

5 Trehudreth, Greenbarrow and Newton Downs

5.1 Situation

Trehudreth Downs is situated on the northern side of the A.30 highway from Bodmin to Launceston, four and a half miles from the former, and one and a quarter miles south-east of Blisland churchtown. Greenbarrow Downs is situated on the north-eastern side of Trehudreth Downs while Newton Downs is situated to the north of Trehudreth Downs and to the north-west of Greenbarrow Downs. All three areas of downland adjoin and were formerly part of one large downland area. To the north-east of both Newton Downs and Greenbarrow Downs is Manor Common, while to the north-west of Trehudreth Downs and to the west of Newton Downs was formerly Durfold Common which was enclosed prior to 1840. Greenbarrow is divided from Manor Common to the east by a stream running north-west between the inbye land of Newton and Deacons.

5.2 Landscape/topography

These three tracts of granite upland consist of short acid grassland with gorse and heather regenerating as a result of recent grazing reductions. Both Trehudreth and Greenbarrow Downs are at a height of over 250 metres, but slope steeply downwards to a valley in the north where they meet the inbye land of Wallhouse and Durfold as well as the boundary with Newton Downs.

One of the outstanding features of this common are the wide ranging views, from the heart of Bodmin Moor sweeping across to the north Cornwall coast. From the north-west of Trehudreth Downs, there are fine views of the parish church and village of Blisland nestled in a wooded area below Pendrift, with on the horizon, the Camel Estuary and Port Isaac Bay. To the north, from both Trehudreth and Greenbarrow, the village of Delabole can be seen with its nearby wind-farm and also further to the north-east, the higher ground at Davidstow. In the distance, the sky-line is dominated by the great tors of Roughtor and Brown Willy, while in the fore ground can be seen Manor Common and Hawkstor.

5.3 Archaeology/industry

Both Trehudreth and Greenbarrow Downs are rich in archaeological features. Many of the boundary stones on the western side of Trehudreth Downs stand on earlier medieval banks. These earth banks, which have evidence of ditches on each side, marked the boundaries of a medieval field system and one can still identify ridge and furrow plough marks running west to east across some of the old fields. To the south-east, and running parallel to the A.30, is another medieval earth bank that marks the parish boundary. On the higher ground there are several Bronze Age ritual monuments including cairns, barrows, menhirs (standing stones), stone settings and stone rows (Herring and Rose: 2001, 24). The two prominent barrows on the summit of Greenbarrow may indicate how the area obtained its name.¹

The landscape is also scarred by man's industrial exploits. Stone cutting or splitting can be seen sporadically throughout the downs, where granite boulders having been drilled, split and later abandoned. Set in the boundary hedge that runs north from Peverall's Cross, where fields nos. 1253, 1309 and 1310 meet, is an unfinished millstone. Near the south-west corner of Trehudreth Downs are several prospecting pits that are on a similar alignment to the old China Clay works at Burnt Heath on the opposite side of the A.30. To the north, near Wallhouse and in the valley dividing Trehudreth from Newton Downs, there are open mine workings and finger dumps probably for tin and copper. On the eastern side of Greenbarrow an old China Clay works can be seen with its sun-pans and settling tanks and a leat that fed water to the site running from the A.30.² Here, during the early part of the twentieth century, power was transported from a waterwheel at Durfold across the downs by a system of flat rods, under the A.30 to feed the Greenbarrow China Clay works.³

¹ The two barrows on the summit of Greenbarrow Downs are Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Cornwall no.916.

² When boundary stones were re-erected in the valley between Greenbarrow Downs and Manor Common, quantities of China Clay was found when digging the holes.

³ Brewster, C. (1975) *Bodmin Moor: A Synoptic study and report of a moorland area*, p.317.

5.4 Trehudreth Downs

Trehudreth is first recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as *Tremderet* (Gover: 1948, 96),⁴ the name containing the Cornish place-name element *tre* ‘estate, farmstead’ and possibly a personal name (Padel:1985, 96). Trehudreth Downs is registered as Common Land no. 142 in Cornwall and is today estimated to be 215 acres.

For the purposes of this survey, the boundary stones marking the boundary between Trehudreth Downs and Greenbarrow Downs have been recorded under Greenbarrow and likewise those on the boundary of Newton Downs under Newton.

