BLISLAND COMMONS BOUNDARY STONE PROJECT



BLISLAND COMMONERS ASSOCIATION JUNE 2006

A LOCAL HERITAGE INITATIVE

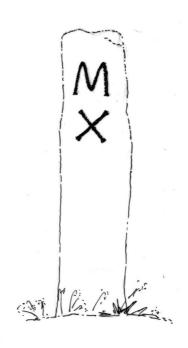








Blisland Commons Boundary Stone Project



Andrew G. Langdon

Blisland Commoners Association *June 2006*

A Local Heritage Initiative

The author of this report would like to note that any errors or shortcomings in this work are his own responsibility. This report is primarily a document mapping the boundary stones and tracing their history and it is not intended to express any view on present landownership or boundaries. Furthermore, the numbering scheme for identifying the individual boundary stones is purely for the purposes of this report and has no bearing on ownership.

Abstract

This report is based on the results of a survey of the boundary stones on the Blisland Commons, Bodmin Moor, Cornwall and covers the parish of Blisland as well as parts of St Breward, Temple and St Neot.

The report records the distribution of these boundary stones and attempts to identify why, where and when they were erected. It also sets out to identify the letters and symbols on each stone with the names of landowners and local manors that they represented.

Furthermore it records the practical work that took place to re-erect fallen boundary stones, and name each common on a granite boulder. Finally, it also gives a summary of the associated school project, which included a field trip, classroom work and practical art work.

Contents

List of illustrations, maps and photographs

Acknowledgements

1 1.1 1.2 1.3	Introduction Background Scope and Limitations of the project Project Proposal
2 2.1 2.2 2.3	Desk-top Survey The parish tithe maps Ordnance Survey mapping Other Cartographical sources
3.1 3.2 3.3 3.3 3.4	Methodology for fieldwork Preliminary survey Numbering the boundary stones Identifying the boundary stones for photography Recording the boundary stones Mapping the boundary stones
4. 4.1 4.2 4.3	Research Dating of the boundary stones Ownership of the Commons Reasons for the boundary stones
<u>Survey</u>	<u>Results</u>
5 5.1 5.2 5.3 5.4 5.5 5.6	Trehudreth, Greenbarrow and Newton Downs Situation Landscape/topography Archaeology/industry Trehudreth Downs Greenbarrow Downs Newton Downs
5.7	Analysis
5.7 6 6.1 6.2 6.3 6.4 6.5 6.6 6.7	

- 7.4 **Emblance Downs** 7.5 Lady Down 7.6 Analysis 8 Manor Common and Menacrin Downs 8.1 Situation 8.2 Landscape/topography 8.3 Archaeology/industry 8.4 Manor Common 8.5 Menacrin Downs 8.6 Analysis 9 Shallow Water, Brockabarrow Common and Sprey Moor 9.1 Situation 9.2 Landscape/topography Archaeology/industry 9.3 9.4 Shallow Water Common 9.5 Brockabarrow Common 9.6 Sprey Moor 9.7 Analysis 10 Trencreek Downs 10.1 Situation 10.2 Landscape/topography 10.3 Archaeology/industry 10.4 Trencreek Downs 10.5 Analysis Who were the landowners? 11 11.1 Gilbert 11.2 Morshead 11.3 Hayward Molesworth 11.4 11.5 Clinton (Trefusis) 11.6 Wallis 11.7 Rodd Collins 11.8 11.9 Onslow 11.10 Gregor 12 Practical Work 12.1 Re-erecting boundary stones 12.2 Naming the Commons 13 School's Project
- 14 Conclusions

Field trip to the moors

Story telling and Poetry Creative boundary stone

13.1

13.2

13.3

- 14.1 Boundary stones discovered
- 14.2 Losses
- 14.3 Reasons for erecting the boundary stones
- 14.4 Dating
- 14.5 Re-use of earlier boundaries
- 14.6 Recommendations for future preservation and research
- 15 Appendices
- 15.1 Data sheets recording all boundary stones.
- 15.2 Boundary stones discovered and missing.
- 15.3 Boundary stone legends.
- 15.4 Boundary stones re-erected.
- 15.5 Perambulation of the Bounds of the Manor of Blisland in 1816.
- 15.6 Local Place names not recorded on modern maps.
- 15.7 Naming the Commons.
- 15.8 Bibliography

Abbreviations used

- HER Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record
- HES Historic Environment Service
- TA Tithe Award or Tithe Apportionment maps
- OS Ordnance Survey
- NGR National Grid Reference
- GPS Ground Positioning System

