

## Notes from Local Interest Group 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020 – Part of the 1853 Perambulation

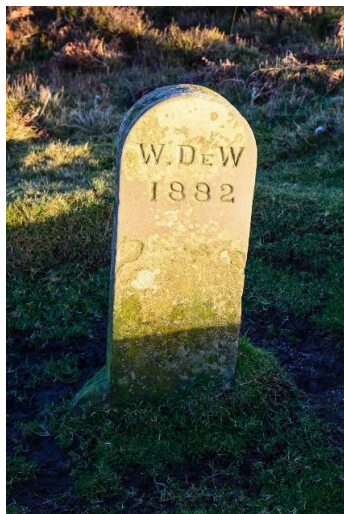
**Present:** Maureen Lloyd (ML), Wendy & Dainis Ozols, John Price, Ann Mathews, Joan Lloyd, Sue Ievers, Robert Collingwood, Lucy Trench, Richard Martin, David Price, Barbara Lloyd

ML welcomed everyone and said how nice it was to be able to resume our LIG outings after the long hiatus caused by the Coronavirus restrictions. She went through the health and safety measures required for the outing.

ML explained that the evening's walk would be following part of the "Perambulation of September 1853" when 29 men walked the boundary of the Manor of Lower Elfael. They later presented their findings at the Court Leet. ML has a copy of the transcription of the description of their route and has tried to record this on a modern OS map. This was quite a difficult task because things like parish boundaries have changed since 1853, as have the names of some of the places mentioned, many of which are not marked on modern-day maps at all. Some of the boundary stones are still in existence and are recorded on the OS maps, but in other places there is nothing left on the ground to show where the boundary was located. In total, the boundary is about 40 miles long; we would be following a short stretch of about one and a half miles, around the base of Red Hill.

At the time of the Perambulation, Walter Wilkins was the Lord of the Manor of Lower Elfael. ML explained that the Lordship was held by the Wilkins (later deWinton) family for many years, Walter Wilkins having bought the estate/manor in 1775. The current "Lord" is the owner of Llanbedr Hill, Will Duff-Gordon. ML went on to tell us that Sir Joseph Bailey was the Lord of the Manor of Aberedw (his descendants are the Legge-Burke family from Glanusk, near Crickhowell, and Harry Legge-Burke still is the Lord of the Manor of Aberedw). The Baileys were ironmasters at the Cyfartha ironworks in Merthyr Tydfil. The part of the boundary that we would be walking divided the Manors of Lower Elfael and Aberedw.

We started beside the road leading across Llanbedr Hill from Painscastle to Rhulen (SO 1427 4926), walking upslope to the first boundary stone at the foot of Red Hill (this is marked on the current OS map). This is inscribed W de W 1882 on one side and JRB 1882 on the other. This stone was obviously erected after the Perambulation of 1853 and so does not appear in the written transcription. This stone is local rock; it has a bluey-grey tinge and is shale-like, quite different from the stone at the end of the evening's walk.



From here, we walked down the track to the hill fence (this actually marks the boundary of the manor), which we followed until we reached Doctor's Pool. This name did not appear on maps until the beginning of the twentieth century. The pool is now silting up and the only evidence that it was a pool is the number of reeds growing in the depression. There has seldom been any water in this pool in recent years.

From here, we followed the track until we came to the BOAT (byway open to all traffic). We walked to the right, upslope, passing a number of small pools on the left; on early maps, these are called Llyn Pools. At the top of the slope, we came to Pwll Brwynog. This pool (very low in terms of water) is the source of a small stream which flows into the dingle which leads down to the Bachawy. Although the pool is not considered to be the source of the Bachawy, it is very high up in the catchment and is located at the watershed between water which flows to the Edw and that which flows to the Bachawy. The source of the latter is considered to be at Llancoed Du, below Ireland.

We turned off the BOAT and followed another track which leads uphill towards Cefn Wylfre. The second boundary stone which we were due to see is just off to the left of this track, on the hillside, but unfortunately we were unable to find it because the heather and bracken had grown too high and the stone is not very large. This stone is engraved WW 1834, and so was certainly in place when the Perambulation took place. It is also composed of a different rock (possibly sandstone) from the one used for the 1882 boundary stone. The grid reference for the stone is SO 15610 50826.



We followed a more direct and level route back to the cars. It had been a wonderful evening, with warm sunshine and amazing views at every point, and a wonderful time had been had by all.

Many thanks for ML for organising such an interesting evening. We all agreed that it was a great idea to get the Local Interest Group started up again, if under strict social distancing rules.