

An illustrated talk on Welsh Stone Rings

By John R. Hoyle and Robert Price.

Gorsedd Circle Machynlleth

Stonehenge

The most famous
stone circle
complex
anywhere.

Note the
Heelstone in the
distance and the
two bluestones in
front of the two
sarson stones



Bluestone quarry
Craig Rhosyfelin.

About 4km south
west of
Eglwysrw.

The quarry was
last worked about
5000 years ago
and two of the
Stonehenge
bluestones came
from here.



Surveying a stone ring

It is possible to make an accurate survey of a stone ring using only a tape measure, but it requires a great deal of cross referencing between stones.

It is much better if you have some device to measure angles from near the centre of the ring.

For my initial surveys I made use of my astro compass (I had this as a Christmas present in about 1950)

One of my sons - David - decided that only a theodolite was good enough, and got one for the most recent surveys.

A steel tape, a book to record the readings and a couple of willing helpers are the only other requirements.



Lle'r-neuaddau Cairn circle

A typical small Welsh stone ring.

About one mile south of the dam of the Nant y Moch reservoir.





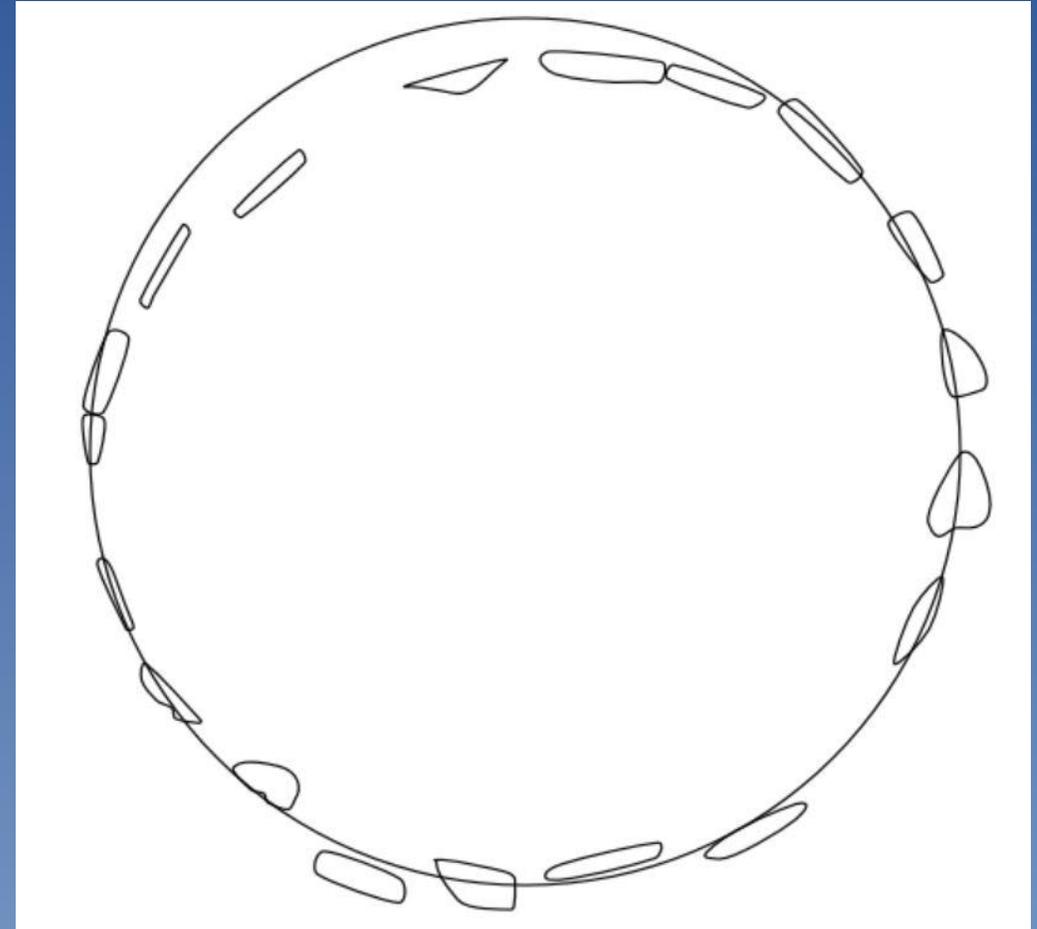
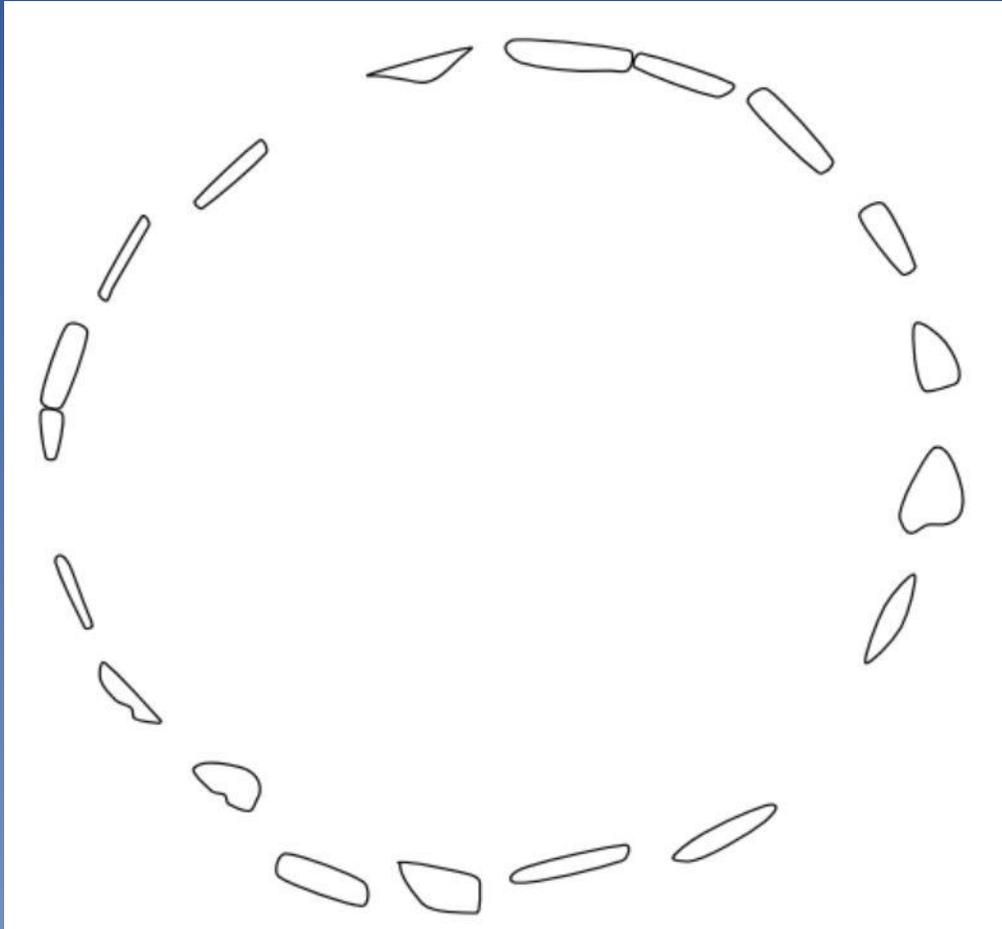
Not all rings
are like
Stonehenge



