



DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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DINEFWR CASTLE

EXCAVATIONS FOR GATEHOUSE WALL SHORING (Dyfed Project Record No. 33208)

July 1996

Report prepared for Cadw by I M Darke and D H Wilson

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1.0 Circumstances of the excavation

Dyfed Archaeological Trust were notified by Sian Rees, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Cadw, of the proposal to install shoring at Dinefwr Castle (Dyfed PRN 882; SAM No. Carms. 29), in June 1996. The shoring is intended to buttress the west wall of the stairs east of the entrance to the Inner Ward, and to provide a protected 'tunnel' walkway up the ramp from the entrance.

The excavation of four pits was required to contain the concrete thrust pads that are to be used in conjunction with the shoring. The pits were to be located along the higher level east of the ramp and thus in an area of the Inner Ward of great archaeological sensitivity. It was therefore decided that they were to be hand-excavated.

Further to a site meeting, Dyfed Archaeological Trust were requested by Cadw to undertake the excavation and recording work. The work took place 8-9 July 1996.

2.0 Methodologies and results

2.1 Methodologies of the excavation

Four pits were hand-excavated in the locations shown in Fig 3.2, agreed between Cadw and the consulting engineers, Preece Thomas Partnership . Each pit was dug according to the brief and measured 1.4m NE-SW by 0.7m NW-SE, and were excavated to a depth of 0.68m but with a 'V'-shaped profile.

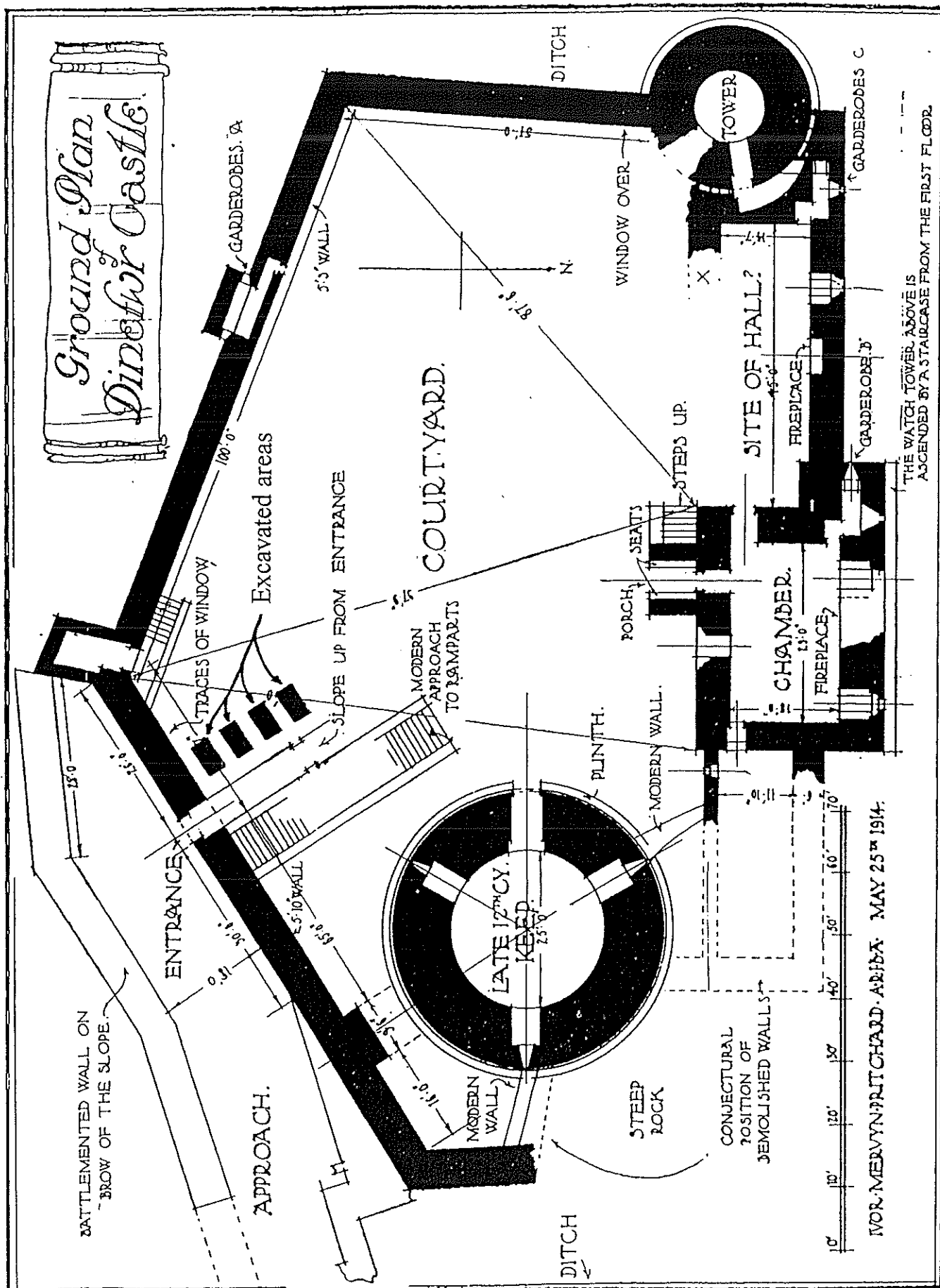
The sections of the pits were drawn and photographed, and a descriptive written record made. It was not intended that a detailed analysis of the excavation or of the artefacts would be submitted, though finds would be processed for archive storage.

