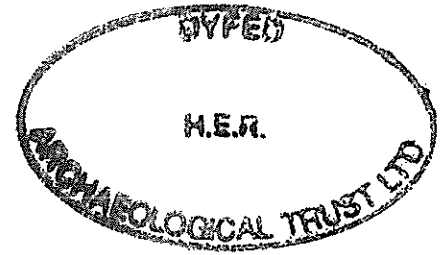


Dyfed Archaeological Trust



REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF LAND AT LLAINFRONFELEN,
BRYNHOFFNANT, CEREDIGION.

Client:

Mr & Mrs G Davies
Cwmrhydneuadd
Pentregat
Plwmp
Llandysul

Evaluation Project Officer: I M Darke

Report by: I M Darke and K Murphy BA MIFA

Dated: 24 December 1993

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd
The Old Palace
Abergwili
Carmarthen
Dyfed
SA31 2JG
Tel: 0267 231667

The Trust is a Limited Company (no. 1198990) and a Registered
Charity (no. 504616)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF LAND AT LLAINFRONFELEN, BRYNHOFNANT, CEREDIGION

Introduction

The site is subject to an outline planning application for two dwellings (Ceredigion District Council ref. no. D1. 93.1142). Following advice from the Curatorial Section, Dyfed Archaeological Trust, the Local Planning Authority, in accordance with Welsh Office Planning Policy Guidance 16 (PPG 16: Archaeology and Planning, November 1992), requested that the applicant secure an archaeological evaluation of the site. The purpose of the evaluation was to provide the Planning Authority with sufficient information to assess the likely impact of the proposed development upon the archaeology of the site and take this into account as a material consideration in the determination of the application. The Trust's Curatorial Section provided a specification for the evaluation. Following this the applicant commissioned the Trust's own Field Section to carry out the work.

Site Location and Description

The sites lies on the eastern side of the B4334 approximately 120m south-west of the cross roads at Brynhoffnant (Fig. 1). The site is under improved pasture. The frontage of the site is defined by a hedgebank and the south-west and north-east sides by fences (Fig. 2). The site is flat. The site had been used, up to about 40 or 50 years ago as an agricultural scrap yard.

Archaeological Interest

The application area contains the site of an archaeological monument, registered as site 1370 (National Grid Reference SN33105119) on the *Sites and Monuments Record* maintained by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust. The site is recorded as a round barrow, a bronze age burial monument. It was first recorded by S R Meyrick *History and Antiquities of the County of Cardigan*, 1808, p209, part of a group called the Four Graves. Meyrick described the barrow as 'a large carnedd' or heap of stones. By the time of the first edition of the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1887 the monument is marked as 'Cairn (site of)'.

Methodology

Three machine-dug trenches were dug down to the top of the sub-soil using a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket under the direction of a professional archaeologist. The resulting surfaces were hand-cleaned, planned, photographed and described. It was not possible to relate the trenches to Ordnance Datum as the nearest bench mark to the site has been removed.

The Excavations

As this was an evaluation and not complete excavation the presumed centre of the cairn as recorded by the Ordnance Survey was not examined; this ensured that putative central grave would not be disturbed. Topsoil was 0.26 to 0.30m thick and comprised a mid- to dark-brown clay-loam with a scattering of small- and medium-sized angular stones. There was no indication of the cairn or cairn material in the topsoil or subsoil. Subsoil consisted of a light yellowish-brown clay loam through to a bright orange clay loam. Shattered stone was present in the subsoil and patches of iron panning were noted. Because of the level nature of the site and the lack of relief in the subsoil the profiles of the trenches are not reproduced here as they contain no relevant information. No finds were discovered in the course of the excavations. Four features were revealed and recorded in the trenches (Fig 3):

1. A gully, 1m wide and 0.20m deep, running NE-SW lay the south-west arm of the excavation. It was filled with a yellowish-brown clay loam with a *circa* 20% content of medium- to large-size stones and occasional flecks of charcoal (Fig.3, Section A).
2. A circular pit about 0.50m in diameter and 0.26m deep. Vertically sided and flat-bottomed. Its fill comprised a mixture of dark brown clay-loam and grey clay with a scatter of smaller stones and flecks of charcoal. A large piece of quartz and a large angular stone in the fill indicate that this feature was a probably post hole.
3. A circular pit about 0.70m in diameter and 0.20m deep with steeply sloping sides and an irregularly-shaped base. Possibly disturbed by animal burrows. Its fill consists of a dark brown clay-loam with a scatter of small stones and charcoal flecks. Three large stones evident in the upper part of the fill have been disturbed by ploughing. This feature seems to have been a post hole.
4. Three stakeholes each about 60mm diameter. They were not excavated but it was noted that their fills contained a high proportion of charcoal.