Find all the
stones!



The plan on the left appears to show that the ring is circular. However when a circle is superimposed it becomes clear that it is flattened along a section in the north and west. Is this due to poor construction, possible movement of stones or a deliberate feature of the design?



Lle'r-neuaddau ring

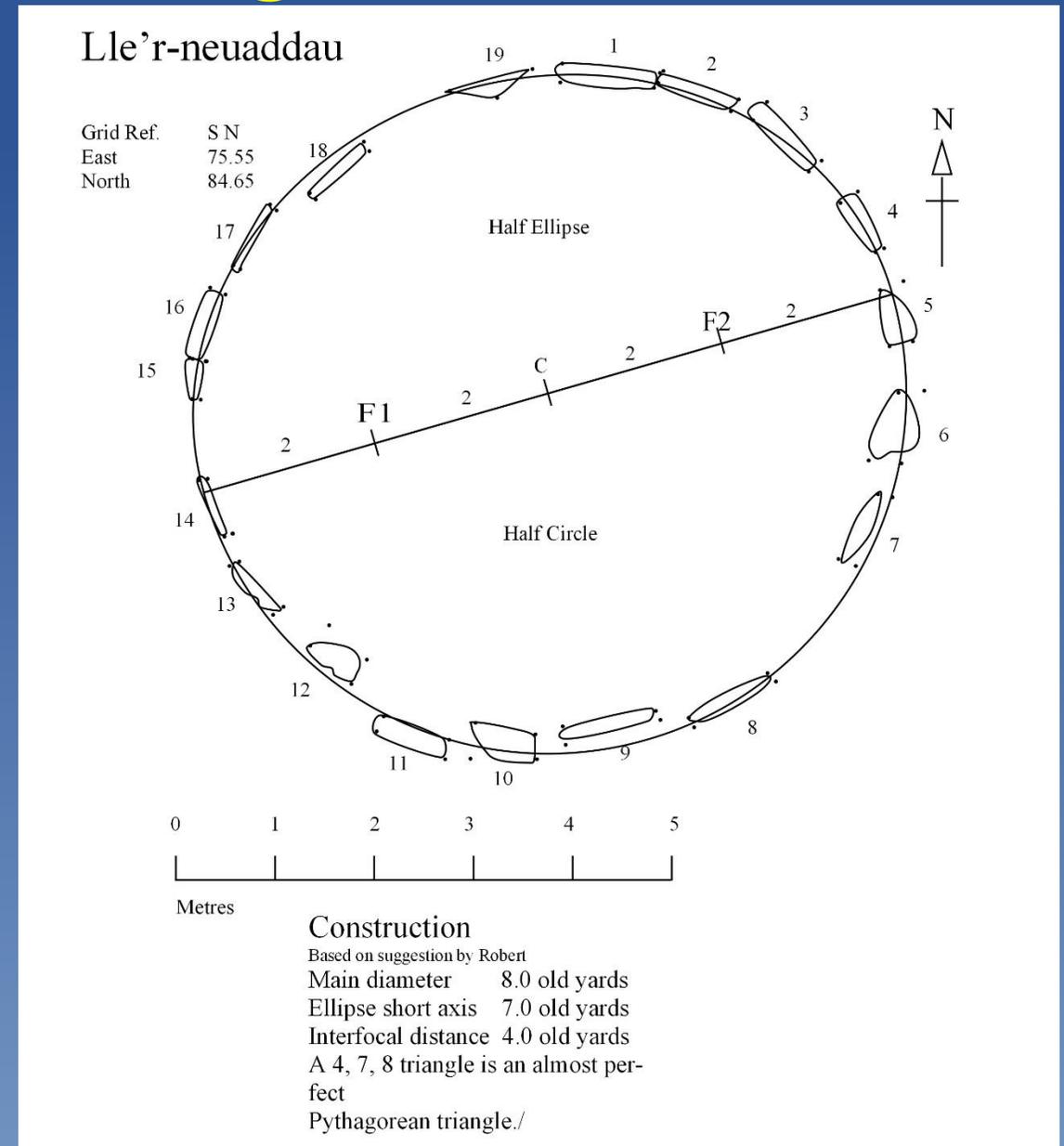
Plan with superimposed geometry

The proposed geometry consists of a semicircle for the lower portion and half an ellipse for the upper part.

Circle diameter 8 old yds.
(1 old yard is 2.97 ft.)

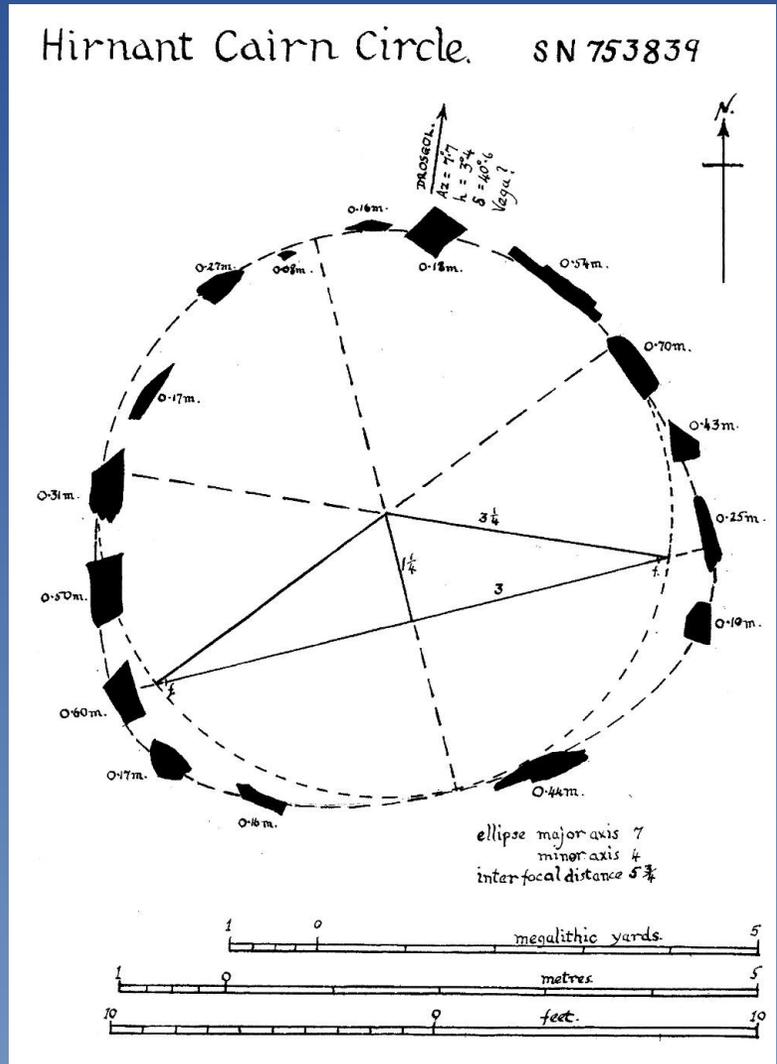
Ellipse short axis 7 old yds.

Focii half way from centre to edge



This ring, to the south of the Nant Y Moch reservoir, has been allowed to become overgrown and farm machinery has disturbed the ground near to the ring. Fairly recently two stones have been placed to fill the gaps at the south and south east sections of the ring, but they are not part of the original ring.

The design is fascinating in that it is an egg shape with an elliptical big end. It is the only known ring with this type of geometry.



