

PREHISTORIC FUNERARY & RITUAL SITES PROJECT

**SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE 2003
INTERIM REPORT**



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INTERIM REPORT

By

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Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites project

INTERIM REPORT

March 2003

Introduction

During the first year of the Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites (PFRS) project in 2000-2001 Cambria Archaeology (Dyfed Archaeological Trust) undertook a rapid assessment of the form and condition of known Neolithic and Bronze Age funerary and ritual sites from the area of west Carmarthenshire as extracted from the regional Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). As a result of the fieldwork part of this project a further 23 new sites were identified and added to the SMR, the vast majority of which were round barrows. A number of new hierarchical records were also created (prehistoric monument complexes, round barrow cemeteries, etc.) which further enhance our knowledge of the potential patterns of distribution and association of different types of prehistoric funerary and ritual monuments within this particular region of south-west Wales.

For the second year of this project in 2001-2002 Cambria Archaeology chose to focus on the area of east Carmarthenshire, comprising the Llanelli and Dinefwr districts of the modern political county of Carmarthenshire, as the logical next phase of the PFRS project. The main reason behind this choice was the intention to have completed the project within an entire county area by the end of March 2002, with a view to submitting a publication to a local journal (Carmarthenshire Antiquaries) shortly afterwards.

However, as a result of the outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease, the beginning of the fieldwork phase of the PFRS project in east Carmarthenshire was postponed until October 2001, thereby significantly reducing the amount of time available to fully complete the east Carmarthenshire part of the project during its second year. After the initial desk-based assessment was completed for east Carmarthenshire during the first quarter of the financial year, attention was then focussed on the desk-based assessment for subsequent years of the PFRS project, resulting in the preparation of the Pembrokeshire project database, comprising the South Pembrokeshire and Preseli districts during the second quarter.

The fieldwork phase of the project resumed in the autumn of 2001 and visits were made to all prehistoric funerary and ritual monuments in the east Carmarthenshire area during subsequent months. After a period of maternity leave during which time the remaining fieldwork in the upland areas of east Carmarthenshire was completed (summer 2002), a co-authored report for east Carmarthenshire was produced in the last quarter of the financial year 2002-2003.

Also within the last quarter of the last financial year field visits were made to all sites extracted from the SMR for the district of South Pembrokeshire (excluding sites from place-name and documentary sources, and a few others noted below (p.3)) following the refinement of the database resulting from the desk-based assessment in 2000.

PFRS project South Pembrokeshire

Methodology and results of the desk-based assessment

The SMR was interrogated to produce a project database of all sites which potentially fell into the category of Neolithic and Bronze Age funerary and ritual monuments within South Pembrokeshire. Included within this were all sites which have been positively identified as belonging to a known set of monument types relevant to the project (e.g. round barrows, standing stones, etc.) as well as including those sites for which there may be alternative classifications (e.g. standing stones which may be rubbing stones, etc.). In the initial search those sites recorded from documentary sources and place-name evidence alone were also incorporated into the database, as were both known destroyed sites and those listed as cropmarks or 'other' (e.g. findspots, landforms). The various site types extracted from the regional SMR are listed in Table 1 and largely compare with those drawn from the initial assessment of the east and west Carmarthenshire areas in years 1 and 2 of the PFRS project.

Table 1 Site types initially extracted from the SMR for south Pembrokeshire

SITE TYPE / CONDITION	A	B	C	D	E	M	U	Crop	Docs	Finds	Place	Total
Barrow cemetery	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Barrow cemetery?	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Chambered tomb	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Chambered tomb?	0	0	1	2	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	7
Chambered tomb cemetery	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Chambered tomb cemetery?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Cist grave cemetery	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Clearance cairn?	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cremation cemetery?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Cup marked stone	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Finds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	125	0	126
Henge?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inhumation	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	0	5
Inhumation?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Inhumation-mass?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Ring barrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Ring barrow?	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Ring cairn?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Round barrow	0	15	17	7	4	0	6	0	2	0	0	51
Round barrow reuse	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Round barrow?	0	0	6	5	1	0	9	0	2	0	7	30
Round barrow?;Spoil tip?	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Rubbing stone?;St. stone?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Standing stone	1	4	0	0	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	12
Standing stone?	0	1	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	24	31
St stone?;Navigation marker?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
St stone?;Rubbing stone?	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Stone circle?	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	1	23	32	17	13	2	29	1	10	131	31	290

As can be seen from the above table, the number of sites to be visited in the South Pembrokeshire district totalled 159, after those sites whose condition was recorded as

'finds' had been removed. However, this number included a provision for visiting all place-name sites, sites noted from documentary sources and those currently recorded as 'destroyed', but if those too were removed from the database, the number of sites to be visited was reduced to 105.

