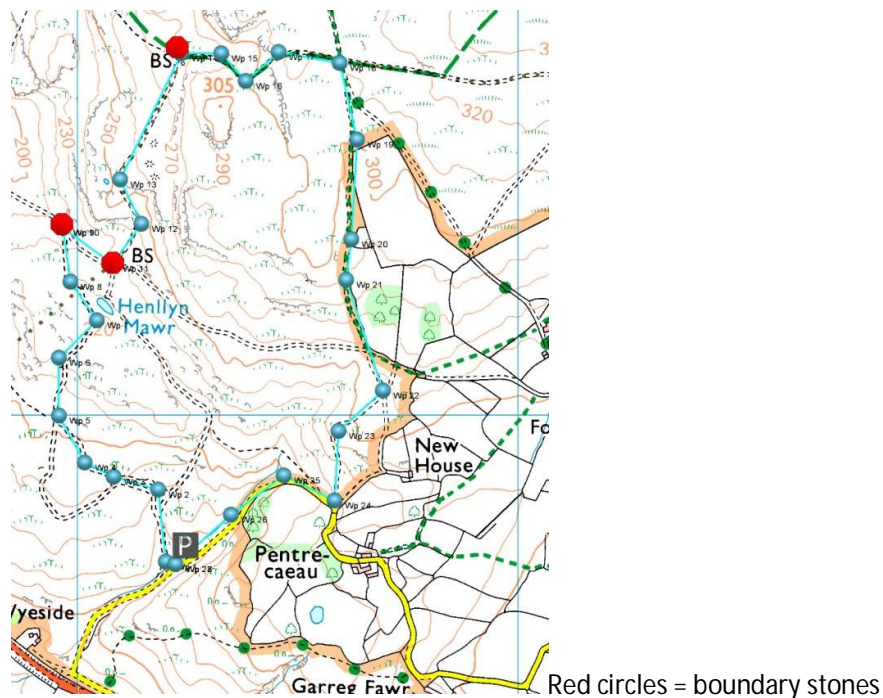


## Notes from Local Interest Group 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020 – Second Part of the 1853 Perambulation

**Present:** Maureen Lloyd (ML), Dainis & Wendy Ozols, John Price, Celia Price, Gareth Jones, David Price, Richard Martin, Ann & Wayne Mathews

**Apologies:** Roy & Avryl Lloyd, Joan Lloyd, Helen Barnett

ML welcomed everyone and explained that the evening's walk would follow yet another section of the 1853 Perambulation around the boundary of the Manor of Lower Elfael.



The walk started at SO 083446, on the minor road leading up to Llandeilo Graban village from the B4567; it followed well defined tracks, all of which are marked on the OS 1:25 000 map. We climbed up the hill from the road, onto the common land, until we reached Henllyn Mawr (Mary Anne's Pool), much enlarged because of the recent heavy rainfall. We walked around the west side of the pool and on to SO 079455, where we found the first boundary stone. This one is not marked on the OS map. It is badly weathered and part of it is missing, but it was possible to see the letter W inscribed on one side, together with part of a second W; these would be the initials of Walter Wilkins, the Lord of the Manor of Elfael when the stone was erected. Even though it is not marked on the OS map, this stone is recorded in the details of the Perambulation of 1853. (If you look carefully at the photo on the next page, you can see the letter W engraved on the surface.)



From here, we continued uphill to the north of Henllyn Mawr for about 200m until we reached the second boundary stone. This one is marked on the OS map, but it takes some finding in the bracken. It is very badly damaged, both by weathering and erosion, and is no longer in one piece. There is nothing engraved on what remains of the stone.

The next part of the walk took us uphill towards the north. On this part of the walk we could see some sheer cliffs to our left. On one of these, the rocks resemble "railwaymen with their peaked caps as they look down on where the Mid-Wales railway once ran in the Wye Valley below". The railway operated from 1864 up until when the line was closed on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1962. Also from this section, there were spectacular views over the Wye valley and beyond.

The last boundary stone was located towards the top of the slope, just over 0.5km from the previous one; this one is also marked on the OS map. This stone is in good condition and is engraved Sir JRB 1882 on one side and WDW 1882 on the other. (Sir JRB is Joseph Bailey of the Crawshaw Bailey family, who was the Lord of Aberedw Manor. WDW is Walter de Winton – the family having changed their name from Wilkins.) As it was erected in 1882, this stone would not have been seen on the Perambulation. It is very similar to the stone that we saw at the bottom of Red Hill during July's LIG visit.



From here, we continued uphill a little further until we reached the flatter area at the top of the common, where the heather was looking particularly good, as was the gorse. From the top, the views over to the Brecon Beacons in the distance were excellent and we could also see Garth Hill just over 2km away, and the gun on the top. We were all quite surprised by how much altitude we had gained as this had been achieved in stages because of the stepped nature of the landscape on this side of the Wye Valley. The route continued south, heading downhill beside some enclosed fields, until it reached the road downhill from Llandeilo Graban and back to the cars. At the junction of the track and the road, there were some very large slabs of rock used as edging for the tracks and the road, probably there to hold the earth banks in place and an interesting feature of many tracks in the local area.

After a very wet day, we were fortunate in that the weather stayed dry for the walk and we managed to finish in the light after walking for about an hour and a half. It was another very enjoyable evening and we are all very grateful to Maureen Lloyd for organising the visit for us, as well as doing all of the research.