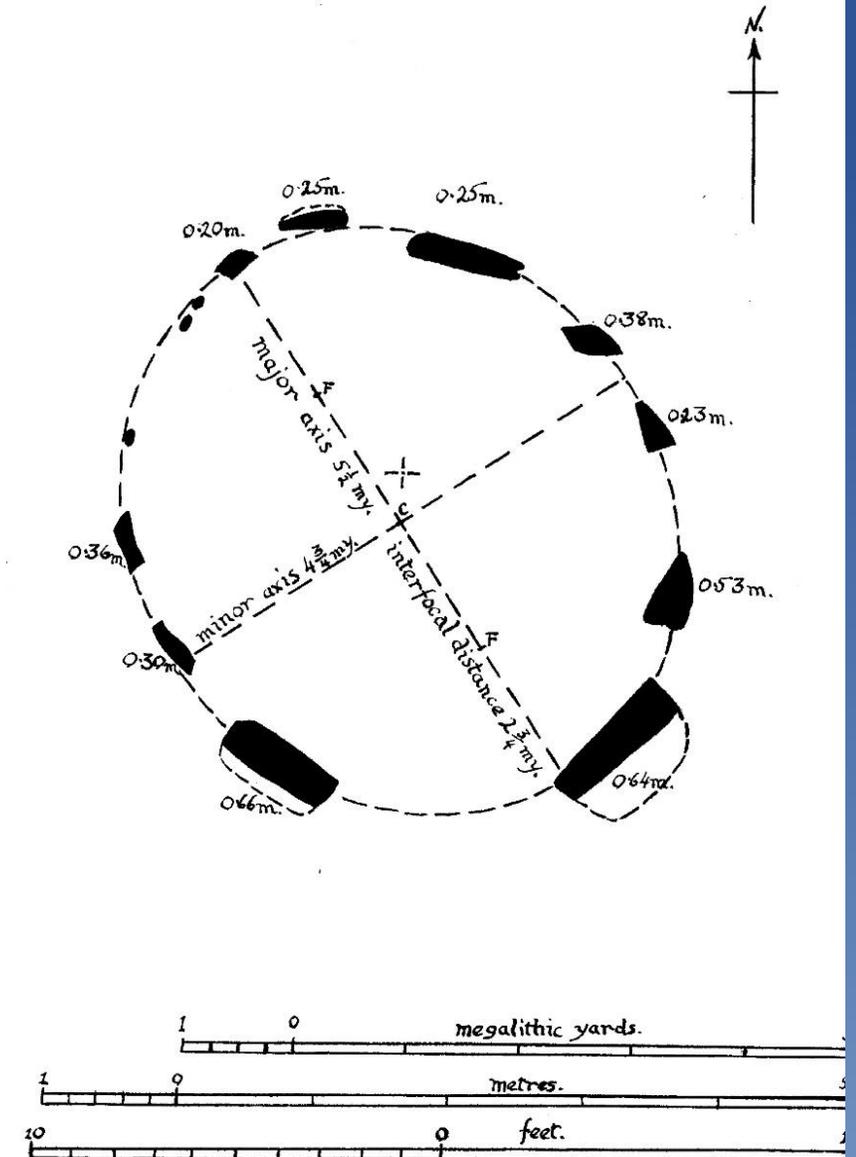
This little stone circle lies to the north of Devils Bridge.

It is an ellipse and is the same shape and exactly half the size of a ring called Ninestones in Dorset.

To the east and in the valley below lies the church of Ysbyty Cynfyn, whose churchyard wall has been built to include the stones of another existing stone circle.



