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# EXCAVATION OF THREE RING-DITCHES AND A PREHISTORIC PALISADED ENCLOSURE AT CWM MEUDWY, LLANDYSUL, CEREDIGION, 2003

Paratowyd gan Archaeoleg Cambria
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Gan / By

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# EXCAVATION OF THREE RING-DITCHES AND A PREHISTORIC PALISADED ENCLOSURE AT CWM MEUDWY, LLANDYSUL, CEREDIGION, 2003

**By Kenneth Murphy and Robert Evans**
**with contributions from Jody Deacon, Astrid E. Caseldine and Catherine J. Griffiths**

***SUMMARY***

*Two sites were excavated; three ring ditches and a palisaded enclosure. No evidence for burials or artefacts was found associated with the ring-ditches and no artefacts. Radiocarbon dates indicate that the ditches silted in the 8th – 4th centuries BC. A narrow and shallow gully defined the palisaded enclosure. It had two entrances, one to the northeast consisting of two post-holes and one to the northwest associated with four post-holes. It enclosed an area containing a number of post-holes and pits, including a four-post structure. A second four-post structure was identified to the north of the enclosure. Numerous other pits and post-holes were identified outside the enclosure, but none formed part of a definite structure. An assemblage of 65 sherds of mostly Early Neolithic pottery, with a few Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age sherds, was recovered from pits and post-holes on the western side of the enclosure. Charcoal from four pits and post-holes returned radiocarbon dates broadly compatible with the Neolithic pottery assemblage - a range of 3970 to 3510 BC. Charcoal from a further pit was dated to 2030 to 1870 BC and charcoal from one of the four-post post-holes gave a date of 380 to 170 BC. A Roman Period date was obtained from one of the entrance post-holes on the eastern side of the enclosure.*

## INTRODUCTION

The archaeological investigations at Cwm Meudwy, Llandysul, Ceredigion (NGR SN 405419) were located on the north side of the Teifi valley at between 165m and 185m above sea level. The land slopes down to the southwest into the heavily wooded Cwm Meudwy itself, through which Nant Merwydd, a small stream, flows south towards its confluence with the river Teifi. The site lies within the Ceredigion upland massif, to the south of the Llandysul- New Quay road (A486) at Croesffordd (Fig. 1). The village of Horeb lies 1km to the northwest and the town of Llandysul about 1.5km to the southeast. Castell Gwilym a slight earthwork of an Iron Age or Romano-British enclosure lying to the east-southeast is the only other known prehistoric site in the vicinity (Davies and Hogg 1994).

The investigations were undertaken during the early stages of the construction of light industrial units and an access road for a new industrial estate under the auspices of the Welsh Development Agency (WDA). An area in the northwest (Area A) of the development area was identified as being of potential archaeological significance following to the identification by contractors of what seemed to be three ring-ditches after the removal of topsoil and up to 0.2m of subsoil by machine. Most of the topsoil - and indeed subsoil - had been stripped from the development area prior to the discovery of the ring-ditches. However, topsoil remained in one area in the southwest corner of the development (Area B). It was agreed between the WDA and *Cambria Archaeology-Heritage Management* (CA-HM) that the remaining topsoil removal should be subject to archaeological monitoring. A probable palisaded enclosure with numerous internal and external pits was revealed during the monitoring, the potential importance of which prompted CA-HM to recommend a full archaeological investigation. The work was undertaken by Cambria Archaeology Field

Section and was funded by the WDA, who also generously set aside five weeks in their work programme for the excavation.

The project brief required the total excavation of the two areas (A and B) including the ring ditches and the palisaded enclosure. The excavation took place from 11th August to 12th September 2003, with a team of eleven archaeologists. For the first four weeks the weather was uncommonly warm, and the soil very dry, but during the last week there was some rain. No new features showed up in the ground surface as a result of the damper soil conditions.

The topsoil varied from c. 0.2m-0.5m in depth, and were typical brown earths of the 541j, Denbigh 1, group (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1980), and covered gravelly sand and periglacial clay deposits, which in turn overlay Ordovician shale and weathered bedrock of the Llandeilo and Ashgill Series (British Geological Survey 1994). In both areas periglacial 'marked ground' was very pronounced, in many cases much clearer than the archaeology; this was particularly the case in Area A. This may be due to the fact that Area B was topsoil stripped under archaeological conditions, whereas Area A was stripped to a greater depth, cutting into the upper geological horizons.

## THE EXCAVATION

### Area A

The three ring ditches were located in Area, A which measured approximately 50m by 40m. This area was on the upper valley slopes, but not the highest point, which lay some distance to the north (Fig. 2 and Photo. 1). The western ring ditch (5) was the least truncated by the stripping of overburden. The other two may have lost up to 0.2m before archaeological investigation commenced. In each case the ditches were about 1.0m wide. The westernmost of the ring-ditches (5) was 8.2m in diameter, including the ditch, which had a 'U' shaped profile. The eastern ring-ditch (4) was 8.15m in diameter. The ditch had a shallow, angled outer edge, and an almost vertical inner one. These had a very sharp break of slope to an almost flat ditch base. The central ring-ditch (6) had a diameter of 6.5m. It appeared to have been heavily truncated, surviving only to a depth of about 0.3m. There was a sharp break of slope to a flat base.

All the ditches contained fills ranging from reddish-brown to orangey-brown silt. Slight differences within some of the fills of the ring ditches were noted. In the westernmost ring ditch (5), a lower stony fill may have been the result of erosion into the ditch from a central mound or a possible bank outside the ditch, before the ditch silted up. This was also noted in the case of the central ring ditch (6). Profiles across the ring ditches show a very slight falling away of the land surface from west to east and also from north to south. However these gradients are very gentle, and suggest that the barrows were constructed on the edge of flattish land, with a steeper slope down to Cwm Meudwy to the south.

Two radiocarbon dates were obtained from charcoal from the basal fills from ring ditches 4 and 6. That from 4 (Beta –185683 2410±40 BP) calibrates at 2 sigma to 740-710 and 530-390 BC; that from 6 (Beta-185682 2530±40 BP) to 800-520 BC.

No artefacts were found, and neither bone nor indeed any evidence suggestive of burials such as charcoal deposits was found.

Other features in this part of the site were difficult to identify with any certainty, and much of what was examined appears to have been either glacial deposition of clayey material, or else as the result of vegetation and root action. The only possible exception to this was a small, amorphous feature, the only one containing hazelnuts in Area A, lying between ring ditches 5 and 6 - not shown on the plan.

The charred assemblage from Area A was small but provides some slight evidence for cultivation and the general environmental conditions around the site. A few oat (*Avena* sp.) grains were recovered from two of the ring ditches (4, 5) but the absence of chaff means it cannot be certain whether the oat was a cultivated or wild variety. A little indeterminate cereal was also present. A few of the weed seeds, namely orache (*Atriplex* spp.), goosefoots (Chenopodiaceae), bromes (*Bromus* spp.) and pale persicaria (*Persicaria lapathifolia*), provide some further possible evidence for cultivation but these species are also indicative of waste ground. Other remains such as grass (Poaceae), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), docks (*Rumex* spp.) and vetches (*Vicia* spp.) indicate grassland. The occurrence of sedges (*Carex* spp) and cottongrass (*Eriophorum* sp.) suggest damp ground in the vicinity, the latter is generally found in peaty or marshy areas. Pale persicaria and bugle (*Ajuga reptans*) also commonly occur in damp habitats and bugle tends to grow particularly in shady places and woodland. Further evidence for woodland or scrub is provided by hazelnuts and charcoal, which indicates the presence of oak (*Quercus* spp.) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) as well as hazel (*Corylus avellana*). The hazelnuts could have been collected deliberately for food but their presence may simply reflect accidental collection along with wood for fuel.

**Area B**

Area B measured approximately 90m by 70m (NGR 40354195) and was located about 120m south of Area A (Fig. 3 and Photos. 2 and 3). The site lay on the summit of a gently sloping promontory. Immediately outside the excavated area the ground fell away steeply to the west, southwest and south down to the Nant Merwydd, about 40m below. To the north the land rose gently towards Area A. The main archaeological feature was a large sub-rectangular enclosure approximately 45m by 30m, defined by a narrow and shallow palisade gully (13). An old field boundary ran across the site approximately west northwest to east southeast, south of the enclosure. More than three-quarters of the enclosure was within the area set aside for excavation; part of the northern section had been destroyed prior to excavation but its course had been plotted during monitoring of the topsoil strip.

*The palisade gully*

Sections through the fill of this trench were drawn at 5m intervals where this proved to be possible. A selection of these illustrates the character of the gully (Fig. 3). These show that in many areas the palisade gully was heavily truncated, in the southeast corner almost completely. However, in areas where there was less truncation evidence of packing stones survived. In the northwest sector, for example, the trench was up to 0.4m deep for over 3m in one stretch, close to post-hole 41 (Photo. 4). Evidence for the use of stakes was found in the palisade trench, particularly close to the northeast entrance. Post-holes were also located in the palisade trench, mainly in the southeast corner. Post-holes 22 and 24 were clearly later than the palisade trench itself, and probably represent more substantial posts being used to repair the palisade some time after it was originally erected. Near post-hole 22 an area of packing stones was identified, which is possibly further evidence for the repair of the palisade. The palisade cut post-hole 41, in the northwest segment of the enclosure; it contained a considerable amount of stone

packing. A pit (42) in the southeast of the enclosure was also earlier than the gully. Environmental evidence from the palisade was limited to a leaf bud and a few hazelnut shells.

