site. The Ordnance Survey records that "Cuffern Rock has been quarried away. There is now no trace of a burial chamber in the vicinity" (OSR 1966). Daniel (1950,PEM 46) considered it a "doubtful site".

Visited March 1987

65. Kingheriot (Whitchurch) SM 810 261      DAT SMR 2750

"In the long narrow field which separates the farms of Kingheriot and Lower Kingheriot there stood a small and perfect cromlech until the year 1850, when it was destroyed" (RCAM 1925,1176).

Visited May 1987

66. Haycastle SM 921 251      No DAT SMR number

An addition to the PAS copy held by Haverfordwest Library (page 39) states - "Capstone of cromlech in lower part of this field - tried to be blown up with gunpowder by Mister Bevans the farmer. Visited 11th Aug 1916 with Mr M.O the agent". No slab of any size remains either in this field or upon adjacent hedgebanks.

Visited March 1987

"A tract of land some 300yds [270m] from Poyston, known formerly as Stone Park, now divided into three fields. A few large stones on North Stone Park may denote the remains of a ruined cromlech" (RCAM 1925,919). No megaliths survive in this area of open pasture.  
Visited March 1987

"A field near Pen rhiw house, half a mile NE of Monington parish church. The name is in common local use, although no traces remain of the cromlech which must have given rise to the designation" (RCAM 1925, 705).  
Not visited

"Maen Clochog is derived from the Welsh language, and implies a sounding stone; which was a large stone, placed upon three small ones, and so well poized, that a child of five years old could shake it (although it was about 2 tons in weight) and, in moving, it sounded like a bell. Some of the Inhabitants of Maen Clochog thinking that there was treasure concealed under it, bored a hole in it, and had it split with gunpowder, and then dug up the small stones; but to their great disappointment they found no treasure" (Carlisle 1811, Maen Clochog).  
Not visited

"On the burrows near the farm of Croeswdig there is a large flat stone about nine feet by six [2.75 by 1.8m], placed in an inclining position, and now forming part of a sheep pen. It appears to have been the capstone of a Cromlech, and stones which may have supported it are built up into the edge of the field" (Jones and Freeman 1856,26). This doubtful site can no longer be located (OSR 1966).  
Not visited

In his book The History of Little England beyond Wales, Edward Laws listed the dimensions of the capstones at a number of cromlechs (1888,18); as these measurements do not tally with those quoted by other writers, one must assume that they result from Laws' personal fieldwork. Two of the sites that he mentioned, "Tredyssi, 7ft x 3ft [2.1 by 0.9m]; Trevaccwm 13ft 6in x 4ft [4.1 by 1.2m]", are not described by any other antiquary, and are now unidentifiable. "Tredyssi" is the name used by the PAS in describing the Trelyffaint cromlech (Pemb 6NW no 3), but as "Trelyffant 7ft x 6ft [2.1 by 1.8m]" also appears in Laws' list, 'his' Tredyssi must have been another site.

Not visited

INVENTORY - SECTION D



This group includes the many and various settings of stones which have previously been described as burial chambers, but which the writer feels are doubtful identifications. This is a personal assessment, and it is possible that future excavation may yet provide evidence of chambered structures at certain sites; consequently they are all fully documented below.

72. Yr Allor/Parc Sarnau (Llandyssilio E) SN 1395 2661 CRM 11

DAT SMR 1000

"Buarth Arthur or Meineu Gwyr, on a Mountain near Kil y maen lhwyl, is one of that kind of circular stone monuments...the stones are as rude as may be...now standing here fifteen of them...the entry to it...is guarded on each side with stones...and over against this avenue, at a distance of about 200 paces, there stand on end three other large, rude stones, which I therefore note particularly, because there are also four or five stones erected at such a distance from that circular monument they call King Stones near Little Rolrich in Oxfordshire" (Lhuyd 1695, col 628). This very early description of the stone setting known as 'Yr Allor' (the altar), is notable for the comparison that Lhuyd makes between Meini Gwyr and the Rollright Stones. The Rollright circle is situated high on the Cotswold escarpment; 350m to the E stand the Whispering Knights, the remnants of a burial chamber, possibly a Portal Dolmen (Selkirk 1983).

Gardner Wilkinson was unable to find the stones (1871,225) - not so the intrepid fieldworker of the RCAM (1917,321iii) - "about 250yds [225m] W of the earthwork just described are one prostrate and two erect stones, the remains of a cromlech; the stones have a height of 70 and 65 inches [1.78 and 1.65m] respectively. The prostrate stone is 140in [3.55m] in length; it has been thrown into the adjacent hedge". All three stones survive (the recent account by Burl (1988,7) is woefully inaccurate). The two uprights stand less than 1m apart: the S stone is 2m high, flat-topped and an irregular diamond shape in cross-section, the N is 1.5m high, a pointed triangle of stone with a rectangular cross-section. 20m to the SSE the third slab (3.9m long) lies in a

ditch adjacent to a fieldbank.

Confusion has arisen regarding this site (Ward et al 1987,12; Burl 1988,7) as a result of the questionable interpretation of two drawings: the first an illustration of "Meinign.yr" by a correspondent of Lhuyd (published in RCAM 1925,fig 14), and the second a version of this illustration by William Stukeley (1776,fig 83;Burl 1988,fig 6).

The legend to the 'Lhuyd' drawing states - "There are two other stones pitched on End abt. an arrows flight to ye south [Yr Allor] and a Kist Vaen to ye N.E. abt. 2 Arrows flight distant from ye" [?one of the series of cairns close to Castell Garw henge monument - see Ward et al 1987,fig 2]. Stukeley had seen this 'Lhuyd' original amongst Anstis' collections (Sept 1719, Commonplace Book, Devizes Museum), and yet he chose to illustrate the "Kiswaen" to the NE as a three-sided stone setting (1776,fig 83), a form of megalithic site to which he had earlier (c.1723) given the name "Cove" (Piggott 1985,88). Stukeley's drawing must be viewed with the utmost caution, for he never visited South Wales and so could not have seen the site (Piggott 1985;pers comm 1989). It is entirely wrong, on the basis of this Stukeley-invented 'detail', to continue to record a 'lost' Cove close to the Meini Gwyr circle (eg. Ward et al 1987,12).

Without excavation the nature of Yr Allor will remain uncertain. "There is no real indication that the stones formed part of a chambered tomb" (Ward et al 1987,12), and the suggestion of a link with the henge tradition (Williams 1984,188) depends on the existence of two extremely doubtful enclosures enclosing the stones.

Visited June 1986

73. Rhyd Lydan standing stones (Llangain) SN 3791 1598 CRM 16

DAT SMR 2150

These two stones were first recorded by the RCAM (1917,439), together with a third between them in the hedgeline. The eastern stone is blunt-topped and stands partly in the hedge, while the other is free-standing, 4m distant, with a pointed top. Both are 1.5m high. In early 1986 the free-standing stone was found recumbent, deliberately uprooted (DAT SRF), exposing a pointed base and a socket 0.5m deep. The stone was replaced in its original stone-hole in December 1986 by Cadw.

There is little to suggest that these stones were ever part of a burial chamber (Daniel 1950, CRM 16; Grimes 1936a, no 90), and it is best to see them as a stone pair (Lewis 1974, 41).

Visited June 1986

74. Llwyn-du (Llangain) SN 3712 1534 CRM 19 DAT SMR 2146

"NW of Llwyn-du farmhouse...are several boulders which were the supporters of a still remembered perfect cromlech" (RCAM 1917, 440). At present three large stones stand in a slight hollow in the middle of a gently SW sloping field: the N stone, old red sandstone, leans towards the NE, but upright it would be 1.8m high; the W, gritstone, leans towards the WNW and would have stood 1.65m high; and the S, also gritstone, leaning acutely towards the NW and formerly perhaps 2.1m tall. Beneath the S stone lie two small boulders of gritstone with a maximum height of 0.65m (geological identifications from DAT DRF 1985).

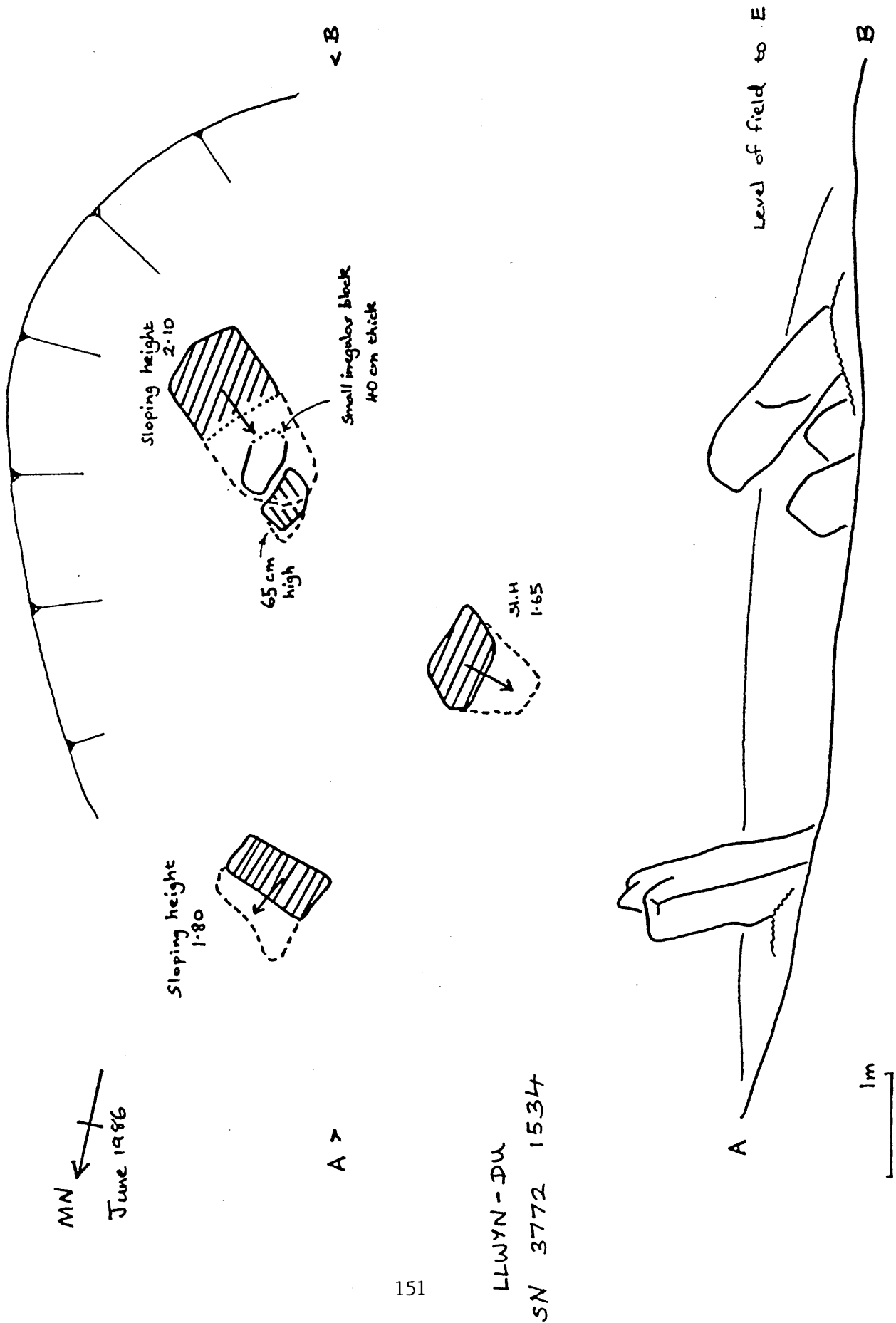
There is a surprising lack of antiquarian references to this easily accessible site. However, in 1877 Barnwell described a group of stones that he had seen "on the way to Ystrad" (1877, 86 & pl4), consisting of three large uprights (one of coarse grit, one of quartz conglomerate, and one of old red sandstone) and one smaller block (quartz conglomerate). Grimes has ascribed this reference to Llech Ciste (1936a, no 23), despite the fact that Barnwell's engraving bears no resemblance to the three surviving stones at Llech Ciste, all of which are quartzite. Moreover, both the engraving and the recorded rock-types closely resemble the remains at Llwyn-du, and it is probable that Barnwell was confusing the two sites when he published his hybrid description.

Both Grimes (1936a, no 91) and Daniel (1950, CRM 19) have considered that these stones could be the remnants of a burial chamber. This would require a massive single capstone (c.6m by 3m), and rather than postulate multiple capstones and additional supporters it may be better to see the remains simply as a setting of standing stones.

Fig 67

Visited June 1986

Fig 67



On the farm of Blaen Golau is a group of stones dominated by a 2.5m tall quartzite megalith known as Carreg Bica ('the peaked stone'). The alternative name, used on OS maps - Llech Ciste - would seem to have been the invention of the original fieldworker! (RCAM 1917,334). Two other stones complete the group - 3m to the S of the megalith is an irregular quartzite boulder (0.8m high), and 3m to the NE a more regular recumbent quartzite slab (0.35m thick). These stones are very unlikely to be the remains of a burial chamber (Grimes 1936a,no 33;Daniel 1950, CRM 18); indeed, with the recorded existence of another small stone 18m to the SE it is possible that the stones formed a short alignment (Fox and Bowen 1935,46).