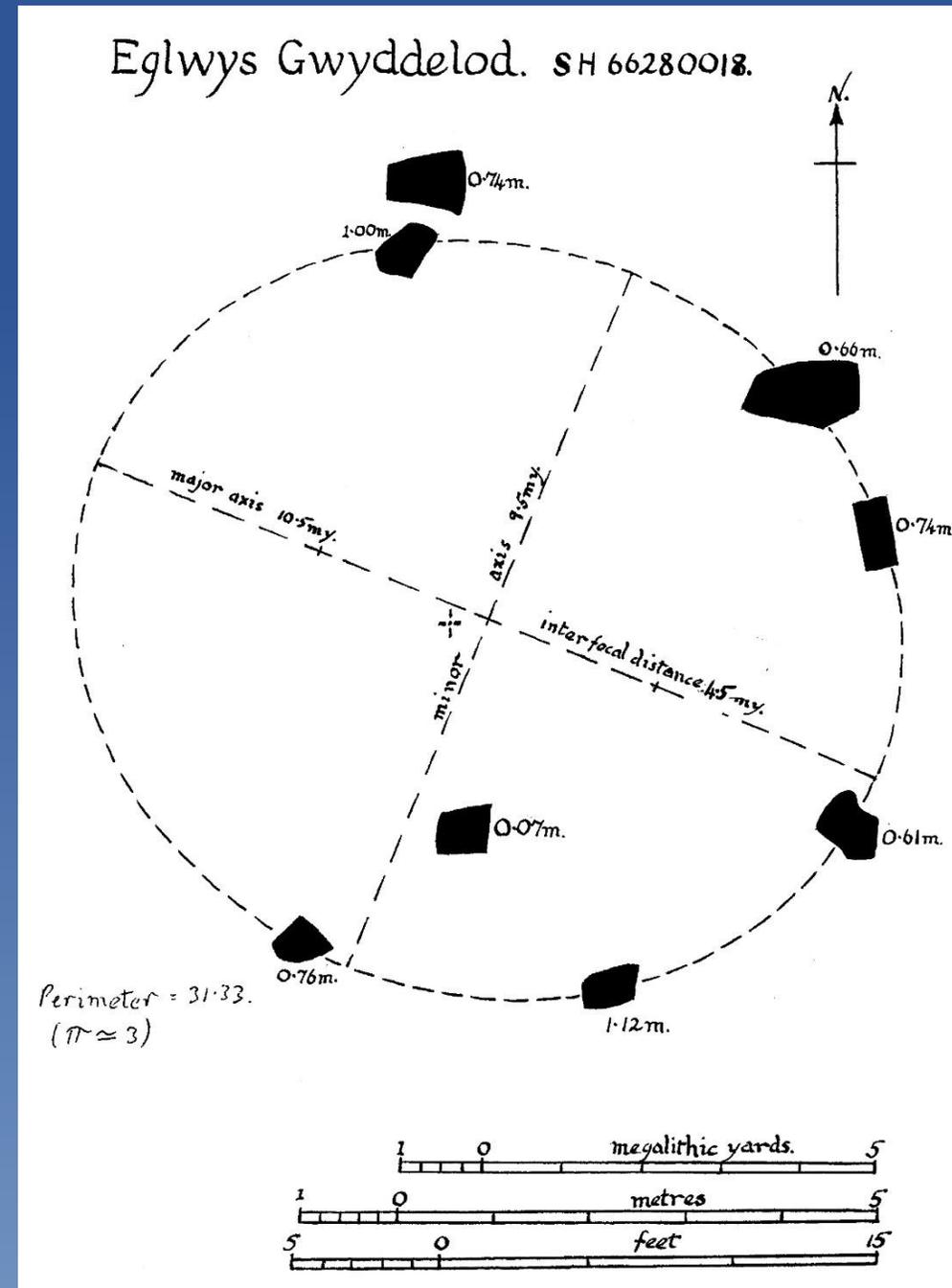
The Temple Cairn Circle. SN. 746791.
(BWLCH GWYN) 74577916



This small elliptical ring lies close to the old coach road that runs from the top of Happy Valley to Rhyd-er-onen.

The long axis points close to Tomen Las, which is near Pennal.

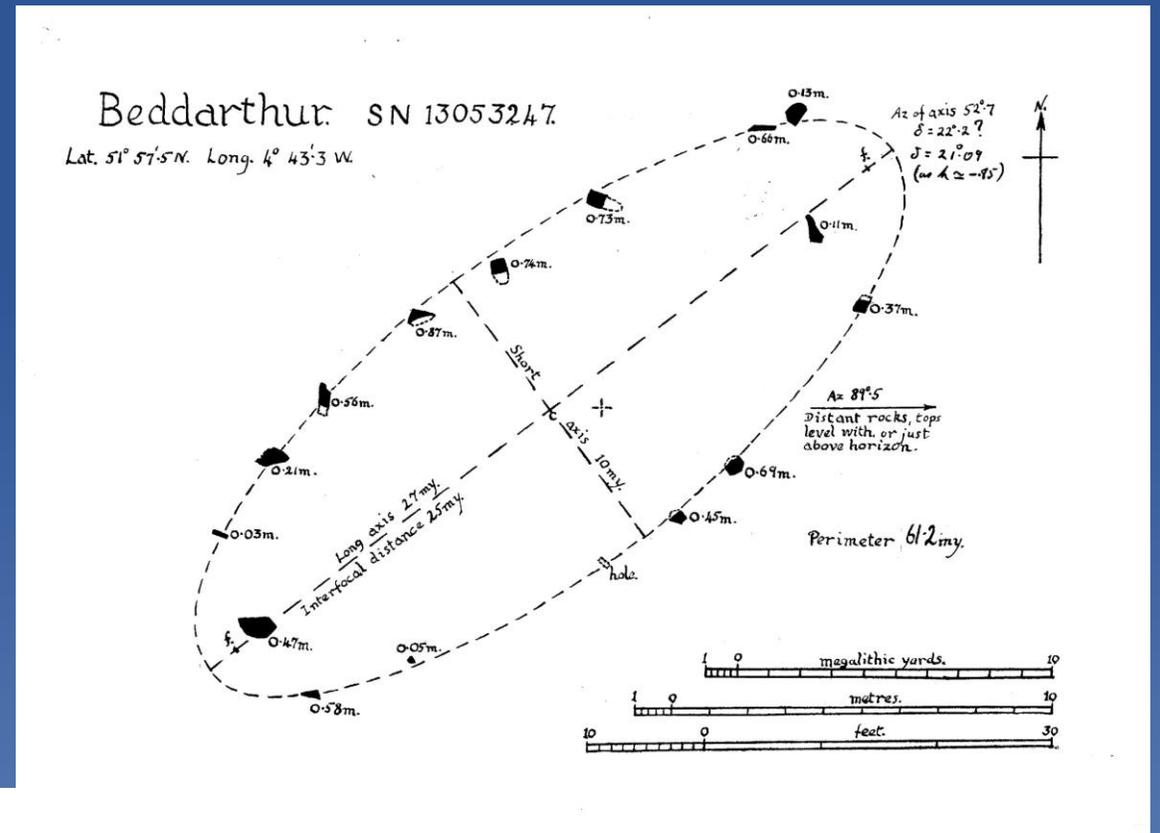
In the last few years two smallish stones have been placed around the west side, but they were not there when the survey was made about 1975.



