

ZENNOR BOUNDS REVISITED

by P.A.S. Pool

[Editorial note: The late Peter Pool was a past President of the Royal Institution of Cornwall, editor of the Journal for many years, and a regular contributor to its pages. He was a member of the Publications Committee from its inception until his death, bringing to its meetings a constant supply of information, advice, and humour. The Editor and Committee have included this short but typically meticulous contribution by Peter as a very inadequate but deserving tribute to a loyal colleague and a very dear friend.]

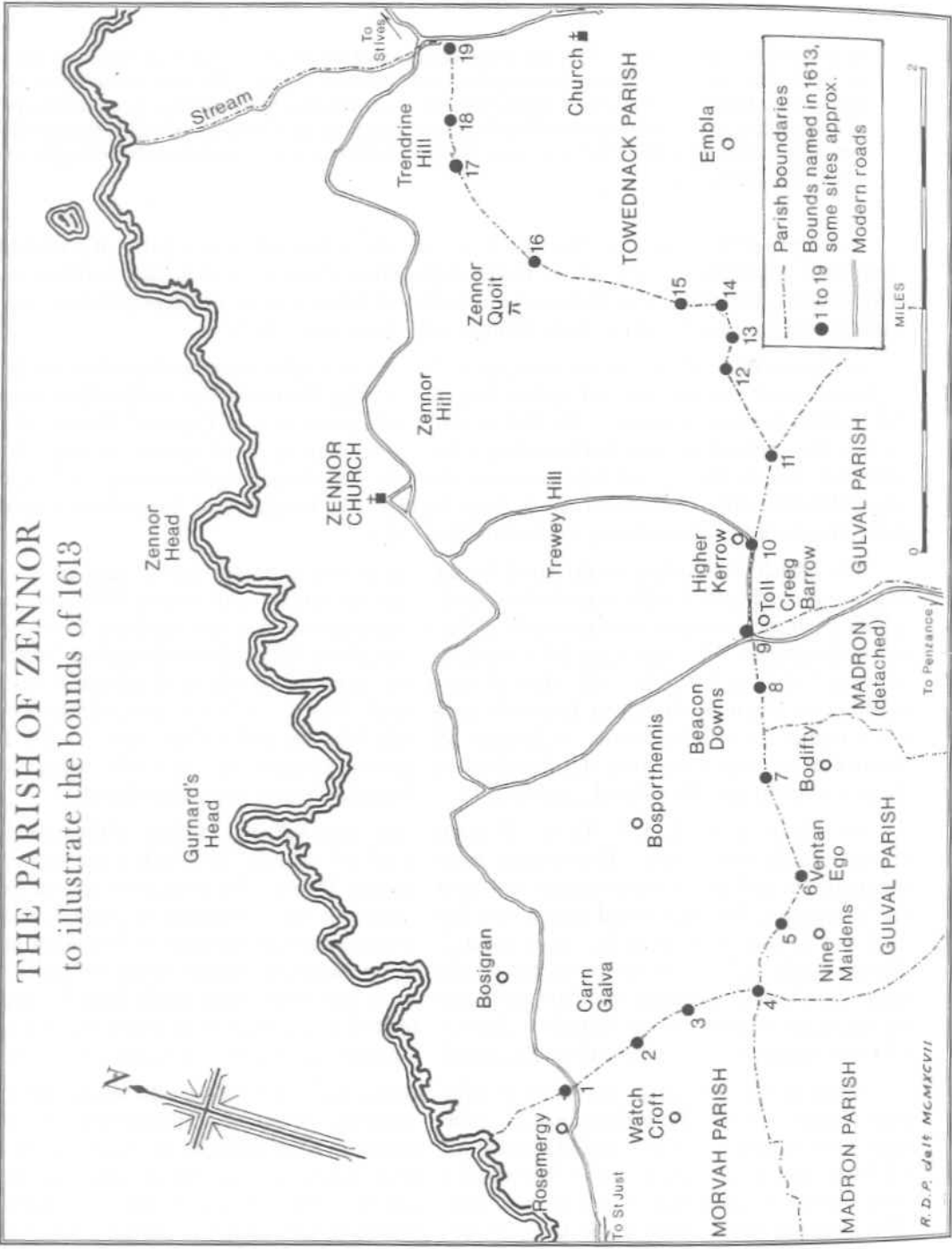
In Rogation Week of 1613 William Cory, curate of Zennor, with a party of parishioners, viewed the boundaries of the parish, and then prepared 'a true note of all such auncient markes or bounds as doe parte or bounde out our parish of Senner from all other parishes, together with the severall names of the saide bounds and which way they ly'.

It appears that in 1613 all parishes in the Diocese of Exeter were instructed by the Bishop to prepare such 'terriers' recording their boundaries. This Zennor terrier, with others surviving for Cornish parishes, passed to the Diocese of Truro and is now in Cornwall Record Office.¹ Its text has previously been published by Charles Henderson,² but it appears to merit further attention. This is the earliest Zennor terrier, the only one describing the bounds of the parish, and indeed the only known account of those bounds. The boundary of the parish remains, for both church and civil purposes, as described in 1613.

