ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY GEOPHYSICS SECTION

REPORT ON RESISTIVITY SURVEY

SURVEY: ELISEG **DATE:** 8-9.4.77

Report no. G 12/77

1. SITE

OS grid reference: SJ 202445 **Field no.**

Location: valley of Eglwyseg river, Llantysilio-yn-Ial

Geology: Late Glacial flood gravels above Ludlow Shales.

Archaeological evidence: recorded excavation of tumulus, and re-erection of the cross shaft in 1779.

2. SURVEY

Object: to determine extent of C18 excavations, prior to re-shaping of the tumulus mound.

(a) Resistivity survey	(i) Area survey	(ii) Traverses
Configuration :	Double-Dipole :	
Spacing – probes :	1 m. :	
traverses :	:	
Meter :	Martin-Clark :	

(b) Other tests nil.

Survey grid measured to: local features: see site plan

Plans/charts enclosed:

Site plan, incorporating filtered and unfiltered plot of survey data. 1:400

cont/

4. RESULTS

The plots of the survey data largely reflect present physical conditions at the site. The sharp break of slope between the foot of the tumulus and the adjacent land surface corresponds with the position of an almost continuous sub-circular band of relatively high resistance. Resistance is very high over most of the tumulus, but on all slopes its summit area appears as a patch of apparently low resistance. This is partly due to the presence of the base of the pillar, and the surrounding iron fence, both of which inhibited the placing of probes.

The filtered plot renders a better picture of variations of resistance on the tumulus. The mound does not have an even surface, and, in the process of inserting probes, it became clear that in part its surface consists of large blocks of stone, in part of patches of soft soil. The latter appear as areas of relatively low resistance. Halfway between the summit and and the foot of the mound, on its SW side, there is an area of relatively low resistance (outlined on the plot), which coincides with a shallow depression of its surface. This depression is flanked, in an irregular manner, by blocks of flagstone, and there appear to be at least a few blocks immediately sub-surface within the depression. There is an area of relatively high resistance on the downslope (SW) side of this feature that does not correspond with any obvious surface feature or occurrence of rocks.

CONCLUSIONS

The contemporary description of the excavation of 1779, quoted in Archaeologica Cambrensis, indicates that the tumulus was opened at its summit, at the site of the base of the pillar. It is possible that the excavation extended down the face of the tumulus to include the area marked on the plan. In the contemporary description it is mentioned that a layer of ' pebble-stones' was removed. This, and the disturbance of blocks of stone incorporated in the mound would account for the low resistance at the summit and in the area marked on the plan, while the strewing of such waste on the downslope side of the excavation may account for the increase of resistance in that area.

There is no positive evidence from this survey which would indicate the presence of any feature, such as a ditch, in the area adjacent to the tumulus.

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For: D.Morgan Evans. **Date of report:** 24.8.77

