

THE PREHISTORIC SOCIETY

19. Disgwylfa Fawr SN 78 sw

7373 8474

Located on a summit at 506 m OD. The cairn is now a grass-grown mound with a diameter of 20 m and a height of 3 m. It was excavated in 1937 when a trench was cut through the site (Forde 1938a; 1938b). No first-hand excavation report survives. A section drawing exists in the National Museum of Wales but is not accessible at present (Briggs, pers. comm.). The mound contained 'a central burial within a large ring of standing rock slabs set up in an outward sloping position. Within this ring lay a dug-out trunk some 8 or 9 ft long of which the greater part of one end has been preserved. Above this lay a second small dug-out trunk 3 ft 6 in long. The larger trunk is said to have lain at a depth of about 5 ft below the present summit of the barrow and the smaller approximately 1 ft above it' (Forde 1939, 90). In the smaller trunk were cremated human bones, a small flint blade (now lost) and a Food Vessel standing on its base. Animal skin which apparently covered these finds was not preserved. Some animal hair, of fox or stoat, was preserved. The coffins, which then still had bark adhering to them, were of *Quercus robur*. The larger one has now yielded a radiocarbon date of 1350 ± 80 bc (HAR-2187) (Green 1980, 137). The structural ring recorded above is not visible at the surface of the mound.