*The northeast entrance*
This was represented by two post-holes (64 and 87) flanking a 2.2m - 2.5m wide gap. These entrance post-holes contained packing stones, and 64 showed clear evidence of a post pipe. The packing stones were very clear in 87, and less so in 64 and they both had a darkish brown fill (Fig. 4). These post-holes, whilst truncated, did survive to a depth of 0.34m and 0.47m respectively. They were contemporaneous with the enclosure itself. A radiocarbon date of 3970-3785 BC (Beta-189116 5080±40 BP) was obtained from post-hole 64 and one of AD 130-350 (Beta-189117 1790±40 BP) from post-hole 87. No environmental evidence was recovered from post-hole 64, but a few remains, including wheat chaff, were recovered from the other post-hole (87). The presence of probable spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) glume bases is consistent with the Romano-British radiocarbon date from this post-hole.

*The northwest entrance*
A second probable entrance, with four pits/post-holes (46-49), lay on the northwest side of the enclosure (Fig. 5 and Photo. 5). None of these features associated with this second entrance had any detectable stratigraphic relationship with the palisade gully itself, possibly because the archaeological features were very truncated, although the evidence does seem to suggest that there were discreet *termini* to the gully. These pits/post-holes varied in depth between 0.18m and 0.46m and three (46-48) contained substantial packing stones. Pits/post-holes 47 and 49 also contained small quantities of bone, although these have proved to be of too small and fragmentary to be analysed. Pits/post-holes 46 and 49 had complex fills, with 49 the most interesting, with dark yellowish brown silty clay in its upper and lower levels (A and C), but a lens of abundant charcoal in layer B. Hazelnut fragments from post-hole 48 produced a date of 2030-1870 BC, calibrated at 2 sigma (Beta-185677 3570±40 BP). All the pits/post-holes contained a quantity of hazelnut and three of them (47-49) contained oat and indeterminate cereal. Weed seeds were scarce but sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) was recorded from both 46 and 47 and hemp-nettle (*Galeopsis* sp.) occurred in both 48 and 49.

*The four post structure*
Within the enclosure in the southeast corner were four large post-holes (9-12), with diameters ranging from 0.75m to 0.92m, and depths from 0.3m to 0.8m (Photo. 6). All four contained a charcoal rich dark brown fill, and contained evidence of substantial packing stones, suggesting that they contained large posts. The post-holes clearly appear to have been associated, having a roughly square formation of approximately 2.2 by 2.2m, and had similar large stone packing materials within each of them. Charcoal from post-hole 9 produced a radiocarbon date of 380-170 BC (Beta-185681 2250±40 BP). Two of the post-holes (9, 11) produced a few environmental remains, including wheat, oat and hazelnut, and a couple of weed seeds in 9.

*Other internal features*
A small and shallow pit (50), with a diameter of 0.75m and a depth at its greatest of 0.16m, was located to the east of the northeast entrance. This pit contained pottery sherds from at least five vessels of Early Neolithic date. Charcoal from this pit produced a radiocarbon date of 3700-3630 BC, calibrated at 2 sigma (Beta-185679

4840±40 BP). The palaeoenvironmental assemblage was similar to that from the possible entrance of four post-holes in that it comprised oat, hazelnuts and indeterminable cereal, but it also contained a few grains possibly of emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccum*), a grain of a free-threshing wheat type, several wheat grains not determinable to species level and a few barley grains. This is consistent with the radiocarbon date and pottery.

A number of other pits were located in the enclosure. Two of which (52, 53) contained pottery sherds of probable Early Neolithic date. All these pits contained flecks or larger pieces of charcoal. A sherd of Peterborough Ware, one cereal grain and hazelnuts were found in a small isolated pit (43) on the south side of the enclosure. Post-hole pair (44 and 45), situated in the central southwestern area of the enclosure, were a suitable distance apart (c. 2.0m) to be post-holes for the doorway of a round-house, but this of course remains conjecture. Other small pits or post-holes were located within the enclosure roughly concentric to the palisade gully (36, 37, 38, 40, 45). Two of these contained pottery sherds (38, 40). Pit 36 was the largest of them, being 0.95m by 0.75m with a depth of 0.35m, containing charcoal and large packing stones; pit 38, 0.5m by 0.54m had a depth of 0.21m contained a sherd of probable Early Neolithic pottery against the west side of the edge of the pit, and pit 40, 0.73m by 0.78m with a depth of 0.26m, contained sherds of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pottery in the lower levels of the fill. Three of the pits (52, 54, 61) contained oats and hazelnuts but in addition several possible emmer wheat grains were present in pit 52 and barley occurred in pit 54. In contrast to the evidence from these pits, only one indeterminate cereal was recovered from post-hole 45. This pit also contained hazelnuts and several seeds of sheep's sorrel, as did post-hole 46 and probable natural hollow 76 - not shown on plan. Pits or post-holes 36, 37, 38 and 40 yielded no cereal evidence, and although hazelnuts were relatively frequent in these, other remains were scarce.

*External features*
To the west of the enclosure another post-hole pair (144 and 145) could also be interpreted as entrance post-holes for a round-house. Pit 110, 0.7m by 0.55m with a depth of 0.23m, contained sherds from two Early Neolithic vessels, and pit 113, 0.3m by 0.42m with a depth of 0.13m, also contained sherds from two Early Neolithic vessels. Charcoal from pit 113 produced a radiocarbon date between 3710-3530 BC and 3590-3530 BC when calibrated at 2 sigma (Beta–185680 4870±50 BP). One oat grain was found in 113 and a possible emmer, free-threshing wheat and barley cereal grains were recorded from 110. Hazelnuts were present in pit/post-hole 110 but absent from 113.

To the southwest of the palisade, near the western edge of the excavation, and below the old field boundary a small pit (142), 0.66m by 0.53m with a depth of 0.16m, contained a very charcoal rich deposit, fragments of which produced at radiocarbon date of 3650-3510 BC (Beta-185678 4800±40 BP). A pit (154) to the west of the palisade, 0.64m by 0.6m with a depth of 0.15m, contained a small amount of wheat chaff, as well as producing a small sherd of Early Neolithic pottery. To the south of the field boundary, in the western area of the site, a number of pits or post-holes were located (116, 117, 118). All of these were charcoal rich including (118), a pit 0.5m by 0.47m and 1.2m deep that contained a single wheat grain, two sherds of Early Neolithic pottery and large packing stones. These were isolated features however, and it is difficult to understand them in the wider context of the site as a whole. A similar small cluster of pits or post-holes (164, 166, 167) in the southeast of the site, once again south of the old field boundary, are similarly

difficult to interpret. Pit (164) contained a single sheep's sorrel seed. It is of interest to note that these two groups of pits lay, presumably for many years, immediately to the south of the old field boundary that would have protected them from ploughing and other agricultural damage.

To the northwest, within the area examined and recorded under watching brief conditions (hence not numbered on the plan), evidence for another four-post structure was uncovered. It formed a square of approximately 2.3m, and the eastern post-holes were more truncated by machine stripping, having lost up to 0.3m of their depth. The post-holes were also much shallower generally, and suggest that a greater degree of truncation overall had occurred than with the four-poster inside the enclosure. There was however evidence of post-packing in the western, less truncated post-holes.

A number of other pits (67, 89, 90, 168), located outside the enclosure to the east were found. Pits 89 and 90 contained burnt hazelnut shells, of which 90, a large pit 1.2m by 1m with a depth of 0.5m, contained additionally a quantity of large stones and charcoal. These taken together suggest significant activity was taking place to the east of the enclosure as well as to the west.

Evidence for more modern activity in the area was noted in two linear groups of features (149, 155, 161-163 and 146-148) to the west of the palisade. These appear to have been stake holes for a fence or enclosure, and are considered not to be particularly ancient.

There was also much evidence for periglacial activity across the site. Evidence of root damage and tree boles was also in recorded during the excavation. These sometimes proved to be difficult to disentangle from the archaeology. For example post-hole 46 was cut into a large glacial deposit (51), and pit 63 cut a large irregular feature (85 - not on plan). A clover (*Trifolium* sp.) seed and a crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*) seed were recovered from this natural feature. Feature 158, which appears to have been a tree bole, was probably either an open hole at some time during occupation, and was finally filled in with rocks, or was a convenient hollow for a clearance cairn. Only the upper fill suggested human activity, and amongst the stones several sherds of probable Early Neolithic pottery were found as well as several possible rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) seeds. Most of the area to the northwest of the enclosure, including areas examined under the watching brief, contained no identifiable archaeology.