Fieldwork

The fieldwork phase of the project began in January 2003 and continued into February. All sites requiring a field visit were visited where possible (with landowners' consent) with the exception of the handful of sites on Caldey Island and those on the Castlemartin firing range. It is expected that a Tir Gofal visit to Caldey will take place in the next two weeks, and the remaining PFRS sites will be assessed then. Permission to go onto the Castlemartin range (owned by the MoD) was not given in the last quarter of the last financial year because of the war with Iraq but it is hoped that these sites will be visited now when fieldwork begins in North Pembrokeshire (Preseli) district, scheduled to start in June 2003.

Currently the information gathered during the fieldwork phase is being assessed and added to the project database, and it is intended that the sites of South Pembrokeshire will be included within a single volume report covering Pembrokeshire as a whole. This will be produced once the fieldwork for the Preseli district has been completed and should be ready by the end of the current financial year.

The writing-up of the South Pembrokeshire field visits is close to completion, and three new sites have been discovered (two standing stones and one round barrow), as well as a number of group PRNS (round barrow cemeteries, prehistoric monument complexes, etc.) having been assigned to relevant groups of individual monuments.

Proposed schedule of work for 2003-2004

The writing-up of the South Pembrokeshire field visits will be completed shortly, and it is also intended that an article summarising the results of the PFRS project in Carmarthenshire as a whole will be written and submitted to a local journal (*Carmarthenshire Antiquaries*) for publication.

The desk-based assessment of the Preseli district was completed during 2001 and the results of the interrogation of the SMR are shown in Table 2 overleaf. In keeping with previous years' methodologies, the SMR was interrogated to produce a project database of all sites which potentially fell into the category of Neolithic and Bronze Age funerary and ritual monuments within the Preseli area. Included within this were all sites which have been positively identified as belonging to a known set of monument types relevant to the project (e.g. round barrows, standing stones, etc.) as well as including those sites for which there may be alternative classifications (e.g. round barrows which may be burnt mounds, standing stones which may be a boundary stones, etc.), of which there were many. In the initial search those sites recorded from documentary sources and place-name evidence alone were also incorporated into the database, as were both known destroyed sites and those listed as cropmarks or 'other' (e.g. findspots, landforms).

Table 2 Site types initially extracted from the SMR for North Pembrokeshire (Preseli)

SITE TYPE / CONDITION	A	B	C	D	E	M	U	Crop	Docs	Other	Place	Total
Barrow cemetery	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Barrow cemetery?	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Cairn	3	0	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	10
Cairnfield	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cairnfield?	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Chambered tomb	0	11	12	8	4	0	2	0	1	0	0	38
Chambered tomb cemetery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Chambered tomb?	0	4	7	7	3	1	2	0	9	0	1	34
Ch tomb?;Megalithic structure	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ch tomb?;Standing stone?	0	1	1	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	6
Ch tomb?;Stone pair?	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Ch tomb?;Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Chapel;Cist grave cemetery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Cist	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Cist grave cemetery	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	3
Cist grave cemetery;Church	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Cist?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Cist?;Round barrow?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Clearance cairn	2	8	5	1	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	29
Clearance cairn?	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	4
Clearance cairn?;Round barrow?	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cremation	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1 find	0	3
Cremation cemetery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 find	0	1
Crem cemetery?;Rnd barrow?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Cremation;Round barrow?	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cremation?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 find	0	1
Cremaation?;Round barrow?	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cursus?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Enclosure;Henge?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Finds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	219 finds	0	220
Henge	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Henge?	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Henge?;Vallum enclosure?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Hengiform monument?	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Inhumation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Megalithic structure	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Megalithic structure?	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Pit circle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Ring barrow	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Ring barrow?	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	5
Ring barrow?;Encl settlement?	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Ring barrow?;Hut circle	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Ring cairn	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ring ditch?;Ring barrow?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Ritual complex	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Ritual monument?	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Round barrow	1	14	41	19	15	0	3	1	4	0	0	98
Round barrow reuse	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Round barrow;Standing stone	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Round barrow?	0	4	10	6	2	0	8	1	9	1 find	64	105
Round barrow?;Burnt mound?	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Round barrow?;Clearance cairn?	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Round barrow?;Motte?	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4
Round barrow?;Rabbit warren?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Round barrow?;Ring barrow?	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Rnd barrow?;Rnd barrow reuse?	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Round barrow?;Spoil tip?	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2