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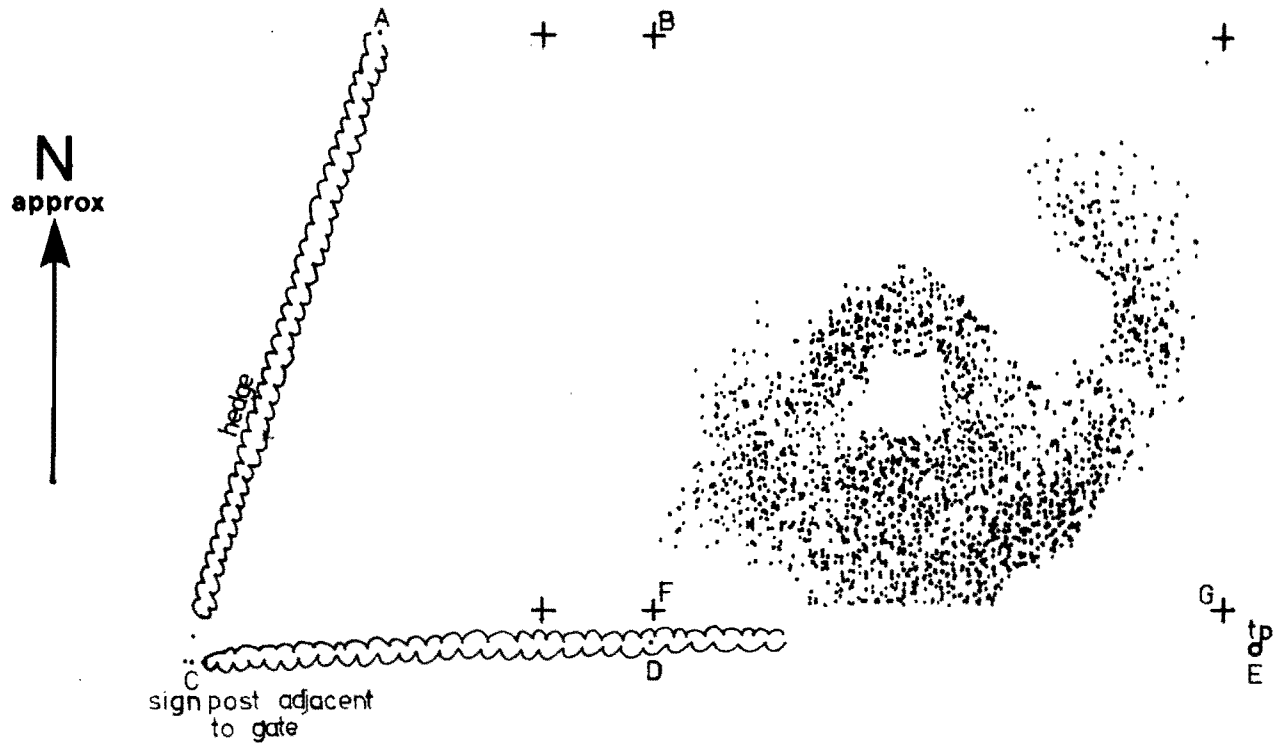
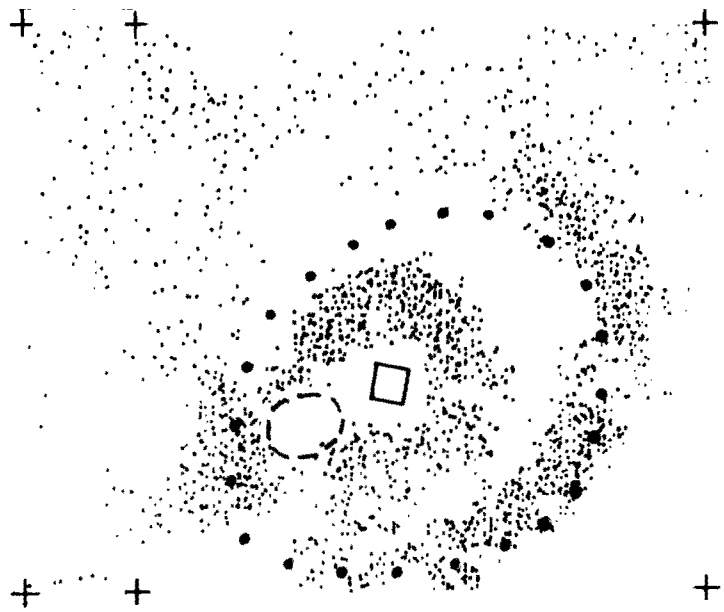
1 Unfiltered plot



2 Filtered plot



- Concrete markers at foot of tumulus
- Iron fence around pillar
- \+ Survey grid pegs

A–B	14·4 m
F–C	24·5 m
F–D	1·7 m
E–G	2·6 m

A and D measurements to mid-hedge

E measurement to side of telegraph pole

feature described in text

ELISEG

RESISTIVITY SURVEY

Site plan
Computer plot

Survey no. 22/77 **Plan no.** 1 **of** 1	1:400	**DoE A.M. Laboratory** **Geophysics Section**