Trehudreth Downs is bounded on the west by enclosed fields or inbye land around the farms of Penstroda and Poldue. To the north it is bounded by the inbye land around Wallhouse and also by boundary stones nos. 142/15, 142/16 and 144/12 that divide Trehudreth from what was formerly Durford Common which is now enclosed.⁵ On the north-east boundary, additional boundary stones nos. 144/12, 143/1, 143/4, 143/5, 143/6 and 143/7 mark the boundary between Trehudreth and Newton Downs. To the east a row of boundary stones nos. 144/9, 144/10, 144/11 and 144/12 divide Trehudreth Downs from Greenbarrow Downs. The A.30 highway from Bodmin to Launceston acts as the boundary on the south side of the downs.

On the western side of the downs are a number of medieval earth banks, the remains of a former field system. The outer boundary banks of these fields have been reinforced by a series of twelve boundary stones, each placed on the old hedge or bank line.

To the far south-east corner of Trehudreth and stretching onto Greenbarrow Downs is another medieval earth bank that marks the parish boundary between Blisland and Cardinham. This boundary continues along to the main road and then continues along the southern end of Greenbarrow between the modern A.30 and the road to Temple village (old A30). Boundary stones mark this parish boundary, although only one exists on Trehudreth Downs: no. 142/12.

⁴ Gover Place-names, see Bibliography. Domesday Book Cornwall, 1979 edited by Caroline and Frank Thorn from a translation by Oliver Padel, published by Phillimore, Chichester, p. 124c.

⁵ See (fig. 8) showing the map of Trehudreth Downs, Greenbarrow and Newton Downs and the associated survey data sheets in the appendices for the location of these boundary stones.

Out of the sixteen boundary stones identified on Trehudreth Downs, fourteen still exist. As previously mentioned, twelve mark an unenclosed strip of land down the western side of the Downs – the boundary of a medieval field system, - while one of the stones is the twelfth century Peverall's Cross⁶ which was also adopted as a manorial boundary stone (see fig. 5). Another boundary stone stands on the parish boundary and one marks the northern boundary near Wallhouse. A second stone at Wallhouse was enclosed and is feared lost, while another stone on the parish boundary close to the A.30 road was probably lost at the time of road improvements during the last century.

The Peverall's Cross is by far the oldest boundary stone at Trehudreth and displays the letter **G** carved on the monument's eastern face just below the cross-head, while a letter **W** can be identified on its western face, against the hedge. The letters represent Gilbert, the Lord of the Manor of Trehudreth, and Wallis, the Lord of the Manor of Barlendew. Therefore this medieval stone cross not only marks the boundary of the two manors, but also the two parishes of Blisland and Cardinham, and it is also a wayside cross marking the highway. Of the remainder of the boundary stones that mark the western strip of land at Trehudreth all but two carry the mark of either Morshead (**M^{HP}**) or Hayward (**HP**).⁷ However, two stones that stand midway along this strip of land both also display **MX** for the Manor of Blisland. A map indicating the layout and orientation of the stones on this strip of land at Trehudreth Downs is shown in fig. 6.

5.5 Greenbarrow Downs

Today, Greenbarrow Downs is registered as Common Land no.144 and estimated to be 110 acres. The name Greenbarrow was first recorded in 1301 as *Greneburgh* in the Calendar of Inquisitions post mortem (Gover: 1948, 94). The name is English and means 'greenn hill' (or possibly) 'barrow'.

A row of boundary stones, nos. 144/9, 144/10, 144/11 and 144/12, marks the boundary between Trehudreth Downs and Greenbarrow Downs running from south to north and down into the marshy valley bottom, where it meets the boundary with Newton Downs. The

⁶ Peverall's Cross is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, Cornwall no.203.

⁷ See pages 81 and 82 for information regarding the Morshead family and the Haywards.

northern boundary dividing Greenbarrow with Newton Downs is marked by another row of boundary stones, nos. 144/12, 143/1, 143/2 and 143/13. The north-eastern boundary between Greenbarrow and Manor Common has a natural boundary - a stream running from the south-east to the north-west, however, this has been supplemented by an additional row of stones, nos. 144/5, 144/6, 144/7 and 144/8. The south and south-eastern boundaries are bounded by the A.30 highway from Bodmin to Launceston.

Of the twelve boundary stones recorded under Greenbarrow Downs, nine still exist. One stone, no. 144/11, is missing on the boundary between Greenbarrow and Trehudreth Downs on the northern slope leading down towards Newton Downs. The other two boundary stones, nos 144/1 and 144/5, were situated close to the A.30 highway and have probably been lost during road widening schemes.