continued

SITE TYPE / CONDITION	A	B	C	D	E	M	U	Crop	Docs	Other	Place	Totals
Round barrow?;St stone?	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Round barrow?;Well?	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Scoop grave?;Weapon pit?	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Standing stone	8	34	4	1	5	4	7	0	7	0	0	70
Standing stone;Ritual complex	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Standing stone?	10	14	3	0	10	3	9	0	10	2 landform	111	172
Standing stone?;B'dary stone?	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Standing stone?;Ch'd tomb?	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
St stone?;Commemorative stone?	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Standing stone?;Modern feature	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Standing stone?;Rubbing stone	0	1	0	0	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	11
Standing stone?;Stone pair?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Stone avenue?	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Stone circle	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	4
Stone circle?	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	7
Stone circle?;Clearance cairn?	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Stone circle?;Field system	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Stone circle?;Meg structure?	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Stone circle?;Round barrow?	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Stone circle?;Standing stone?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Stone pair	1	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Stone pair?	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Stone pair?;Stone row	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Stone pair?;Unknown	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Stone row	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Stone row?	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	7
Stone row?;Field boundary?	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	26	119	98	53	53	9	82	10	59	227	186	922

As can be seen from the above table, this area contains a large number of sites, of which at least 388 would ideally require a field visit (after finds, 'landform', 'destroyed', 'moved', place-name and documentary sites are removed from the total).

The fieldwork phase of the project should also help to eliminate some of the more bizarre multiple classifications for sites (e.g. stone row?;field boundary, etc.) which currently exist within the database. It is also expected that a large number of new hierarchical 'group monument' PRNS will be created for the Preseli database, which will assist the interrogation of the SMR for associated complexes of monuments.

