

TY ISAF, LLANWNTA GOODWICK PEMBROKESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
DECEMBER 2005



Paratowyd gan: Archaeoleg Cambria
Ar gyfer: MR M O and D Williams
Prepared by: Cambria Archaeology
For: MR M O and D Williams



A R C H A E O L E G
CAMBRIA
A R C H A E O L O G Y

ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2006/70
RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 55921

Mehefin 2006
June 2006

TANYREGLWYS BLAENPORTH, CEREDIGION ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION DECEMBER 2005

Gan / By

Pete Crane BA Hons MIFA

*Archaeoleg Cambria yw enw marchnata Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyfyngedig.
Cambria Archaeology is the marketing name of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited.*

*Paratowyd yr adroddiad yma at ddefnydd y cwsmer yn unig. Ni dderbynnir cyfrifoldeb gan
Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed am ei ddefnyddio gan unrhyw berson na phersonau eraill a fydd
yn ei ddarllen neu ddibynnu ar y gwybodaeth y mae'n ei gynnwys*

*The report has been prepared for the specific use of the client. The Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd can
accept no responsibility for its use by any other person or persons who may read it or rely on the
information it contains.*

ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA
Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf
Neuadd y Sir, Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir
Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AF
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121
Adran Rheoli Treftadaeth 01558 823131
Ffacs: 01558 823133
Epost: cambria@cambria.org.uk Gwefan:
www.cambria.org.uk

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY
Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited
The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo,
Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF
Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121
Heritage Management Section 01558 823131
Fax: 01558 823133
Email: cambria@cambria.org.uk Website:
www.cambria.org.uk

Cwmni cyfyngedig (1198990) ynghyd ag elusen gofrestredig (504616) yw'r Ymddiriedolaeth. The Trust is both a Limited Company (No. 1198990) and a Registered Charity (No. 504616)

**CADEIRYDD CHAIRMAN: C R MUSSON MBE B Arch FSA MIFA. CYFARWYDDWR DIRECTOR: E G
HUGHES BA FSA MIFA**

CONTENTS *** To EDIT**

SUMMARY	1
INTRODUCTION	1
OBJECTIVES	1
METHODOLOGY	1
RESULTS	2
DISCUSSION	4
CONCLUSION	4
SOURCES	5
FIGURE 1: Location	6
FIGURE 2: Plan of features	7
FIGURE 3: Section of east pit	8
PHOTO. 1:	
PHOTO. 2:	
PHOTO. 3:	
PHOTO. 4:	
PHOTO. 5:	

*Front cover: General view of site. Top of church just visible over shed.
View WNW*

SUMMARY

A large area of topsoil was stripped for a new agricultural building and hard standing. Discovered within this were two probable corn driers, each within small enclosure gullies. Comparisons with other sites indicated that it is probable that these features belong to the early medieval period. However, as yet no definite dating evidence has been obtained.

INTRODUCTION

Cambria Archaeology Heritage Management, archaeological advisors to Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Planning Department, identified that a proposal to construct of a new agricultural building at Ty Isaf, Llanwnda, Goodwick, Pembrokeshire (SM 9330 3950), may impact on the archaeological resource - Planning Application NP/05/552 (Fig. 1).

The site lies in close proximity to a number of important archaeological sites (see Table 1 below) of varying dates. Of particular importance and adjacent to this farm are a number of early medieval early Christian monuments (PRN 8962-8) associated with the church, some 120m away.