**RADIOCARBON DATES**

All dates are AMS dates and were provided by Beta Analytical Radiocarbon Dating Laboatory, Miami, Florida. The dates were calibrated by Beta using Stuiver *et. al.* 1998.

| Lab. No. | Context | Radiocarbon Age | 2 Sigma Calibration | Material |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Beta-189116 | 64 Post-hole of northeast entrance to palisaded enclosure | 5080±40 BP | 3970-3785 BC | *Prunus* sp. (blackthorn/ cherry) |
| Beta –185680 | 113 Pit to west of palisaded enclosure | 4870±50 BP | 3710–3530 & 3590–3530 BC | *Corylus avellena* (hazel charcoal) |
| Beta-185679 | 50 Pit to east of northwest palisaded enclosure entrance containing Early Neolithic pottery | 4840±40 BP | 3700–3630 BC | *Corylus avellena* (hazel Charcoal) |
| Beta-185678 | 142 Isolated pit to west of palisaded *enclosure* with charcoal-rich fill | 4800±40 BP | 3650–3510 BC | *Alnus glutinosa* (alder charcoal) |
| Beta-185677 | 48 Pit/post-hole of northwest entrance *to palisaded enclosure* | 3570±40 BP | 2030–1870 BC | *Corylus avellena* (hazelnut fragments) |
| Beta-185682 | Ring ditch 6 - basal silt deposits | 2530±40 BP | 800–520 BC | *Corylus avellena* (hazel fragments) |
| Beta –185683 | Ring ditch 4- basal silt deposits | 2410±40 BP | 740-710 & 530–390 BC | *Corylus avellena* (hazel fragments) |
| Beta-185681 | 9 Post-hole of four-post structure | 2250±40 BP | 380–170 BC | *Corylus avellena* (hazel charcoal) |
| Beta-189117 | 87 Post-hole of northeast entrance to palisaded enclosure | 1790±40 BP | AD 130-350 | *Prunus* sp. (blackthorn/ cherry) |

## PREHISTORIC POTTERY

**By Jody Deacon**

### Introduction

A total of 65 sherds of Prehistoric pottery weighing 475g was recovered from a series of pits located within and to the west of the palisade enclosure. The majority of the assemblage can be dated to the Early Neolithic on the grounds of form, Fabric and radiocarbon dates from two of the pits. This component of the assemblage is fairly homogenous with soft, laminating Fabric containing common angular quartz grains with grey or brown smoothed surfaces. Where decoration occurs it is limited to shallow tooled lines around the mouths of the vessel that is, in some instances, barely visible. All the pots appear to have been coil built and many show the characteristic 45° angle where a break has occurred along such a join.

Two pits within the enclosure yielded pottery of differing Fabric and decoration suggesting some continuation of use into the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age; a soft oxidised sherd (SF2) containing grog and crushed rock decorated with incised lines and fingernail impressions, and a coarse, thick sherd (SF18) from near the base of a vessel including large crushed rock fragments in the clay and decorated with two rows of fingernail impressions.

### Fabrics

Fabric A – soft, laminating Fabric containing common quartz inclusions
Fabric B – soft Fabric containing sparse grog and crushed rock inclusions.
Fabric C – slightly laminating Fabric containing moderate large quartzite inclusions

### Early Neolithic

51 sherds from 5 pits excavated on the western side of Area B produced sherds of Early Neolithic pottery. Pit 50 produced three diagnostic rim sherds (two of which are decorated) and 12 body sherds with an associated radiocarbon date of 3700-3540 Cal BC. A similar date of 3710-3530 Cal BC was obtained from pit 113 which contained 6 sherds including part of the rim of a shouldered bowl. The Fabric of this pottery is quite soft and laminating, containing very common angular quartz inclusions and showing evidence of smoothing or burnishing on the surfaces. Facets from this process are clearly visible on SF7. Plain body sherds from pits 110, 118 and 154 are of identical Fabric and finish and are presumably of similar date.

***Pit 50*** - small, shallow pit containing large quantities of charcoal situated to the southeast of the north palisade entrance.

> SF3 (Fig. 6) Rim sherd, 7-9mm thick, from an open bowl with a rolled rim along which oblique lines have been impressed, the angle changing slightly around the rim. The clay contains very common angular quartz inclusions 2-4mm across (Fabric A) and the well finished sherd has a grey external surface, abraded brown internal surface, black core and a laminating texture. The external surface has been smoothed or burnished. Few quartz inclusions break the external surface, while the internal surface has abundant inclusions creating a rough surface. There are no recent breaks although the old edges are still quite crisp.
>
> SF4 (Fig. 6) Rim sherd of similar open bowl form to SF3, 6-11mm thick, with a rolled everted rim with oblique shallow indentations, possibly fingertip

impressions, along its top. It has a smoothed buff/grey external surface, and abraded brown to dark grey rough internal surface and a soft black core with very common quartz inclusions 2-4mm across (Fabric A). A small fresh break along the bottom of the sherd probably occurred during excavation and clearly shows the laminating texture of the pottery.

SF5 Body sherd, 8-10mm thick, with a small fresh break along one edge but otherwise abraded. The sherd is oxidised orange throughout, contains very common angular quartz inclusions 2-5mm across (Fabric A) and has a laminating texture. The external surface is smoothed and well finished whereas the internal surface is somewhat abraded.

SF6 Three body sherds, ranging from 8-12mm thick, with some small fresh breaks. The sherds are oxidised pale orange throughout, have smoothed surfaces and contain very common quartz inclusions 1-4mm across (Fabric A).

SF7 (Fig. 6) Small rim sherd, 7-8mm thick, with an everted rim suggesting an open bowl form smoothed on both surfaces in a horizontal direction near the rim. The body sherds are small with most edges abraded. All sherds are oxidised pale orange/buff with some unoxidised grey areas and contain very common quartz inclusions 2-4mm across (Fabric A).The uniformity in the Fabric, the surfaces of these sherds and their laminating texture suggest they could be from the same vessel.

***Pit 110*** - small pit containing charred hazelnuts and charcoal located to the west of the enclosure.

SF9 Two tiny rim sherds and four body sherds, 8-9mm thick, too small to be diagnostic. The sherds have a laminating texture and are extremely friable. The rim sherds have dark grey/brown surfaces with brown cores while the body sherds are oxidised throughout and contain very common angular white quartz inclusions 1-3mm across (Fabric A).

SF12 3 body sherds of laminating texture, 9-10mm thick, with slightly abraded edges and no fresh breaks. They are likely to be part of the same vessel. The sherds have oxidised orange external surfaces, dark grey/brown internal surface and cores and contain very common angular quartz inclusions 2-4mm across (Fabric A). The external surface has been smoothed and the internal surface is slightly abraded with inclusions breaking the surface.

***Pit 113*** - small pit containing charred hazelnuts and charcoal located to the west of the enclosure.

SF10 (Fig. 6) Rim sherd of a small carinated bowl 7-8mm thick with the carination just below the rim. Both surfaces have been well finished (possibly slightly burnished) and the everted rim tapers to a fine edge, some of which has broken away leaving fresh breaks. The sherd has dark grey surfaces with a dark grey laminating core and contains very common angular white quartz inclusions 2-3mm across (Fabric A).

SF11 Five small body sherds 8-10mm thick of friable, laminating Fabric with oxidised surfaces and a brown core containing very common angular quartz

inclusions 2-3mm across (Fabric A). Some of the breaks are fresh but the sherds are too fragmentary to re-join.

***Pit118*** – pit to the southwest of the enclosure and to the south of the field boundary, containing large quantities of charcoal and large packing stones.

SF13 Two thick walled sherds, 10-13mm thick, of quite hard pottery with oxidised orange/buff external surfaces, grey internal surfaces and dark grey core containing common white quartz inclusions 3-4mm across (Fabric A). Both surfaces appear to have been smoothed and they are likely to be from the same vessel.

***Pit 154*** - charcoal rich pit to the west of the palisade enclosure.

SF14 One very small rim fragment is abraded and fragile. The thickness and shape of the rim suggest a rolled rim from an open bowl but too little remains to be certain. The 19 body sherds, 8-10mm thick, are also quite abraded with a friable, laminating Fabric containing very common quartz inclusions 2-4mm across (Fabric A). The few fresh breaks do not join although these sherds could have come from the same vessel. The sherds have mostly oxidised pale orange/brown external surfaces, grey/brown internal surfaces and brown or dark grey cores. Both surfaces have been smoothed, and there is little abrasion.There is a small amount of black residue on the internal surface of some of the sherds.

**Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age**

Two sherds from pits 40 and 43 within the enclosure are markedly different from the rest of the assemblage in both Fabric and decoration and appear to mark a period of later use at the site during the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age.

***Pit 40*** - pit to the southwest of the northwest palisaded enclosure entrance.

SF2 (Fig. 7) Thick walled sherds, about 12mm thick of quite soft Fabric containing crushed rock and grog inclusions (Fabric C). Oxidised orange external surface with grey/brown internal surface and core. The decoration consists of incised overlapping lines on some sherds, perhaps a herringbone pattern, and fingernail impressions on others. These techniques are sometimes found combined on Late Neolithic Grooved Ware (Wainwright and Longworth, 1971) but could equally belong to an Early Bronze Age urn or food vessel. Most sherds join together and all are likely to be from one vessel. Found in the lower fill of the pit.