Bedd Arthur

This is an unusually long and thin ellipse, with two stones on the long axis is high up in the Prescelly hills

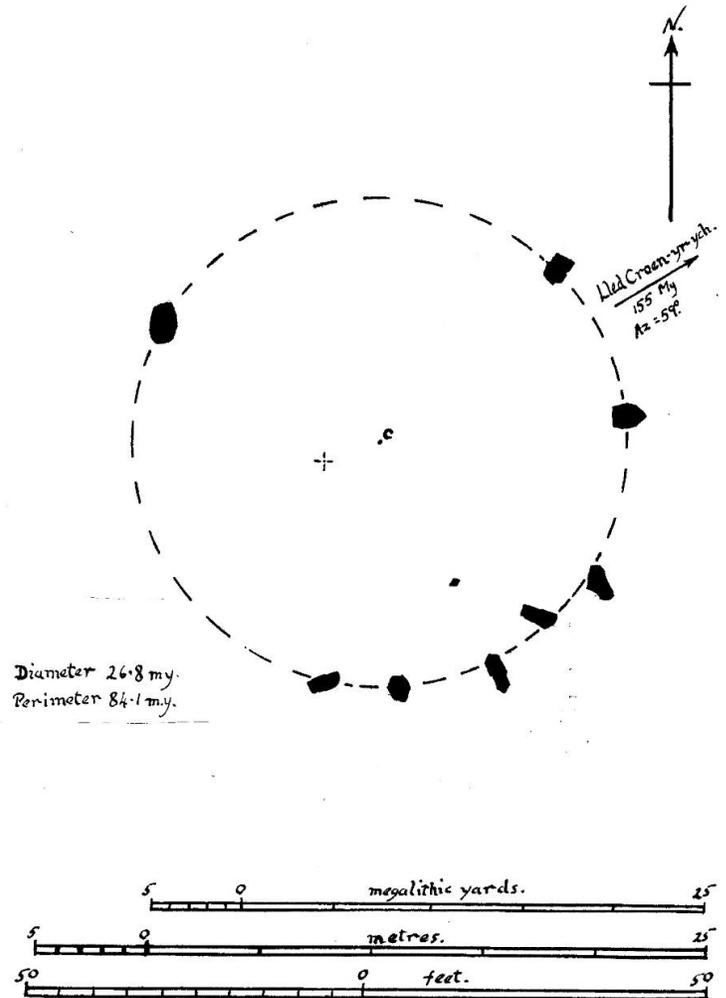
Long axis is 27 megalithic yards.
Short axis 10 megalithic yards.
Interfocal distance 25 megalithic yards.