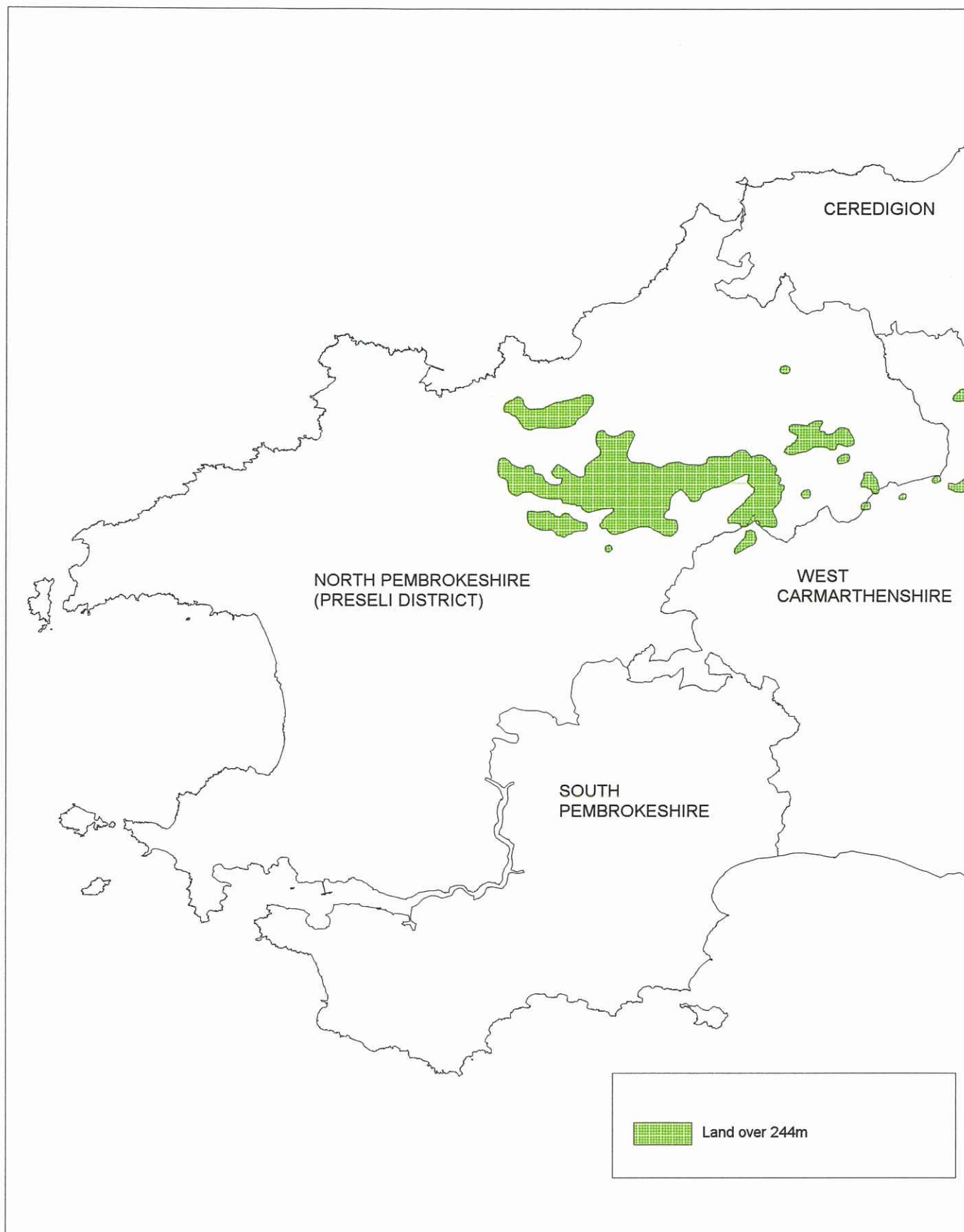


Figure 1 Location of the south Pembrokeshire and Preseli study area

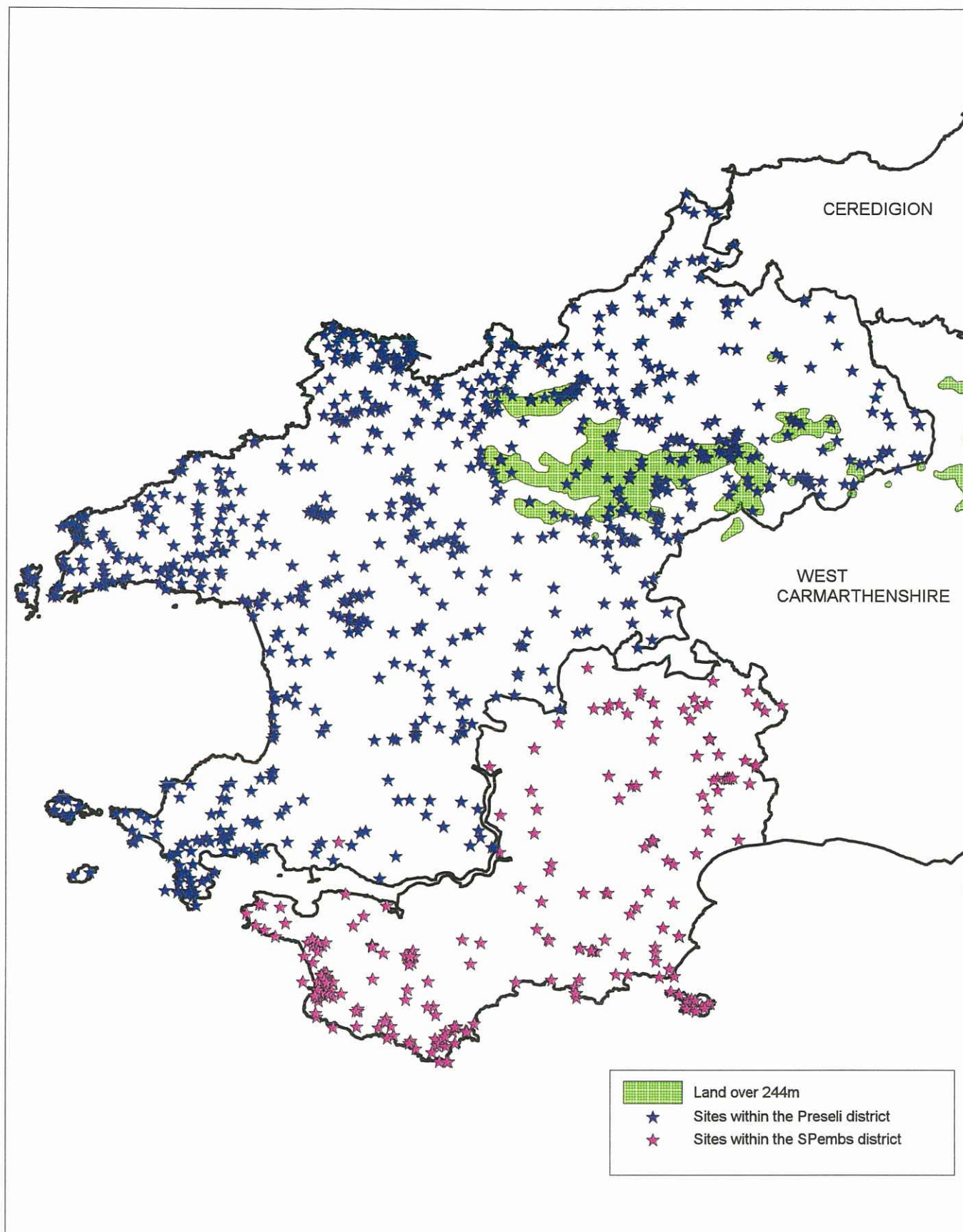


Figure 2 Map demonstrating the respective distributions of all sites in the two Pembrokeshire districts of S Pembs & Preseli