***Pit 43*** - pit in the southern part of the palisade enclosure.

SF18 (Fig. 7) Sherd of Peterborough Ware, 22-24mm thick, probably from near the base of a large vessel with dark grey/brown surfaces and grey core. The Fabric is quite hard and contains moderate large quartzite inclusions up to 8mm across (Fabric B) that break the surface in places. The external surface has been smoothed and unusually for this part of a vessel it is decorated with horizontal lines of fingernail or twisted cord impression. Found with a considerable amount of charcoal and some burnt stone.

**Uncertain – probable Early Neolithic date**

12 undiagnostic body sherds from four pits to the west of the site. They vary slightly in Fabric and surface finish but seem likely to be of Early Neolithic date.

***Pit 38*** - pit to the southwest of the northwest palisaded enclosure entrance.

SF1 Thick walled sherd, about 13mm thick, of vesicular Fabric. Oxidised brown surfaces with a dark grey/brown core. Both surfaces are smoothed. Found with burnt hazelnut shells and charcoal. Similar to the 'corky' Fabrics found on sites such as Clegyr Boia, Gwernvale and Ty-Isaf.

***Pit 52*** - pit containing flecks of charcoal within the western area of the enclosure.

SF15 Body sherd, 13mm thick, of poorly fired soft Fabric with oxidised orange surfaces and a buff/grey core containing very common angular quartz inclusions 2-4mm across.

SF17 Eight poorly fired body sherds, probably from the same vessel, with oxidised orange surfaces and grey core in places. The soft sherds contain very common quartz inclusions 2-3mm across and may be from the same vessel as SF15.

***Pit 53*** – pit containing fleck of charcoal within the northern area of the enclosure.

SF8 Single body sherd of thin walled, 6.5mm thick, relatively hard pottery with oxidised orange smoothed surfaces and brown core. Contains common quartz inclusions 2-5mm across (Fabric A).

**Pit 158** - possible tree bole to the northwest of the enclosure.

SF16 Four fragments of clay containing quartz and charcoal flecks. Found in the upper fill of the feature.

SF19 Body sherd of very soft and friable pottery, oxidised orange throughout and containing common small white quartz inclusions 1-3mm across. Found in the upper fill of the feature.

**Discussion**

At least three well-made open bowls with everted rims were present in pit 50. Open bowls have been found in Early Neolithic contexts at sites along the north and south coasts of Wales and along the borders but there are few examples from inland locations and upland areas (Burrow 2004, 52-56 fig.19). Examples with clearly impressed oblique lines of similar form to SF3 were found at the Early Neolithic settlement site of Clegyr Boia, Pembrokeshire (Williams, 1952, fig. 12.31) and Stackpole Warren, Pembrokeshire (Darvill in Benson 1990, 210-11, fig. 32.56). The latter was considered to date to the Middle Neolithic but Peterson (2003, 128-9) has suggested an Early Neolithic date which may be supported by radiocarbon date Beta-185679 for pit 50 at Cwm Meudwy. Bowls with everted rims displaying regular but

faint oblique grooves recovered from Mount Pleasant, Glamorgan (Savory 1955, fig. 3.1, 2 & 4) could also be of Early Neolithic date but the presence of Peterborough Ware and Bronze Age urn fragments make this attribution uncertain.

The careful uniform impressions made along the rim of SF3 contrast markedly with the barely noticeable shallow indentations on the rim of SF4 – a vessel similar in Fabric and finish to sherd no. 6 from chamber II at Ty-Isaf, Powys (Grimes, 1939, fig. 6) which shows comparable decoration, albeit on a different rim form. In other aspects both these vessels are well finished with smoothed surfaces and carefully formed rims, and these shallow indentations may represent a required process in the manufacture of these bowls rather than conspicuous visual or tactile enhancement.

Carinated bowls with flared rims are known from Early Neolithic contexts across the British Isles. Vessels of similar form to SF10 pit from pit 113 are known from the pre-cairn phases at Gwernvale, Powys (Britnell & Savory 1984, 99-100, fig. 38.10-10; 39.12-13) with a loosely associated radiocarbon date of 4000-3700 cal BC. These vessels, and other parallels from Clegyr Boia, Pembrokeshire (Williams, 1953, figs. 9.2 & 7; 10.12-14), Dyffryn Ardudwy, Gwynedd (Powell, 1973, 24-7 fig. 8.1-3) and Tinkinswood, Glamorgan (Ward 1915 fig. 2.4) all have vesicular appearance caused by the leaching out of calcareous inclusions such as shell or calcite, a characteristic of much Early Neolithic pottery in Wales (see Burrow 2004, 52), and in this respect are quite different from the quartz tempered SF10.

The homogenous nature of the Early Neolithic pottery Fabric at Cwm Meudwy with the selection of quartz to the exclusions of other opening materials contrasts with other assemblages such as Clegyr Boia, Stackpole Warren, Gwernvale and Ty Isaf which have far more variation in their Fabrics, particularly within the open bowl forms. The similarity throughout the assemblage could suggest they were all produced within a limited time scale by potters using a particular 'recipe' focused on the use of quartz as an added component.

There is also relative uniformity in the surface finish of the Early Neolithic pottery from Cwm Meudwy with care having been taken to smooth the external surface on nearly all sherds. Facets from smoothing can also be seen along the top of SF7 but these do not continue onto the internal surface of the vessel which, in common with most of the sherds, has a rough texture with numerous quartz inclusions breaking the surface. In contrast the carinated bowl, although produced from clay of comparable Fabric, has been highly finished (possibly burnished) and has both surfaces surviving. This could suggest either different priorities at work within its manufacture or the utilisation of the vessel in a different way.

It is plausible that vessels with abraded internal surfaces have been subject to a mechanical or chemical process which did not affect the outside of the pot. It seems unlikely that this could be as a result of differential conditions within the burial environment or exposure in some way prior to deposition. The majority of the sherds within the assemblage show little evidence for use as cooking pots, there is no sooting and few residues, and it seems unlikely that the laminating texture of the Fabric would stand up well to prolonged heating (E.Morris pers.comm). One interpretation of this is that the pots were used as containers for a liquid which caused a breakdown in the soft ceramic surface exposing the more resistant quartz inclusions. However, this seems unlikely as the abraded surfaces continue to the top of the rim on all the open bowls present which would require the vessels to be impractically filled right up to the brim. If a liquid had caused this effect a distinct

change in surface would be expected lower down on the internal surface. It therefore seems that the difference observed between the surfaces demonstrates convention in the manufacture of these bowls requiring the outside and rim of the pots be finished well while the inside was left untreated.

The single sherd (SF18) discovered in pit 43 at Cwm Meudwy is of the coarse, dark Fabric containing large quartz inclusions that characterises the majority of Peterborough Ware in Wales, particularly Mortlake vessels (Gibson 1995, 24-29). Parallels for the fingernail impressions forming pseudo-cord decoration on the sherd from Cwm Meudwy can be found amongst the assemblage from Upper Ninepence, Powys (Gibson 1999, fig.51, P6 & P8) while sherd P11, which also has fingernail decorations, shows similar wall thickness.

Although a date has yet to be obtained for material from the pit, other dated Peterborough assemblages in Wales suggest a date after 3400 BC (Gibson 1995).

Later use of the site is also suggested by SF2 which displays an altogether different Fabric and style of decoration. The addition of grog to the clay has been identified in Late Neolithic Grooved Ware pottery and in the beakers, urns and food vessels of the Early Bronze Age. A similar claim can be made for the combination of incised lines and fingernail decoration making any identification of such a fragmentary sherd tentative. However, it may be stated with some certainty that this sherd represents the continuing tradition of burying pottery in pits at Cwm Meudwy into at least the third millennium BC, if only on a more limited scale.

## THE CHARRED PLANT REMAINS

**By Astrid E. Caseldine and Catherine J. Griffiths**

A summary of the results have been incorporated into the main text, with the full report on the charred plant remains, including tables, deposited with the site archive.

The plant macrofossil evidence is scarce from the site but the results are to a large extent in agreement with the radiocarbon dating and pottery evidence, albeit the possibility of some material being either residual or intrusive must be borne in mind. Chacoal was frequent in all features from Area B, but other charred plant remains were relatively scarce, apart from hazelnuts which occured in most of the samples which contained any remains at all. A number of samples produced no evidence. Cereal evidence occurred in several samples but much of it was indeterminate and diagnostic elements, i.e. chaff, which might give some indication of the date of the plant remains and hence the features, were limited. However, samples from within some groups of features do show similarities, providing some support for the suggested groupings. Weed seeds were generally rare.

