

APRIL 2003



# ABERSTRINCELL LIMEKILNS

## Archeological Survey



Report No. 2003/45

Report Prepared for:  
CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2003/45  
PROJECT RECORD NO. 47782

APRIL 2003

Aberstrincell Limekilns  
Archaeological Survey

By

Simon Wardle

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### **Summary**

An archaeological survey, Project Record Number 47782, was undertaken at Aberstrincell Limekilns in Ceredigion, SN519684 (SAM No. CD155(CER)). The work was undertaken by Cambria Archaeology on behalf of Ceredigion County Council in February 2003.

The survey consisted of a rapid photographic record of the kilns at Aberstrincell, using black & white medium format and 35mm slide and digital colour formats. Outline elevations of the kilns were prepared, as well as a plan showing the layout of the kiln complex.

### **Objectives**

To undertake a rapid photographic survey of the kilns prior to any repair work.

### **Methodology**

The site work was undertaken over a one day period in February 2003 and consisted of a general photographic, drawn, and written record. Photographs were taken of each major elevation of each limekiln as well as important architectural and structural details. A plan showing the layout of the kilns as well as outline elevations showing major structural features were drawn at a scale of 1:50 on permatrace.

As this site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (No. CD155(CER)), a good basic written description of each kiln and the kiln complex already exists. The limekilns were first visited and described by Cadw in 1993, and since then have been visited three times by Cadw as part of a programme of monitoring under a Management Agreement between Cadw and the Dyfed Wildlife Trust. The numbers used in the SAM description to identify each kiln have been incorporated into this report.

Due to the physical nature of the site, a dense border of blackthorn scrub runs along most of the northern edge of the limekilns, some of the elevations and features could not be fully recorded either photographically or by drawing.

### **Summary of Results**

The limekiln complex of Aberstrincell (or Graiglas) consists of four rectangular stone built limekilns arranged in a line (or a battery) facing seaward (north north west) side built into an earth bank to their rear. The battery consists of two single and one double kiln each with 3 pointed drawing arches with flat lintels. The battery is contained within a stone walled enclosure with ancillary buildings.

The kilns are constructed from large stone blocks and knapped cobbles. They have much larger stones forming quoinstones to the main north east and south west corners. Linking each kiln structure are stone revetment walls, these have large projecting stones built into the fabric of the wall forming steps to give access from the lower level of the draw hole up onto the top of each kiln.

Located approximately 20 metres to the south of kiln 4 is a square stone walled enclosure with a wide iron gated entrance in its north east side. It is shown on both the first (1891) and second (1906) edition Ordnance Survey maps as an open structure and it is probable that this was always an unroofed yard space. There is further evidence of structures to the north east, and are shown as

buildings on the early Ordnance Survey maps at the head of a lane leading to the kilns from the main coast road.

A mention of limekilns at Aberstrincell is first made in 1796, and the main limekiln operation would appear to have been developed during the 19<sup>th</sup> century by David Morgan, a plan of 1850 showing six kilns on the site.

(from R C Turner, SAM Visit Description text)

Kiln 1: This is perhaps the most modern kiln on the site as it has been added to the west face of kiln 2. It has a later buttress on its rounded north east corner and its chamber is infilled. The drawing arches between kilns one and two form a T-shape with the vaulted arm between the two kilns having partly collapsed.

Kiln 2: This is buttressed on the south west corner, and its chamber is overgrown. The draw hole openings are capped with a course of brickwork supported by a heavy iron band.

Kiln 3: This has two buttresses on its south west corner and the chamber is infilled. There are iron grating bars and brickwork surviving in the draw hole openings.

Kiln 4: This is the most ruinous and its chamber has collapsed. This reveals an interior with a vitrified cobble lining and several iron bands to give additional support.

Throughout, the fabric of the kilns is in a fair to poor condition, areas of facework have collapsed and the condition of wall caps and buttresses has deteriorated. Although the site is covered by a Cadw management agreement, the surrounding vegetation is beginning to encroach around the structures and the linking revetment walls.