Today, three boundary stones remain marking both the western and eastern boundaries of Greenbarrow Downs. The western stones display the mark of the Morsheads (**M[↑]P**) and Hayward (**HP**), while the eastern stones display the mark of the Manor of Blisland (**MX**) and Hayward (**HP**). Two stones standing adjacent to the old A.30 also mark the parish boundary and display the marks of both Morshead and Hayward. One stone, no. 144/4, which stands against a hedge of the inbye land near Greenbarrow Farm, has a **G** for Gilbert displayed on its eastern face, while on the western face the characters have clearly been altered from **W** for Wallis to an **HP** for Hayward. The same practise has taken place at stone no. 144/9 with again a **W** substituted for **HP** (see fig. 7).

5.6 Newton Downs

The settlement of Newton is first recorded in 1284 in the Assize (Plea) Rolls as *Newaton*. The name is Old English *nīwa tun* for 'new housestead' (Gover: 1948, 95). Newton Downs is registered as Common Land no.143 and is estimated to be 36 acres. Newton Farm has become well known through Margaret Leigh's autobiographical publication about moorland farming life entitled *Harvest of the Moor*.⁸

⁸ Leigh, M. (1937) *Harvest of the Moor*, G. Bell and Sons Ltd., London.

The western boundary of Newton Downs is marked by a row of boundary stones, nos. 143/1, 143/4, 143/5, 143/6 and 143/7. The southern boundary is marked by stones, no's 143/1 and 143/2, while the eastern boundary by stones, nos. 143/2, 143/3 and 143/8. Out of the eight boundary stones recorded that marked Newton Downs, only five survive; the remaining three are missing. All the missing stones, nos. 143/5, 143/6 and 143/7, once stood on the western boundary. Although stone no. 143/7 is missing, its stump still remains *in situ*, having evidently been snapped off at ground level.

The boundary stones on the western, southern and eastern boundaries all display the marks of Morshead and Hayward, with only one stone, no. 143/3, on the eastern boundary displaying the Manor of Blisland mark.

5.7 Analysis

On Trehudreth, Greenbarrow and Newton Downs the boundaries between the areas of common land were all marked by boundary stones are shown on the tithe map and are before 1840; these were later supplemented by further boundary stones. It is also clear that from land ownership, many boundary stones or posts were set up by one landowner, with initials carved on one face only, and that neighbouring landowners added their marks to the stones at a later date. This is because, although some boundary stones are shown on the tithe maps, they also display the initials of landowners who didn't at that time own the land, but later acquired it.

An early row of boundary stones mark the boundary between Trehudreth and Greenbarrow, which continues across Newton Downs, with an additional stone at Wallhouse to indicate the boundary of the former Durfold Common. These boundary stones, nos. 144/9, 144/10, 144/12, 143/6 and 143/7, display the mark of Morshead⁹ **M[^]P** on the Trehudreth side and an **HP** for Hayward on the outside (Greenbarrow and Durfold side), where the **P** is suggested to mean either post or property.

⁹ The mark of the Morshead family **M[^]P** is acknowledged in the judgement of the Trehudreth Commons court case that took place at Bodmin between 1926 and 1927.

The Morshead family acquired the Manor of Trehudreth along with the manors of Barlandew and Cassacawen in 1780 after marrying into the Treise Family.¹⁰ However in 1809, Sir John Morshead (1747- 1812) allegedly lost his fortune gambling in London and was forced to sell much of his estate in Blisland. His younger brother, General William Morshead (1748-1822), purchased Lavethan while the manors of Barlandew, Cassacawen and Trehudreth were sold to John Wallis of Bodmin, an Attorney at Law.¹¹ The Morshead family did not regain the manor of Trehudreth until 1847.

This would suggest that the row of boundary stones dividing Trehudreth, Greenbarrow and Durfold was set up before 1809, as the stones are all marked on the 1840 tithe map and display the Morshead mark. Although the mark of James Hayward **H** or **HP** is carved on the reverse side of these stones, this mark must have been added at a later date as Hayward did not purchase any manors in Blisland until 1840.