A short archive report was requested; Cadw will be supplied with four copies of this report.

2.2 Results of the excavation

Each pit displayed an identical sequence of deposits. The upper 0.22m consisted, in section, of dark brown topsoil containing 20% angular rubble. The lower 0.46m consisted of brown silty clay loam containing 50% angular rubble. The section shown in Fig. 3.3 is representative of all the sections.

No archaeological features were observed, and nowhere was a surface present. The deposits appear in character to be post-medieval; however no finds were encountered during the excavations.



(From RCAHM(W), Carmes, 1914)

Figure 3.1

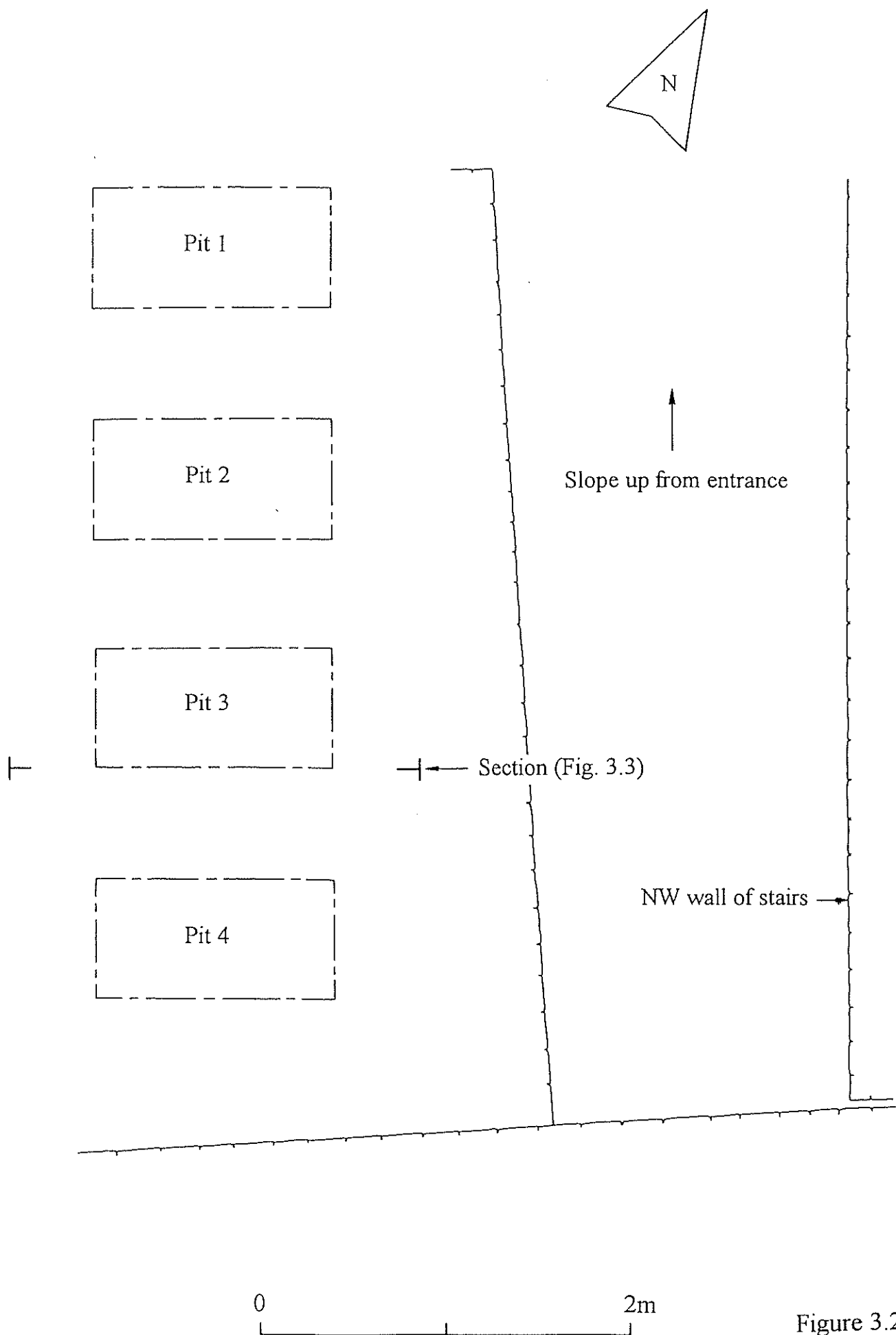


Figure 3.2

SW +

NE +

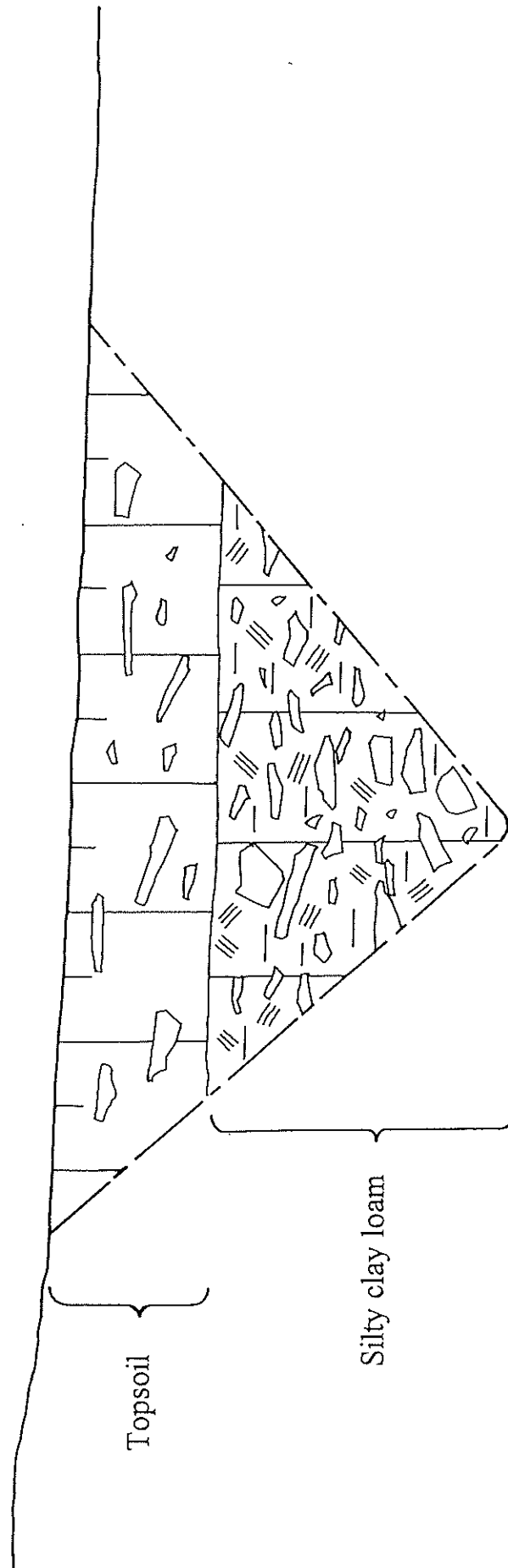


Figure 3.3