Two rings on the hill to the south of Llanbryn-mair

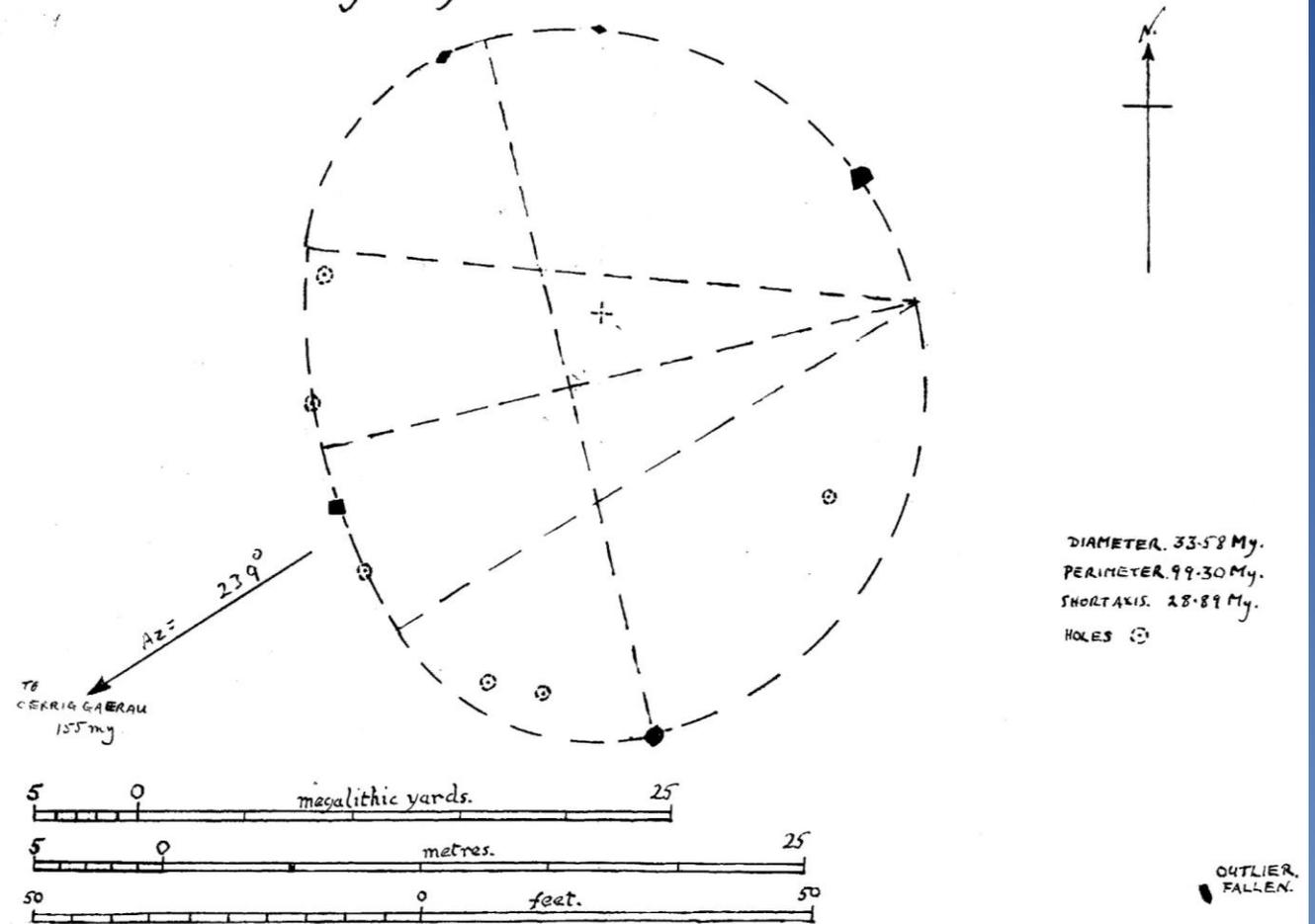
Circular ring

Cerrig Gaerau. S.H. 90290048.



Type B flattened Circle