PRN	Name	Grid ref	Type	PRN
2486	LLANWNTA GREEN	SM930395	STONE CIRCLE?; FIELD SYSTEM	Neolithic; Bronze Age
2497	CARREG SAMSON;CARN WNTA	SM9331639232	CHAMBERED TOMB	Neolithic
2523	LLANWNTA PARISH CHURCH;ST GWYNDAF'S	SM93213958	CHURCH	Medieval;Post Med
7859	LLANWNTA GREEN CIST	SM9318339533	WELL	Post Med?
8962	LLANWNTA PARISH CHURCH;ST GWYNDAF'S	SM93213958	INSCRIBED STONE	Early medieval
8963	LLANWNTA PARISH CHURCH;ST GWYNDAF'S	SM93213958	INSCRIBED STONE	Early medieval
8964	LLANWNTA PARISH CHURCH;ST GWYNDAF'S	SM93213958	INSCRIBED STONE	Early medieval
8965	LLANWNTA PARISH CHURCH;ST GWYNDAF'S	SM93213958	INSCRIBED STONE	Early medieval
8966	LLANWNTA PARISH CHURCH;ST GWYNDAF'S	SM93213958	INSCRIBED STONE	Early medieval
8967	LLANWNTA PARISH CHURCH;ST GWYNDAF'S	SM93203959	CROSS	Early medieval
8968	LLANWNTA PARISH CHURCH;ST GWYNDAF'S	SM93213958	INSCRIBED STONE	Early medieval
10144	ST GWYNDAF Dedication	SM932396	DELETED	Unknown
13849	LLANWNTA COMMON	SM932396	COMMON LAND	Medieval;Post Med
13850	GARNWNTA	SM933393	COMMON LAND	Medieval;Post Med
14026	LLANWNTA COMMON	SM932396	COMMON LAND	Medieval;Post Med
14027	GARN WNTA	SM935393	COMMON LAND	Medieval;Post Med
46823	LLANWNTA PARISH CHURCH;ST GWYNDAF'S	SM93213958	CHURCHYARD	Early medieval
47393	ST GWYNDAF'S;LLANWNTA CHURCH	SM93213958	PROJECT RECORD	Modern

Table 1: Sites adjacent to the proposed development

The local underlying geology is complex, with four geological epochs represented, all basically volcanic in origin, ranging from the Cambrian to Ordovician. However, as no bedrock was encountered during the watching brief, the exact type of bedrock underlying the site is uncertain. The overlying soil is either typical brown podsollic (Malvern) or Cambic stagnogley (Fforest)(Ordnance Survey 1994 and 1983).

The proposed development was approximately 40m to the southwest of the farmhouse and directly south of a modern barn. The ground was pasture and sloped gently up to the north rising about 1m across the development. There was an open view to the east and also to the sea towards the north. There would have been an open view to the west but this is now obstructed by a large hedge-bank.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this watching brief were to identify and characterise any archaeology.

METHODOLOGY

Cambria Archaeology Field Operations were called in at short notice when machine stripping had already commenced, arriving about midday on 9th January 2006. The weather was overcast. Most of the area of the planned development, of approximately 32m east to west and 22m north to south, had already been stripped by a 360° tracked excavator using a toothless grading bucket. The topsoil had been stripped quite cleanly with little spillage or machine trample.

It was immediately obvious on arrival that there were two pits, each with a charcoal-flecked fill, enclosed by horseshoe-shaped gullies with very charcoal rich fills, and also suggestions of other smaller features. The suspicion was that these pits were the remains of corn driers and likely to be of early medieval date.

The immediate intention was to level the slope of the revealed subsoil to enable a level concrete floor and hard standing to be laid and also footings trenches to support the new shed. The Planning Archaeologist was contacted who consequently stopped the development, and arranged for a site meeting the following day with the client. During the rest of the day parts of the site were hand cleaned.

The following day, 10th January, was extremely wet and increasingly windy. An overall archaeological rapid plan was completed along with a more detailed plan of one of the pit complexes. The site meeting commenced at c.10:40. There was to be no excavation of features, other than sectioning part one of the pits to try to ascertain date and function.

On the 11th January the weather had much improved with a cool wind and clearing skies. However, the site was muddy and trampled from the previous day. The Assistant Planning Officer from Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Planning Department met with the client and after discussion it was agreed that the floor and therefore the roof of the proposed building would be raised, leaving the archaeological features intact below. A further 5m strip on the east side would be necessary, however, for repositioning the doors. This extra strip was undertaken using a toothed bucket making any small archaeological details difficult to see. Nothing was observed. During the rest of the day part of one pit was sectioned and recorded.