The presence of probable emmer wheat, although there were no identifiable glume bases or spikelet forks to confirm this, and absence of spelt suggests an early prehistoric date for several of the features. Overall the evidence appears to suggest early Neolithic activity at the site and that the community was engaged in small-scale cultivation. This is consistent with the pollen and plant macrofossil evidence from elsewhere in Wales (Caseldine 1990, Moore-Colyer 1998), although plant macrofossil evidence for early Neolithic cultivation is generally very rare (Caseldine 1990, in prep.). A charred plant assemblage obtained from a shallow pit at Plas Gogerddan was dated to 3640-3340 BC (Caseldine 1992), a similar date to that from the shallow pit (50) at Cwm Meudwy. However the assemblage from Plas Gogerddan was much richer and contained large quantities of emmer wheat, a small amount of barley and significant quantities of hazelnut and apple (*Malus sylvestris*). Emmer wheat, along with hazelnuts, was also recorded from the buried soil associated with the timber structure beneath the long cairn at Gwernvale (pers comm Hillman in Britnell and Savory 1984, Caseldine in prep.). However, emmer is found on later prehistoric sites and the paucity of remains is also a feature not only confined to early prehistoric sites but occurs on late prehistoric sites, such as Moel y Gerddi and Erw-wen (Kelly 1988), as well.

Evidence for cereal growing during the later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age is much less certain from the site, whilst there is slightly more evidence for the Iron Age and Romano-British period. The occurrence of spelt wheat glume bases in post-hole (87), dated to AD 130-350, agrees with the evidence from sites of late Iron Age and Romano-British date in west Wales, for example Llawhaden (Caseldine and Holden 1998), where spelt is generally frequent.

The charcoal assemblage indicates that mainly hazel and oak and small amounts of birch and other species were being used at the site. The charcoal from post-hole 87 suggests that cherry/blackthorn type and beech were being exploited as well as oak and hazel by AD 130-300.

## DISCUSSION

### Area A

As there was no causeway across the ring ditches, their plan was a regular circle, and their profiles deep and smooth it is considered that they were not drainage ditches around round-houses. There was no evidence for burials within or outside the ring-ditches. Nevertheless, they are considered to have been funerary monuments. Burial-free ring-ditches are not uncommon, especially those of small diameter size as at Cwm Meudwy, and parallels can be found at Springfield, Essex (Buckley *et al* 2001) where a c.8m ring-ditch probably dated to the earlier Bronze Age on the basis of pottery, and at Plas Gogerddan, Ceredigion where two of the three excavated ring-ditches did not have a central burial (Murphy 1992). Construction of the ring-ditches at Plas Gogerddan was dated to the first millennium BC; they were later used for Iron Age burials. A central mound is generally assumed for ring-ditches, and at Plas Gogerddan the excavator suggested that burials might have been incorporated within central mounds only to be dispersed as the mounds eroded. At Cwm Meudwy suggestions of silt lines within the ring-ditch fills indicate that there might have been a small bank outside the ditches, but this could be due to erosion of the ditch sides themselves. Certainly, if only material from the ditches were used, then only a very small central mound would have been possible. As samples for the two radiocarbon dates were obtained from the basal fills below compact silts and therefore intrusive contamination is unlikely, a date between 800 and 390 BC is indicated for the silting of the ditches. It is likely that the ditches silted very rapidly and therefore this date range may indicate the construction and use of these monuments. This is outside the generally accepted range for funerary monuments of this type, but, as noted above, can be paralleled at Plas Gogerddan. It is possible that these small ring-ditches in western Wales date to the first millennium, rather than the earlier Bronze Age.

### Area B

Few of the archaeological features in Area B had a direct relationship each other, making any phasing of the site extremely difficult, and therefore greater reliance has to be placed on scientific dating methods, environmental material and the relative dating based on the pottery analysis. This is not satisfactory, as Early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age pottery was found in just eleven pits/post-holes, and the seven radiocarbon dates are from discrete, dispersed features and range from the Early Neolithic to the Roman Period.

A prehistoric pottery assemblage from any period is unusual for Wales: an assemblage of Early Neolithic pottery is even more unusual. The few examples known are mostly from megalithic tombs, although pottery of this date has been recognised at settlement sites, such as Clegyr Boia, Pembrokeshire, and in several caves on Caldey Island, also in Pembrokeshire (Burrow 2003, 52-60). At Cwm Meudwy the pottery was found mostly in pits and post-holes inside and outside the western side of the enclosure, but with none from the palisade gully itself or from features directly connected with it such as entrance post-holes. Several of the pits/post-holes from which pottery and radiocarbon dates were obtained from lie in an arc (contexts 36-38, 40, 50, 53) roughly concentric to the western side of the palisade. This suggests that these post-holes and the palisade gully may be contemporary and of Neolithic date.

However, the problem of the three later radiocarbon dates from the site needs to be addressed. The Bronze Age date from a post-hole from the western entrance is an isolated date, but it is broadly compatible with the two sherds of Late Neolithic/Early

Bronze Age pottery. Together, this data indicates continuing activity on the site beyond the Early Neolithic. The Iron Age date from the four-post structure and the Romano-British date from the northeast entrance indicate later activity.

The four-post structure within the palisade and the second one outside are the only clearly defined buildings at Cwm Meudwy. Four-post structures are generally considered to be raised-floor storage buildings with a typical date range from the Late Bronze Age through to the Late Iron Age (Gent, 1983, 245), although examples are known from the Middle Bronze Age and Roman Period. In southwest Wales they are exclusively found in later Iron Age defended settlements, as at Llawhaden, Pembrokeshire (Williams and Mytum 1998) and Penycoed, Carmarthenshire (Murphy 1985). However, the finding of four-posters that are not contemporary with the rest of a site is not unknown. At the Atlantic Trading Estate, Barry, Glamorgan, a four-poster was dated to the Iron Age due to the discovery of "a rim and a basal angle of a vessel of Iron Age date" (Sell 1998, 11), although the rest of the site was interpreted as Bronze Age from evidence derived from pottery and other small finds. The radiocarbon date of 380 - 170 BC from Cwm Meudwy is therefore exactly what one would have expected from this structure, and its location within an enclosure is consistent with other examples across Britain where, according to Gent (1983, 253), only 10% of such structures occur in open settlements (i.e. not within defensible or non-defensible enclosures). The four-poster lying to the northwest of the enclosure is clearly part of the 10%. It is possible, therefore, that the palisaded enclosure with the four-poster(s) and post-hole pairs representing possible entrances to round-houses, such as 44 and 45, are Iron Age. The absence of material culture of this period is not a problem in southwest Wales: only very small assemblages of pottery, dating to the later Iron Age or early Romano-British Period, are found on complete excavations of defended enclosures, (Williams and Mytum 1998, and Murphy 1985). The Romano-British Period radiocarbon date from a post-hole of the northeast entrance may indicate continued occupation into this period, or be from intrusive material.

On the basis of the above information it would seem that there are two alternatives to explain the site chronology:

> the majority of the remains, including the palisaded enclosure, is Neolithic. There is later use of the site, possibly including the four-post structures. However, the charcoal samples from the two entrance pits/post-holes (48 and 87) that provided Bronze Age and Romano-British dates were from intrusive contamination (root action/animals); a taphonomic process entirely feasible given that the samples for AMS dating weighed less than 0.5g and the analysis of the charred plant remains indicated penetration into natural features.
>
> there is a strong Neolithic element to the site represented by a group of pits containing pottery, but most of the structural remains, including the palisaded enclosure, are Iron Age or possibly even Roman.

Early Neolithic settlement sites in Wales are rare. A well-preserved site was excavated at the rocky hilltop of Clegyr Boia, Pembrokeshire, where a rectangular hut was found, one of at least three wooden houses on the site (Williams 1952 and Lynch *et. al.* 2000). A later prehistoric stone rampart protected a second house, which had been burnt down. In the case of Llandegai, Gwynedd, where postholes probably representing two Neolithic buildings were found, preservation was probably

due to having been partially covered by the external bank of a henge, thus saving the remaining fragments from plough damage (Lynch and Musson 2004, 27-32). At Gwernvale, Powys, evidence for a sub rectangular Neolithic house was found in the form of bedding trenches and separate postholes. It was similar in plan to one of those early Neolithic buildings at Llandegai and possibly those at Clegyr Boia, and was located under a later Severn-Cotswold style long cairn (Britnell and Savory 1984, 139). At Rhos-y-Clegyrn, Fishguard, Pembrokeshire huts of sub-rectangular plan were dated to the Neolithic on stylistic grounds, the identification of probable Neolithic Peterborough Ware pottery, and from environmental analysis, although the structures themselves were either very ephemerally constructed (Lewis 1974), or had been badly damaged. It seems that in many cases the ability to identify Neolithic domestic structures archaeologically has depended upon their being protected from historic era damage by later prehistoric constructions such as barrows or other earthworks. The absence of such protection may help to explain why the Neolithic evidence at Cwm Meudwy is so hard to interpret, despite such good dating evidence, as the site was heavily truncated prior to excavation, and the spatial analysis of the pits and postholes reveals very little. There was nothing that could be interpreted as a sub-rectangular or other shaped building. Indeed, in common with another recently recognised prehistoric site, that at Llanilar, Ceredigion (Briggs 1997, 16-23), the context of Neolithic pottery is difficult to characterise owing to plough-truncation. However, it is starting to provide a indication of more widespread and complex human presence in west Wales than has been previously recognised.