### **Summary of Recommendations**

Comparison with photographs taken in May 1993 show that there has been little change to the masonry fabric of the limekilns in ten years, structural cracks and wall tops appear largely unchanged. This would suggest that the limekilns are in a stabilized condition. However, to prevent any further possible erosion of the site it would be prudent to undertake a certain level of consolidation. This would repair lost areas of facework, make good structural cracks and stabilise any internal areas which have collapsed. This would improve the overall condition of the kilns and help to identify any further faults or threats to the structures.

### **Archive Index**

- 31 35mm colour slides
- 3 medium format black & white films with contact prints
- 2 A3 permatrace sheets with elevation drawings at 1:50.
- 1 A2 permatrace sheet with plan drawing at 1:50



**Aberstrincell Limekilns, Kiln no.s 1 & 2**









**Aberstrincell Limekilns, Kiln no. 3**





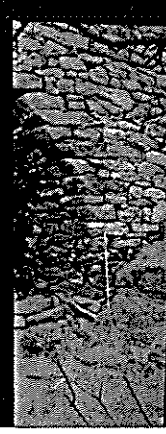
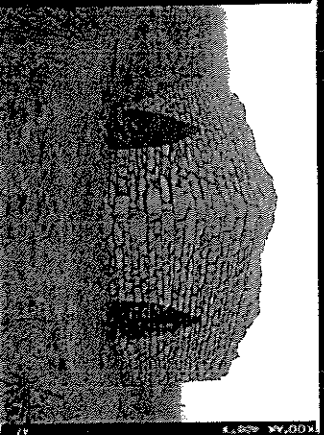
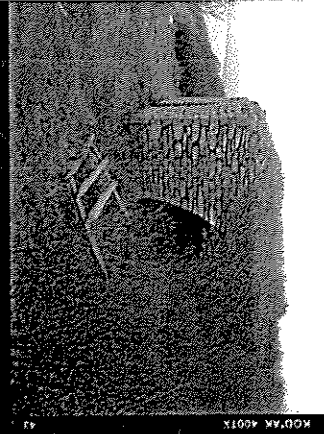
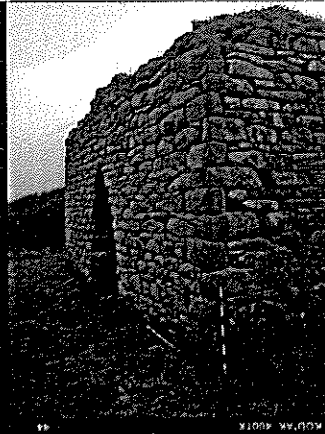
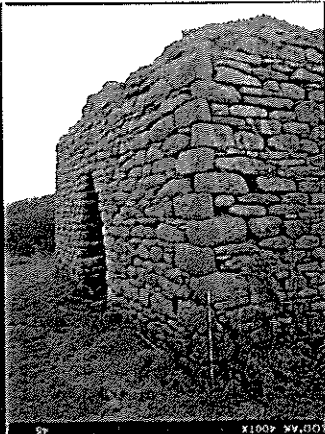
**Aberstrincell Limekilns, Kiln no. 4**