Fig 68

Visited June 1986

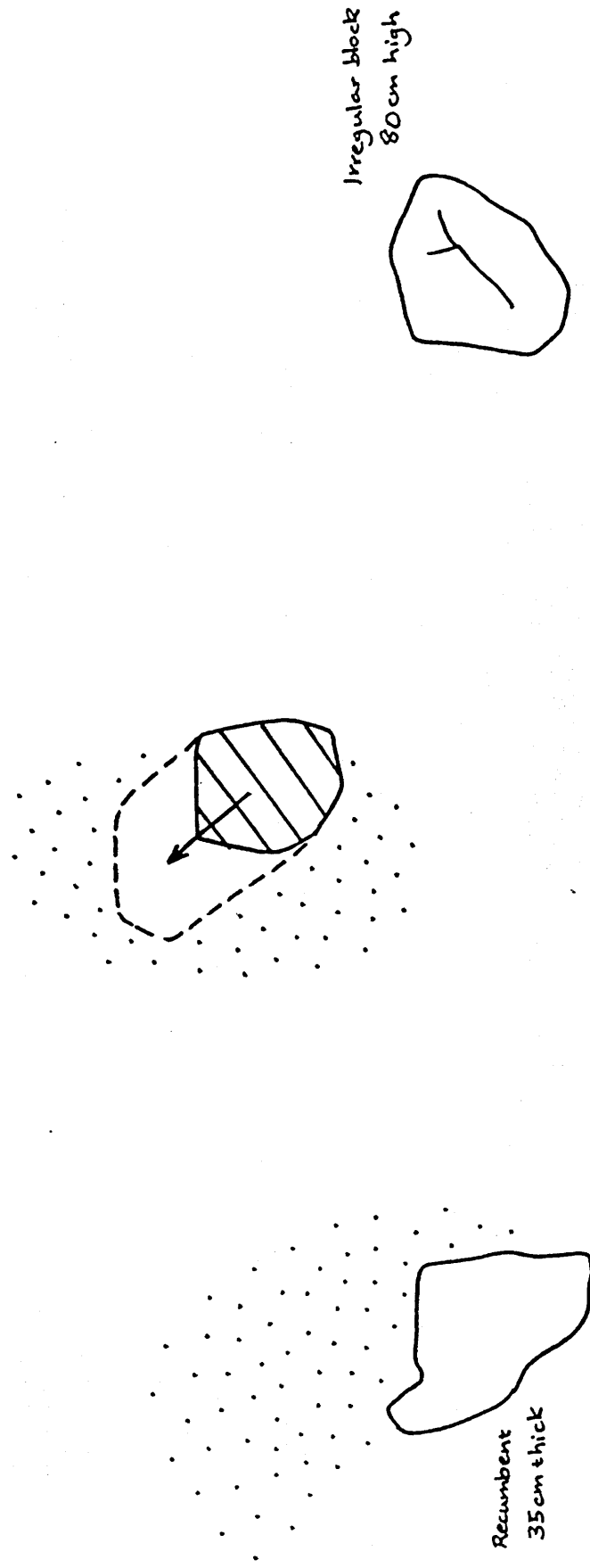
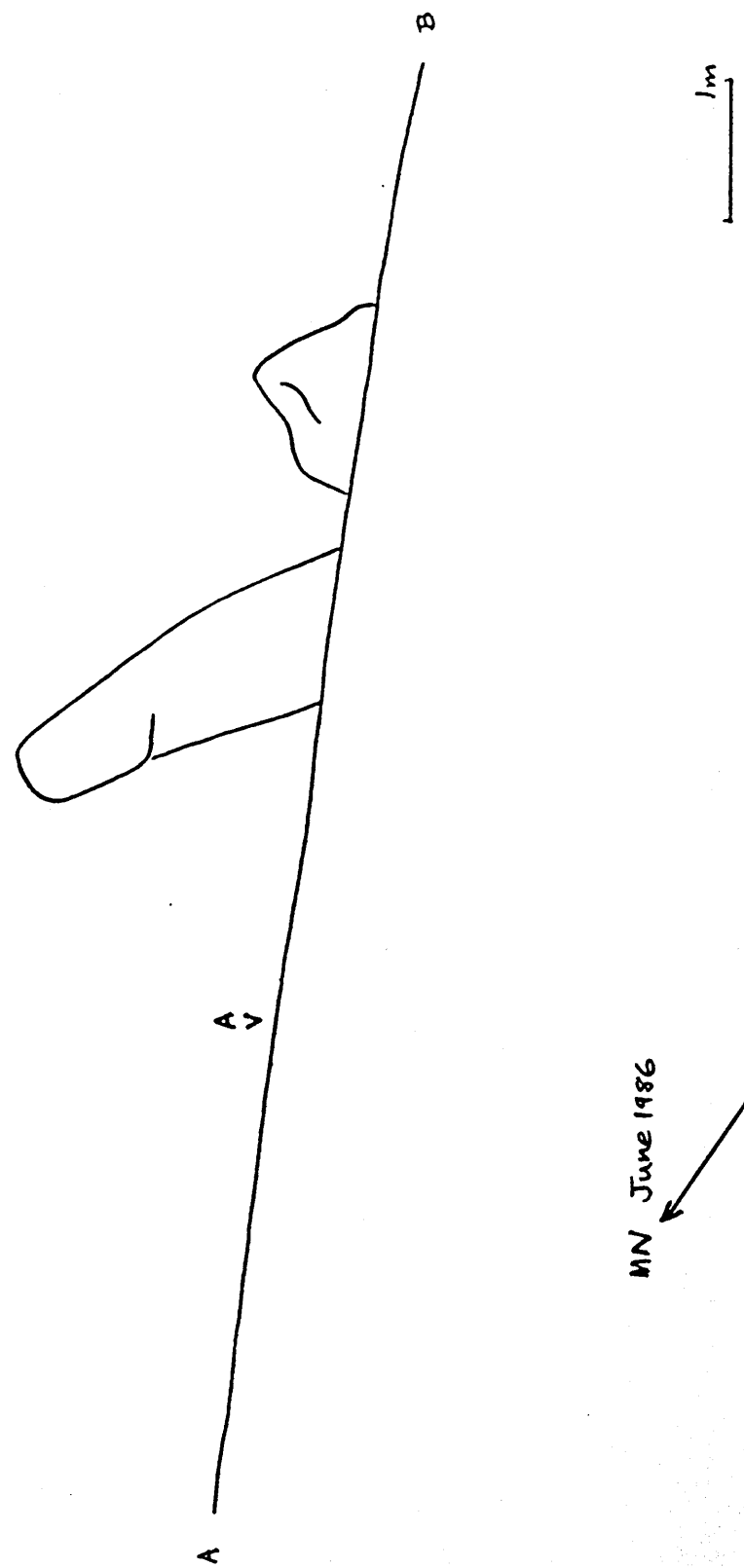
About 300m NE of Llechdwnny House "are two erect stones which are doubtless supporters of a ruined cromlech" (RCAM 1917,303). The tall N stone stands 2.5m high; 2m away the S stone reaches only 1.75m. A smaller stone stands some 30m to the E. While it is conceivable that these are the remnants of a burial chamber (Daniel 1950,CRM 19), it is perhaps better to regard them as a group of standing stones (Grimes 1936a,no 94) or as a stone pair with outlier (Lewis 1974,41).

Visited June 1981

On the farms of Hendy and Gilfach stand two stones, 8.5m apart, separated by a track which runs 1.5m below the level of the fields. The stones differ in shape, height (N 1.6m,S 1.0m) and rock type, and it would seem reasonable to classify them as a stone pair (RCAM 1917,441ii; DAT DRF;Lewis 1974,41).

Visited June 1986

Fig 68 LLECH CISTE  
SN 514 283



A B

Quartzite blocks  
Scatter of stones at base

"Three meini hirion...the positions of two suggest that they are portions of a ruined cromlech, and the third pillar stone, which is about 140yds [125m] to the NW, may have been a pointer stone to the cromlech" (RCAM 1917,636). There is little evidence to support this interpretation, and Grimes describes them only as an example of grouped standing stones (1936a,20 and no 16). The site has been surveyed recently by Roese (1978,132) and his plans emphasize the disparate sizes of the two proximate stones.

Not visited

"These stones - two - are situated...some little distance to the left of the Coynant stone. One stone is 7ft [2.15m] in height, the other about 4ft [1.2m]. They are about 9ft [2.75m] apart, and may have formed part of a cromlech...these two stones are on a particularly open, exposed site" (Gabriel and Evans 1909,25). It is unlikely that these stones ever formed part of a burial chamber, and it is better to consider them as a stone pair (Lewis 1974,41). The N stone has a pointed top and is 1.4m high; the flat-topped stone has fallen westwards, though it would have formerly stood to a height of 2.3m.

Visited June 1986

"In a field appurtenant to Tre Hywel farmhouse are three erect stones exhibiting every indication of having been parts of a cromlech, of which the capstone has disappeared; one of the group has a height of 6ft [1.8m] above the soil. At a distance of 6ft [1.8m] are the other stones, 2ft [0.6m] apart, and 4ft [1.2m] above the ground" (RCAM 1925, 1025). Daniel classified this as a "doubtful" site (1950,PEM 29).

Visited in 1981 the stones were discovered amongst scrub in and adjacent to a hedge - "two massive stones, one seemingly upright, certainly are visible" (Rees 1981, SAM inspection). The area has since been cleared; the stones are no longer in situ. Two slabs (2.2 and 1.3m long) lie on the eastern side of the hedgebank, with a single diamond-shaped stone (1.9m long) on the west.

Visited March 1987

81. Pen Mynydd (Puncheston) SN 0166 3155 PEM 41 DAT SMR 1527

"In the field...are two stones, both erect, which are said locally to be all that is left of a small cromlech. The taller stone is 3ft [0.9m] above ground and is somewhat pointed; the shorter stone is distant from it about 6ft [1.8m]" (RCAM 1925,868). Only one stone (1.2m high) remains upright, the other is partially covered by turf (OSR 1966). It is extremely unlikely that these stones were part of a burial chamber (Daniel 1950, PEM 41); they may have constituted a stone pair.

Visited April 1987

82. Parke (Moylegrove) SN 1316 4274 PEM 42 DAT SMR 1155

"In the hedge which divides the fields Cromlech ucha and Cromlech issa appurtenant to Parke farm, are two erect stones which probably formed the supporters of the cromlech from which the fields derive their names. The stones are 5ft [1.5m] apart. Adjoining them on Cromlech ucha is a stone now prostrate which was evidently a third supporter; it is partially covered with soil. There is no trace of the capstone" (RCAM 1925,719). When an OS field officer visited the site (OSR 1966) he found the two stones (c.1.2m high) "not in situ - lying against hedge-bank". The hedge has since been uprooted and the stones removed.

Visited March 1987



"Samuel Lewis in his Topographical Dictionary of Wales 1842 states 'near the parsonage house are the remains of a cromlech, which has been thrown down and in its vicinity is a tumulus'. The compiler of a 'Classified list of the most Remarkable Objects of Antiquity in Pembrokeshire' who wrote for the 6th edition of Mason's Tenby Guide, and whose paper is reprinted in the 7th edition, localises this cromlech more carefully. 'At Begally, in a field by the side of the Pembroke road, and nearly in front of the Rectory are the remains of another (cromlech), with one of the broad flat tumuli adjoining, over the crown of which a hedge has been planted'...these stones...are still lying prostrate in a row, five in number: one, seven feet long [2.15m]; two, five feet [1.5m]; three, four feet [1.2m]; four and five, too buried for measurement" (Lascelles and Law, PAS,Pemb 35SW no 1).

Gardner Wilkinson (1870,237) described "five scattered blocks varying from 8ft by 3ft 4in and 3ft 8in in thickness [2.45 by 1.0 by 1.1m] to 4ft 10in by 2ft 7in and 2ft 2in in thickness [1.48 by 0.8 by 0.65m]" occupying "a space of about 38ft [11.5m] in length; so that tradition alone prevents our considering it part of an avenue rather than of a cromlech". Daniel (1950,PEM 45) thought it a doubtful site.

The Dyfed Archaeological Trust records the site as being at SN 1090 0734. This grid reference is possibly incorrect - local inhabitants recall the stones nearer to SN 115 072. The stones were buried by a farmer during a field clearance scheme.

Visited October 1986

"Descending on the west side of the mountain [Mynydd Llanllawer], for about half a mile, we come to an elevated plain, where there is a farmhouse, called Llwyn Vawr...close to the house there are the remains of another delapidated cromlech. About two hundred yards [180m] to the west, we come to...four stones...at regular distances [Parc y meirw stone row]" (Pughe 1855,272-3).

