

CWM GELLI IAGO, Beddgelert (SH 638 477)

On the eastern slopes of Cwm Gelli Iago a hut group hugs a rocky knoll on a SW facing shelf at 1150ft OD at the base of Clogwyn Coch. The group comprises two separate round huts and three connected structures, two of which are round huts whilst the third has been partly robbed for a latter wall. Three other nearby separate robbed structures may have been round or rectilinear huts. A curved line of walling along the break in slope joins the largest separate round hut.

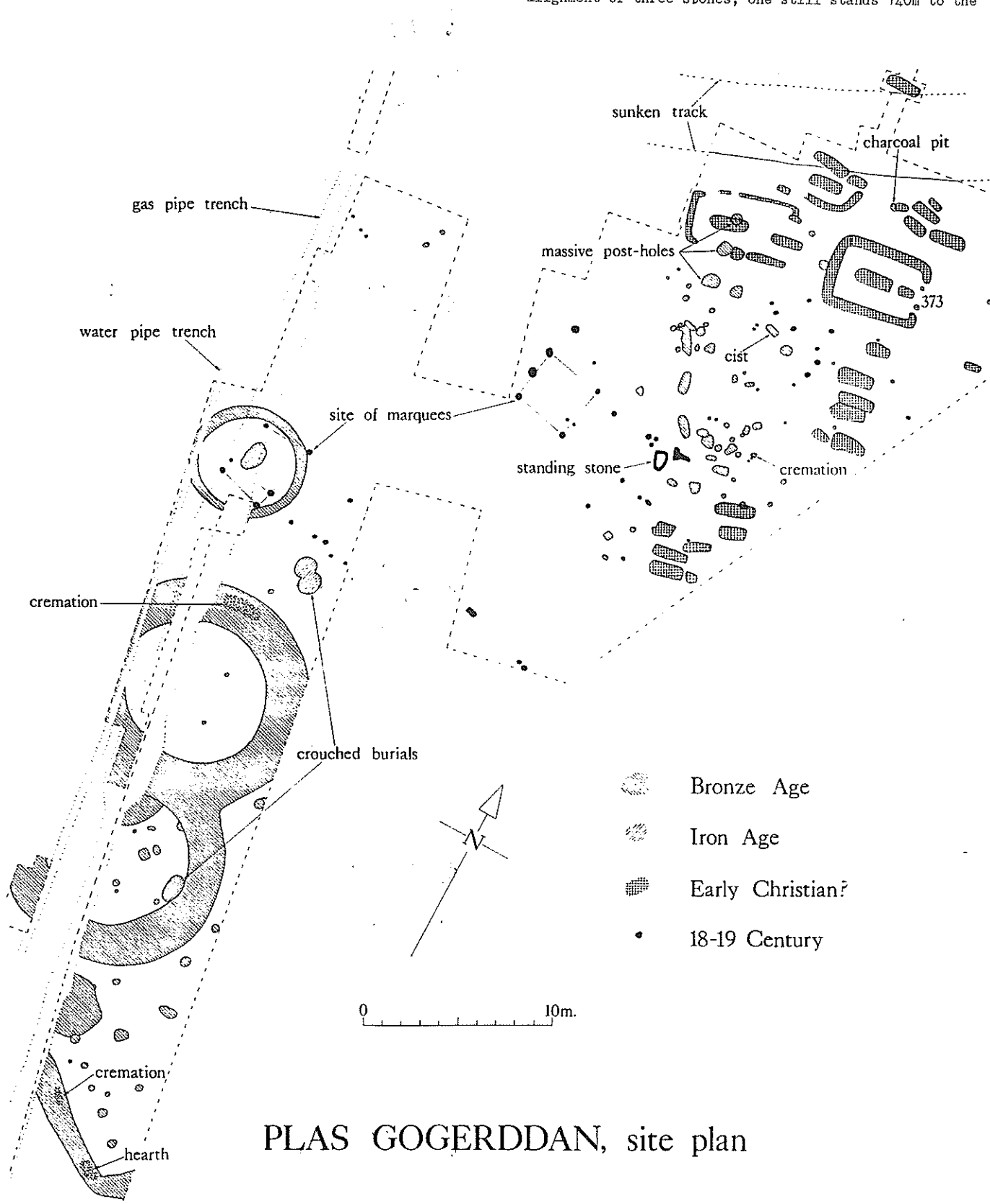
M GRIFFITH

CARDIGANSHIRE

PLAS GOGERDDAN, Trefeirig (SN 6264 8351)
DAT PRN 8237

Excavations around a standing stone on land belonging to the Welsh Plant Breeding Station revealed a series of remains dating from the Bronze Age up to the present day.