Lled Croen-yr-ych. SH 90440055.



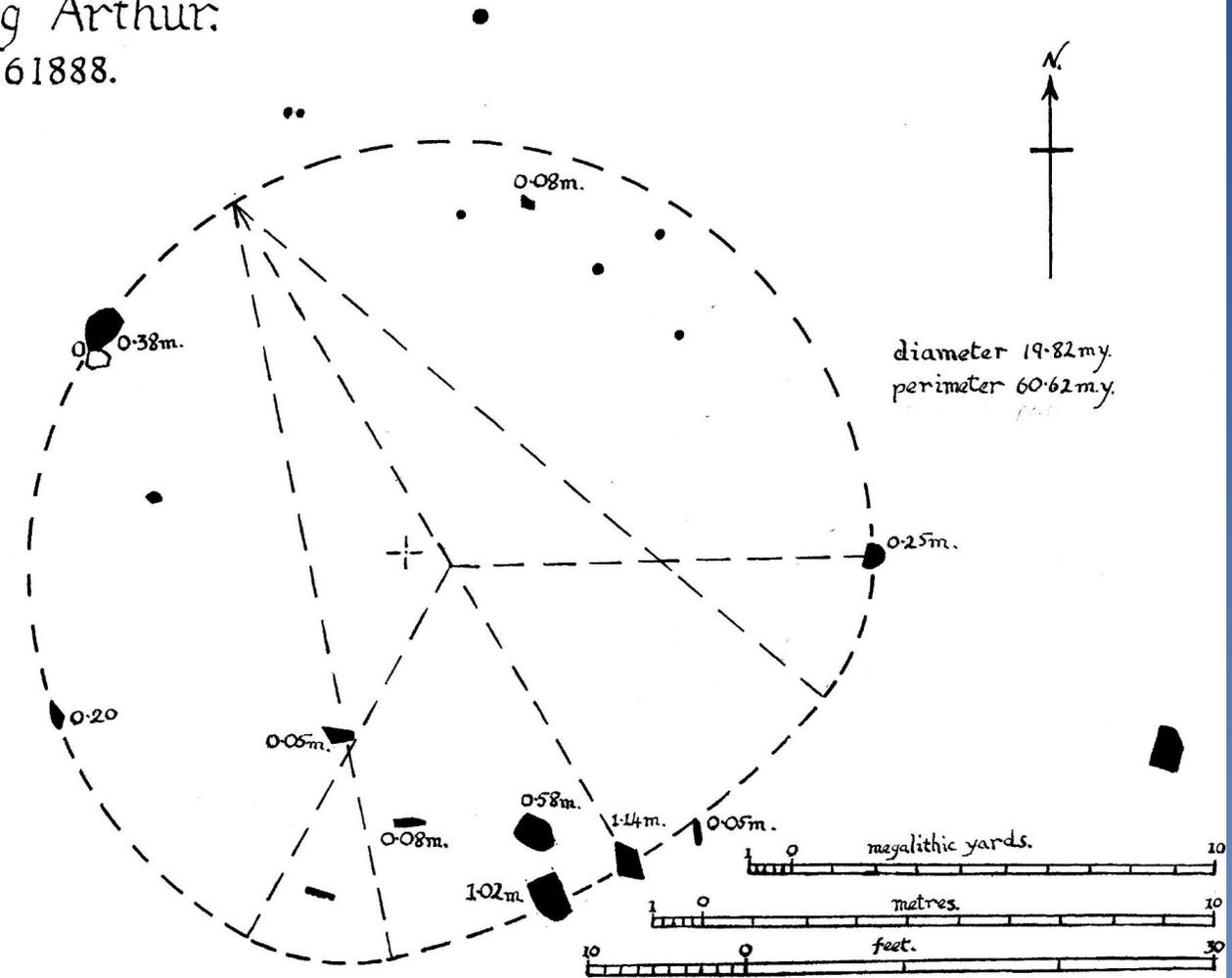
This Type A Flattened Circle is situated to the north east of Barmouth, near a farm called Sylfain.