The stones (10ft/3.05m apart), which formerly stood to the SW of Trellwyn fawr farmhouse (Nye 1956, quoted on OSR), must be the "delapidated cromlech" to which Pughe referred. One pointed stone (1.6m high) remains at SN 0013 3580, the other has been moved and now "serves as a gatepost at SN 0011 3582 and stands 1.4m high. The area around the stones is turf-covered and level" (OSR 1966).

Visited March 1987

85. Roch (Roch) SM 8791 2116

DAT SMR 2809

"In the field next west of Roch Castle are two upright stones which would appear from their relative positions to be the supporters of a cromlech. They stand about 5ft [1.5m] clear of the soil and are 70ft [sic] apart. The capstone could not be found" (RCAM 1925,898). "The 25in 1887 map shows two stones orientated N-S and about 8ft [2.45m] apart...the stones have been removed, or buried by topsoil dumped on the site to eradicate a wet area in order to create a garden" (OSR 1966).

Visited March 1987

86. Black Horse Inn stone (Dinas) SN 008 387

DAT SMR 1422

"Near Rose Cottage, is another slab, now standing only 4ft 5in [1.35m] out of the ground. Near it lies a stone of smaller size. The stone is of a form that would have adapted it as a supporter to the capstone of a chamber, and such it seems to have been" (Barnwell 1875,305). This "weathered, slab shaped standing stone 2.1m high" (OSR 1966) stands in pasture with no evidence of a mound in its vicinity. There would seem to be no particular reason for suspecting it of having formed part of a burial chamber.

Visited March 1987

87. Parc Lan (Nevern) SN 091 349

No DAT SMR number

"Two erect stones stand on Parc lan. One, which is somewhat pointed is 57in [1.45m] above the ground; the other is more square, and rises 45in [1.15m] from the surface" (RCAM 1925,764). The stones have now been removed; Lewis (1974,42) has classified them as a stone pair.

Visited March 1987

88. Tafarn-y-bwlch (Nevern) SN 082 337

DAT SMR 1568/1569

Two stones, both 4ft [1.2m] high, stand 3ft [0.9m] apart. "They lean northwards and may have supported a capstone" (OSR 1966). The present writer, however, would tend to agree with Lewis (1974,42) who sees them as a stone pair.

Visited March 1987

89. Ty Gwyn stones (Nevern) SN 0667 4104

DAT SMR 1594

The RCAM (1925,765) recorded two square-topped standing stones (8ft 4in/2.55m and 6ft 3in/1.9m high) set 8ft [2.4m] apart. "Only the N stone remains standing as a gatepost, the other has been removed to enlarge the gateway" (OSR 1974). It is possible that these stones constituted a stone pair.

Visited March 1987

90. Bryn Hirfaen (Cellan) SN 6247 4679

DAT SMR 10742

This monument, which is situated close to the Carmarthenshire-Cardiganshire border, comprises a flat-topped slab (0.9m tall) standing at the NE end of a ?natural rise in the ground, with a fallen slab of similar proportions at its side. In its present condition one cannot be certain of the original form of this site; the two stones may have constituted a stone pair.

Visited October 1987

INVENTORY - SECTION E

At the following three sites a large capstone, covering a cist, is evident within a round mound. The date of these monuments is unknown, and while they are probably Bronze Age structures, a Neolithic date is not impossible.

91. Carn Besi (Llandyssilio E) SN 1560 2768   CRM 20     **DAT SMR 1135**

"On the boundary between this parish and Llanglydwen are the scattered stones of what is still remembered to have been a cromlech" (RCAM 1917,321v). At present this is an unconvincing monument, though its siting gives fine views in all directions. A slab (2.5 by 2.0 by 0.3m) rests upon a few small blocks amongst an area of rough pasture. There is no clear indication of a cairn. The condition of the monument does not seem to have altered since it was recorded by the PAS (Pencerrig cromlech). Both Grimes (1936a,no 32) and Daniel (1950,CRM 20) have been content to classify this denuded site as a burial chamber.

Visited June 1986

92. Carreg Castell y Gwynt (Llanfynydd) SN 5513 3055     **DAT SMR 743**

This monument is situated in forest on the upper edge of a steep escarpment above the Afon Cothi. It consists of a large slab (4 by 2 by 0.45m) which rests upon small stones in a depression (maximum depth 0.6m) within a possibly round cairn. There are no side-slabs visible beneath the capstone; grass and tree growth obscures the edges of the cairn. While the RCAM (1917,414i) and Grimes (1936a,no 24) have described it as a burial chamber, Daniel preferred to describe it as a large cist (1950,209). Little remains in the vicinity of the cairn; deep ploughing to the N, S and W will have destroyed any adjacent structures.

Fig 69

Visited June 1986

MN JUNE  
1986

Edge of pine forest

A >

< B

20cm rise

45cm thick

Depression in cairn  
Max depth 60cm

A

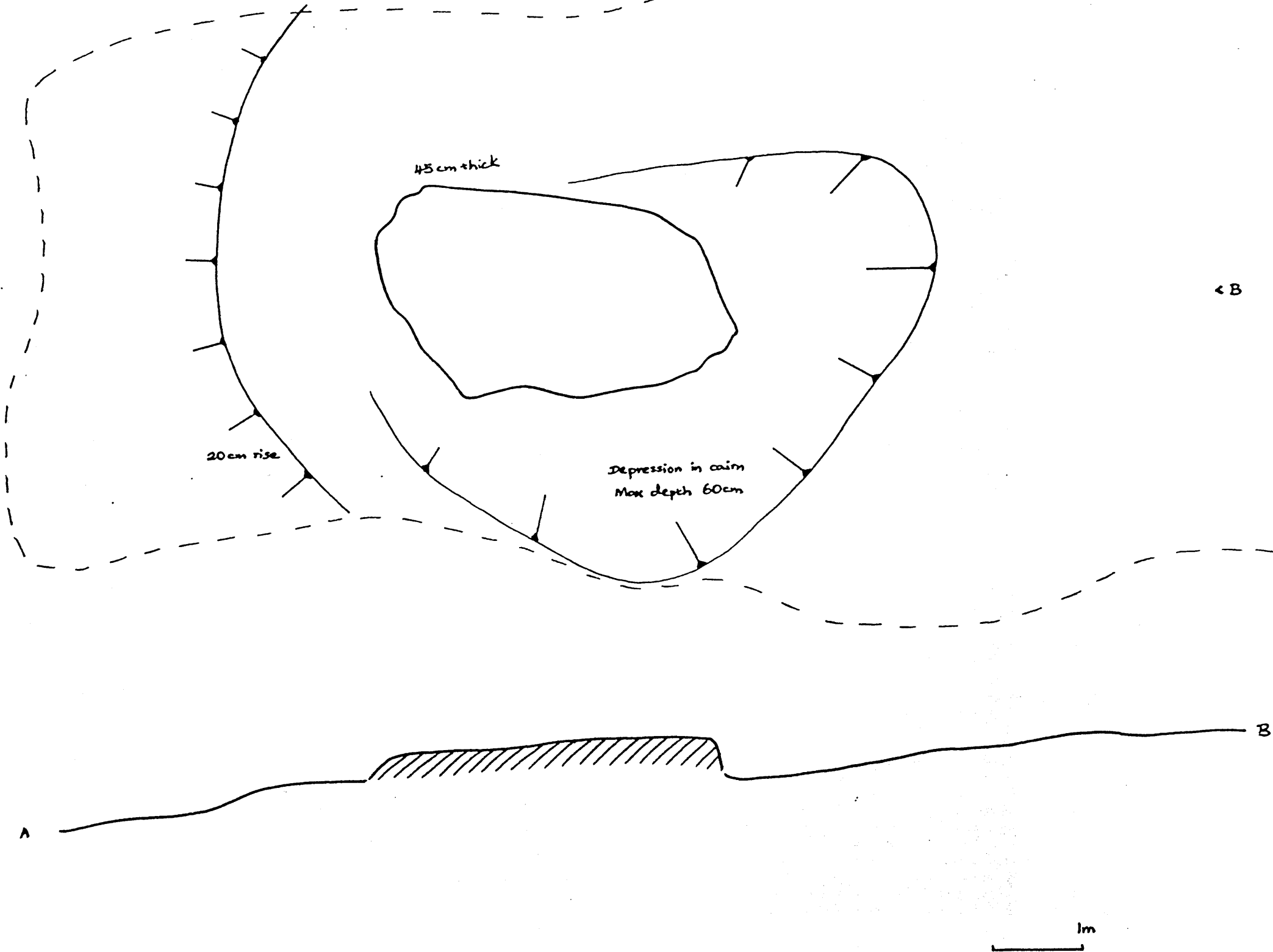
B

1m

CARREG CASTELL Y GWYNT

SN 5513 3055

Fig 69



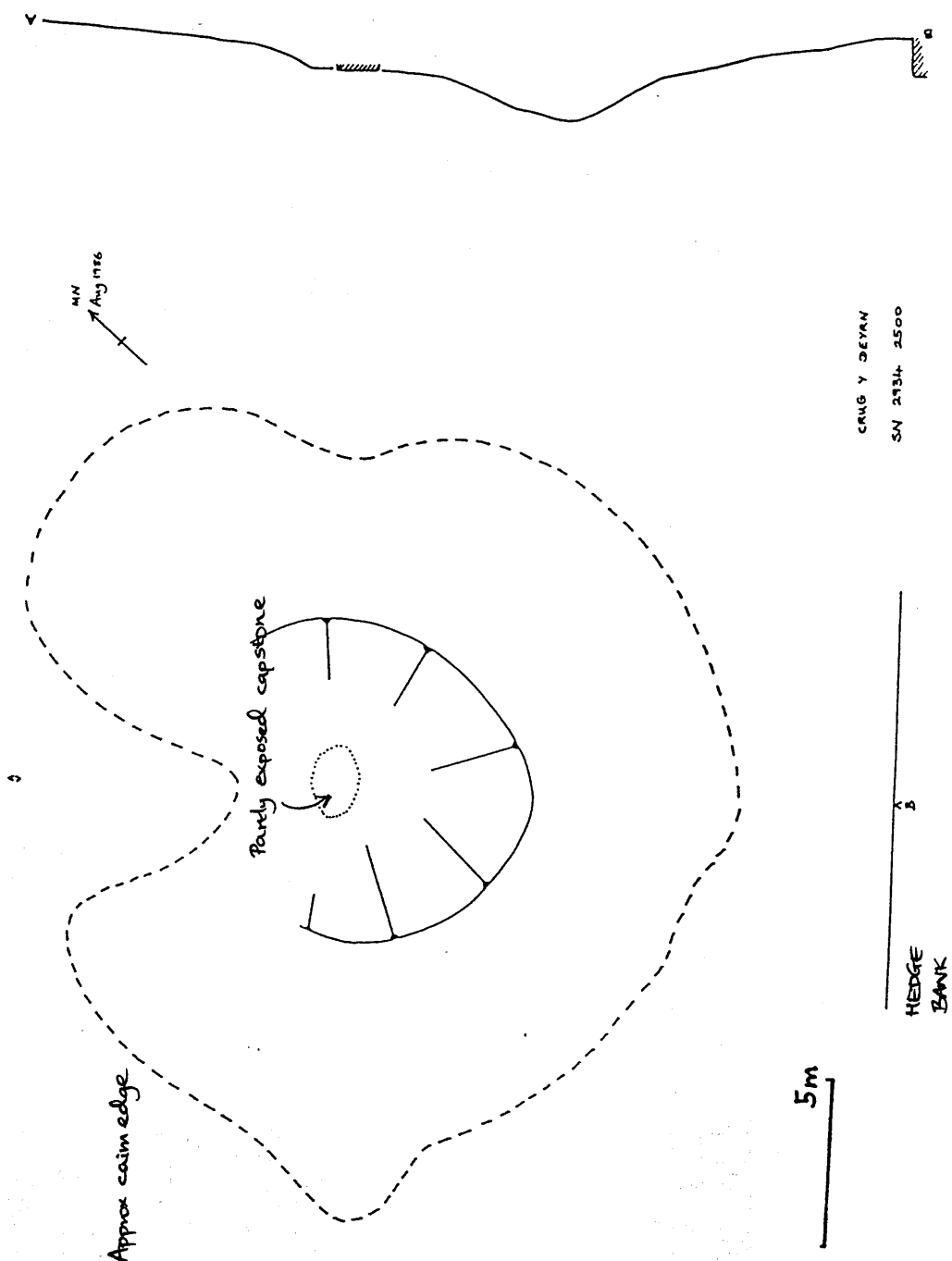
"This barrow is not a mount of earth, as others generally are; but seems to have been such a heap of stones as are called in Wales Karnedheu...at the centre of the cavity on the top we find a vast llech (or flat stone) somewhat of an oval form, about three yards in length, five foot over where broadest, and about 10 or 12 inches thick [2.75 by 1.5 by 0.3m]" (Lhuyd 1695,627-8). In 1693 a group of men directed by Erasmus Saunders searched beneath this capstone and revealed a regular cist 4ft 7in long (1.4m); the cist was not fully explored but had apparently been previously disturbed (Saunders, quoted in RCAM 1917, 75lix).