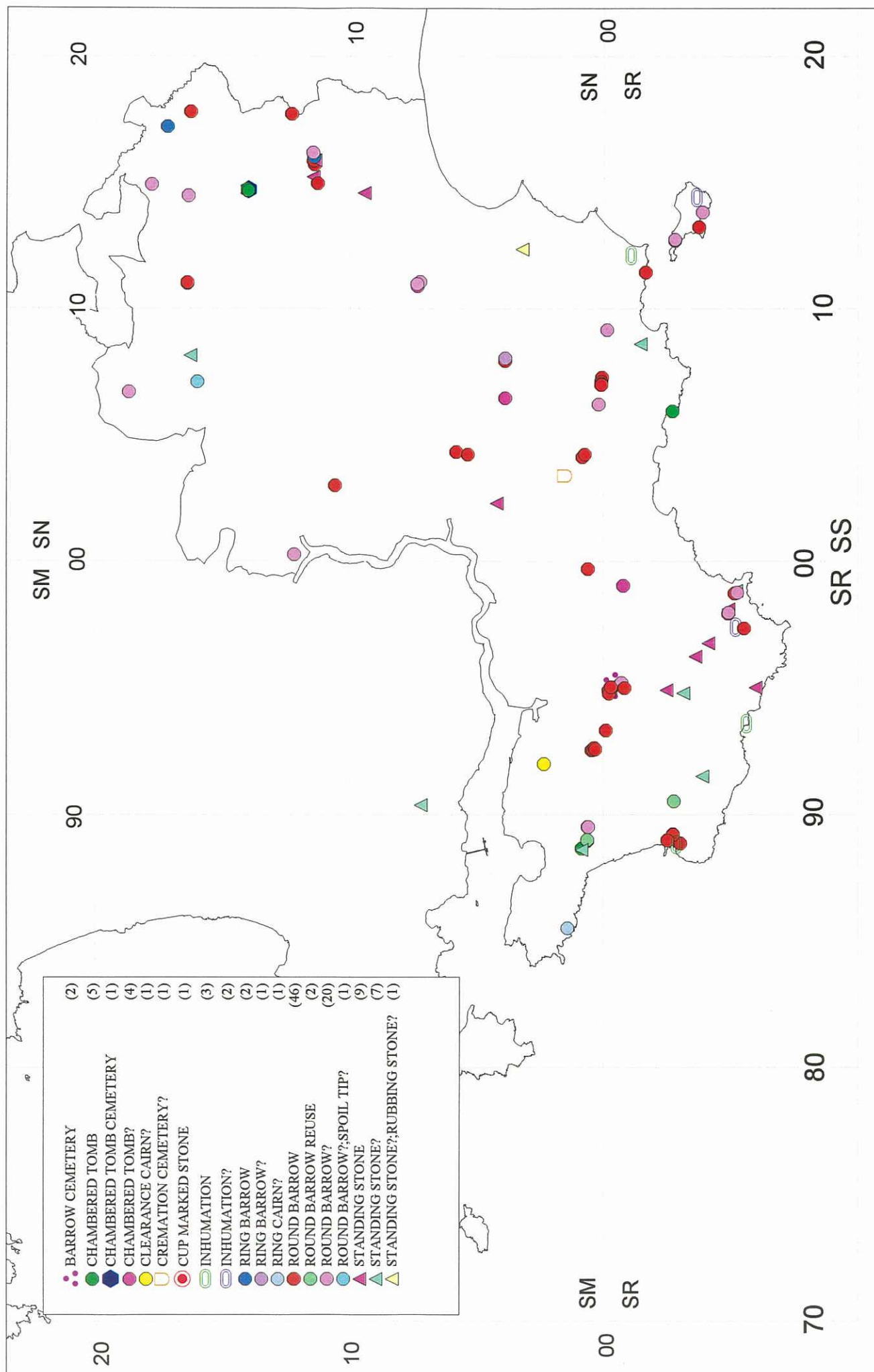
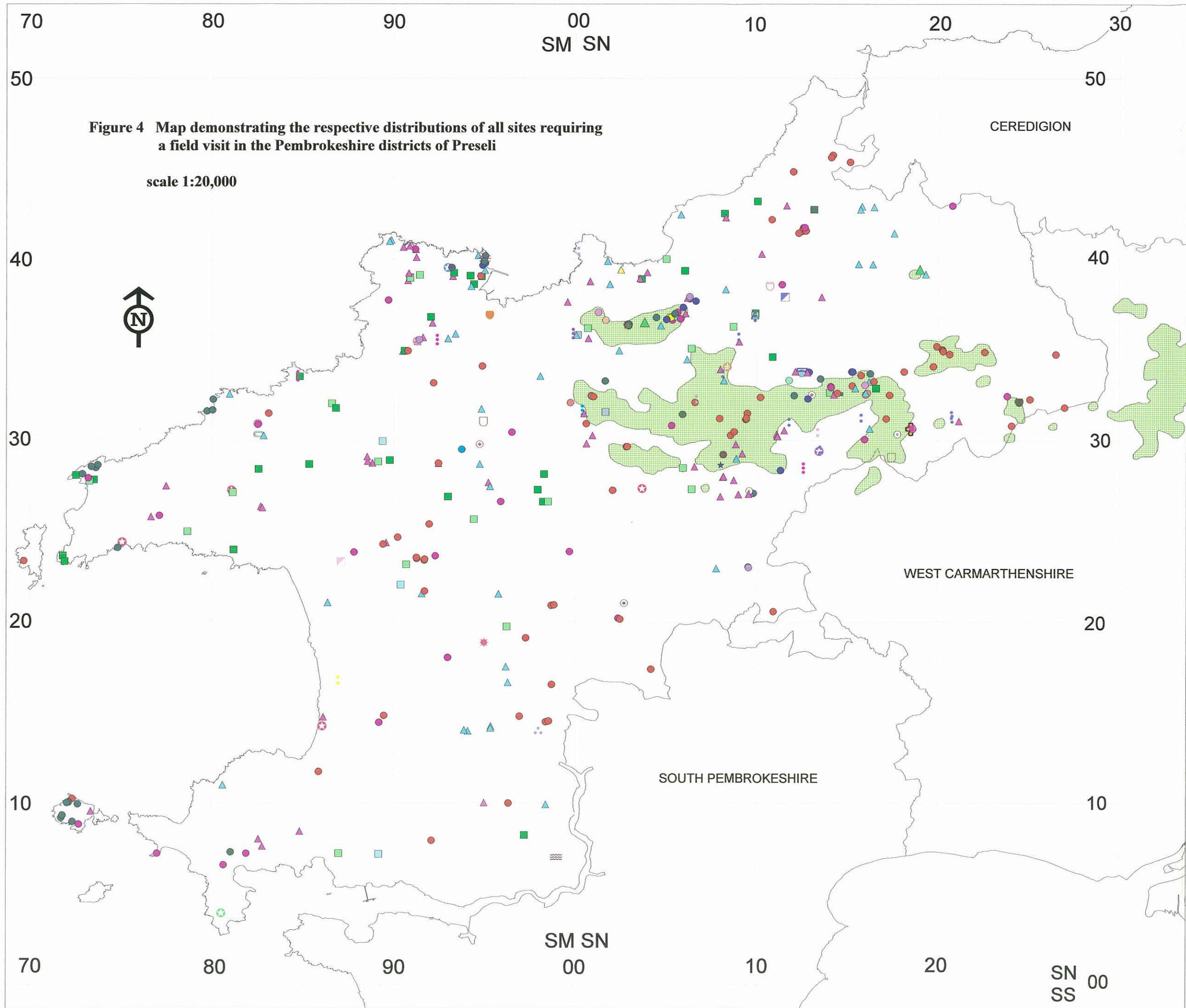