Summary and Conclusions

No trace of the burial cairn was found. The four archaeological features recorded could not be dated. Features 2 and 3 are likely to be of recent date. The function and date of the gully, feature 1, is unclear. It is possible that it may have been a ring-ditch surrounding the cairn. However, for this to be the case the position of the cairn as located by the Ordnance Survey must be inaccurate as the gully would seem to indicate a ring-ditch lying between the excavations and road.

Excavation Archive

The excavation archive consists of two sheets of plans, sections and profiles, miscellaneous site notes, 8 x 35mm colour slides, 8 x 35mm black and white photographs. There were no finds.

9669
1-785ha
4-4

333513

1469
1-052ha
2-60

Reproduced from the
map with the
Controller of Her Majesty's
Crown Copyright Reserved
Ceredigion District Council
Ordnance Survey
Scale 1:2500
3968
2-206ha
5-45

9760
-793ha
1-96

9151
1-926ha
4-76

1358
1-806ha
4-66

2067
-486ha
1-20

2961
-105ha
-26

2856
1-530ha
3-78

3857
-332ha
-82

0145
2-420ha
5-98

1343
1-720ha
4-25

2445
-724ha
1-79

3244
-534ha
1-32

Brynhoffnant

Cemetery

Brynhoffnant Inn

1737
-243ha
-60

0234
-421ha
1-01

Capel
Bryn Moriah
(Independent)

B.M.
227-48m

11029
2-965ha
7-33

229
-195ha
-20

Anwyllfan

Filling Station

Llys-mierl

Wauville

2632
1-020ha
2-52

3029
-101ha
-25

3725
-874ha
2-16

Cairn
(site of)