The mound survives to a height of 3m on its SE side; though eroded on the NW it would appear to have been round with a diameter of c.23m. Only part of the "vast llech" is now exposed, and no part of the cist beneath is visible.

Fig 70

Visited August 1986

Fig 70





INVENTORY - SECTION F

This is a difficult group to discuss, for even when a possible mound survives close to a particular stone it is impossible to be certain, without excavation, that the site represents the remnants of a burial chamber. However, where the 'tradition' relies upon the vivid imagination of a single fieldworker it is easier to dismiss the identification as spurious.

94. Maenhir Farm (Cilmaenllwyd) SN 1545 2589 CRM 12 DAT SMR 1137

A single slim stone (1.7 by 0.75 by 0.2m) stands in a field below the crest of a low hill, its base packed around with stones. A cromlech - "five [stones] standing up and one on them" - is reported to have stood on this site, but it was demolished in about 1850, the supporters being reused as gateposts (Evans 1909,25). In about 1883 the agent of the estate had one of the supporters re-erected on the site of the cromlech. Evans claimed that the restored stone was the capstone - the proportions of this stone make this highly unlikely, though it is possible for it to have been a supporter. There are no visible traces of a mound; two small holes drilled through the N edge of the stone may indicate its use as a gatepost (DAT SRF).

Visited June 1981

95. Cwm Gwyddil (Talley) SN 6104 3034 DAT SMR 1898

"On the farm of Cwm Gwyddil is an erect stone, the sole survivor of a small cromlech which is known to have been entire 50 years ago. This boulder has a height of 58in [1.48m] above ground, and a girth of 91in [2.3m]. Two of its companion supporters were destroyed a few years since" (RCAM 1917,743). The stone stands on a slightly raised area in a patch of wet ground on a high saddle with good views to the SW. 1.5m high, the stone leans slightly towards the NW; a small depression less

than two metres to the SW may mark the site of a removed companion. The slight rise in the ground to the SE of the stone may represent a denuded cairn or platform, but from field observation alone it is unwise to conjecture further.

Visited June 1986

96. Pant y Cerrig (Llanpumpsaint) c.SN 4234 2600      DAT SMR 1713

"This stone...has the appearance of design, and it may be one of the supporters of a demolished cromlech" (RCAM 1917,539vi). This account is typical of the uncritical approach of the compilers of the Carmarthenshire Inventory. There is no evidence that a burial chamber ever stood here - the stone can no longer be identified, though there are several natural outcrops on the hillside.

Visited May 1986

97. Long Stone (Hubberston) SM 8920 0717    PEM 33      DAT SMR 3033

This stone stands on a N-facing slope of a hill above Milford Haven; from the site there are good views, especially to the E. It was first recorded by Williams and Law (PAS,Pemb 33SW no 5) - "this may have been a cromlech; the only remains are two uprights of local stone, much frayed, one is 6ft [1.8m] high". By 1920 only the larger stone remained upright - "prostrate at its base, and largely hidden in the soil, are vestiges of two similar stones" (RCAM 1925,332). Grimes (1936a,no 78) has accepted this site as a burial chamber, while Daniel (1950,PEM 33) considered it a "doubtful site".

The stone is an irregular slab 2.05m high, 1.75m long and 0.3m wide at its base, with its axis aligned WSW-ENE. A slight mound adjoins the slab on the W; excavation will be required to determine the nature of this structure. While it is conceivable that this stone is the remnant of a burial chamber, it may prove to be similar to the Devil's Quoit standing stone and its adjacent ritual structures recently excavated by the DAT on the nearby Stackpole Warren (Selkirk 1982; Williams 1988,96-100).

Visited November 1986

"Penlan - remains of a cromlech. A few stones and the tradition are all that remains" (PAS,Pemb 16NW no 3). "Adjoining a field locally known as Y Gromlech is a single monolith, 50in [1.27m] high and 70in [1.78m] wide, being all that remains of the 'cromlech'...which tradition asserts to have stood here" (RCAM 1925,667).

The single upright stone (1.3m tall, 2m wide) stands in a field of permanent pasture; there is no sign of a mound. While Grimes (1936a,no 72) was content to record this as a site of a destroyed burial chamber, Daniel (1950,PEM 34) considered it a "doubtful site".

Visited June 1981

A single tapering stone, 1.7m high, stands in pasture with a number of smaller stones strewn around its base. "Local tradition persists that it is the survivor of a dismantled cromlech" (RCAM 1925,1026), although the monument remembered by a local resident sounds more like a cairn-circle than a burial chamber. Gardner Wilkinson reported that the structure had been taken down in about 1860 "when some of the stones were broken up and used in building the church of St Edrens" (1871,232). Again, while Grimes recorded this as a burial chamber (1936a,no 73), Daniel (1950,PEM 35) thought it a "doubtful site".

Visited June 1981

Local tradition suggests the former existence of a burial chamber in the vicinity of Eglwysrw. Gardner Wilkinson (1871,221) states that "there was one near Whitchurch and Eglwyswen (north-east of Preseleu mountain) taken down some years ago"; local historian E.T.Lewis (1972,17) claims "ample" records of a burial chamber "some distance south-east of Pantygarn" called "Cerrig y derwyddon"; and Lynch (1972, 67) mentions "the suggestive farm name, Cromlech at Eglwysrw".

Lewis (1966,16) records a single standing stone called Cerrig y derwyddon at SN 1359 3790 - "once 10ft [3.05m] high...it was blasted to pieces, the upper portion, 6ft [1.8m] in length being thrown into the neighbouring hedge" (OSR 1965). The broken stump remains in situ.  
Visited May 1987

101. Egypt (Ludchurch) SN 1424 1032      **DAT SMR 3783**

The earliest record of this lost site is that by Lascelles and Law in the PAS (Pemb 35NE no 4) - "On either side of the road lie fragments of what seems once to have been a menhir, perhaps once the name giving 'longstone' ". A later description details "three stones, now partially buried. These are locally said to be the remains of a cromlech. What may have been the capstone of the structure, a boulder 6ft [1.8m] in length, lies in the ditch close by" (RCAM 1925,633). Nothing remains of this dubious site.  
Visited October 1986

102. Llanungar Fawr (Whitchurch) SM 7922 2509 PEM 36      **DAT SMR 2658**

"Not above a mile from [Llanunwas cliff-fort], in a line with the little dingle opening to this creek, there is a place called Llain Wngar...here I find a Cromlech, but not of such a size as to merit particular notice" (Fenton 1810,136-7). However, neither the PAS (Pemb 21NW no 13) nor the RCAM were satisfied with the authenticity of this site - "a fine monolith...stands 7ft [2.13m] above the soil, and leans slightly eastward. Although the monument is marked on the Ordnance Survey sheet as 'Cromlech', there is no trace of other stones around it, or any suggestion of the base of a mound; nor does the tradition survive to warrant the idea of a cromlech having stood there" (1925,1164). The single stone was removed in c.1942 when a sewer was laid (OSR 1966).  
Visited May 1987

103. Benton Farm (Burton) SM 9966 0755

DAT SMR 3204

In his account of an alleged stone avenue close to Benton Castle, Gardner Wilkinson (1870,121) describes "a stone, lately fallen, which measures 7ft 6in to 8ft 6in [2.3-2.6m] in length by 5ft 8in [1.72m] and 2[ft/0.6m] in thickness; supposed to have belonged to a cromlech, though there is nothing to verify this conjecture". The 'avenue' survives, though it is little more than field-cleared boulders lining fieldbanks alongside an old road (Grimes 1951,6), but the recumbent stone has long since disappeared.

Visited November 1986

104. Hill Park (Herbrandston) SM 8700 0721

DAT SMR 3206

The RCAM describes "a boulder standing on a field...about 500yds [450m] due S of Herbrandston parish church. The stone is about 56in [1.42m] above the soil, 20in [0.5m] wide, and faces SW. At its base, and largely covered with soil, is a prostrate stone of similar dimensions, suggesting that both are parts of a cromlech that has been demolished" (1925,323). By 1966 only "a prostrate red sandstone rubbing post...1.6 x 0.7 x 0.1m" survived in the vicinity (OSR 1966).

Visited November 1986

105. Northhill Farm (Narberth S) SN 0993 1095

DAT SMR 7993

The only reference to this site is on a map held by the RCAM in Aberystwyth - "two stones of possible cromlech, one 6ft [1.8m] high, capstone 6ft [1.8,] long" (OSR). The site lies within the boundaries of a disused airfield; high gorse bushes now obscure much of the ground, and while several large natural blocks of stone lie amongst the scrub, the upright stone cannot now be located.

Visited October 1986

"At the northern termination of the road in the parish of Camros the parish boundary makes a sharp angle at the foot of the hill called Cuffern Mountain, and just below is a standing stone, the solitary survivor of what was probably a fine cromlech less than a century ago..." (RCAM 1925,111). This imaginative interpretation is unsupportable - the stone can no longer be found (Lewis 1966,16).

Visited March 1987

"The left hand post of the gate on the road running from the causeway to Twmpath farm has every appearance of having been one of the supporters of a cromlech which the original lin map shows as standing on or near this spot about the year 1840. It has a height from the level of 8ft [2.45m], and has a flattened summit..." (RCAM 1925,101). The stone has every appearance of being a gatepost (Lewis 1966,16); "there is nothing to suggest that it has any archaeological significance" (OSR 1966).

Visited March 1987

This tall stone stands by the side of the road that runs over Mynydd Caregog towards Pontfaen. "Judging from its form, it was probably a portion of a cromlech. Its height also (7ft 6in) [2.3m] is one usually found in chambers of moderate dimensions" (Barnwell 1875,305). Barnwell's illustration shows the flat face of the slab, on which are engraved many inscriptions, including an OS bench mark! The OS field officer wrote - "it is very prominent and could hardly have been overlooked by early antiquaries. Its antiquity is therefore in doubt" (OSR 1966). There is certainly no reason to believe that it was ever part of a burial chamber.

Visited March 1987

INVENTORY - SECTION G



A number of the sites that have been claimed to represent burial chambers have proved, upon reassessment, to be either monuments of another type or natural features.

109. Castell Garw (Llanglydwen) SN 1477 2693    CRM 10    **DAT SMR 1025**

"In the hedge to the NE of the earthwork are three fairly large boulders which may possibly be parts of a ruined cromlech" (RCAM 1917, 478). The earthwork at Castell Garw is now considered to be a henge, part of the Glandy Cross complex (Williams 1984,187). The stones mentioned by the RCAM and accepted by Grimes as the remains of a burial chamber (1936a,no 33) are no longer evident. The hedge-bank that runs across the NE side of the earthwork is faced on both sides by large slabs, and at points on this hedgeline there are accumulations of sizeable stones, presumably the result of field clearance. It would be dangerous to accept Castell Garw as the site of a burial chamber (Daniel 1950,CRM 11), especially in view of the association locally of standing stones with both henges (eg. Nantgaredig, site 110 below) and embanked circles (eg. Meini Gwyr, 500m distant).

Visited June 1986

110. Ffynnon Newydd, Nantgaredig (Llanegwad) SN 495 212    CRM 14    **DAT SMR 1754**

"On the farm of Ffynnon Newydd...stand two erect stones, 6ft [1.8m] and 4ft 6in [1.4m] above ground, and about 9ft [2.75m] distant from each other. They are probably two of the supporters of a removed cromlech" (RCAM 1917,335). These measurements have been quoted consistently (Daniel 1950,CRM 14; Lewis 1974,41) though in reality the stones stand less than one metre apart. Reassessment of the site has revealed that the stones are set axially within the eastern entrance of a class I henge (Williams 1984). A third stone protrudes through the turf just to the NE of the standing pair. It is extremely unlikely that these stones represent the remnants of a burial chamber.

Visited June 1981

"One mile S of Whitland, and about 300ft [90m] above sea level, is a bank known as Rhiw Rosser, on the summit of which is a low oval mound of decidedly sepulchral appearance. This mound was opened about 70 years since, when what is said to have been a large stone chamber, 18ft by 9ft [5.5m by 2.75m], was uncovered at the southern end of the mound. The chamber had an entrance 3ft 6in [1.05m] wide at the SW corner, and the ground level was roughly flagged" (RCAM 1917,92). All further information on this site comes from the OS record card: Grimes considered this to be "a small hut site", and in 1967 a field officer wrote that "the stone structure is unrecognisable as a burial chamber". By 1975 the site had been "bulldozed away...the whole field is under cultivation".

Not visited

"Beddau'r Derwyddon is the name given to two long mounds, 48 ft [14.6m] by 10ft [3.05m] high and 66ft [20.1m] by 15ft 6in [4.7m] high, which are placed just outside a piece of land called Pal y cwrt" (RCAM 1917,250). This is part of a highly misleading description of what are in fact two pillow mounds. The grass covered mounds are rectangular in outline (N 19.5m by 5m, S 16.5 by 4.5m) and less than 1m in height (Evidently at some stage in the preparation of the Inventory the word 'high' was substituted for 'wide'). Each is surrounded by a slight ditch on all sides.

