

10 Trencreek Downs

10.1 Situation

Trencreek Common is situated three miles north-west of Bodmin and adjacent to the A.30 highway from Bodmin to Launceston. This very small area of common is triangular in shape and is bounded by the A.30 highway on the south-east, by a minor road leading to Blisland from the A.30 to the north-west, and an old track to the east that joins the two roads.

10.2 Landscape/topography

The whole area is completely covered in gorse and the track, which once linked the two roads, is today impassable. The small area is so densely scrubbed over that no landscape features can be identified and it is virtually impossible to walk through.

10.3 Archaeology/industry

No evidence of either archaeological or industrial remains can be detected due to the gorse.

10.4 Trencreek Downs

Trencreek Common is registered as Common Land no. 140 and is less than 10 acres in total. The common takes its name from the settlement of Trencreek first recorded in 1471 (according to Maclean) as *Trencruk* (Gover: 1948, 96). The name contains the Cornish place-name elements *tre* 'estate, farmstead' + *cruk* 'barrow, hillock' (Padel:1985, 73): although it is not certain what the second element refers to.

The desk top survey identified three boundary stones, all of which mark the south-east boundary along the A.30 and formerly divided Trencreek Common from Cardinham Downs.

As extensive gorse has totally engulfed this Common, only one of the three stones were located during the survey. The only one that could be found is stone no.140/1, that stands close to the junction of the minor road to Blisland and the A.30 highway. The boundary stones displays the letters **MXC** on one face only.

10.5 Analysis

Very little has been discovered about this small area of common. In 1840, Trencreek Common included a second area of land to the north of the minor road that leads from the A.30 to Blisland. The tithe map schedule names Sir William Molesworth as the owner and John Lean as the lessee. The only boundary stone that has been located displays an ***MX***, this indicates that the land was once attached to the Manor of Blisland, of which, Sir William was the owner. The ***X*** is unusually large, and the letters are different in character to the many situated on Blisland Commons, most have a smaller ***X*** in relation to the ***M***. The letter ***C*** that is carved below the ***MX*** is considered to represent the Collins or Edward Collins family who later acquired the land.