Note that the hill slope over the left hand stone marks the extreme southerly moonrise position as seen from the centre of the ring.



Cerrig Arthur a type A flattened Circle

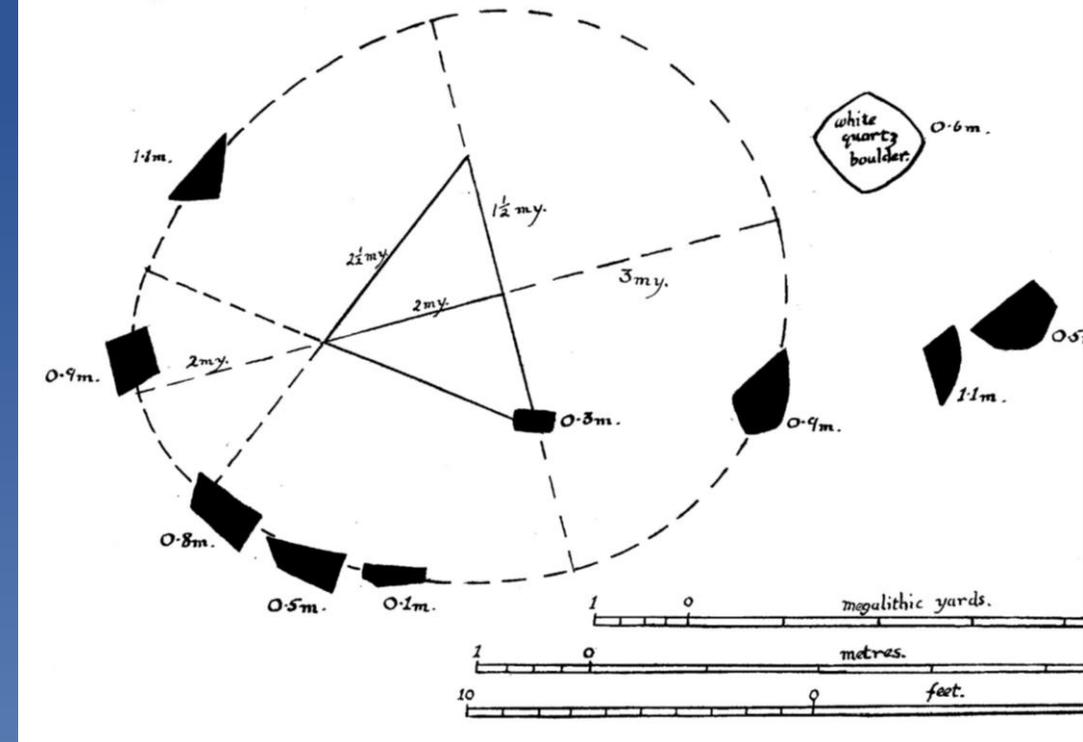
Cerrig Arthur.
SH 63161888.



Arthog Standing Stones



Arthog Standing Stones SH. 65261393.

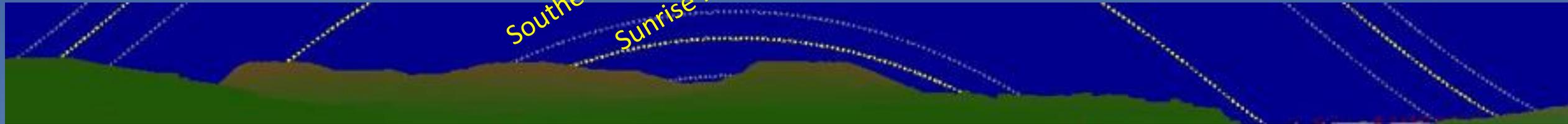


This ring, above Arthog, is an example of a type A egg shaped ring. The centres of the arcs lie at the corners of the triangles, which have sides of $2\frac{1}{2}$, 2 and $1\frac{1}{2}$ megalithic yards.

Reconstructed Skykine. Showing the rising and setting points of the Sun and Moon.

Northernmost moonrise Major standstill
Sunrise midsummer
Northernmost moonrise Minor standstill
Sunrise Equinox
Southernmost Moonrise Minor S.S
Sunrise midwinte

Corresponding sunset and moonset positions



Extreme southerly moonrise
Major standstill

Extreme southerly moonset
major standstill