Figure 3 Map demonstrating the respective distributions of all sites in the Pembrokeshire district of S Pems scale 1:20,000



- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| Barrow cemetery | (1) |
| Barrow cemetery? | (1) |
| Cairn | (10) |
| Cairnfield | (1) |
| Cairnfield? | (1) |
| Chambered tomb | (33) |
| Chambered tomb? | (21) |
| Chambered tomb?;Megalithic structure | (1) |
| Chambered tomb?;Standing stone? | (3) |
| Chambered tomb?;Stone pair? | (2) |
| Cist | (2) |
| Clearance cairn | (29) |
| Clearance cairn? | (3) |
| Clearance cairn?;Round barrow? | (1) |
| Cremation | (2) |
| Cremation cemetery | (1) |
| Cremation cemetery?;Round barrow? | (1) |
| Cremation? | (1) |
| Cursus? | (1) |
| Enclosure?;Henge? | (1) |
| Henge | (1) |
| Henge? | (1) |
| Henge?;Vallum enclosure? | (1) |
| Hengiform monument? | (1) |
| Inhumation | (1) |
| Megalithic structure | (1) |
| Megalithic structure? | (1) |
| Pit circle | (1) |
| Ring barrow | (3) |
| Ring barrow? | (4) |
| Ring barrow?;Enclosed settlement? | (2) |
| Ring barrow?;Hut circle? | (1) |
| Ring cairn | (1) |
| Ring ditch?;Ring barrow? | (2) |
| Ritual complex | (1) |
| Ritual monument? | (1) |
| Round barrow | (79) |
| Round barrow re-use | (1) |
| Round barrow;Standing stone | (1) |
| Round barrow? | (29) |
| Round barrow?;Clearance cairn? | (2) |
| Round barrow?;Motte? | (1) |
| Round barrow?;Ring barrow? | (1) |
| Round barrow?;Spoil tip? | (2) |
| Round barrow?;Well? | (1) |
| Scoop grave?;Weapon pit? | (2) |
| Standing stone | (58) |
| Standing stone;Ritual complex | (1) |
| Standing stone? | (39) |
| Standing stone?;Boundary stone? | (2) |
| Standing stone?;Chambered tomb? | (1) |
| Standing stone?;Commemorative stone? | (1) |
| Standing stone?;Modern feature? | (1) |
| Standing stone?;Rubbing stone? | (11) |
| Stone avenue? | (1) |
| Stone circle | (1) |
| Stone circle? | (4) |
| Stone circle?;Clearance cairn? | (1) |
| Stone circle?;Field system? | (1) |
| Stone circle?;Megalithic structure? | (1) |
| Stone circle?;Round barrow? | (2) |
| Stone pair | (7) |
| Stone pair? | (2) |
| Stone pair?;Stone row? | (1) |
| Stone pair?;Unknown | (1) |
| Stone row | (2) |
| Stone row? | (3) |
| Stone row?;Field boundary? | (1) |

Land over 244m

**PREHISTORIC FUNERARY & RITUAL SITES PROJECT
SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE 2003
INTERIM REPORT**

REPORT NUMBER 200362

MAY 2003

This report has been prepared by Nikki Cook

Position Project Manager

Signature N.D. Cook Date 28/05/03

This report has been checked and approved by Ken Murphy on behalf of Cambria Archaeology,
Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Position Principal Archaeologist-Field Operations

Signature  Date 28/05/03

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