The account of a visit by the Cambrian Archaeological Association to the mounds mentions that "the sides of one cist...remain in situ" (Anon 1855,296). A disturbed area in the middle of the N mound would appear to be the spot from where these slabs [?of a breeding chamber] may have been removed, for none now remains.

Visited June 1986

"Within the great camp is a huge cairn, which has been the subject of ingenious but unconvincing speculations..." (RCAM 1917,427). "The summit cairn...is a mass of rubble some 3m high piled up on a natural crag which accentuates its apparent height when viewed from the NE. It is completely ruinous, showing no trace of revetment or internal structures. In plan it is elongated, 55m by 20m, so that in a literal sense it is a Long Cairn, but the implication of Neolithic associations may well be misleading. The siting of the Carn Goch cairn is very uncharacteristic for a Neolithic Long Cairn, and its condition is such that one would expect some traces of a megalithic facade or internal structures to appear, if any exist" (Hogg 1974,44). Without excavation little more can be said, and while Hogg believes it to be a burial cairn, possibly Bronze Age, it is equally likely to date from the period of construction of the hill-fort.

Visited August 1986

"The possible remnants of two barrows have been observed, fossilized by a road-side hedge, at the southern edge of a field called 'Parc Garn'. Both stand about 1m high, the more westerly being 27m in length, whilst the other measures 31m" (Weeks and Stenger 1985,19). These two elongated mounds are most unconvincing as prehistoric structures, and are more likely to be the remnants of road construction.

Visited November 1986

"Three recumbent stones lie deeply embedded in the soil, their upper surface alone being visible. They are probably the remains of a ruined cromlech, seeing that they are described in Curtis's Antiquities of Laugharne as marking the burial place of some Briton" (RCAM 1917,162). This highly dubious deduction cannot be supported. Three apparently natural stones protrude through the pasture to a height of 0.3m. They

'enclose' a small U-shaped area; a hole has been drilled into the upper surface of the central stone. There is no evidence that these stones ever stood upright, or were part of a larger structure.

Visited November 1986

116. Waun Pwtlyn mound (Llangadog) SN 7087 2600      DAT SMR 4044

This site was first noted by W.J.Hemp - "an elongated mound of rubble and earth orientated in a NE to SW direction, measuring 45yd in length, 23yd in width, and 5 to 7ft in height [40m by 21m by 1.5-2.1m]" (Fox and Bowen 1935,44), and was subsequently listed as a long barrow by Grimes (1936a,no 21). However, natural rock is exposed at several points, especially on the summit and at the higher NE end. The Ordnance Survey regard this mound as a natural feature, probably of glacial origin, and this judgement is confirmed by the Soil Survey (DAT SRF).

Visited June 1986

117. Cerrig Pen Arthur (Llangadog) SN 7223 2440      DAT SMR 5519

"At the farm of Pen Arthur issa are three boulders...they doubtless represent a demolished cromlech, though how its members became so widely separated is not easily explained" (RCAM 1917,426). This site now lies within a forest, high above the Sawdde Fechan river. A single natural boulder, c.1.8m long and much overgrown, lies above an elevated garden wall adjacent to the garage of Pen Arthur farm.

Visited June 1986

118. Gelli Gatti (Cenarth) SN 2945 4164      DAT SMR 2085

Reference is made on Grimes's original 6" map (National Museum of Wales) to a stone group which stood on a low terrace close to the Afon Teifi. The Ordnance Survey records "supposed burial chamber - natural boulders". It is impossible to comment further for no stones of any great size survive in the field or in the slate-faced field-banks.

Visited November 1986

119. Parciau Stones (Cenarth) SN 2970 4110

DAT SMR 2092

"There are two stones, now prostrate, in the field called Parc y maen llwyd; they may possibly have formed part of a cromlech. They are respectively 5ft [1.5m] and 4ft [1.2m] in length" (RCAM 1917,58). The OS field officer found them "now in the corner of the field...one being incorporated in the hedge. They are irregular in shape and are possibly erratics" (OSR 1968). Only one stone is now visible, partially hidden by a dump of tree thinnings; it is a squat block 1.15m long.

Visited November 1986

120. Dyffryn Stones (Henry's Moat) SN 0593 2846 PEM 38 & 39 DAT SMR 1308

"Twelve yards [11m] to the NE [of the cairn-circle called Dyffryn Stones] are three meini hirion, one erect (4ft)[1.2m] and two fallen, which appear to be supporters of the buried cromlech; the latter were upstanding within living memory" (RCAM 1917,313). These three stones are no longer evident; there is no reason to suspect that they were anything more than slabs displaced from the adjacent Bronze Age monument.

Visited May 1988

121. Rosebush (Maenclochog) SN 0748 2945

DAT SMR 19702

There stands between the memorial to the builders of the Rosebush station and a water-filled hollow to the W a most curious structure. A rectangular area, 7.5m by 4m, is enclosed by a number of fallen and upright slabs; a disturbed entrance survives on the W side. This structure would appear to be a folly, probably constructed by an inventive landscape gardener.

Visited November 1986

122. Bryndissel (Llandyssilio W) SN 1168 2213

DAT SMR 915

"This cromlech is a sham, and was erected about 50 years ago. We

saw a man who was at the removal of the capstone from the top of a neighbouring hill" (PAS,Pemb 2NW no 1). The diminutive 'chamber' stands in the garden at Bryn Tyssul - a regular block of stone (1.2 by 1.0 by 0.8m) is raised upon three thin supporting slabs.

Visited November 1986

123. Ffynnonhau (Newport) SN 0736 3706

DAT SMR 1463

"In the NW corner of a little common immediately S of Ffynnonhau house, is a heap of mountain-strewn boulder stones, which has the appearance of being the contents of a ruined cairn" (RCAM 1925,810). "There are a few old boulder walls in the area cited but nothing resembling the remains of a cairn. It is an unlikely site...likely to have been field clearance" (OSR 1966).

Visited March 1987

124. Castell Mawr (Eglwysrw) SN 1159 3789

DAT SMR 951

The Ordnance Survey records "stones of megalithic proportions in bank...largest exposed is 2.5 by 1.2m" (OSR 1974). As the remnants of a megalithic structure the stones are unconvincing - one slab (2.0 by 1.15 by 0.2m), set on edge, is built into the E side of a low hedge-bank. Other smaller stones lean against or lie upon the bank; all would appear to be the result of field clearance.

Visited May 1987

125. Glandwr (Mathry) SM 8660 3201

DAT SMR 2858

"This is close to [Trewalter Llwyd]. It may have been a cromlech, but it was of no great dimensions" (PAS,Pemb 8SE no 2). "The chamber is formed of four stones; those on the E and W sides have a length of 9ft [2.75m] and a height of 3ft [0.9m] respectively; that on the N is 4ft [1.2m] high, and its fellow on the S is 3ft [0.9m] above the surface. The capstone has disappeared. The grave lies due N and S" (RCAM 1925,666).

Grimes (1936a,21), Daniel (1950,206) and the Ordnance Survey (OSR

1966) list this site as an entirely natural feature.

Visited April 1987

126. Holmus (Henry's Moat) SN 0641 2729 PEM 40 DAT SMR 1317

"About 300yds [270m] to the SE of Holmus farmhouse are three prostrate and partially buried stones. They were erect within living memory, and are reported to be the supporting stones of a cromlech, the capstone of which was 'fired' to furnish building material..." (RCAM 1925,314).

The Ordnance Survey (OSR 1966) considers that these "three rather shapeless blocks of stone" are probably erratic boulders. The farmer, having attempted to move them, confirms that they are both natural and deeply seated!

Visited February 1987

127. Cernydd (Maenclochog) SN 0900 2743 DAT SMR 9764

Four large boulders were noticed in stony pasture, appearing to form a three-sided megalithic structure (DAT DRF). The area defined (c.2.7 by 3.2m) was too large to be comfortably roofed by a single slab, and as no evidence of human activity was exposed during the clearance of the boulders, it was concluded that the 'structure' was a natural feature.

Visited February 1987

128. Fagwyr Fran (Puncheston) SN 003 316 DAT SMR 1529

"260yds [235m] NW of the [Fagwyr Fran] maenhir is a line of five striated boulders...the stones, which have an average height of 2ft [0.6m], are not set in the ground but rather stand on it. They may possibly be the remains of a ruined cromlech, of which the capstone has vanished" (RCAM 1925,871). The stones had been removed before the present farmer took up tenancy of the land in 1953. It would seem reasonable to assume that these small stones were either natural or the result of field clearance.

Visited April 1987

Some 130m to the S of the Pentre Ifan burial chamber is a group of stones that have been seen as the possible "remains of a small collapsed dolmen" (Nye 1960, quoted on OSR). However, there is little doubt that they are a natural outcrop with vertical fissuring; the outcrop may have been the source of the stone for the Pentre Ifan chamber (OSR 1966).

Visited March 1987

"On the west slope of the headland facing Fishguard Bay, in the second field NE of Pencwm, is a ruined cromlech, of which the capstone measures 17ft 6in [5.3m] in length, 8ft 3in in breadth [2.5m] and 2ft 3in [0.7m] in thickness. Its supporters have fallen, and the spot is so overgrown as to prevent a careful examination of the chamber. The chamber was erect and perfect some eighty years ago" (RCAM 1925,548v).

The slab was recorded by the PAS (Pemb 4SE no 2) as the "Goodwick rocking stone - this great slab is said formerly to have been a rocking stone. If so it was probably a natural phenomenon". It now lies on a steep slope behind a row of houses at SM 9438 3847; however, the annotated copy of the PAS in Haverfordwest Library shows the stone at SM 9450 3954, so it is possible that the stone has been moved during land improvement on New Hill. Consequently it is difficult to comment upon the RCAM's account beyond saying that the slab is very unlikely to have functioned as a capstone.

Visited May 1987

"The remains of a second-rate cromlech, the natural Carnau or Tors being Meibion Owen, no doubt attracted the prehistoric Cromlech builders" (PAS, Pemb 11NW no 3). The RCAM, however, records two - "the first has three supporters, two erect and one fallen. The erect stones are distant 6ft [1.8m] from one another, and are respectively 95in



[2.4m] and 90in [2.3m] above ground. The prostrate stone is 12ft [3.65m] long and somewhat pointed. Of the capstone there is no trace...to the east of this cromlech, and distant from it 30yds [27m], are the remains of the second. This has one supporter still in situ, standing 90in [2.3m] above ground; it leans slightly towards the east. Another pillar lies flat, and is now partially covered by the turf; at its side is a prostrate boulder which may have been the capstone" (1925, 762).

This report by the fieldworker of the RCAM contains an inexplicable inaccuracy. He clearly did visit the site; the two groups of stones are still easily recognizable. But while the quoted heights are correct, the '6ft' gap between the two uprights of the more northerly formation is an invention - one remains upright, the other leans downhill, but their bases are immediately adjacent. The three stones in this formation would appear to have originally been part of the same vertical outcrop. Similarly there is little to suggest that the second stone group is anything other than a natural feature.

Daniel (1950,206), the Ordnance Survey (OSR 1966) and Lynch (1972, 67) all agree that these rocks are entirely natural in origin; strangely Grimes has accepted at least one of the formations as the remains of a burial chamber (1936a,no 44).

"A flattened pestle mace of Preselite" was found "100yds [90m] east of the site of the Cilgwyn Cromlech, on the western side of Carnedd Meibion Owen" at SN 089 363 (Savory 1963a,165).

Visited March 1987

132. Dudwell Mountain (Camros) SM 9070 2313      DAT SMR 2429

"On the summit of Dudwell Mountain, at BM 583...'Beacon on site of carnedd'...some few stones, of which only three are in their original position, the remains of a demolished cromlech. The capstone has disappeared. The chamber, whose axis is N and S, may have had a length of 5 and a width of 2ft [1.5 by 0.6m]. There are slight traces of the base of a cairn, which had a circumference of about 200ft [60m]" (RCAM 1925,100).

"There are no identifiable remains of a burial chamber, but the

remains of a cairn with a diameter of 20m stand to a maximum height of 1m" (OSR 1966). This site would appear to be the remains of a cisted Bronze Age round cairn. Not visited

133. Llanwnwr (Llanwnda) SM 893 406      DAT SMR 4643

"The field immediately NW of Llanwnwr farmhouse is still known by the name 'Cromlech', but nothing is known of the cromlech which doubtless stood there" (RCAM 1925,578). This name may derive from the 'burial ground' which is noted on OS maps. This consisted of "a number of graves dug into the surface of the rock...not more than a foot [0.3m] in depth...some of them were said to have contained ashes as well as bones" (Anon 1883,344).