List of illustrations and photographs

Front cover	Boundary stone in the centre of the Trippet Stone Circle, Manor Common.
Fig. 1	Areas of Common Land within Blisland Commons
Fig. 2	Boundary stone displaying the Morshead mark.
Fig. 3	Boundary stone displaying the Hayward mark.
Fig. 4	Boundary stone displaying the Manor of Blisland mark.
Fig. 5	Peverall's Cross, Trehudreth Downs.
Fig. 6	Plan of boundary stones on the west side of Trehudreth Downs.
Fig. 7	Boundary stone displaying Wallis mark altered to the Hayward mark.
Fig. 8	Map showing the boundary stones on Trehudreth, Greenbarrow and Newton Downs.
Fig. 9	Boundary stone displaying both the Hayward and Wallis marks.
Fig. 10	Boundary stone displaying both the Wallis and Hayward marks.
Fig. 11	Map showing the boundary stones on Kerrow and Metherin Downs.
Fig. 12	Map showing the boundary stones on Kerrow, Metherin and Pendrift Downs.
Fig. 13	Copy of tithe map showing division between Kerrow and Black Down.
Fig. 14	Boundary stone displaying the Molesworth mark on Emblance Downs.
Fig. 15	Boundary stone displaying the VI monogram on Ivey's Plain.
Fig. 16	Map showing the boundary stones on Emblance Downs.
Fig. 17	Map showing the boundary stones on Lady Down.
Fig. 18	Medieval boundary bank dividing Lady Down from Treswallock Downs.
Fig. 19	Boundary stone displaying a rounded M character on Emblance Downs.
Fig. 20	A copy of the St Breward tithe map showing Ivey's Plain.
Fig. 21	Parcel of land no. 1368 on the Tithe map.
Fig. 22 & 23	Both the front and reverse faces of the boundary stone at the Trippet Stones.
Fig. 24	Boundary stone displaying the Onslow mark at Menacrin Downs.
Fig. 25	Dated stone beside the A.30 at Temple crossroads.

Fig. 26	Map showing the boundary stones on Manor Common and Menacrin Downs.			
Fig. 27	Copy of Tithe map showing Lord Clinton's land at the Trippet's.			
Fig. 28	Copy of Tithe Map showing Jole Cole's land at Nailybarrow.			
Fig. 29	Boundary stone displaying the Onslow mark at Shallow Water Common.			
Fig. 30	Boundary stone displaying the Rodd mark at Shallow Water Common.			
Fig. 31	Parish boundary stone beside the A.30 with Blisland and Bolventor names.			
Fig. 32	Boundary stone on Brockabarrow Common, displaying a G for Gregor?			
Fig. 33	Boundary stone on Brockabarrow Common, displaying the Molesworth mark.			
Fig. 34	The Four Holed Cross displaying <i>GLW</i> for Great Lord's Waste.			
Fig. 35	Map showing the boundary stones on Brockabarrow Down.			
Fig. 36	Map showing the boundary stones on Shallow Water Common.			
Fig. 37	Map showing the boundary stones on Sprey Moor.			
Fig. 38	Boundary stone displaying both the Manor of Blisland and Collins mark.			
Fig. 39	Map showing the boundary stones on Trencreek Downs.			
Fig. 40	A boundary stone being re-erected on Greenbarrow Downs.			
Fig. 41	Volunteers re-erecting a boundary stone on Metherin Downs.			
Fig. 42	Local stonemason Ernie Hillson carving a boulder on Newton Downs.			
Fig. 43	Completed stone on Manor Common.			
Fig. 44	Blisland school children recording boundary stones on Trehudreth Downs.			
Fig. 45	Blisland school children at Newton Farm.			
Fig. 46	Completed sculptured boundary stone at Blisland School.			

Acknowledgements

This project was funded by the Local Heritage Initiative.

The project team would like to express their thanks to:

The Local Heritage Initiative (LHI) is a national grant scheme to help local groups investigate, explain and care for their landscape, landmarks, traditions and culture. The LHI is run by the Countryside Agency and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Nationwide Building Society.

The landowners who have allowed access to their land to record and survey the boundary stones, Lady I Molesworth St Aubyn, Mr. E. C. Holman, Imerys, Mr. W. M. and Mrs. M. M. Rowe, Mr. A Mansfield, Mr. C. J. Rush, Mr. R. and Mrs S. Grace, Mr. K. Prout, Mr. C. Halls and Mrs. F. Walkey.

The volunteers who have braved the weather to help survey and seek out hidden boundary stones also assisted in re-erecting the fallen ones, David Attwell, Martyn Diamond, Graham Montague, Paddy Mc Shee, Catherine Mc Shee, Jan Chivers, John Blake, Joan Webb, Sally Buts, Eva Buts, Ruben Buts, Mair Attwell, Colin Blackmore, Ann Preston-Jones and Emma Langdon.

In particular, to Peter Davies who was responsible for surveying the Commons and David Attwell, for organising the school's element of the project, without them this project would not have been successful

To Ann Preston-Jones for all her patience reading through, discussing, editing and comments on a draft of this report.

To Ann Reynolds, Archaeologist, Historic Environment Service, Cornwall County Council for the tremendous help in providing maps of all the areas of common land covered in this report and for the general support given by the Historic Environment Service.

To those who gave their support to the project, provided information, or were consulted, Ann Preston-Jones and Peter Herring, Senior Archaeologists, Historic Environment Service, Cornwall County Council., North Cornwall District Council, Angela Broome, Librarian, The Courtney Library, The Royal Institution of Cornwall, Iain Mackelworth, Cornwall Enterprise, Cornwall County Council, Staff of the Cornwall Family History Society, Peter Ludgate, Chairman of Blisland Parish Council and Councillors, Denis Lusby, Chairman St Breward Parish Council and councillors, also Mr Lusby as editor of the Community Magazine for the parishes of Blisland, with Temple, St Breward and Helland, Robert Berreton, Savilles, Land Agents for the Molesworth Estate, Sir William Molesworth of Pencarrow, John Tonkin and Derek Giles, members of St Austell China Clay History Society, Mrs Pamela Bousfield, Local Historian, St Breward.

To the headteacher and staff of Blisland School and the staff of the Art department at Bodmin Community School.

For Practical help, to Mr James Bowman, Agent for the Highways Agency and his team.