9215
-530ha
-3-78

0219
-465ha
1-15

Alpine Cottage

0313
243ha
-60

1313
-712ha
1-76

0710
1-012ha
2-50

Haven Cottage

0111
-348ha
-86

0006
-318ha
-86

1200
-506ha
1-75

2100
-142ha
-35

2803
-170ha
-47

3200
-283ha
-77

4200
-194ha

1:2500

Figure 1

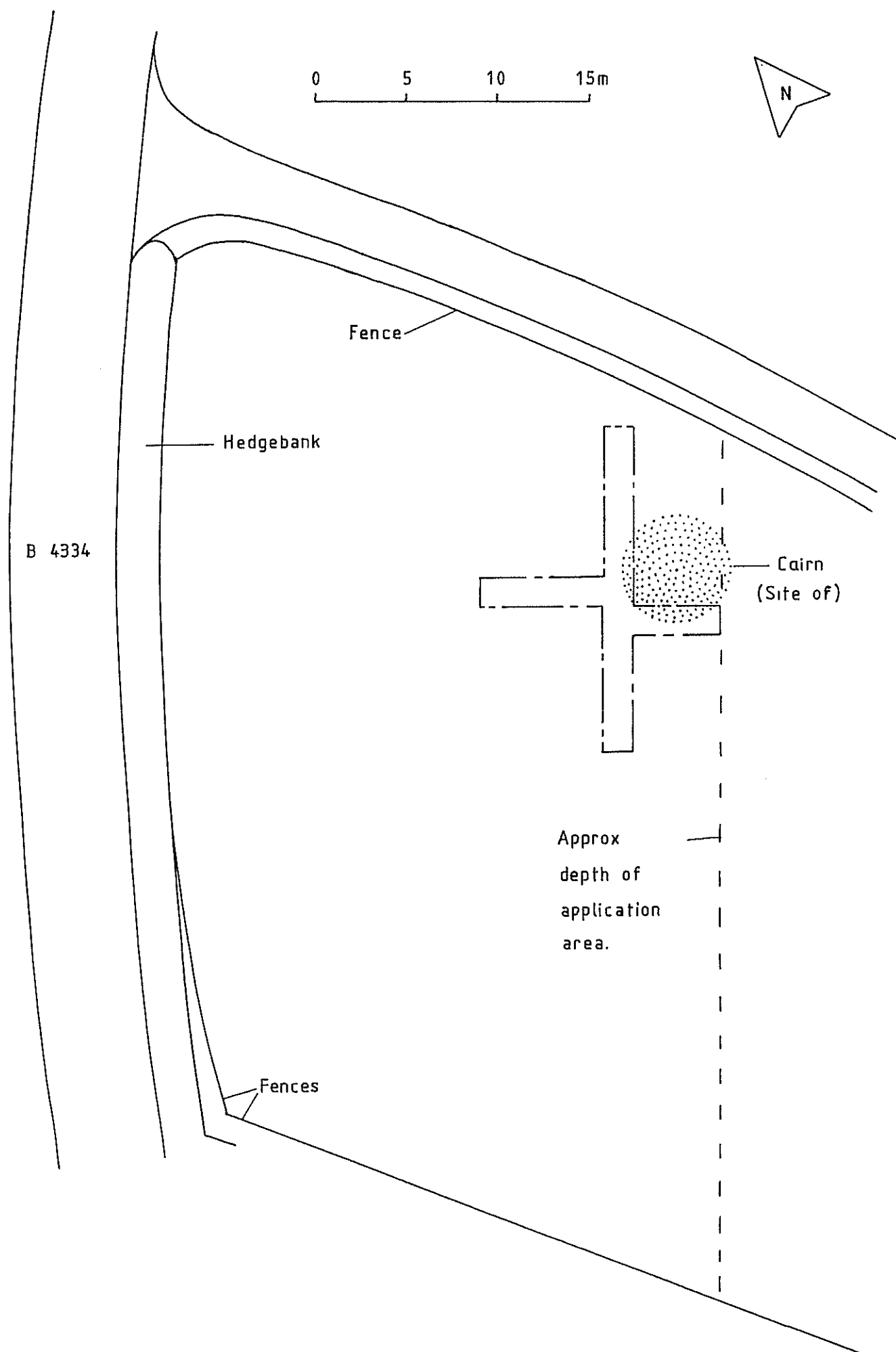


Figure 2

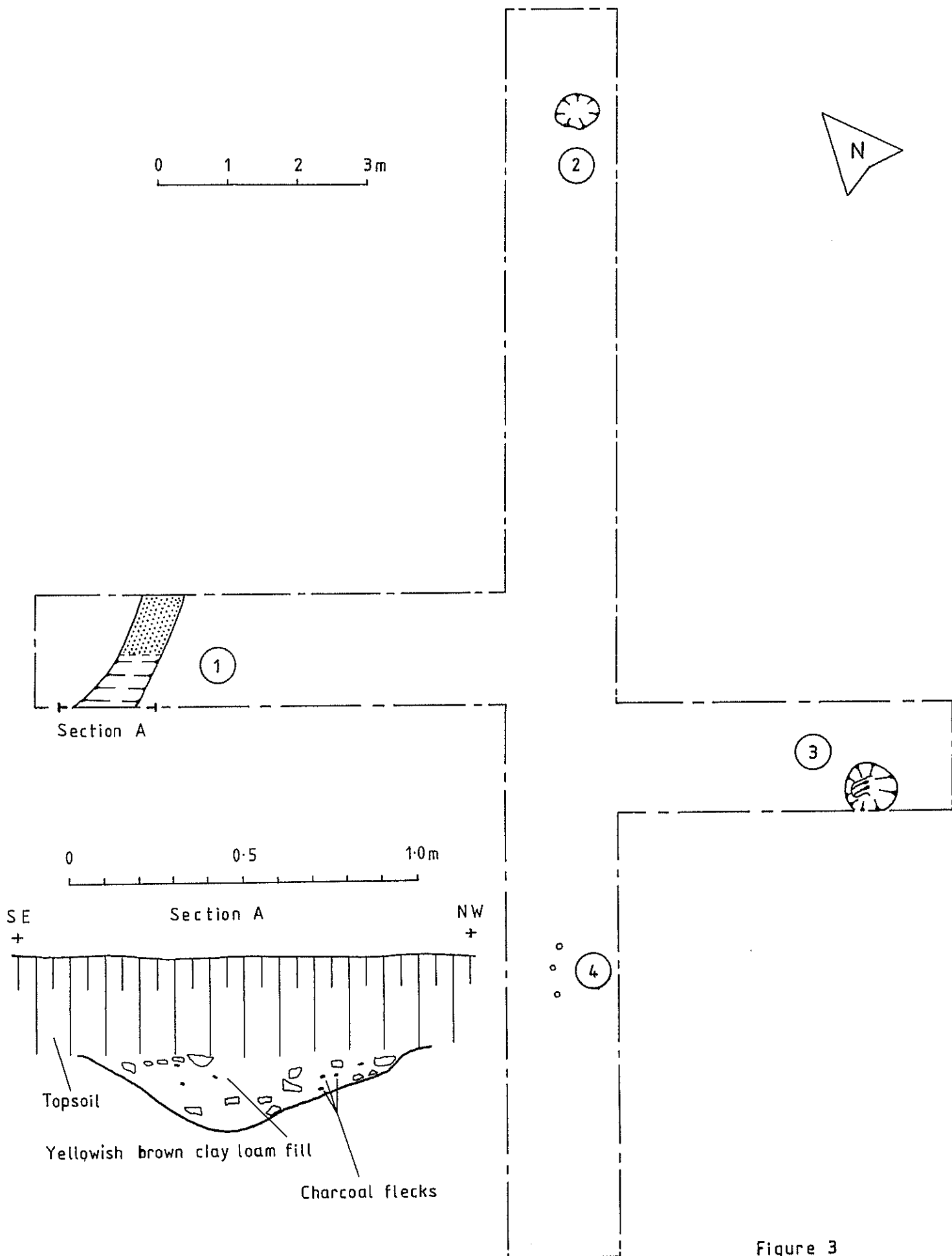


Figure 3