The standing stone originally formed part of an alignment of three stones, one still stands 140m to the



PLAS GOGERDDAN, site plan

west; the third is lost. A large round barrow, standing to 1m high and surrounded by a 30m diameter cropmark ditch, lies 50m to the south and further faint cropmarks are visible 250m to the west (AW, 24, p.24). This complex of prehistoric monuments is situated on a low gravel ridge, above the flood plain of the Afon Clarach.

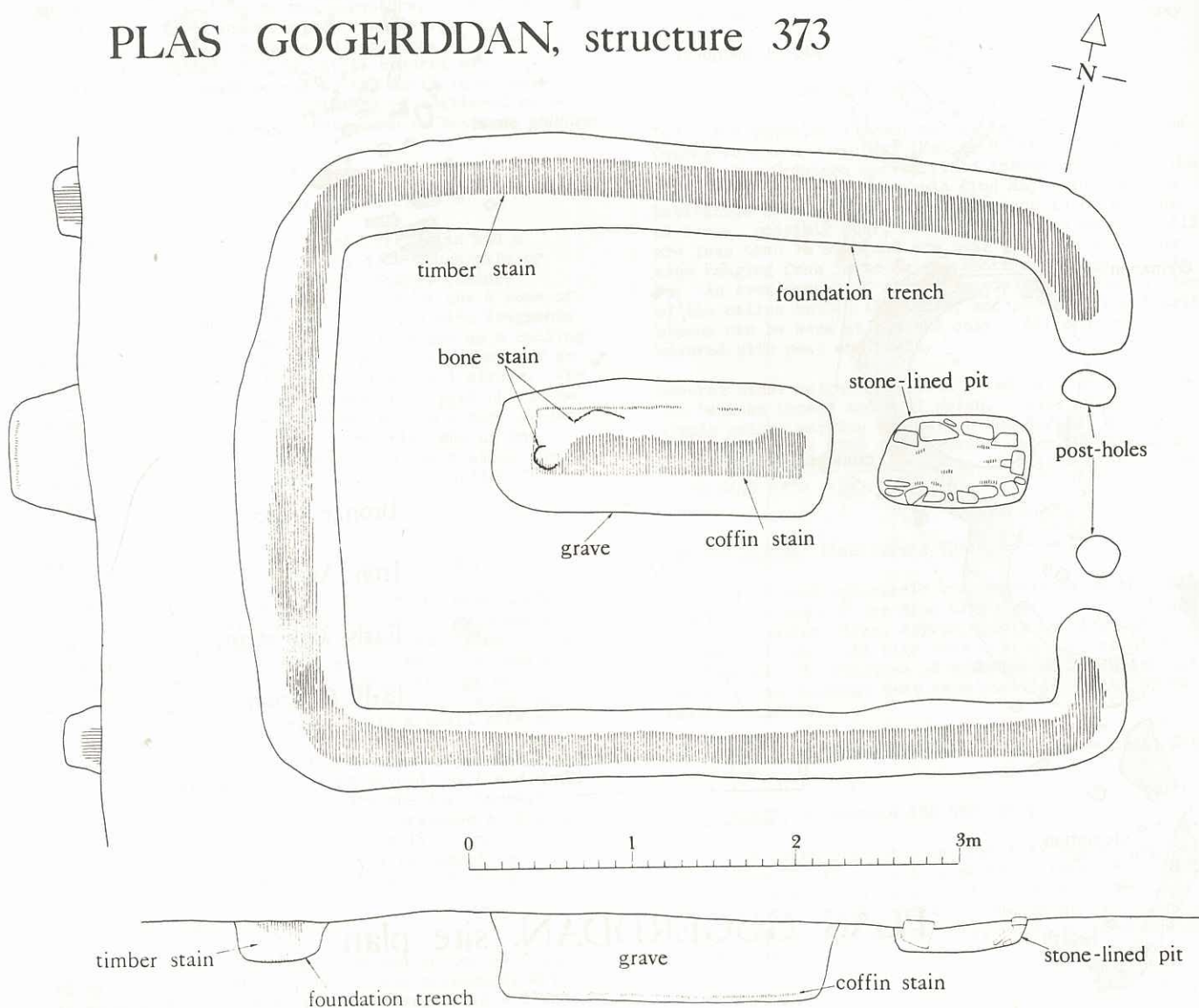
The 2m high standing stone was revealed not to be in its original position, but set up in the 18-19th century. A shallow pit 3m to the north-east may have been its original site. Numerous pits and post-holes of presumed Bronze Age date lay to the north of the stone. Of particular interest were three massive post-holes, the largest would have accommodated a timber 50cm diameter bedded 2m into the ground; a small cist, a partial cremation and a pit filled with charcoal and carbonised cereal grains. Charcoal samples for radio-carbon determinations have been submitted from the latter two features.