RESULTS

It was evident that the main features discovered were two separate sub linear pits each within a horseshoe shaped gully forming separate complexes (Fig. 2 and Photo. 1).

The western complex

A large part of the surface of this complex was hand cleaned but was not planned until after a eluge on 10th January and consequently some small features may have been obscured, although this is considered unlikely. None of this complex was excavated (Photo. 2).

The pit was aligned roughly east - west, approximately 3m long and up to 1.2m wide, and was slightly thinner at the western end (Photo. 3). The subsoil was heat reddened on parts of the eastern edges of this pit. The fill was dark grey with some concentrations of charcoal flecks.

The gully enclosed the pit on three sides, with the east and west arms being 9m wide. The lower side of the hill slope appears to have been left open. This gully was possibly dug to drain surface water away from the pit. The gully was 0.4m wide where it cut the subsoil and appears never to have been very deep. The northern ends appear to fizzle out rather than be constructed terminals; possibly the northern ends continued onwards in the topsoil only. The fill of the gully was very dark grey and charcoal rich, probably deriving from material in the pit.

On either side of the southern end of the gully there were two probable postholes. Also to the south there was a linear feature and another to the northwest. Again both of these features had dark charcoal rich fills.

Within and parallel to the eastern side of the gully there was another longer linear but shallow feature, which possibly continued to the south. This had a much lighter fill and produced one fragment of china. This feature was possibly a deeper plough furrow or a small, modern ditch.

The eastern complex

This complex was very similar to the western. However, the pit was slightly longer, 4m, and much wider, up to nearly 3m. This pit was sectioned across its western end (Figs 2 and 3. Photo. 4). At the bottom of the pit there were a number of charcoal rich lenses (Photo. 5). A few larger pieces of charcoal were retained for possible wood identification and radiocarbon dating along with a bulk sample for possible charred remains analysis. The number of charcoal lenses suggests it was repeatedly used. On the northern side of the excavated section there appeared to be a deliberate foothold to enable climbing out of the pit. Above the lower charcoal rich lenses and lower fill there was a much lighter coloured soil fill with a significant number of large stones suggesting deliberate backfilling. Above this on the northern side there was a lens of mixed orange brown clay, possibly deriving from the subsoil on the edge of the pit. Above this there was fine brown grey silty clay with some charcoal flecks.

The gully of this eastern complex was much closer to the pit edges, than the western complex. The east and west arms of the gully were only 6.7m apart as oppose to about 9m. However, the gully widths were similar dimensions.

Surface evidence suggests there were two phases of this gully. The earlier was further to the south and had a grey fill whereas the later gully cut, with a dark charcoal rich fill, was a little further northwards. The east and west arms of the earlier gully appeared to have been re-cut and had the later dark charcoal rich fill. The gullies were not excavated so this was not confirmed

Within the western edge of the gully there were two possible postholes. There may have been others but the weather conditions and lack of time curtailed any further cleaning.

More recent features

Along with the more recent feature within the eastern complex there was also a modern ditch or furrow curving round the former field boundary to the north. The fill of this produced one brown glazed post medieval pottery fragment.

DISCUSSION

The similarities between the two complexes suggest that they were either contemporaries or near contemporary, with one replacing the other. The most likely use of these pits was as simple ovens, possibly used for corn drying. If as suspected these features are early medieval, then there are only a few examples of this type in Wales: nine ovens and hearths were found near Welshpool (Blockley and Tavener 2002), two corn driers at Newton, Llanstadwell, to the east of Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire (Crane 2004), four on at South Hook, Hubberston, to the west of Milford Haven (Crane forthcoming) and one at Blaenporth, Ceredigion (Crane 2006). All of the Pembrokeshire examples are close to the sea, as is this site. There are historic references to corn driers of this date in Ireland (Kelly 1997) and there have also been a number of similar discoveries there, although little has been published (Manning 1984, Monk 1981). Initial work on the charred grain material from South Hook suggests that grain was deliberately sprouted, possibly for brewing (Wendy Carruthers pers. comm.).