A second row of boundary stones mark the boundary between Greenbarrow Downs and Manor Common and three of these, stones nos. 144/6, 144/7 and 143/3, are also shown on the parish tithe map of 1840. Each has **MX** carved on the east or Manor Common side, while two of the stones display an **HP** on the west side. Blisland Manor Common has been vested in the manor of Blisland for hundreds of years and the boundary stones were probably set up at a similar time to the Morshead examples on the western boundary of Greenbarrow Downs, either at the end of the eighteenth century or the beginning of the nineteenth century. Again the letters **HP** were added later when James Hayward acquired Greenbarrow Downs.

An additional stone, no.144/4, set against the eastern boundary of Greenbarrow Downs beside the inbye land of Greenbarrow Farm, displays a **G** on its east side and a **W** that has been altered to an **HP** on its west side. In 1831, Davies Gilbert purchased the manor of Trehudreth and his mark **G** is also carved on the eastern face of the Peverall's Cross on the western edge of Trehudreth Downs. Boundary stone no. 144/4 appears to indicate the

¹⁰ Polsue, J, (1867) *Parochial History of the County of Cornwall*, Vol.I, p.68.

¹¹ *ibid*

south eastern boundary of Gilbert's holding. When the Davies Gilbert lands were sold on the 3rd July 1874, the sale included land in Helland, St Mabyn and Blisland parishes.¹²

In addition to boundary stone no. 144/4, another two stones have been identified where a letter **W** has been converted into an **HP**. Furthermore on Kerrow Downs an **H** has been added to boundary stones already displaying the letter **W**. John Wallis (17^{**}-1842) was an Attorney at Law and deputy recorder of the borough of Bodmin and according to Maclean, '*exercised a considerable influence therein for many years*'. He settled in Bodmin in 1783, son of Nicholas Wallis of Madron, Penzance. According to Maclean,¹³ Wallis '*was an enterprising and speculative man*'. In 1809, Wallis purchased several manors from Sir John Morshead, including the Manors of Barlandew, Trehudreth and Cassacawn. Being a local Attorney, Wallis would have been in the right place to hear about forthcoming sales of land. He may have even acted for the Morshead family. On the Tithe Apportionment schedule of 1841, John Wallis is recorded as the landowner of Greenbarrow Common, a parcel of land no. 1269, measuring 107 acres, 3 rods, 0 perches.

James Hayward from Hertfordshire purchased the manor of Barlandew in 1840, that was previously owned by John Wallis; in 1846 he also acquired the manor of Cassacawn. It is clear that on several boundary stones Hayward had his initials added to stones with the Wallis mark, or alternatively had the Wallis mark altered or replaced with his mark **H** or **HP**.

In 1866, Hayward publicly announced his intention to view the boundaries of his unenclosed and common land at Blisland. He published hand bills that were circulated around the parish inviting interested parties to join him. On 30th May 1866, with neighbouring landowners, the viewing took place and following this, additional boundary stones were carved and erected soon after.¹⁴ At the Trehudreth Court case at Bodmin in 1926, a book labelled, 'John Hayward Esq. Common Lands' was presented as evidence and recorded this viewing of the common land and the subsequent setting up of additional boundary stones. This book, also records the fact that one Josiah Stevens erected boundary stones from Barley Well near

¹² Details of the sale of Davies Gilbert's lands in 1874 are at the County Record Office, CRO/GB/10/7, GB/10/5, and GB/11.

¹³ Maclean, Sir J. 1873, *Deanery of Trigg Minor*, Vol.I, p.322.

¹⁴ Transcript of the Trehudreth Common Court Case dated 1926-27, p.87-8.

Greenbarrow Farm, north to the water marsh near Newton and also between Newton Downs and Blisland Manor Common. Although the site of the Barley Well is no longer known, it was recorded in the perambulation of the Bounds of the Manor of Blisland in 1816 as a boundary point.¹⁵

The later (post 1840) boundary stones at Trehudreth, Greenbarrow and Newton Downs include additional stones that were set up to reinforce or supplement the two early rows, previously discussed. This included the re-alignment of the boundary at Newton Downs, the group of boundary stones marking the small medieval field system on the western edge of Trehudreth Downs¹⁶ and those boundary stones that stand on the parish boundary bank.

The additional boundary stones set up to reinforce the earlier (pre 1840) boundaries include stone no. 144/11 on the Trehudreth / Greenbarrow boundary and also stones nos. 144/5 and 144/8 that marked the Greenbarrow / Manor Common boundary. All of these additional boundary stones are missing and no information regarding the letters that were carved on them exist, all that can be deduced is that they were set up between 1840 (date of parish tithe map) and 1880 (OS map).