Evidence from the fills of the two interlocking ring-ditches to the south-west of the standing stone suggest mounds originally stood within their diameters, there was no evidence for central burial pits. A cremation was deposited in an upper fill of the northern ditch. To the north of the interlocking ring-ditches a smaller, shallow ring ditch contained a shallow central pit. No unburnt bone of any period survived on the site. Some of the pits to the south of the ring-ditches, including the five pits aligned on a shallow ditch which held a partial cremation and a hearth, contained fragments of burnt bone and charcoal; possibly token cremation deposits.

Two bronze fibulae and a body stain indicated the presence of an Iron Age crouched burial in a pit dug into the inner, eastern, edge of the southern ring-ditch. Two further interlocking circular pits, the southernmost containing a trace of bronze and a body stain, may also be Iron Age crouched burials.

Between 20 to 25 orientated graves were sited around the standing stone. The lack of bone preservation and other diagnostic features rendered impossible the interpretation of small east-west aligned pits as graves. However 9 of the graves contained stains of plank built coffins. Fibrous material from one of these stains has been submitted for a radio-carbon determination. Surrounding three of the graves were rectangular timber structures. The best preserved structure (373) measured 5m by 3.5m. It consisted of a trench, 40cm wide, 25cm deep, down the centre of which a timber stain was detected. An entrance at the eastern end was marked by small post-holes. The central grave possessed a coffin stain and a partial body stain; the head at the western end. Just within the entrance was situated a shallow stone-lined pit. A similar feature was present, in the same position, in the rectangular structure to the north-west, only partially recoverable. In the latter case the stone lined pit had evidence of having contained a timber box. The third rectangular structure surrounding a grave measured 5.5m by 3m. The entrance to this structure may have been on the south side or eastern end. These orientated graves and rectangular structures are, at the moment, presumed to be of Early Christian date.

PLAS GOGERDDAN, structure 373



Archaeological evidence complimented the document evidence for use of the area in the 18-19th century as a race course. Post-holes probably representing sites or marquees or other temporary structures, discovered and vast amounts of broken wine bottle clay tobacco pipes were found in the topsoil around standing stone, which no doubt served as a conver viewing point.

K MURPHY, for DAT

ABER CAMDDWR II (SN 7501 8691)

In April 1986 partial draining of Nant-y-Moch reservoir allowed excavation to continue on a small k cairn (see AW, 24, p.29). DAT PRN 4129.

The main body of the cairn was re-excavated to the 'grave' originally recorded by A H A Hogg. charcoal filled pit with evidence of *in-situ* burial was discovered beneath the rectangular annexe to cairn. Two of the charcoal filled pits surround cairn held large upright stones, some of the others originally have done so, while two contained evidence having been marked by timber stakes.

The large number of stakeholes discovered formed obvious pattern, except for an alignment on the side of the cairn. Several of the stakeholes appear to function as markers pre-dating upright stones. Small Bronze Age sherd was discovered in a stake beneath a cairn kerb stone.

ABER CAMDDWR II