Not visited

134. Maen Sigl (St Davids) SM 7326 2773      DAT SMR 2629

"Adjoining the [Maen sigl rocking stone] to the N, and not marked on the 6in OS sheet, are the ruins of a cromlech. The heavy and unshapely capstone covered a chamber measuring about 4ft [1.2m] square, now largely filled up with the material of the cromlech. It has been disturbed..." (RCAM 1925,939). There is no trace of a burial chamber in the vicinity of Maen sigl; the fieldworker for the RCAM would seem to have misidentified a natural feature.

Visited July 1987

135. "Altar Stone" (Mynachlog Ddu) SN 1443 3250      No DAT SMR number

In his book Mynachlog Ddu, a historical survey (1969), E.T.Lewis includes a photograph of an "Altar Stone on Carn Meini". This structure lies amongst the fragmented outcrop on the N side of Carn Meini, and consists of a horizontal slab (2.4 by 1.9 by 0.25m) resting upon two low natural stone blocks. One would assume that the slab owes its positioning to human activity, but the structure is of doubtful archaeological significance.

Visited June 1987

## DISCUSSION

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South-west Wales has become something of an archaeological backwater - despite the Neolithic activity and monuments evident in the area. In a recent wide-ranging survey of the British Isles (Bradley 1984) not one site in the region warranted mention. One might suggest that if it were not for Clegyr Boia, Pentre Ifan, Meini Gwyr and the Preselau 'bluestone' the whole area would be quietly forgotten. For after all, Wales "is but a great peninsula which pushes two horns into the Irish Sea" (Davies 1946,39)!

Pembrokeshire has frequently been described as part of a Neolithic 'Irish Sea community', and the distribution of chambered tombs has suggested to some a sea-borne colonisation of the region (Davies 1945,125;Savory 1980,214;Grimes 1984,123). The 'links' between SW Wales and Ireland have been aired regularly - indeed Savory (1980,219) has suggested that the chambered tombs of western coastal Wales represent a late, secondary settlement of the area by Neolithic people from Ireland. Being reluctant to accept Lynch's contention that Portal Dolmens were being built in Wales at an early date (1976,65-71), Savory supports his late date for the west Wales tombs by highlighting the presence of cremated bones in excavated examples (1980,220-1) and by drawing parallels between the pottery found at Clegyr Boia, and certain chambered tombs, and pottery of "a southern Irish (Lough Gur) late Neolithic style" (1980,227). However, as this style of pottery had a particularly long period of usage (Wainwright 1967,16;Lynch 1976,65), Savory's parallel may yet prove rather selective.

Temporarily dodging the consequences of such parallels, real or imaginary, it is advisable at this point to review our knowledge of the Neolithic of SW Wales as it is revealed by evidence from the region itself.

Mesolithic settlement of what are now coastal areas of S Wales is well documented. In particular, the Pembrokeshire coastline has been well studied, and a radiocarbon date of 4010+-120bc (Q-530) was obtained for Mesolithic flintwork from a submerged forest at Freshwater East (Wainwright 1967,13). The question of Mesolithic survival into the

Neolithic period is unresolved.

At Clegyr Boia (SM 737 252) the rocky summit of a small hill was enclosed by ramparts joining outcrops. Beneath these ?Iron Age defences excavation has revealed the remains of two Neolithic huts and a midden (Williams 1953,24-9). The southern hut (Hut 1) was a rectangular structure, 7m by 3m, while the northern construction (Hut 2) was more ovoid. Amongst the associated pottery three wares can be distinguished (Lynch 1969,170) - comparable styles are known in Cornwall, southern Ireland and central southern England. Animal bones (only Bos identifiable) were recovered from both huts, with limpet shells occurring in the midden. Charcoal of hazel, oak and birch was found in various contexts on the site.

It is unlikely that we know the full plan of the settlement - a third hut, possibly Neolithic, was discovered during earlier excavations by Baring-Gould in 1902 (Williams 1953,23). There are tantalizing glimpses of the processes by which the settlement was abandoned. The northern hut would appear to have been destroyed by fire. Potsherds from its floor refit with sherds discovered in the southern hut, and further sherds from both huts join with vessel fragments found in the midden. This would suggest either an extremely short period of occupation, or perhaps a ritualized abandonment. The settlement is undated.

Deposits of Neolithic material in association with pits are known from three sites. At Coygan Rock (SN 284 092) a sealed pit was found beneath the spill of an Iron Age rampart. The charcoal-flecked soil fill contained sherds from a single pot (a wide-mouthed bowl of thick fabric with a heavy everted rim), eight flints (including a triangular arrowhead), fragments of bone (cattle and sheep), and charred hazel-nut shells. Two polished stone axes and four leaf-shaped arrowheads (flint and chert) were found in the vicinity of the pit. A radiocarbon date of 3050+-95bc (NPL-132) was obtained from the hazel-nut shells (Wainwright 1967,14). These deposits were seen by the excavator as evidence of a Neolithic settlement - the "pit was presumably used for rubbish disposal" (Wainwright 1967,16). It is equally possible that the contents of the Coygan pit represent a deliberate deposit.

Beneath a presumed Bronze Age cairn on Cefn Bryn, Gower (SS 4902 9055), excavation has revealed a miscellaneous collection of features

comprising a curved bedding trench, a pit, a post hole and a hearth. Sherds, apparently with Peterborough Ware affinities, were discovered in association with these features, and the following radiocarbon dates have been determined:

charcoal from pit	2280+-95bc	(Birm 1235)
charcoal from hearth	2010+-100bc	(Birm 1236)
charcoal from posthole	2390+-100bc	(Birm 1237)
burnt hazel-nut shells from posthole	2040+-100bc	(Birm 1238)

(A.Ward 1987 and pers.comm.)

At Plas Gogerddan, Trefeirig (SN 6264 8351), amongst numerous pits and postholes of Bronze Age date, was found a pit filled with charcoal and a carbonised food deposit comprising cereals, apple and hazel nut shell. A radiocarbon date of 2750+-70bc (CAR-994) has been obtained from the charcoal (Murphy 1986 and pers comm 1989;Williams 1988,118).

Further evidence of Neolithic activity within the region comes in several forms.

Neolithic pottery, other than that recovered from chambered tombs, is known from three further sites. At Stackpole Warren (SR 983 951), amongst a homogenized deposit containing Mesolithic, Neolithic and early Bronze Age material, were found four vessels of mid-Neolithic type (D.Benson pers.comm.). One of these is an open bowl with slashed decoration around the rim - the possible "Welsh Abingdon" style (Lynch 1984,108). From caves on Caldey Island have come both plain and decorated examples of Neolithic pottery (Lacaille and Grimes 1961,36-9). The decorated sherds would appear to be part of a "Mortlake" bowl. Further fragments of "Peterborough Ware" have been recovered from a cave near St Govans Head (Savory 1980,223).

The most recently published distribution map of Neolithic artefacts in Wales is that by Savory (1980,fig 2). Stone axe axe finds are evenly distributed throughout SW Wales - this presumably reflects the pattern of settlement, but also the ease with which this particular type of artefact can be recognized by fieldworkers. In contrast the distribution of flint arrowheads is restricted to the southern fringe. This is almost certainly due to incomplete fieldwork - as there are no primary deposits of flint in Wales flint scatters are not expected, and

as a consequence are rarely sought or recognized. As recently as 1984 the finding of "three struck flint flakes" was considered worthy of publication in the CBA Group 2 annual journal (Archaeology in Wales 24,no 6). The scatters are there if fieldworkers look for them; work by the author has revealed amounts of worked flint and chert on many fields on the southern side of the Gower peninsula (unpublished).

The chambered tombs apart, the only other apparently Neolithic field monuments in SW Wales are various circular structures: the embanked stone circles of Meini Gwyr (Grimes 1938) and Letterston (Savory 1963b), and henges such as Ffynnon Newydd (Williams 1984). These monuments are assumed to belong to the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age 'period', though accurate dating evidence is severely limited. Consequently many unsubstantiated parallels have been drawn. Ireland is the favoured 'source' for the embanked stone circles, with similar structures known at the Lios in County Limerick and at Castleruddery in the Wicklow Mountains (Burl 1976,259). The henges have been seen as representing typical Neolithic activity on gravel terraces, such as is seen in lowland England (Williams 1984,185-6).

Finally it is necessary to mention the stone axe 'factories' which petrological studies have indicated must have existed amongst the igneous outcrops of western Pembrokeshire. Group VIII axes may have come from outcrops on Ramsey Island, Group XIII from Carn Meini, and Group XXIII from any one of several 'carns' in the area (Shotton 1972,86-8). These industrial sites have traditionally been seen as mid to late Neolithic in date (Savory 1980,223), and in N Wales, at least, there would appear to have been some relationship between the local henges and the axe "trade" (Houlder 1976,59). However the dating is extremely imprecise, and in S Wales a flake of Group VIII stone was found in the occupation layer at Coygan (Wainwright 1967,14). In Pembrokeshire the extraction and working sites have so far proved elusive.

We must now consider where the chambered tombs fit into this fragmentary picture of the Neolithic in SW Wales. How certain can we be of their date? Eight tombs have been excavated during the past eighty years (Morfa Bychan A, B and D;Twlc y Filiast;Pentre Ifan;Bedd yr Afanc;Carreg Samson;Carreg Coetan Arthur), but we have only one dated

example - at Carreg Coetan Arthur radiocarbon estimations have indicated that construction and activity adjacent to the chamber took place around 2700bc (S.Rees, pers comm).

It has been suggested that a number of sites which have been accepted as megalithic tombs may in fact be large cists exposed by the removal of cairn material (F.Lynch, pers comm). If this is so then these monuments would be similar to the sites listed above in Inventory Section E, and we could expect them to yield Bronze Age rather than Neolithic dates. While this must remain no more than a suspicion until further radiocarbon dates become available, perhaps we should mention two sites where it is conceivable: Morfa Bychan, where four chambered tombs form a small cemetery (cairns A and B both contain closed chambers), and Mynydd Llangyndeyrn, where the two disturbed chambers lie amidst a Bronze Age complex of cairns and standing stones.

Finds from the excavated sites are of little help. As Ward wrote when discussing his work at Morfa Bychan - "the British chambers have proved to be singularly poverty-stricken...at most, the 'goods' have been a few flint objects and bits of coarse pottery. The dozen flints in our southern chamber were riches beyond the average!" (1918,79).

Only three sites merit discussion. The chamber at Pentre Ifan yielded sherds of a shouldered bowl, similar to pottery from Clegyr Boia, while a small triangular flint arrowhead was found beneath the forecourt blocking. Such arrowheads are generally considered to be a late Neolithic artefact, but at Coygan an example was associated with plain ware pottery and a radiocarbon date of 3050+-95bc. Carreg Samson also produced pottery - a hemi-spherical bowl with a simple rim - "Early Neolithic but...not directly comparable with the material from Clegyr Boia" (Lynch 1976,75). Finally, the important excavation at Carreg Coetan Arthur produced four pottery types with evidence of structured deposition. Further discussion of this site must await its final publication, but the excavation seems to confirm that definable "types" of Neolithic pottery do exist in SW Wales. However, at present we lack a chronological framework into which they can be fitted.

Evidence for burial within the eight excavated "burial chambers" is exceedingly slight. "Small fragments of burnt bone" came from a pit in the 'antechamber' at Twlc y Filiast - "these do not amount to more than



the contents of two match-boxes" (Savory 1953,227). At Carreg Samson "a few small pieces of cremated bone" (total weight 1.57g) were discovered at the E end of the chamber (Lynch 1975,23). At Carreg Coetan Arthur patches of cremated bone were found within the chamber, beneath the redeposited sub-soil (in association with ?Abingdon-type pottery), and upon the 'exposed' old ground surface to the S of the chamber (S.Rees, pers comm). No human bone was found at Pentre Ifan, Bedd yr Afanc, or at the Morfa Bychan sites.

The absence of unburnt skeletal material from the excavated chambers is in marked contrast with the situation in SE Wales, where tombs of the Cotswold-Severn type have been shown to contain collective, successive inhumations (Wheeler 1925,72-8;Britnell 1984a,5-6). However this contrast is most probably the consequence of local soil conditions, conditions which in SW Wales have caused the total dissolution of inhumed bone. In N Wales both inhumations and cremations are known (Lynch 1969,table 4). Cremation has been traditionally associated with the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age, but the dates from Carreg Coetan Arthur place its cremated bone deposits firmly in the middle of the Neolithic period.

In spite of the disturbance evident at all the excavated chambers, one is struck by the extreme paucity of any 'burial' deposit. If this lack of bone was to prove real, as opposed to an artefact of post-depositional process, a reassessment of implied chamber function would be necessary. There would be reason to doubt the concept of successive deposition, unless one can envisage periodic 'clear-outs', as was suspected at the Dalladies long barrow (Piggott 1971-2,43). One might also doubt the reality of the megalithic structures as 'burial chambers' - instead they could be seen as places of temporary storage (Kinnes 1975,77), or perhaps as shrines containing only dedicatory deposits of bone (Ashbee 1978,77).