On the maps drawn up during the 1965 Commons registration, a line can be seen between boundary stones nos. 144/4 and 144/9, dividing Greenbarrow Downs into two separate areas for grazing rights.¹⁷

At Newton Downs, the pre 1840 boundary with Durfold was marked by boundary stones nos. 144/12, 143/6 and 143/7. However, by the time of the 1880 OS map, this boundary had been re-aligned slightly to the east with additional stones nos. 143/1, 143/4 and 143/5 (lost). On the 1965 Commons Registration maps, boundary stones nos. 143/1, 143/4 and 144/12 are also used to indicate grazing rights.

¹⁵ See appendices for Maclean's account of the perambulation.

¹⁶ See fig. 6 and 8.

¹⁷ The Common Registration maps for Blisland Commons can be viewed at Cornwall County Council or North Cornwall District Council.

The eastern boundary of Newton Downs with Greenbarrow Downs and Manor Common was also supplemented with additional boundary stones nos. 143/3 and 144/13. Boundary stones nos. 143/1 and 143/4 display the Morshead mark on the north-east or Newton Downs side with the Hayward mark on the south-east or Greenbarrow side and the west or Durfold side. This indicates that at the time these stones were erected, between 1840 and 1880, the Morshead family owned Newton Downs while Hayward owned Greenbarrow Downs and Durfold. This concurs with documentary evidence as, in 1847, Hayward acquired the manor of Cassacawn of which Durfold was a part.

The line of the parish boundary between Blisland and Cardinham has only one stone standing on it on Trehudreth Downs, however, this displays the Morshead mark, and it is also a manorial boundary stone rather than a parish boundary stone.

Perhaps the most interesting group of boundary stones are those marking the western strip of Trehudreth Downs: an area that was formerly an enclosed medieval field system. This twelve acre area of land is referred to frequently in the Trehudreth court case of 1926, which involved grazing rights at the neighbouring Penstroda Farm. Out of the twelve boundary stones marking this area, the eight forming the northern and eastern boundaries of this area all display the Morshead mark on their north or east sides, while their opposite side facing inwards displays the Hayward mark. In the 1926 Trehudreth Court case, this piece of land is referred to as Hayward's Moor.¹⁸

Yet were these boundary stones existing before 1840? They are not shown on the parish tithe map, but do exist on the 1880 OS map. Sir John Morshead sold the manor of Trehudreth in 1809, however after the death of Davies Gilbert in 1847, the manor was again purchased by the Morshead family. This time it was acquired by William Morshead of Lavethan, nephew of Sir John Morshead and son of General William Morshead. It appears that at this time this small area of land attached to the western side of Trehudreth belonged to Penstroda and was part of the manor of Barlandew, which was purchased by Hayward in 1840. The evidence therefore suggests that these boundary stones were erected after 1840, as they do not appear on the tithe map and before 1880. Later again, it appears that this strip of land was divided

¹⁸ Trehudreth Court Case, 1926, p.2

in two by the addition of further carved letters on two of the boundary stones midway along the strip of land. These extra marks **MX** indicate that the land was divided by the Manor of Blisland. According to the Trehudreth court case¹⁹ the Molesworths (Lords of the Manor of Blisland) purchased Penstroda in 1853, which would account for these additional stones.

It is interesting to note that nine of the twelve boundary stones stand on the existing medieval earth banks that formerly enclosed the land. Even though most of these banks are still visible today, the boundary stones were erected to reinforce this boundary so that there could be no doubt about ownership.

A Further two stones, the Peverall's Cross (no. 142/1) and boundary stone 142/10, both display a **W** for Wallis on their western side. John Wallis was the previous lord of the manor of Barlandew, and these stones that today are set up against the western boundary hedge were at the time of the tithe map (1840) free-standing, as the hedge had not been built. The stones must have marked the extent of Barlandew land. The land up to Peverall's Cross was enclosed by Collins between 1840 and 1880.²⁰ For a short time in the early twentieth century, this land was owned by Mr Parkin of the Blisland China Clay Works, this may account for the prospecting pits near Peverall's Cross.²¹

¹⁹ Trehudreth Court Case, 1926, p.44.

²⁰ Trehudreth Court Case, 1926, p.152-53.

²¹ Trehudreth Court Case, 1926, p.127-28.