As unfortunately no datable material was recovered from the palisade gully, it remains a possibility that it dates from either the Neolithic or the Iron Age, and therefore both options must be considered. An example of a Neolithic enclosure of similar shape is to be found at Hindwell, Powys (Gibson 1999), although at about 34 hectares the area enclosed is considerably larger than that at Cwm Meudwy. The postholes were 2m deep and the excavator considered that they held posts 0.8m in diameter (Gibson 2002, 19), which is also much larger than is evidenced at Cwm Meudwy. Most Neolithic palisades, and certainly those identified in Wales, can be shown to be much larger, and of quite different character to the one at Cwm Meudwy. Although the overall corpus of later Neolithic palisade enclosures is a small one (Gibson 2002, 15), Cwm Meudwy does not seem to be characteristic of them. The radiocarbon date of 3970-3785 BC obtained from post-hole 64 may therefore be residual, and the date of AD 130-350 obtained from the other entrance post-hole 87 may more closely indicate the date of the enclosure. This date, however, as described above, could well have been obtained from intrusive material.

In support of a later date for the enclosure at Cwm Meudwy, it bears a number of similarities with an enclosure at Moel y Gerddi, near Harlech, Gwynedd, which was excavated in 1980 and 1981 (Kelly 1988, 101-151). Whilst the enclosure at this site was sub-circular rather than sub-rectangular, in many other ways it was remarkably similar. The enclosure had two entranceways, although they were opposite each other west - east, and there was a single four-post structure, located in the lee of the palisade. Clear evidence for a single central round-house with a ring of supporting posts was also found; it is possible that the truncated remains of postholes 44 and 45 at Cwm Meudwy were once part of a similar structure. The palisade trench itself was "formed by the gap between stones and slabs laid edge-on along the sides of the trench" (Kelly 1988, 107), which is similar to the evidence found in the less truncated parts of the Cwm Meudwy palisade trench. Parts of the enclosure were hewn out of the bedrock at both sites as well. As at Cwm Meudwy there were no finds from the trench. Radiocarbon dates were also inconsistent, with

a calibrated date of 3656-3370 BC from the palisade trench, and the fill of one of the two post-holes flanking the east gap gave a date of 759 BC - AD 0. Nevertheless the excavators attributed an Iron Age date to the enclosure, with evidence of the site having been occupied in the Neolithic Period. This interpretation of an Iron Age date for the enclosure, especially since late dates were obtained from the entrance posthole 87 and the four-poster posthole 9, seems most likely to be appropriate at Cwm Meudwy as well. Enclosure A on Swillington Common, West Yorkshire, is a second Iron Age parallel for Cwm Meudwy (Howell 2001, 56, fig 45 and pl. 4). Here a D-shaped enclosure was made up of 163 closely spaced post-holes. The site had been severely plough-truncated and virtually no internal features survived, but radiocarbon dates calibrated to two sigma of 790-400 BC, 758-261 BC and 397-167 BC from three of the palisade post-holes are broadly comparable with the Iron Age date from Cwm Meudwy.

Palisades pre-dating substantial defences constructed of substantial banks and ditches are a recognised characteristic of the Iron Age, with examples in southwest Wales at Drim Camp (Williams and Mytum 1998, 53) and Castell Henllys (H Mytum pers. comm.) and it is possible to argue that Cwm Meudwy was a similar settlement, but for which no substantial defences were later provided. If the palisaded enclosure at Cwm Meudwy is indeed Iron Age in date then it is of great significance as our knowledge of the period in southwest Wales is dominated by evidence from hillforts and defended enclosures, with over 900 such sites recorded on the regional Sites and Monuments Record. In contrast evidence for undefended settlements is limited to two sites from Stackpole Warren (Benson *et. al.* 1990), and from hut groups and field systems on Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire (Evans 1990) and Bernard's Well Mountain, Pembrokeshire, although the date of the two latter sites, other than broadly prehistoric, has yet to be established.

In summary, the preferred interpretation is for Early Neolithic activity, possibly occupation, at Cwm Meudwy, continuing, perhaps less intensively, into the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. The nature of this activity is unclear. In the Iron Age a small farmstead surrounded by a palisade was constructed; the length of occupation is unknown, but may have continued into the Romano-British Period.

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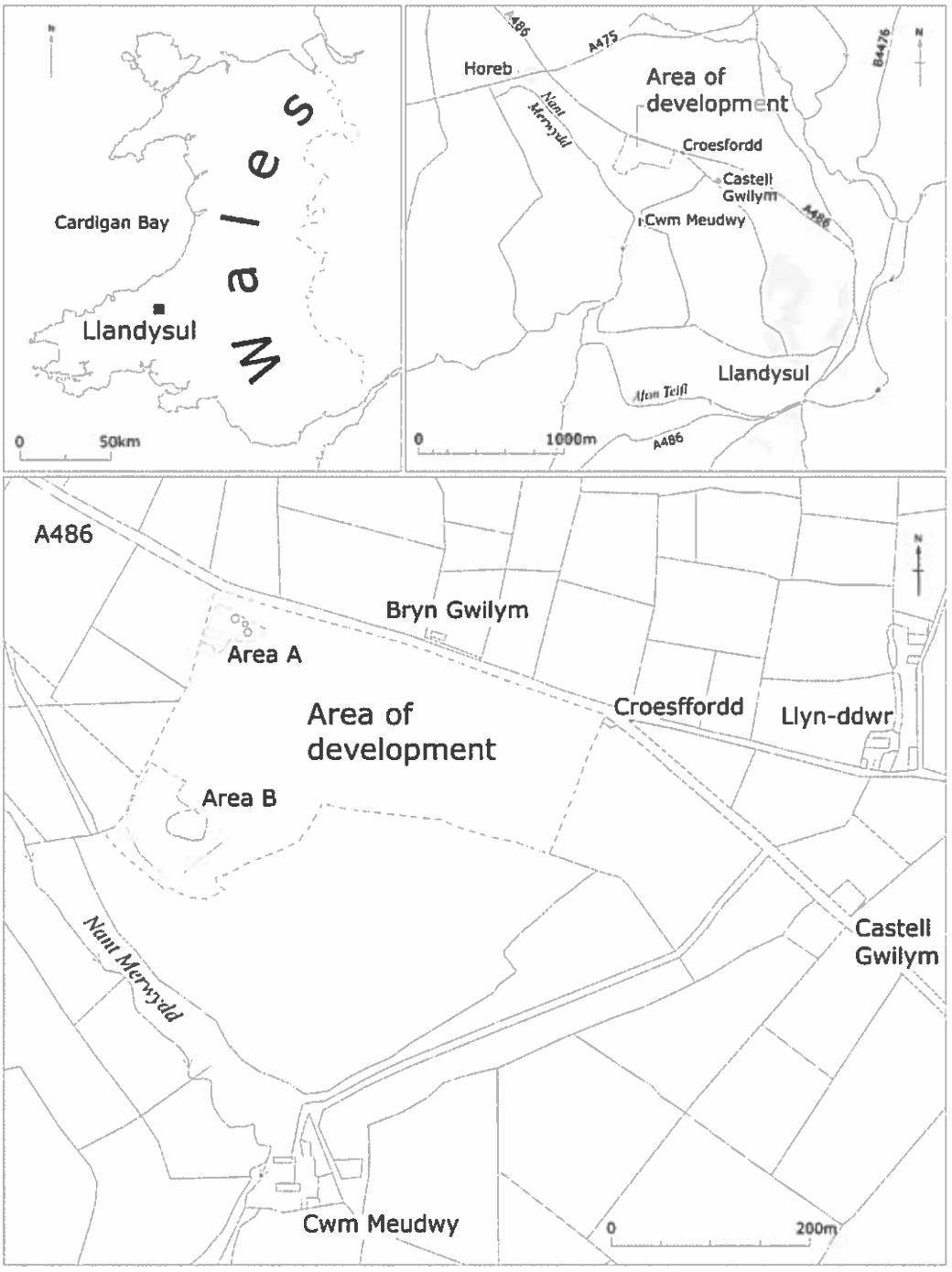