The gullies around the pits are unusual and no medieval or earlier examples of this shape of gully have been traced so far. They appear to form a hood around the pits directing surface water past them. A simple but effective solution as otherwise the pits, cut into clay subsoil, would soon have become unusable during wet weather.

With the rapid response from Cambria's Planning Archaeologist and the Assistant Planning Officer from Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Planning Department it was possible to agree slight alterations of the design so the archaeological features would survive. However, this significantly raised the costs of the new shed to the client. Therefore further grants are being sought from Cadw to fund radiocarbon dating, analysis and publication of this important site.

It is considered that when archaeological conditions are applied to planning consents they could be more informative on the potential costs and delays to the client. In this particular example, if the design could not have been changed the site would have to have been fully excavated, entailing delay, probably of two weeks, and considerable costs, probably making the new shed uneconomically viable.

CONCLUSION

The archaeological condition on this development was demonstratively appropriate. This watching brief discovered a potentially very important site that still needs to be firmly dated. The redesigning of the new building has enabled the archaeological features to be preserved.

SOURCES

Blockley K and Tavener 2002 Excavations at Sarn-y-bryn-caled, Welshpool, Powys, in 1998-99. *Montgomeryshire Collections* 90, 41-68

Crane P 2004 Excavations at Newton, Llanstadwell, Pembrokeshire. *Archaeology in Wales* Vol 44

Crane P 2006 *Tanyreglwys, Blaenporth, Ceredigion. Archaeological Evaluation*. Unpublished client report held by Cambria HER

Crane P forthcoming *Excavation at South Hook, Hubberston, Pembrokeshire*

Kelly F 1997 *Early Irish Farming*, Early Irish Law Series IV. Dublin: Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies

Manning C 1984 The Excavation of an early Christian Enclosure of Killederdarum in Lackenavorna, Co. Tipperary, *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* Vol 84C, Number 7