**Wharves below Aberstrincell Limekilns**

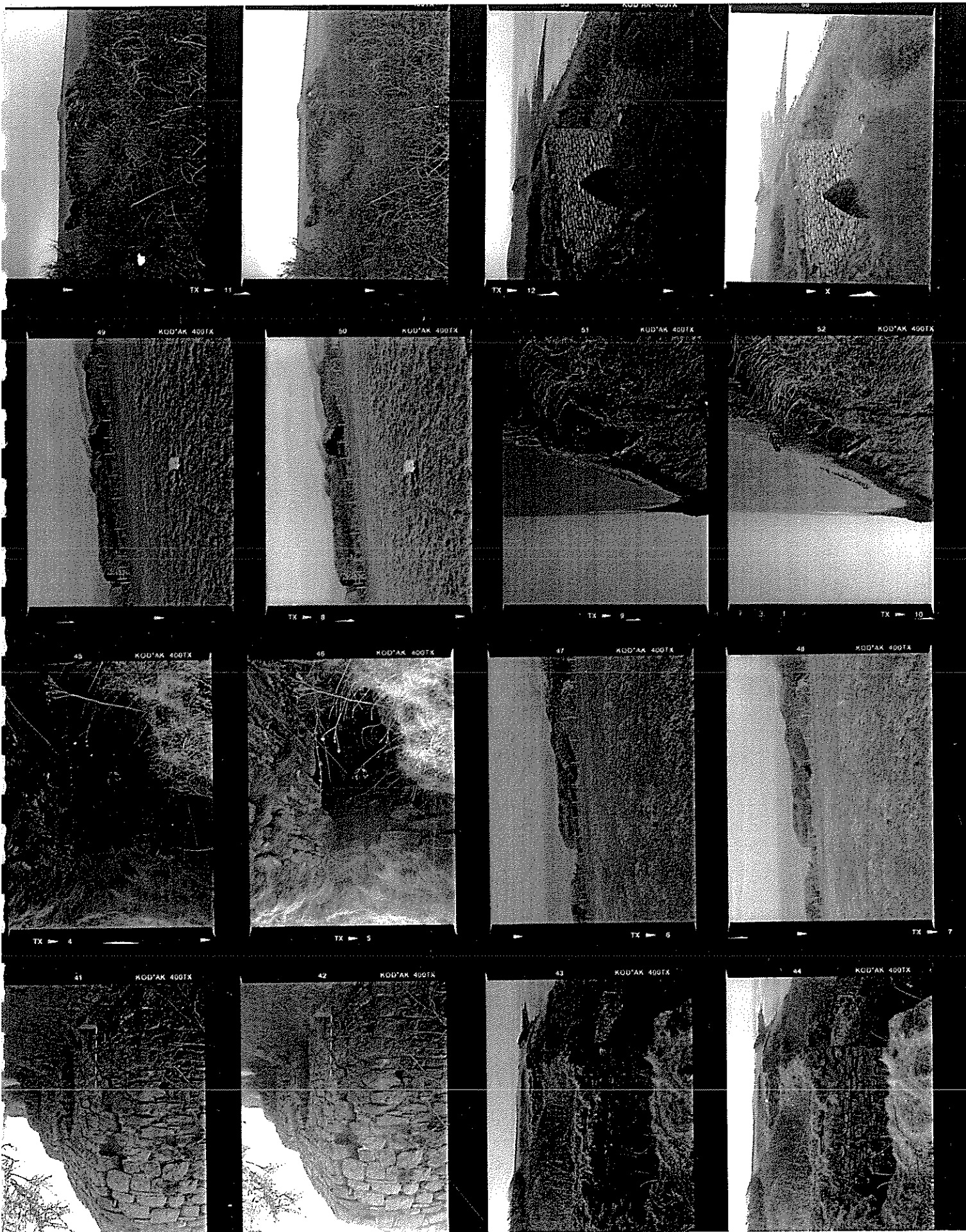


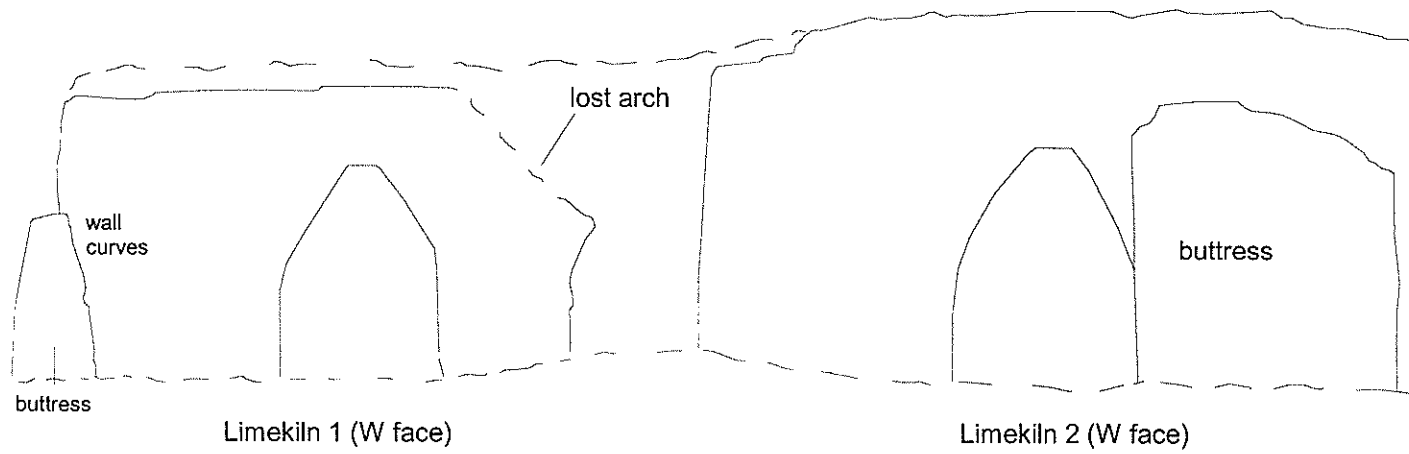






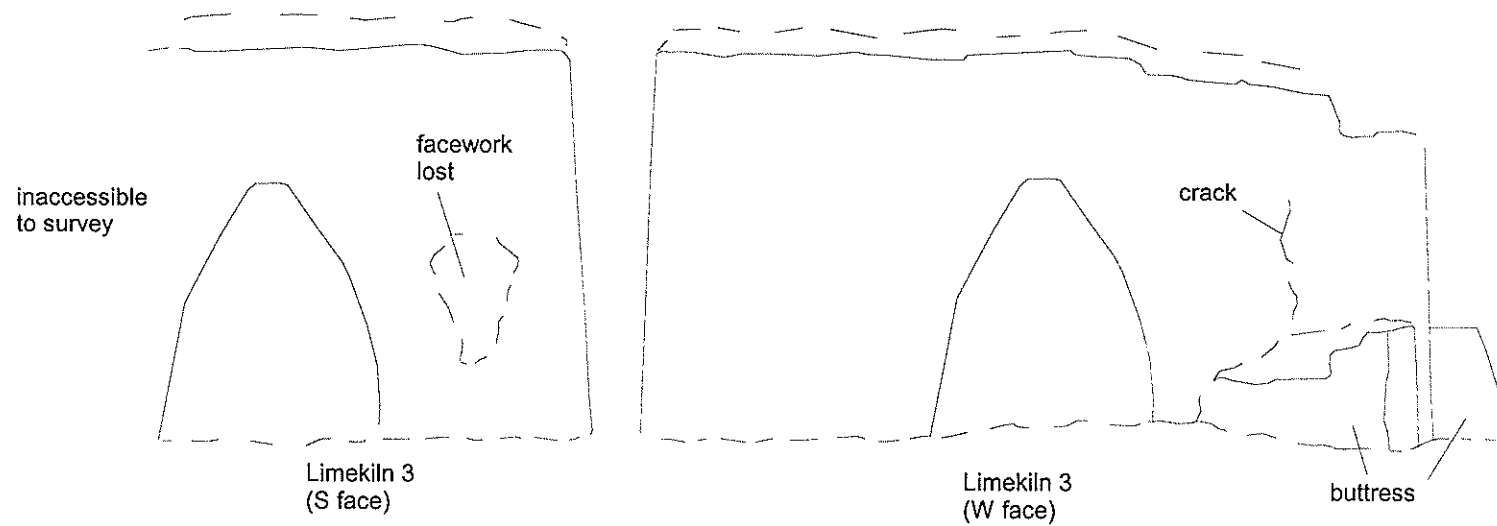




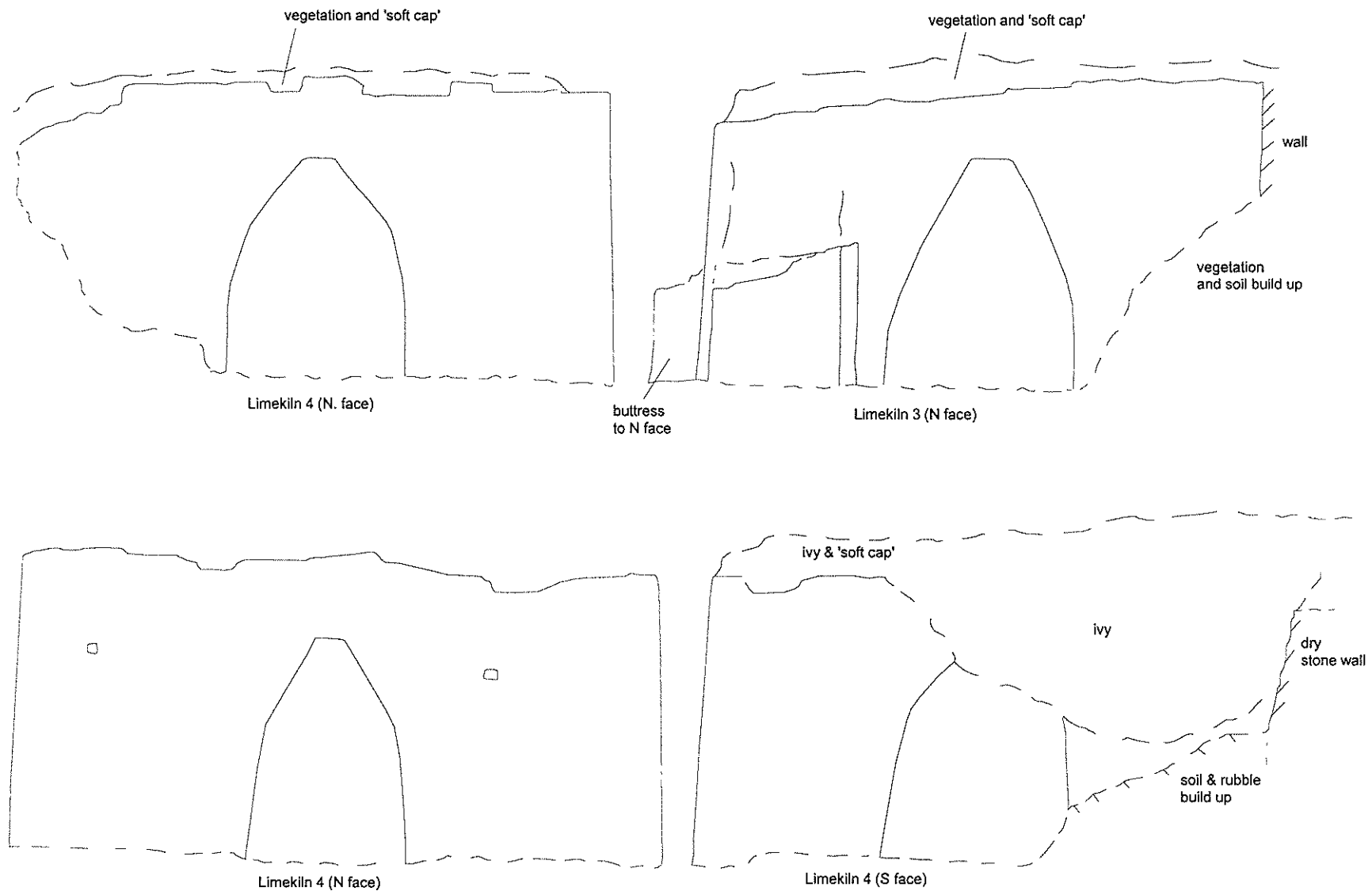


Aberstrincell Limekilns  
- outline elevations

0 metres 5







Aberstrincell Limekilns - outline elevations

**ABERSTRINCELL LIMEKILNS**

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This report has been prepared by Simon Wardle

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This report has been checked and approved by Ken Murphy on behalf of Cambria Archaeology,  
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Signature ..... Date.....

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