Fig. 1 Location Map

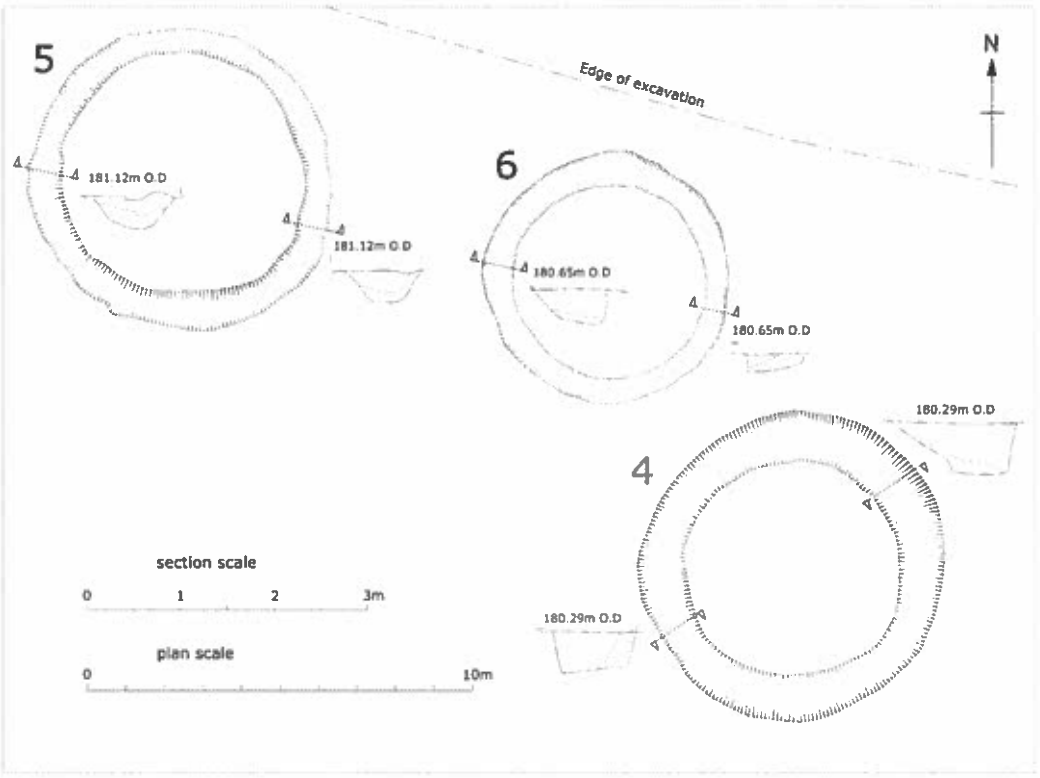


Fig. 2 Plan of Area A- The ring ditches plan and profiles

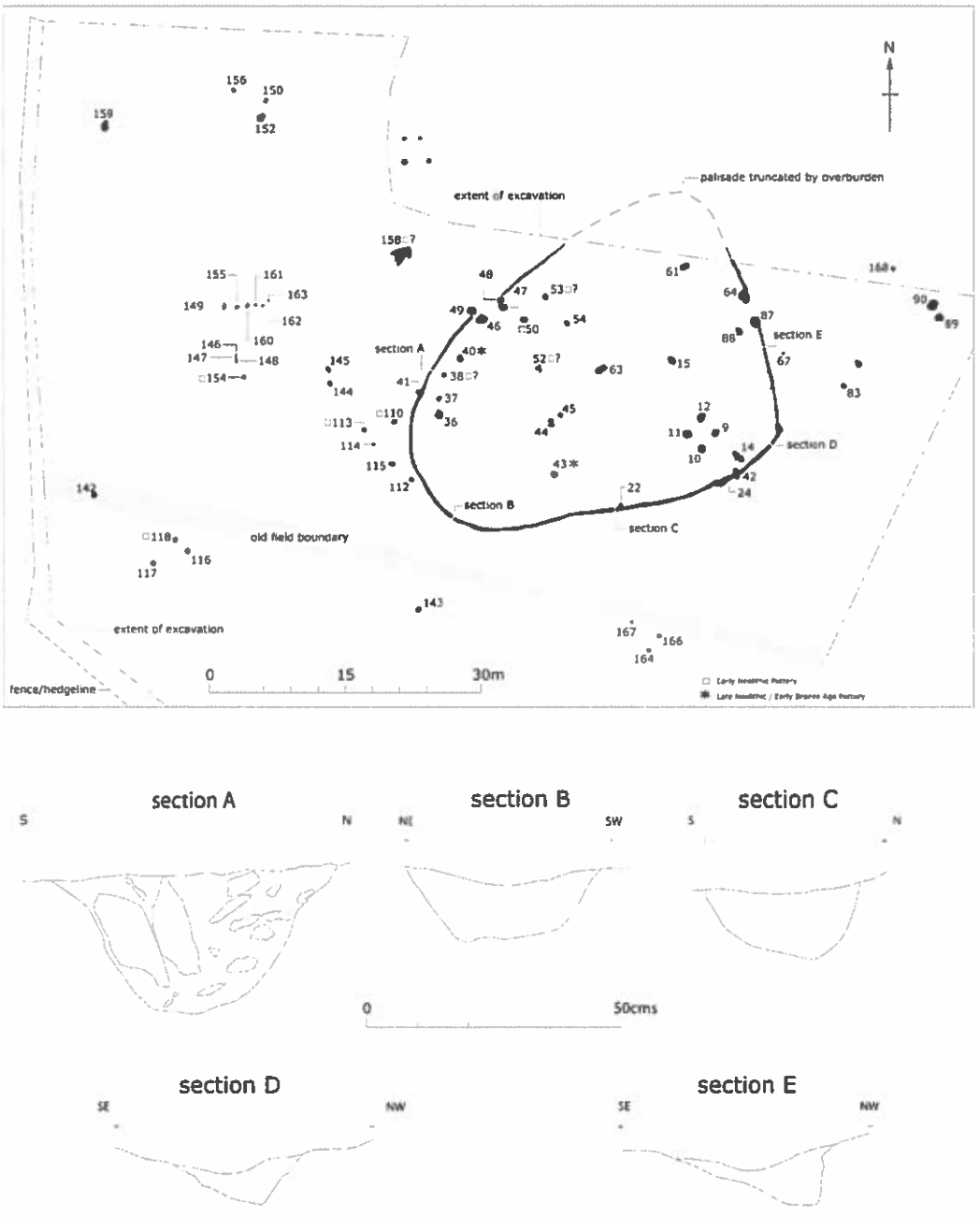


Fig. 3 Plan of Area B- The palisaded enclosure plan and profiles of palisade gully