The parish is bounded on the north by the sea, on the east by a stream, and on the west, south and south-east by the bounds described in the document. This names 19 bound marks, which are here numbered with reference to the accompanying map (the numbers do not appear in the document). The names are in Cornish, with occasional English words such as 'west' (no. 9), 'bush' (17) and 'watch' (18). Most of the names appear to be those of natural rocks; nine commence with *men*, stone, and five with *carrek*, rock. Nos. 1 – 3 divide Zennor from Morvah; no. 4 marks the quadrijunction of Zennor, Morvah, Madron and Gulval; nos. 5 – 10 divide Zennor from Gulval or from the detached portion of Madron; no. 11 is the trijunction of Zennor, Gulval and Towednack; and nos. 12 – 19 divide Zennor from Towednack.

Six of the names (1, 5, 9, 10, 13, 15) contain the word *toll*, and in three of these (1, 5, 15) it occurs with *men*, 'stone'. The primary meaning of *toll* is 'hole', in which sense it occurs in the names of prehistoric holed stones such as the nearby Men-an-Tol in Madron and the Tolvan in Constantine. No such holed stones have been found on the boundaries of Zennor, and nos. 1, 5 and 15 may refer to holes cut in natural stones to distinguish them as boundary marks. Alternatively, R. Morton Nance suggested that *toll* in names of bounds might be the Cornish term for a bound, pointing out that a hole was cut in turf when marking tin-bounds, and that an inspector of bounds was called a *toller*.³ Against this, the English equivalent given of the Cornish name for no. 1 (the only such equivalent in the document), is a 'stone with a hole'.

Some of the bounds are recorded in other documents, especially on the south side of the parish (nos. 4 – 9) where the parish boundary coincides with the northern boundary of the manor of Mulfra, in Gulval and Madron.⁴ This boundary is recorded in the Lanhydrock Atlas of 1696, and also in the map of 1788 which Charles Henderson saw but of which the present whereabouts is unknown. Another short section of the Zennor boundary (nos. 14 and 15) is also recorded in the Lanhydrock Atlas, as the boundary of Embla in Towednack.⁵ Although the boundary of Zennor remains unchanged, few of the bound marks and their names recorded in 1613 are now known; they have mostly been superseded by small and anonymous boundary stones, probably of 19th century date, of uniform appearance and bearing the initial letters of



the parishes. These stones are more numerous than their predecessors; the 6 – inch O.S. map of 1908 marks 'B.S.' (boundary stone) thirty times along the boundary described in 1613.

The document of 1613 records the names of 19 bounds over an approximate distance of six miles. The boundary so marked passed almost entirely over uncultivated moorland, and for much of its length (nos. 4 – 15) it followed the ancient trackway along the watershed of Penwith, now called the Tinnors' Way. For a short distance (from 9 to the probable site of 10) the track has been absorbed into the road from Penzance to Zennor. The bounds named tend to be spaced with reasonable regularity, and several occur where the boundaries of three or more parishes meet (4, 9, 11), or where the boundary makes an abrupt change of direction (4, 14), or on the skyline where it crosses ridges (3, 5, 8).

The 19 bounds listed in 1613 are now listed in order, with later references to them and comments on their names and sites.

1. Zennor/Morvah
1613 MEANE AN TOLL 'which in English is a stone with a hole'. *Men an toll*, stone of the hole.
Stated to be 'by the sea westward', probably where the foot-path from Bosigran to Rosemergy crosses the boundary, above Porthmoina Cove. (National Grid reference 419365).
2. Zennor/Morvah (omitted by Henderson)
1613 CARRACK AN NA VALLA (NA interlineated)
Carrek an, rock of the, with rest of name uninterpreted. Probably a site marked by a modern stone on the slope between Carn Galva and Watch Croft, south of the coast road (425361).
3. Zennor/Morvah
1613 CARRACK AN DEEBER
Carrek an dyber, the saddle rock.
On the summit of the ridge between the two hills last named (427359).
4. Zennor/Morvah/Madron/Gulval
1613 MEANE CROUSE
1696 MENE CROUSE
1788 FOUR PARISHES ROCK at PRAZE MAEN CROWZE
1839 (Tithe Apportionment) FOUR PARISHES BOUND ROCK
Men crows, cross stone, with in 1788 *pras*, meadow. A large natural rock in which a small cross has been cut to mark the junction of the four parishes (430354). Here the boundary meets the ancient trackway and makes an abrupt change of direction to follow it eastward.
5. Zennor/Gulval
1613 MEANE TOLL
1696 A ROCK
Men toll, hole stone (or possibly boundary stone, see above). One of a number of bounds marked by modern stones, where the boundary crosses the ridge between Nine Maidens and Carn Galva (433354).
6. Zennor/Gulval
1613 CARRAC VUROSE DAN VENTAN EGO
1696 A GREAT ROCK
Carrek vras dan fenton ogo, great rock below cave well. Venton Niggo (1741), Ego (1782), Nigga (1788), or Negger (1886) was a tin-bound on Tredinnick common in

Gulval, adjoining Bosporthenis in Zennor.⁶ It was presumably named from a deeply sunken well, but neither this nor the 'great rock' have been located on the ground. The latter was probably near 438353.