"Too little has been done towards settling this long contested point, whether those frequent relics were sepulchral, sacrificial, foederal or bardical; and the antiquary would not be ill employed in endeavouring to illustrate a subject that has given birth to the wildest and most opposite theories by practical investigation" - wrote Richard Fenton

(1810,30). Sadly, unless an undisturbed deposit is discovered, these problems may prove unresolvable.

So far I have not discussed the typology and distribution of the chambered tombs of SW Wales. Meaningful classification of many of the disturbed sites is impossible, causing Grimes to write - "while I accept them as megaliths, I have neither the courage nor the insight to place them in any particular group" (1936b,114). Certain workers persist with attempts to impose typological classification, typified by Roese (1982,763) who introduces a paper on the topographical location of monuments by drawing a pointless distinction between chambered tombs ("those which can be classified") and burial chambers (those which can "rarely be classified").

This said, the megalithic tombs of S Wales do divide into two broad groups - "a south-eastern and a western; a division part geographical, part typological" (Grimes 1984,136). The SE series would appear to form a regional grouping within the Cotswold-Severn tradition, while the western group "is made up of various forms, with variations in chamber plan and including both long and round cairns" (Grimes 1984,137).

Tombs of western 'type' are found along the northern Pembrokeshire coastline, in the Preselau foothills, across the coastal plain of S Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire, and as far eastward as the Gower peninsula, where the Sweynes Howes cairns (GLA 1 & 2) and Maen Ceti (GLA 3 - Arthur's Stone) show affinities with the 'group' (Grimes 1932b,89; 1984,137). Apart from two (?three) destroyed sites immediately E of Cardigan, there are no sustainable examples in S Cardiganshire (C.Houlder forthcoming).

This apparent lack of sites in Cardiganshire, the limited inland penetration, and other gaps evident in the distribution of chambered tombs (eg. the low-lying land to the NW of Milford Haven) are all in stark contrast with the distribution of Neolithic artefacts, which would suggest activity throughout the region. While destruction of sites may account for some of the gaps, it may be that "the burial practices followed by the upland communities of the interior" (Grimes 1984,136) were completely different from those of the coastal land.

When considering the topographical location of individual burial

chambers, it is difficult to add anything worthwhile to Grimes' conclusion that the megalith-builders favoured "comparatively low-lying sites on valley flanks and spurs - sometimes even valley bottoms" (1936b,114), with certain examples backed "against the outcrops of igneous rock that are a feature of the North Pembrokeshire landscape" (1936a,12). It would be interesting to plot the locations on to maps such as those prepared by the RCAM for the recent Glamorgan Inventory (1976). Soil type and underlying geology were combined to allow a distinction to be drawn between impervious, semi-permeable, and free-draining land. Sadly such maps are not currently available for Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire.

I would suggest that at present detailed tomb typology has little relevance to the majority of burial chambers in SW Wales. Previous writers have described at least three typological groupings of megalithic tomb within the region and I shall now discuss each of these proposed groups.

#### Portal Dolmens

This distinctive chamber type is well recognized in Ireland, Cornwall and coastal Wales. In its (presumed) 'classic' form a generally rectangular chamber is fronted by two matched portal-stones, with a high blocking slab placed at right angles between them. The capstone rests upon the tall portal-stones, and slopes down towards the rear of the chamber where it is supported by a lower back-stone.

While numerous examples of this form of chamber survive in N Wales, Grimes initially could recognize only two such structures in the SW - the splendid Pentre Ifan and the ruined Garn Turne. Grimes noticed that at Pentre Ifan "the side-stones of the portal are not taller than the remaining stones of the chamber" (1936b,122), and wondered whether this stylistic variation had influenced the builders of chambered tombs such as Tresewig, Trellyffaint, Parc y Llyn and Cerrig y Gof, where rectangular chambers with level capstones had "a 'portal' of two pillar stones at one end" (1960,10-13).

Recent champion of the Portal Dolmen has been Frances Lynch, who in a series of valuable papers has discussed many aspects of the portalled

chamber in Wales.

As part of "The Megalithic Tombs of North Wales" (1969) Lynch examined the structural evidence of the Portal tombs of the area, and detected regional variation in chamber design between Lleyrn, Ardudwy and the Conway Valley. Her distribution map for the Irish Sea Area (Lynch 1969, fig 52) showed both "Portal Dolmens", in which group she included Twlc y Filiast and Sweynes Howe N (GLA 1), and "Probable and related sites", which included Maen Ceti (GLA 3).

In "Portal Dolmens of the Nevern Valley" (1972) Lynch reassessed a geographically well-defined group of chambered tombs, and endeavoured to demonstrate a closer cultural link between them than had been previously suspected. Lynch argued that the seven surviving tombs showed how the dominant tradition within the valley was that of the Portal Dolmen, and that regional adaptation had taken place in Pembrokeshire, just as in N Wales.

Carreg Coetan Arthur was seen as a 'classic' Portal Dolmen, a plausible interpretation from surface indications. Pentre Ifan was reinterpreted as a two-phase monument, with the megalithic facade and elongated cairn being added to an original tomb, which had consisted of the Portal chamber set in a small square cairn. At Llech y Dribedd the three-point support of the capstone and the slope of its upper surface (the result of its wedge-like shape) were taken as evidence of the chamber's links with the Portal Dolmen tradition. The main chamber at Trellyffaint was seen as an open-portal chamber, perhaps originally covered by two capstones. In the case of the five chambers at Cerrig y Gof, Lynch agreed with Grimes that the paired entrance stones could be the echo of the portal-stones of the 'classic' tradition. The disturbed chamber at Mountain was described as having fallen supporters of a size "appropriate to a Portal Dolmen", while her brief description of the enigmatic monument at Bedd yr Afanc ended with a plea to Grimes for the full publication of his excavation of the site.

The question of the date of Portal tombs was tackled by Lynch in her paper "Towards a chronology of megalithic tombs in Wales" (1976).

"There are two main fields of argument in establishing that Portal Dolmens were being built in Wales at an early date: one, the typology of the pottery [from the tombs] and the other, the sequence which can

be demonstrated at multi-period sites where the Portal Dolmens are the primary structures" (Lynch 1976,65). The crucial evidence to support this view comes from the two-phase monument at Dyffryn Ardudwy (MER 3). The Western Chamber is a 'classic' Portal Dolmen set in a small oval cairn; a group of five shouldered bowls, of early Neolithic type, was found in a pit within its forecourt. At a later stage the larger Eastern Chamber was constructed, and both it and the entire Western cairn were enclosed by a rectangular cairn (Powell 1973).

While pottery from other sites does not come from such secure contexts, two unexcavated monuments, Carnedd Hengwm S (MER 6) and Tan y Muriau (CRN 13), are suspected of having been enlarged in a manner similar to Dyffryn Ardudwy (Lynch 1969,133). Lynch's suggestion that Pentre Ifan underwent a comparable development has not been universally accepted. Grimes remained unconvinced by the proposed sequence (1986, pers comm), preferring to see the monument as a structural unity, a late example derived ultimately from the Court Cairn tradition of N Ireland (1948,22-3;1960,9).

As with most forms of chambered tomb, the genesis and development of the Portal Dolmen remains unclear - "almost identical monuments may be found in several parts of the Irish Sea province, so a primary area of development has yet to be convincingly demonstrated" (Lynch 1976,65). Certain Irish archaeologists (eg. de Valera, O'Nuallain) would see the Portal Dolmen as a development within the later phases of the Court Cairn sequence; however "there is no real evidence for the derivation of one from the other" (O'Kelly 1981,186). Both Powell (1969,270) and O'Kelly (1981,185) have teasingly demonstrated how easily one can argue for the reversal of the 'perceived' N to S path of diffusion.

To return to SW Wales, how confident can we be that it is an area in which the Portal Dolmen is a common chamber form? It is a startling fact that apart from Pentre Ifan there is not one 'classic' Portal Dolmen which can be identified confidently in all of S Wales.

Various sites have been claimed as Portal Dolmens, but careful assessment renders their identification suspect. At Sweynes Howe N (GLA 1) the putative 'portal' is set transversely at the W end of an oval cairn, and is more likely to represent a collapsed rectangular chamber

(RCAM 1976,30). The double-chambered tomb at Maen Ceti (GLA 3) may indeed have Portal Dolmen affinities, but is far from being a 'classic' example. The height of the three chamber uprights at Twlc y Filiast would have resulted in a level capstone, and with sill-stones only 4in (10cm) high there is no reason to describe this chamber as a Portal Dolmen. It is likely that Garn Turne was never more than an earthfast chamber, and consequently its only link with Pentre Ifan is the irregular facade, the authenticity of which has been doubted (Lynch 1972,71). The two examples claimed for SE Wales (Corcoran 1969,20-1) are dubious identifications (Coity - GLA 7;Y Garn Llwyd - MON 2).

Especial mention must be made of Carreg Coetan Arthur, where the surviving stones have the appearance of a disturbed Portal Dolmen. However, excavation of the site has not confirmed this suspicion (S.Rees, pers comm). While this is not to the liking of certain Portal Dolmen enthusiasts, it does at least excuse them from having to explain its mid-Neolithic date (c.2700bc).

Bereft of 'classic' examples, we are left chasing developed, devolved or derivative forms. Lynch would favour the recognition within the region of 'open portal' chambers, and while I fully accept her considered reappraisal of Trellyffaint, I am less convinced by her interpretation of Llech y Dribedd (Lynch 1972,77-9). Grimes' suggestion concerning rectangular chambers with tall, pillar-like entrance stones is an important one (1960,10), although he is perhaps unwise to apply the concept to sites such as Parc y Llyn, where the low entrance slabs contribute appreciably to the side-walling of the chamber. As a consequence of their design most rectangular chambers will have a pair of entrance stones, but we cannot derive them all from Portal Dolmens.

To conclude this section let me briefly return to that evocative site, Pentre Ifan. I have described earlier in this paper how the chamber and its facade resemble mortuary structures at certain non-megalithic long barrows in eastern Britain. If nothing else this illustrates how difficult it can be to generate genuinely new ideas in the field of megalithic enquiries, for in 1969 Terence Powell wondered whether Portal Dolmens could be "direct versions in stone of a timber prototype carried westwards to the shores of the Irish Sea" (1969,269)!

### Chamber and Passage tombs

The absence from SW Wales of distinctive Passage Graves, such as are known at Bryn Celli Ddu (ANG 7) and Barclodiad y Gawres (ANG 4) in Anglesey (Lynch 1969,110-13), has resulted in the region being quietly ignored whenever the proposed spread of Passage Graves from Iberia/Armorica to the Boyne/Anglesey has been discussed. However, the gradual collapse of the fieldbank to the E of the Hanging Stone megalithic chamber, which exposed the remains of a possible entrance passage, allowed Grimes to record at least one example within the area (1936a,13). He also suspected that polygonal chambers such as Carreg Samson, Carreg Coetan Arthur and Llech y Dribedd were related to the Passage Grave tradition - "but they have either lost, or have never had entrance-passages" (Grimes 1960,10).

Excavation at Carreg Samson has since revealed the traces of a short entrance passage (Lynch 1975,17-19). Lynch would see Carreg Samson, Hanging Stone and Gwal y Filiast as "clear examples of the small 'chamber and passage' tombs which may be found scattered up and down the Irish Sea coasts and in Brittany. The characteristic features of this class are a polygonal chamber, a small round cairn and a short passage, little more than two metres long" (1976,75).

One's initial reaction to this proposal is that the structural similarity between these simple chambers is tenuous evidence on which to postulate cultural links between such widely separated areas. The reality of these links is hardly confirmed by the disparate 'burial' ritual observed at the two excavated examples in SW Britain, for while at Broadsands (Devon) there was evidence of successive inhumation (Radford 1958), Carreg Samson yielded but a small quantity of cremated bone (Lynch 1975,23).

Even given the generous definition of the 'group' proposed by Lynch, the three examples in SW Wales fail to present a uniform 'type'. At Gwal y Filiast the polygonal chamber is entered over a sill-stone, but there are no visible traces of either a passage or a surrounding cairn. At Carreg Samson virtually no cairn survived, and the passage remnant consisted of one definite and two possible stone-holes. While the Hanging Stone best fits the definition, a large slab upon the fieldbank immediately N of the chamber hints at a more complex structure.

However, I would agree with Lynch (1975,31) that at the local level the contrast between polygonal chambers with entrance passages and rectangular chambers with formal portalled entrances does seem to be genuine, and must have been of some social importance.

#### 'Western long cairns'

The concept of this 'group' grew from a recognition of differences between the long cairns of Glamorgan and Breconshire (cairns of the Cotswold-Severn tradition) and those of the Counties of NW Wales (Grimes 1936b,127). The Western group was never easily defined (Grimes 1984,137), and the problems of so doing have been increased with the subsequent recognition of Cotswold-Severn features at sites such as Carnedd Hengwm N (MER 5) and Capel Garmon (DEN 3), and with the realization that others, such as Dyffryn Ardudwy (MER 3) and Trefignath (ANG 1) (Smith 1981), are multi-period monuments.