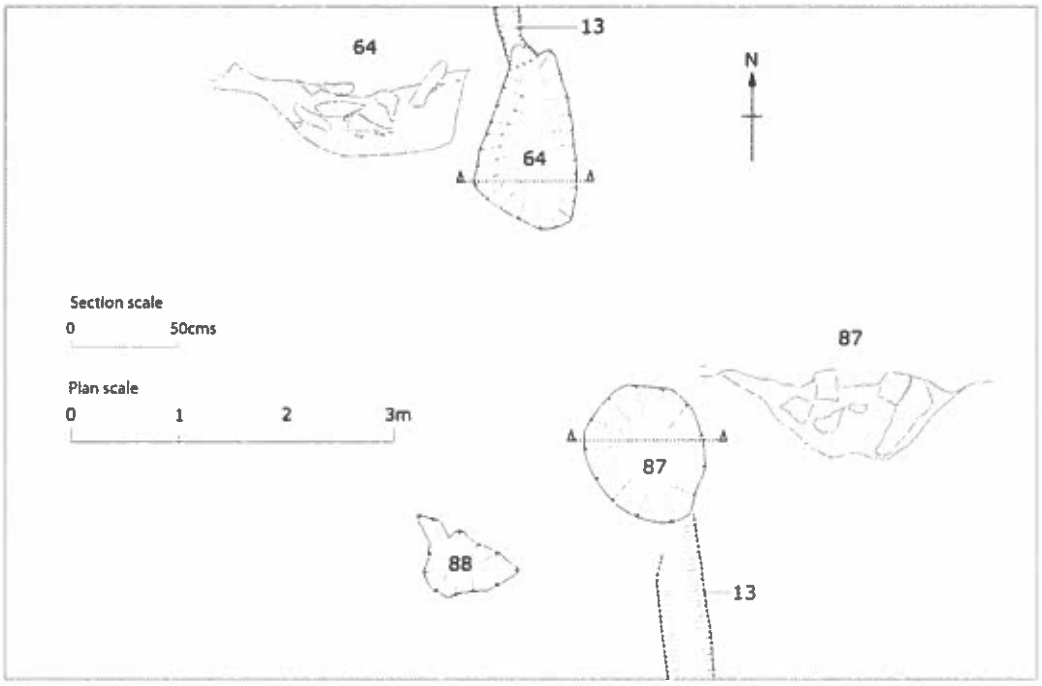


Fig. 4. Northeast palisaded enclosure entrance plan and profiles

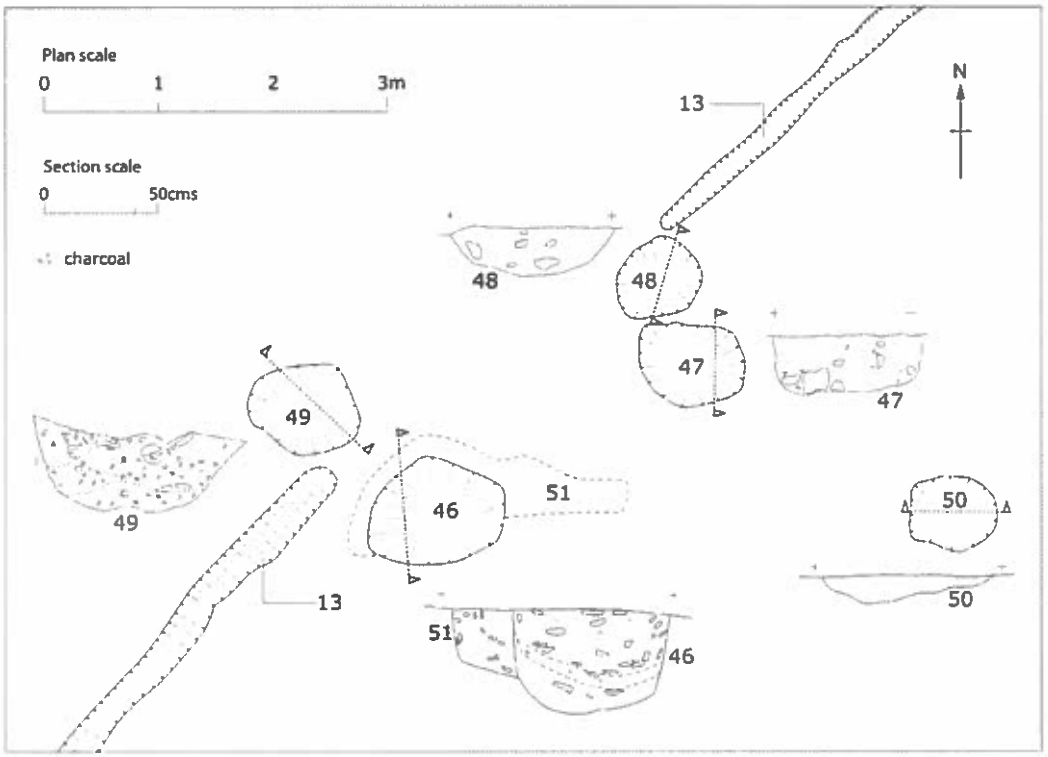


Fig. 5. Northwest palisaded enclosure entrance plan and profiles

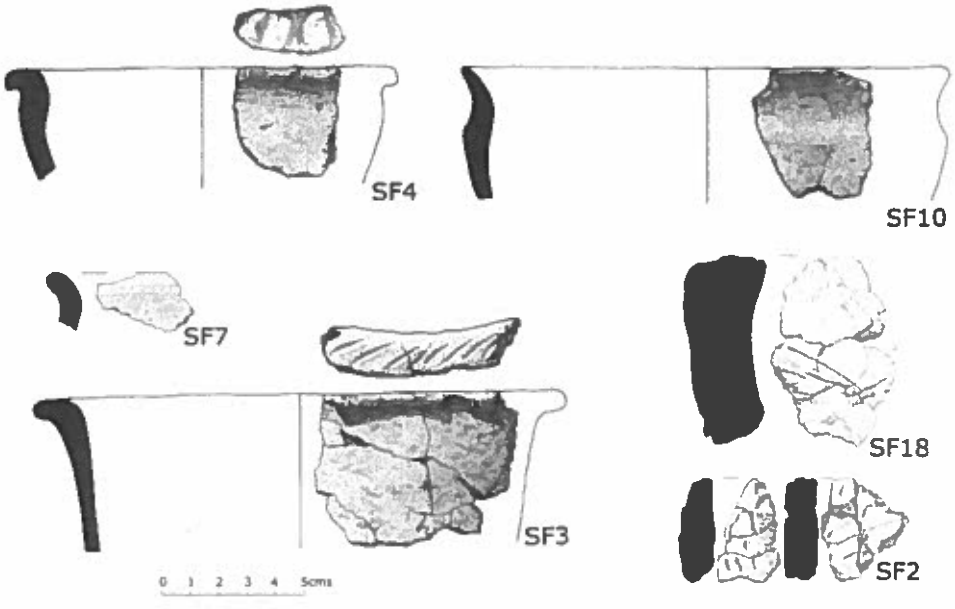


Fig. 6. Prehistoric pottery scale 1:2

Photo. 1 Ring-ditches from the air taken during a visit of a local primary school (copy right: Welsh Development Agency).

Photo. 2 Palisaded enclosure from the air (copyright: Welsh Development Agency).

Photo. 3 The palisaded enclosure from the west with the four-post entrance in the foreground.

Photo. 4 Length of the palisade trench on the west side of the enclosure.

Photo. 5 detail of the four-post entrance from the west.

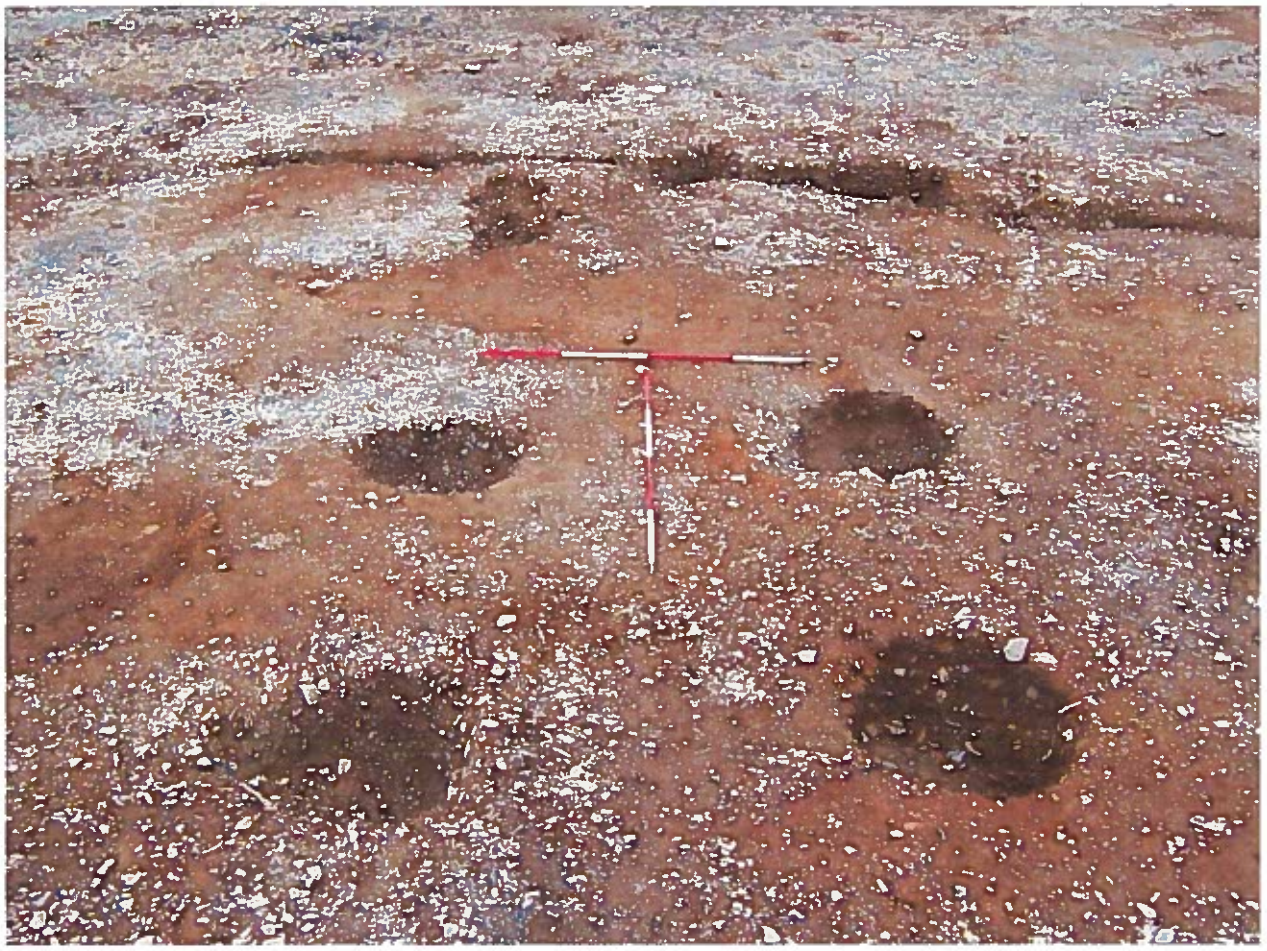

Photo. 6 The four-post structure from the northwest with the palisade trench in the background.

# EXCAVATION OF THREE RING-DITCHES AND A PREHISTORIC PALISADED ENCLOSURE AT CWM MEUDWY, LLANDYSUL, CEREDIGION, 2003

## RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NUMBER 2005/38

**Mawrth 2005**
**April 2005**

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by K Murphy

Swydd / Position: Principal Archaeologist - Field Services

Llofnod / Signature ..... Dyddiad / Date 31 March 2005

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

ar ran Archaeoleg Cambria, Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.
on behalf of Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: Director

Llofnod / Signature ..... Dyddiad / Date

Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau sydd gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn

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