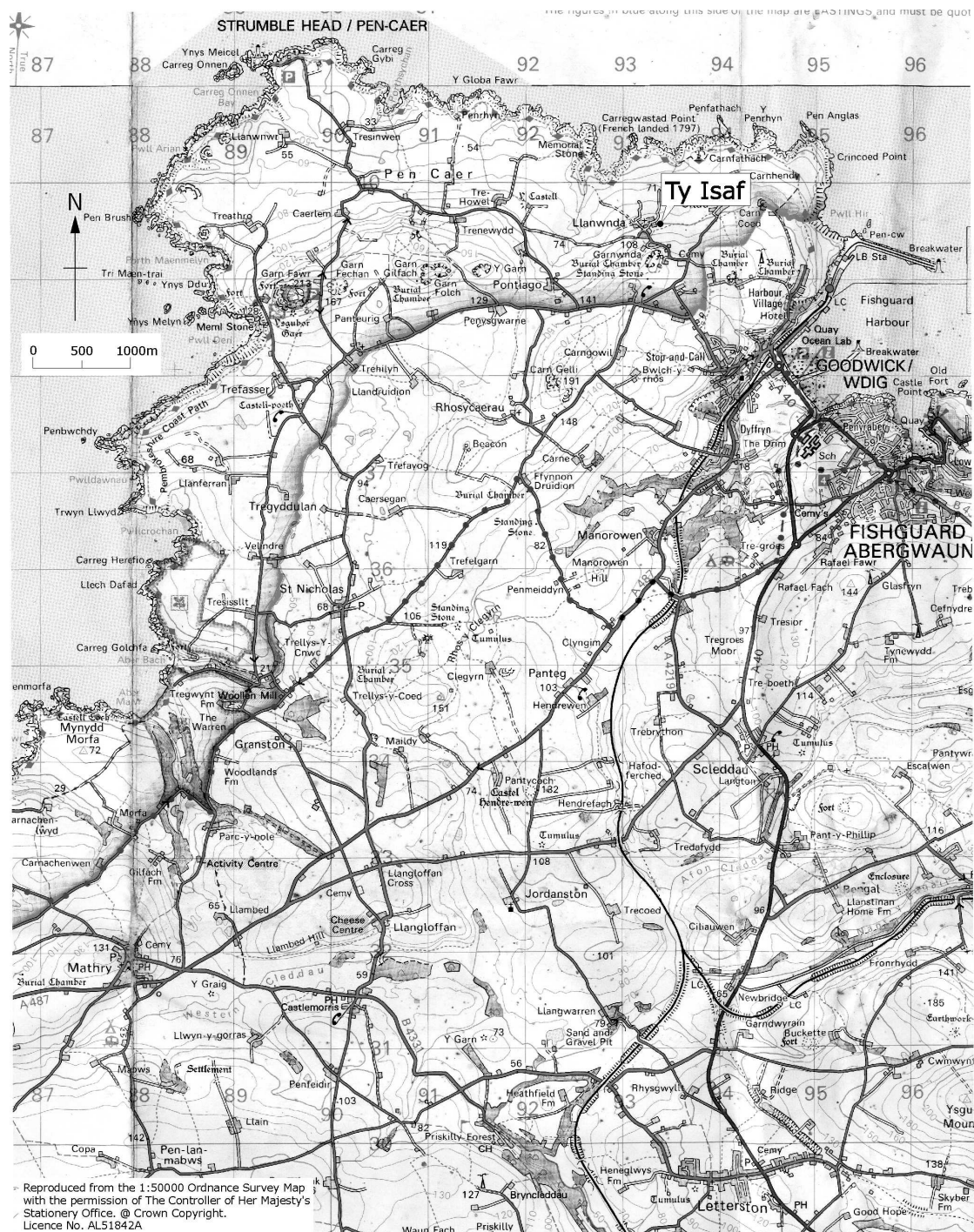


Figure 1: Location

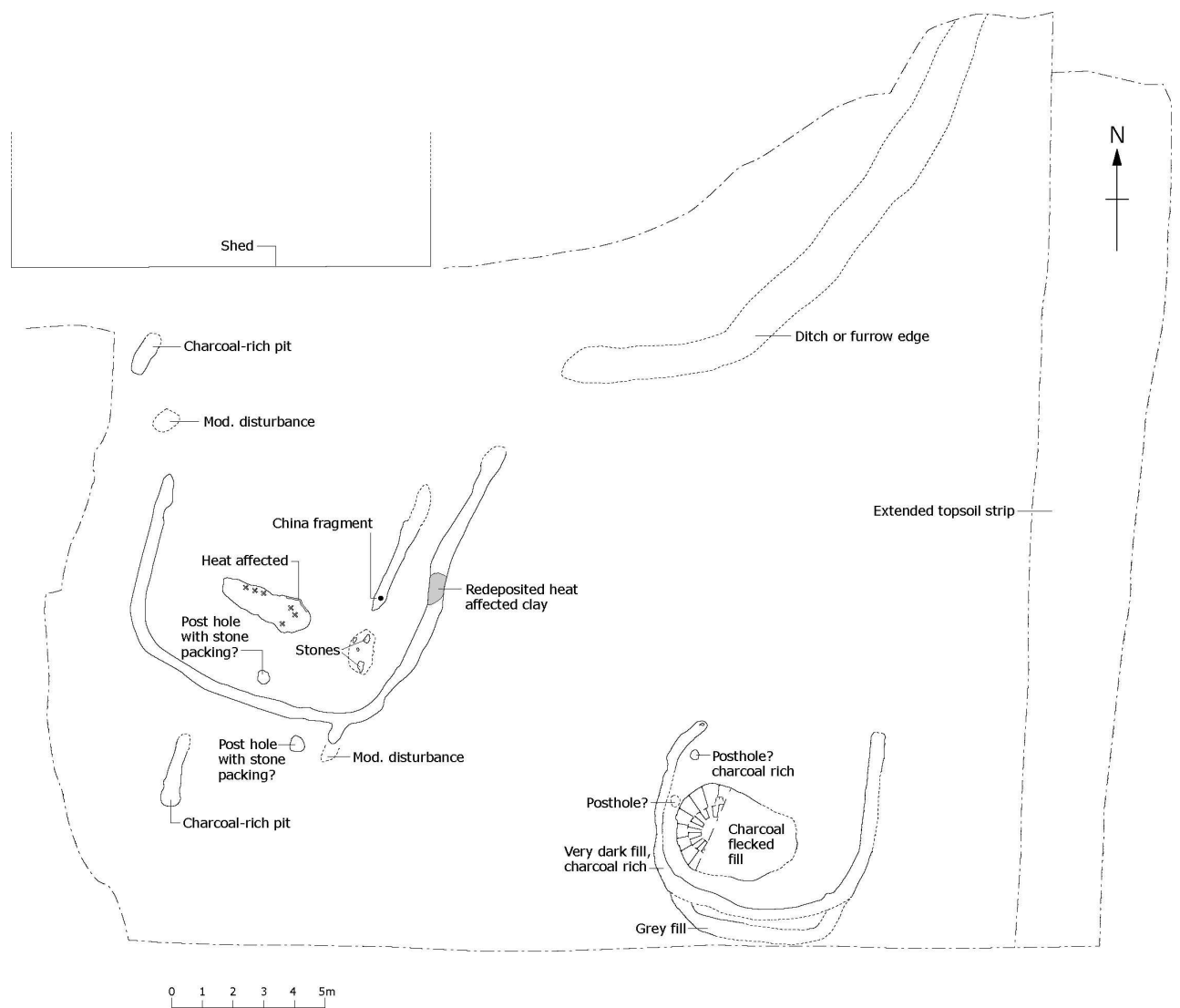


Figure 2: Site Plan

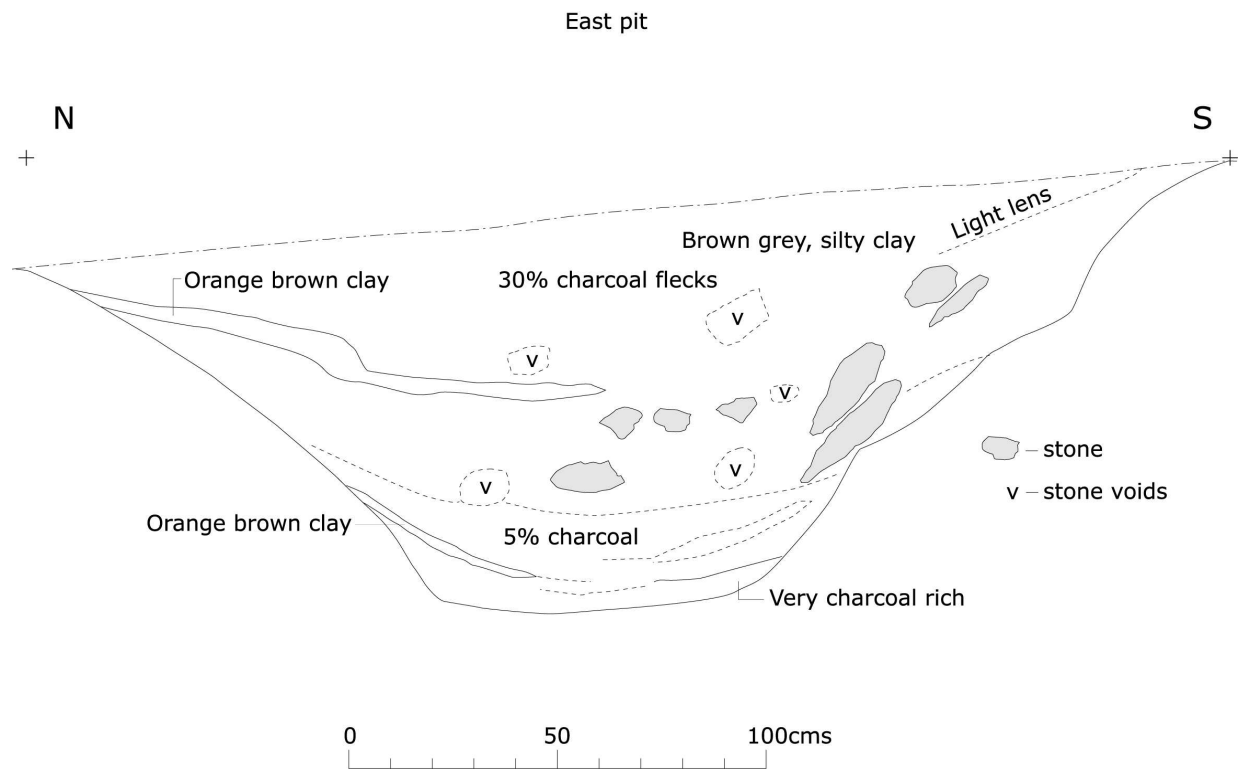


Figure 3: Sections of eastern pit



Photo. 1: General view west. 1m scales in the pit of both west and east complexes



Photo. 2: Western complex. 1m scale in pit. View N



Photo. 3: Western Pit. Scales 1m and 1m. View W.

