

25 No. 4 Moel Trigarn Stone Camp and Hut Circles <sup>1010</sup>

A very important fortified prehistoric town, in some respects resembling but in others widely differing from the works on St. David's Head, and Garnvawr on Pencaer. The walls of Trigarn are of much slighter build, and therefore not so well preserved as in the former fortifications. In the Trigarn walls are some doubtful indications of sentry boxes. There are two entrances to the camp, one on the eastern extremity, the other to the south west; the latter is covered by 3 out-works and a flanking wall. In connection with these little satellite camps are several hut circles, one important specimen standing out alone, clear from the other buildings. The peculiarly distinguishing marks of Trigarn are 3 great cairns, from which it takes its name. These are as it were a triple citadel and consist of 3 great collections of stones, with a circumference of 100 yds. probably somewhat less when in repair. The cairns are in truth clusters of those little chambers which we have christened sentry boxes, of all shapes, large and small, some big enough to be called hut circles. In the eastern cairn were 13 clearly to be counted, in the middle cairn 6, in the western 8. We measured one very perfect specimen in the eastern cairn. It was a neatly built rectangular parallelogram, 9 ft long, 4 ft deep and 5 ft high. There were no means of entering these chambers except from above; whether the whole cairn was roofed in, or each chamber had its own shelter, or all were uncovered, we had no means of discovering. Within the walls of the camp, which are double to the north, and single to the south, are very many hut circles and depressions marking the site of old dwellings. Trigarn seems to have been occupied by a larger permanent population than any other prehistoric settlement in Pems. examined by the writer. When we surveyed Trigarn there was no water visible within the walls, but rushes grew in several places, and a strong spring broke out just beyond the line of fortification to the north. No flint chips were picked up.

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A very important fortification, in some respects resembling, but in others very widely differing from St. David's and Pencaer. The walls were of much higher build, and so are not nearly so well preserved. There are some doubtful indications of sentry boxes in these fallen walls. There are two entrances, one on the eastern extremity, the other south-western. This latter is covered by 3 outworks and a flanking wall. In connection with these little satellite camps, there are several hut circles, one important one standing out clear from all the other buildings. So far this fort resembles the others mentioned above: the difference consists in three great artificial heaps of stone. In these cairns were excavated sentry boxes large and small, some almost big enough to be termed hut circles, but much more resembling the hut circles of the other stone camps. In the eastern cairn there were thirteen clearly visible; in the middle one (which almost touched) six; in the western cairn, eight; the two latter are a little distance apart and are connected by stone walls. Within the camp are very many hut circles, and depressions showing where they have been. This camp seems to have contained a larger permanent population than any other fortified work known to the writer in the county of Pembroke. When we visited Foel Trigarn no water was visible within the walls (it had been a dry season) but there is a strong stream running out of the ground just outside and rushes were growing very strong within. No flint chips were picked up. For a full description see the "Exploration of Moel Trigarn" (Arch. Camb. V, xvii, 189) by the Rev. S. Baring Gould; R. Barnard Esq., F.S.A., and the Rev. Irvine Anderson, which proved that Moel Trigarn was inhabited in the Iron Age; and that it is probably of the same period, and was erected by the same people as those who built the fortifications at St. David's Head, Carn Fawr and Carn Ingli in Pembrokeshire; Garn Goch in Carmarthenshire; and Treceiri in Carnarvonshire.