7. Zennor/Gulval
1613 CARRACK PEDDEN MELLEEN
1696 CARRACK KINE HOH
1788 KARRAK AN OW
Carrek pen melen, yellow head rock, later *carrek keyn hogh*, hog back rock, strangely corrupted in 1788. A large natural rock on the east side on the track from Bodrifty to Bosporthenis at 443357.
8. Zennor/Madron (detached)
1613 PEELE MYNE
Pyl meyn, heap of stones.
Probably where the boundary crosses the ridge between Mulfra Hill and Beacon Downs (448359).
9. Zennor/Madron (detached)/Gulval
1613 MEANE WEST TA BRIDGE TOLL
1696 A BLEW STONE
Men west dhe 'bridge' (for cridge, *cruk*) toll; later *plu*, parish, stone (compare the 'Three Blue Stones' at the junction of Ludgvan, Gulval and Towednack at Polhigey).⁷ This bound was at the head of the Try valley, at 452361 where the roads from Penzance to Gurnard's Head and Zennor Churchtown divide, the boundary following the latter for a short distance. 'Bridge Toll' is a scribal error for 'Cridge Toll', *cruk toll*, barrow with a hole, or possibly barrow on a boundary. This barrow stood on the south (Gulval) side of the road, about 100 yards east of the bound junction, until it was destroyed in 1963.⁸ The elements in the name are normally reversed, giving Tolgreek in 1831 and Toll Creeg in 1843.
10. Zennor/Gulval
1613 TOLL AN CREENE
Toll an cren, the pond hole (or possibly pond boundary). Probably at Higher Kerrow (458362), where the road to Zennor leaves the boundary and the ancient trackway, which continue eastwards.
11. Zennor/Gulval/Towednack
1613 MEENE CROUSE AN ESPECK
1839 (Tithe Apportionment) BISHOP'S FOOT
Ordnance Survey BISHOP'S HEAD AND FOOT
Men crows an epscop, cross stone of the bishop. The junction of the three parishes at 464362 is marked by a large stone slab, which presumably replaced the former cross. The name refers to the episcopal manor of Lanisley, which was here coterminous with Gulval parish. The ancient trackway here divides, one branch (which the Zennor boundary follows) heading north-east towards St. Ives, the other south-east towards Ludgvan and Marazion.
12. Zennor/Towednack
1613 MEENE IN POOLE DOWER
Men yn pol dower, stone in a pool of water. Probably at the head of the slope above Lady Downs farm, 'rock' marked on ordnance survey (468366).

13. Zennor/Towednack
1613 POLLAN IN TOLL
Pollen yn toll, little pool in a hole (or, possibly, on a boundary). Probably where the boundary makes a slight change in direction at 471366.
14. Zennor/Towednack
1613 THE RADELL
1696 A POOL
1838 ADDLE POOL
Probably *atel*, rubbish, mine waste, since *rajel*, rocky slope, does not fit the site. Here at 473367 the boundary changes direction abruptly and heads north.
15. Zennor/Towednack
1613 MEANE AN TOLL
1696 MEN AN TOLL
1839 (Tithe Apportionment) MAEN TOLL
See nos. 1 and 5 for meaning. At 472369; near this site the boundary and the ancient trackway to St. Ives diverge.
16. Zennor/Towednack
1613 MEAN GLASE
Men glas, green stone. Probably at 472380 where the track from Zennor to Towednack crosses the boundary.
17. Zennor/Towednack
1613 MEANE GEN BUSH ITHEN
Men gans bush eythyn, stone with a furze bush. Probably at 476386, where a rock marked on the ordnance survey is called Carne Boscoben on the tithe map.
18. Zennor/Towednack
1613 CARNE AN WATCH
Carn an watch, rock-pile of the watch (look-out place). At 479387 on the summit of Trendrine Hill.
19. Zennor/Towednack
1613 CARRACK AN BARGEES
Carrek an bargos, the buzzard rock. Near 483388, on the east slope of Trendrine hill, where the boundary drops steeply to a stream, 'and from thence downe by a water full to the sea syde'.

References

1. CRO: ARD/TER/444
2. C. Henderson, 'The Bounds of Zennor', *Old Cornwall* Vol. I no. 7 (1927) 13.
3. Editorial footnote to Henderson (op. cit.,) p. 14.
4. P.A.S. Pool, 'The Field Names of the Manor of Mulfra', *J.R.I.C.* 1994 43 (boundary described pp. 71-2).
5. V. Chesher and J. Palmer (eds.), *Three Hundred Years on Penwith Farms* (1994) plate 6.
6. Pool, 'Manor of Mulfra' (op. cit.,) 70.
7. Ludgvan Tithe Map. See O.J. Padel, 'Cornish Language Notes', *Cornish Studies* 2 (1974) 75, 3 (1975) 22.
8. P.A.S. Pool, 'Tolcreeg Barrow, Gulval', *Cornish Archaeology* 3 (1964) 105.