On the evidence of their megalithic facades, Grimes proposed that Pentre Ifan and Garn Turne were members of this 'group' (1936b,127), and this was seen to be 'confirmed' when excavation at Pentre Ifan exposed the elongated cairn (1948,21). Support for Grimes' favoured 'Irish connection' was provided by the interpretation of Bedd yr Afanc as a Wedge tomb (1936a,14).

Subsequently any monument in SW Wales with a suspected, or proven, oval or otherwise elongated cairn has been ascribed to this group. A distribution map by Savory (1980,fig 4) includes Pentre Ifan, Garn Turne, Bedd yr Afanc, Parc y Llyn, Twlc y Filiast, Cerrig Llwydion and, presumably on the evidence of its 'portal-stones', Tresewig. To these should be added Colston, where a long mound seems probable.

Clearly the long cairn was a recognized part of the megalith-builder's 'repertoire', but whether there are sufficient additional similarities between the monuments concerned to warrant their description as a 'group' seems very doubtful.

I would agree with Savory (1980,fig 4) that the mound and chamber at Gelli (Rhandirmwyn) will probably prove to be an outlier of the Black Mountain group; the 'long cairn' at Waun Pwtlyn is now recognized as a natural feature.



Two further features of the tombs of SW Wales merit attention. While neither is sufficiently distinctive as to constitute a typological class, both are features characteristic of the region.

#### Outcrop sites

"There is a group of sites which are linked together, not so much by the possession of chambers of similar form as by their choice of position. Outcrops of igneous and other rocks...have been chosen by the megalith-builders as the sites under which to build burial chambers" (Grimes 1936b,133-5). Clearly part of the attraction of such sites would have been the ready supply of constructional material, but in several instances the outcrop seems to have been used as dramatic backdrop.

The simplest sites are of 'earthfast' or 'sub-megalithic' type, where the chambered structure is formed by the underpinning of a natural slab by small blocks of stone - Morfa Bychan D and Garngilfach are good examples. While single-chambered tombs are known at such sites (Trellyscoed;Penrhiw;Garngilfach;Carn Wnda;Garn Turne;King's Quoit), it is equally common for there to be two or more separate chambers (Carn Llidi;Carn Wen;Morfa Bychan;Mynydd Llangyndeyrn).

#### Multiple chambers/Multiple cairns

It is clear that there was a tendency for the megalith-builders within the region to have favoured the construction of monuments with multiple chambers, and to have developed sites with several chambered cairns. This tendency contrasts somewhat with the situation recognized amongst the nearest group of chambered tombs, the Cotswold-Severn cairns of Glamorgan and Breconshire. For while there are examples of 'classic' Cotswold-Severn cairns with single (eg. Tinkinswood - GLA 9), multiple (eg. Gwernvale - BRE 7) and subdivided (eg. Parc le Breos Cwm - GLA 4) chambers, the cairns do not occur in close-set groups. Pairs are known (eg. Ffostyll - BRE 3 & 4) but these are rare. In Ireland the Passage Graves occur predominantly in nucleated cemeteries; the 'chamber and passage' tombs of SW Wales show no equivalent clustering.

Cairns with evidence of more than one chamber are recognized at Trelyffaint (2 chambers), Cerrig y Gof (5), St Elvies (2), Parc y Llyn (2), Cerrig Llwydion (?3), Morfa Bychan A (?2), and possibly Hanging Stone (?2). 'Cemeteries' of chambered cairns are known at Carn Wen (3 cairns), Morfa Bychan (?4) and possibly at Llan (?3). At Carn Llidi and Mynydd Llangyndeyrn, both sites at which two chambers survive, it is unclear whether the chambers were covered by a common cairn or stood as separate entities.

Apart from Fenton's account of his investigation of Cerrig y Gof (1810,554-5), where he found only "a trifling variation" between the contents of each of the five chambers, we know very little about either the contents or the activity associated with such chambers. There are several ways in which a site with multiple chambers may have been used - for example, different chambers could have had different functions, or could have had access to them restricted to different sections of the population. Alternatively they may have been used sequentially - such a pattern of use may be the explanation for the apparently two-phase structure of Morfa Bychan A. Here a secondary chamber seems to have been constructed against the perimeter of a primary cairn containing a ?closed central chamber; the additional cairn material which encloses the second chamber has given the final cairn an ovoid outline.

Excavations at Morfa Bychan by Ward (1918) were unproductive; it is doubtful whether much evidence remains to be recovered from the disturbed cemeteries at Carn Wen and Llan. However, a research excavation of a site where an appreciable amount of cairn material survives, such as Parc y Llyn or Trelyffaint, may prove more rewarding.

## CONCLUSION

## CONCLUSION

"Self contained, unexplained,  
The cromlech in the clover field"

(Louis Macniece - "The Cromlech")

It is somewhat disheartening to reach the end of a survey such as this and to realize that one has cast doubt on several long-cherished views without being able to offer viable alternatives. However, the aims of the project were to provide a thorough account of the possible chambered tombs in SW Wales, to draw together the dispersed antiquarian and archaeological descriptions of the sites, and to resurvey those monuments at which chamber-like structures remained. If, with these aims accomplished, there is still insufficient information on which to base a plausible synthesis then surely it is right to take a guarded approach to the incomplete evidence. Bradley (1984,5) has described archaeologists as being "divided between optimists and pessimists"; I think it is clear into which group I could be classified!

At present we are uncertain as to the length of the period during which the chambered tomb tradition flourished in SW Wales. Only one tomb has been dated, and as yet there is no chronology available for Welsh Neolithic pottery. The radiocarbon dates from the four samples at Carreg Coetan Arthur cluster around 2700bc (S.Rees, pers comm); this is broadly comparable with dates from other Neolithic monuments in the British Isles.

In Ireland chambered tombs of Passage Grave type were being built in the Carrowmore cemetery (County Sligo) perhaps as early as 3300bc, whilst the construction of Newgrange took place around 2500bc. Dates from Court Cairns now extend back as far as 3000bc.

In southern Britain non-megalithic long barrows of various forms were erected throughout the period 3200-2400bc. Of the megalithic chambered tombs, the most thoroughly investigated group is that of the Cotswold-Severn region. In SE Wales two Cotswold-Severn cairns have now been dated: at Penywyrldod (Talgarth) a single estimation carried out on human bone from Chamber NEII (Savory 1984,29) yielded a date of 3020+-80bc (HAR-674), whilst at Gwernvale (BRE 7) the excavator believes that

construction and use of the tomb took place within the period 3100-2500bc (Britnell 1984b,142). Shorter periods of use, at least for the purpose of depositing skeletal material, are suspected at two Cotswold-Severn cairns at which multiple radiocarbon estimations have been possible. At Hazleton N (GLO 54) eighteen dates are closely grouped around c.2900bc, and may represent burial over a period of only 150-300 years (Saville, Gowlett and Hedges 1987,111-5). At West Kennet (WIL 4) four dated burials centre on c.2800bc (Gowlett, Hall and Hedges 1986), although the final sealing of this tomb may have taken place up to a millennium later (Piggott and Atkinson 1986).

In the absence of radiocarbon dates, several attempts have been made to construct a relative chronology for the SW Wales tombs by comparing their morphology with chambered tombs elsewhere. This is not as straight-forward as some writers have implied, for though certain tomb types can be recognized in SW Wales (eg. Portal Dolmen, Chamber and Passage, Long Cairn), there is little coherence within the groups so identified. Consequently comparison can only rarely be based on anything more than the structural evidence from a single monument. The morphology of the chambered tombs of the region seems to have been dictated by the irregular nature of the local rocks - neat, stable dry-stone walling is difficult to achieve, and the shape of the chamber is, in most cases, a natural consequence of the shape of the slab chosen by the builders for use as a capstone.

Encumbered by the frequently alleged 'links' with Ireland, and lacking chambered tombs of Cotswold-Severn type, SW Wales has become isolated from the perceived mainstream Neolithic of S Britain. However, with both the discovery in SW Wales of Neolithic pottery with 'English' features ('Welsh Abingdon', Peterborough) and the recognition of henge monuments within the region, this exclusion may prove to have been premature.

Indeed our perception of the Neolithic in general is undergoing a rapid reappraisal in response to evidence generated by a number of important excavations. I have already mentioned the short internal chronology now suspected at certain chambered tombs - sites which were previously thought to have functioned as ossuaries in which skeletal material accumulated over many centuries. I should like to consider

briefly one other concept that is of increasing importance, that of structured deposition.

"A place for everything, and everything in its place" wrote Samuel Smiles (1875, Thrift). It is now clear that just such a process was in operation at many non-domestic Neolithic sites. Such sites were carefully supervised, with control maintained over both what was deposited within and excluded from particular contexts. It is becoming increasingly difficult to dismiss apparently 'stray' finds as having been 'misaid' or 'casually discarded'.

Patterned deposition is a feature frequently recognized within the chambers of many megalithic tombs (eg. Piggott 1962, 21-30; Sharples 1985, 67-9), and this gives us an insight into how the completed monument may have functioned. However, one could easily argue that the distribution of bone and artefacts, as revealed by excavation, simply represents the arrangement left by the final visitor to these reaccessible structures. Consequently, recent work which has shown that structured deposition also took place during the construction of Neolithic monuments is of great significance.

The chambered mound known as Les Fouaillages on the island of Guernsey was excavated between 1979 and 1981 by Ian Kinnes. At one point in its multi-phase history an elongated turf mound was constructed around the axial burial structures. Considerable amounts of ?midden material were included within this mound, and although this was introduced in basket-sized loads it was a far from haphazard process. There was a clear division between the N and S sides of the mound - while one side contained clean worked flint and unabraded pot-sherds, the other contained only dirty and degraded pieces of flint and pottery (I. Kinnes, pers comm).

At the Etton causewayed enclosure excavations have revealed that the interior was divided into funerary and non-funerary halves. The excavator, Francis Pryor, now believes that the interrupted ditch was never open around its entire length at the same time (1987, 79). Activity within the funerary area was episodic, and probably short-lived; a segment of ditch would be dug, deposits (which included human skull fragments) placed upon the clean gravel bottom, and the excavation backfilled with further placed deposits being included within the fill.

These two examples illustrate how structured deposition could take place during the construction of certain Neolithic monuments, and as such form an important part of the total 'ritual' use of a site. Should 'ritual' activity during construction prove to be an important feature at other Neolithic monuments then it may well provide a partial explanation for the unexpectedly early abandonment of what were clearly significant sites. Comparable detail is not yet available from constructional contexts at Neolithic sites in SW Wales; however, we have at Carreg Coetan Arthur, with its patterned deposits of pottery, perhaps the first evidence for structured deposition at the chambered tombs of the region.

The chambered tombs of Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire represent a valuable resource, one of the few available indicators of Neolithic activity in the area. In spite of the efforts of statutory bodies such as Cadw, damage to the sites continues. In the majority of cases this is the result of ignorance - a new tenant takes over a farm, and uninformed of an existing scheduling arrangement removes stones which obstruct his machinery (eg. Trehywel). Other farmers, while they may respect and conserve visible chamber remnants, will plough right up to the orthostats (eg Tresewig, Penrhiw), possibly disturbing deposits such as were found outside the chamber at Carreg Coetan Arthur.

If the present system of scheduling continues unaltered, future generations may be left with a group of sterile relics, stripped of potential information. The scheduled area at any particular site must be more rigidly defined, if necessary by fencing, so as to protect any surviving ancient ground surface. A 'deed of scheduling' should be given to the occupier of the land - a legal document which would define the scheduled area and explain the consequences of the scheduling. The occupier would be required to ensure that the subsequent owner/occupant of the land received the document.

If adequate protection for the chambered tombs cannot be assured, then we should consider the early excavation of damaged or threatened sites to salvage the evidence that currently survives.

Chambered tombs apart, it is difficult to see how our knowledge of the Neolithic in SW Wales can advance except by good fortune. While

there must have been many settlements within the area, they are notoriously difficult to locate. Indeed many Neolithic buildings have been discovered only by chance during the excavation of overlying or adjacent structures (eg. Clegyr Boia, Lismore Fields, Ballyglass, Llandegai). Certain flint scatters may well reflect Neolithic activity, but associated settlements remain elusive.

Few people can remain unimpressed by the size, complexity and antiquity of chambered tombs such as Maes Howe, Newgrange and West Kennet; there is, perhaps understandably, less concern for a tumbled cairn with the occasional protruding slab. This is sad, for excavation throughout Britain has shown how each site is an unique record of Neolithic activity, and consequently how important it is that we protect every chambered tomb from unnecessary damage. This lack of concern for the less impressive sites is not a new phenomenon, as will be seen in this final quotation from Richard Fenton's Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire, in which he describes, with heavy irony, the fate of the burial chamber at Temple Druid - "a large Cromlech, or supposed Druid altar, now destroyed and removed, the farm-yard having superseded the mystic precinct, and a dunghill the Temple of the Druid...Before it was removed, it had for some time served the disgraceful office of a pigsty; but before its final destruction, I was told, had been advanced to the more honourable rank of a receptacle for calves" (1810,352).



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