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Publisher: Routledge  
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## Archaeological Journal

Publication details, including instructions  
for authors and subscription information:  
<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/raij20>

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Published online: 14 Jul 2014.

To cite this article: Hon. W. O. Stanley (1874) Cromlech at Trefigneth,  
Archaeological Journal, 31:1, 1-2, DOI: [10.1080/00665983.1874.10851628](https://doi.org/10.1080/00665983.1874.10851628)

To link to this article: [http://  
dx.doi.org/10.1080/00665983.1874.10851628](http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00665983.1874.10851628)

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THE CROMLECH AT TREFIGNETH, ANGLESEA.

# The Archaeological Journal.

MARCH, 1874.

## CROMLECH AT TREFIGNETH.

By the Hon. W. O. STANLEY, Lord Lieutenant of Anglesea.

THIS cromlech, or more properly speaking, chambered sepulchre, stands upon a rocky knoll close to the farm of Trefigneth, which may derive its name from Tre = place, and Mign = grey moss, common to marshy spots, or grey lichen on stones, which would apply to these stones and rocks; it is about a mile and a half from Holyhead town to the south, and the cromlech forms a conspicuous object from its commanding position, affording a grand view of the town, mountain, and bay of Holyhead, with the Skerries islands and lighthouse in the distance.

The first mention of this cromlech is in Aubrey, in his *Monumenta Britannia*; it is also noticed in the *Archaeological Journal*, vol. xxviii. p. 95, 1871; and *Ang. Llwyd*, p. 208.

Although these remains have been mentioned and figured before, it has been thought deserving of a more correct representation and description, as it is one of a class of chambered sepulchres which Mr. Fergusson seems to consider as unknown in Great Britain. (See "*Rude Stone Monuments*," p. 230.) The monument known as Calliagh Beria House closely resembles Trefigneth.

The present appearance of the stones at Trefigneth has led to the belief that it was three distinct cromlechs, but on closer examination it is evident that it consisted of one continuous covered way, 45 feet long by 5 feet wide, outside measure, divided into three or more distinct cells or chambers by flat stones placed across; two large stones 7 feet above the ground, are placed at the entrance on the south-east. The long flat stones of micaceous schist forming

the sides and covering stones, are, many of them, upwards of 10 feet long by 5 or 6 feet wide. The oval space on which the structure is placed is quite flat, about 60 feet long by 25 feet broad, and was probably covered with an earthen mound. The rocky knoll on which it is placed is raised about 7 or 8 feet above the level of the field, and has been taken advantage of to elevate the stone sepulchre. Many of the stones were removed about 1790; the place from which they were taken being plainly seen in 1816. By a sketch in my possession it appears that the centre group was then perfect, the covering stone being in its proper position. The cromlech at Dinas Drudryfal Abrefraw, described by Rev. H. Pritchard in the *Archæologia Cambrensis* (fourth series, vol. ii. p. 310) bears a close resemblance to that at Trefigneth.

The chambered sepulchre, like the one now described, and those at Bryn Celli and other places in Anglesea, must have been used for family interments, the bodies being introduced from the entrance to the south-east, or through the long narrow covered way as at Bryn Celli.