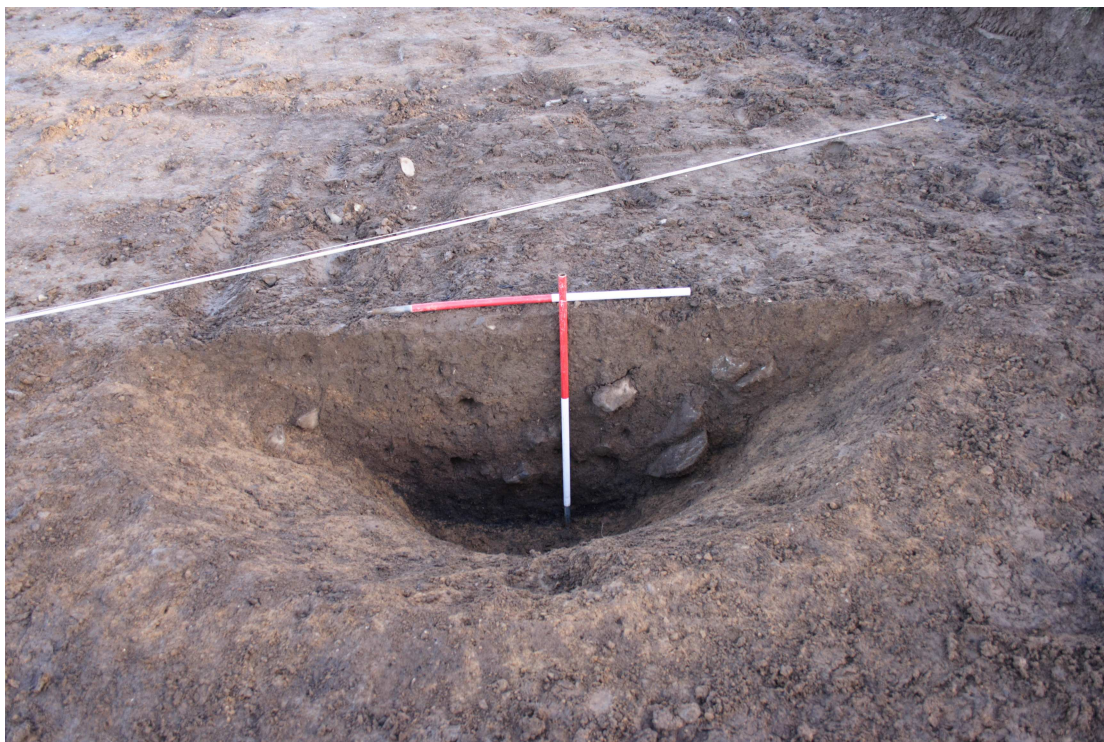


Photo. 4: Eastern pit as sectioned. Scales 1m and 1m. View E



Photo. 5: Detail of lenses at bottom of eastern pit. View E

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NUMBER 2006/70

**Mehefin 2006
June 2006**

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan:
This report has been prepared by:

Pete Crane BA Hons MIFA
Swydd / Position: Senior Archaeologist

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date

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

Ken Murphy
Swydd / Position: Principal Archaeologist

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date

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

Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw
sylwadausydd 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