

### Map three

#### **SX084787 B3266 Michaelstow 8 B 4 points**

This is the fourth replacement milestone. It is set back from the road next to a farm gateway.

#### **SX090802 B3266 Advent B 9 4 points**

The nine mile stone is an original 18th century stone. It is tucked against the hedge near the base of an electricity pole immediately north of the turn to Trecarne. It is set low down and can be difficult to spot. Stop in the side road to hunt for it.

#### **SX096816 B3266 Advent B 10 4 points**

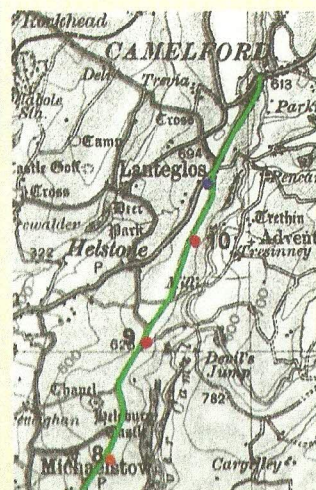
The last milestone is an original 18th century stone. It is right at the road edge and has suffered considerable damage from traffic. It is immediately north of the cottage on the opposite side of the road. Despite the 50 mph speed limit, this is a very fast section of road. Take care.

#### **SX099824 A39 Valley Truckle 2 points**

At the junction of B3266 and A39 there is a triangular 19th century granite guide stone. The directions are carved into the column, but there is also an iron structure with three wooden arms mounted on top of the column.

#### **Camelford 1 point**

Turn right to visit the town of Camelford. This is the end of the historic Judges' Road. In 1716 the judges would have reached Camelford from Launceston, skirting the northern edge of Bodmin Moor before taking the route you have just followed to Bodmin.



Map Three

#### **Safety**

Be aware that the whole of the Judges' Road is along public roads. Some of the route, especially near Bodmin and near Camelford can be busy at times. Take care where you stop. Park safely. Watch out for traffic at all times.

You follow this route at your own risk. The Milestone Society accepts no responsibility whatsoever in the use of the information in this leaflet. Do not drive while looking at the guide or a wayside feature.

### History

#### **From the Newquay Express Friday 5 July 1907:**

Letter sent to the Town Clerk of Bodmin in 1716

"The Bill for removing the Assizes being now passed, and the Judges having nominated Bodmyn for the place where they designe to hold the same this summer, his Lordship would have you and the Mayor to apply to the Bishop of Winchester (Trelawny) if in the country, and other Justices of the Peace, that they take some effective care, that the roads and ways, from Launceston to Bodmyn, be levelled and the trees and hedges be cut fit for travelling with coaches, etc. You are also to observe that both the Judges are to lye in one house, and that bedding, furniture and other accommodations are to be provided accordingly."

#### **Sponsors**

The manufacture of four replacement granite milestones and the restoration of the seven original granite milestones, four granite guide stones and the fingerpost at Valley Truckle was carried out in 2013, supported by the following:

Camel Valley & Bodmin Moor Protection Society  
Councillor Mick Martin (Cornwall Council)  
Bodmin Town Council  
Cornwall Heritage Trust  
Michaelstow Parish Council  
St Breward Parish Council  
Camelford Town Council  
De Lank Quarry  
Cormac Solutions  
The Milestone Society

#### **The Milestone Society**

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Marking the miles

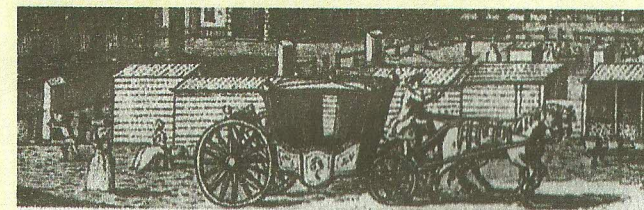
## The Judges' Road



In 1716 Cornwall's Assize Court was to be moved from Launceston to Bodmin. The judges would travel by coach and the road had to be made fit for their journey. This was a major event. At this date travel by carriage was almost unheard of in Cornwall. People walked or rode on horseback. There was no road across Bodmin Moor. To reach Bodmin the Assize Court judges would first have to go to Camelford.

Careful research has shown that their route from Camelford to Bodmin is marked by a series of milestones and other historic roadside features. Though now mainly narrow country lanes, this was the main post road in the early 18th century. We have named this road the Judges' Road.

The best way to explore the Judges' Road is to start at Bodmin and drive towards Camelford, following the route outlined here.



#### **Treasure Hunt Game**

It is not easy to spot all the milestones described here. Award yourself points for each wayside feature found. A total of 40 points is Bronze standard, 50 points is Silver and 60 or more is Gold standard.





Map One

### SX073670 St Petroc's Church, Bodmin in 1842 1 point

Go downhill from Shire Hall (SX072669) opposite Mount Folly where the Assize Court met to Church Square in front of St Petroc's Church

The old road climbed steep Castle Street to reach Old Callywith Road. Our route is to the right of the church along Priory Road and the turnpike road to Launceston built by the Bodmin Turnpike Trust in 1829. This makes the journey half a mile longer, but is an easier gradient.

### SX076667 Launceston Road, Bodmin 2 points

Bear left at the fork in the road, signed A30 Launceston. Spot the capped granite guide stone standing on the island in the fork. Note the spelling of Launceston. Take care in the traffic at this busy junction.

### SX082673 Bodmin 1 B 3 points

The road climbs steadily, curving to the left. The one mile stone is immediately past the entrance to Asda on the left side of the road. This is the first of four replacement granite milestones erected in 2013 to mark the route of the Judges' Road. The original milestone disappeared in 2000.

### SX089688 Racecourse Farm, B 2 3 points

Past the milestone, turn left and then right onto Old Callywith Road. The steep original road from Bodmin joins the turnpike road here and heads across Racecourse Downs parallel with the modern A30 dual carriageway. One mile from the one mile stone is the two mile stone. This is an original turnpike milestone from 1829.

### SX091697 Cardinham 2 B 3 points

Bear left in 2 furlongs (440 yards) away from the A30 dual carriageway onto unfenced moorland. Four furlongs (half a mile) from the two mile stone is another two mile stone, this time on the right hand side of the road. This is two miles from Bodmin on the original road, which was half a mile shorter than the turnpike loop. Can you see that this milestone may have been re-used?

### SX090704 Helland turn 2 points

In just over half a mile, at a crossroads, there is a capped granite guide stone. The capstone has writing on four sides. Note that the writing faces the direction of the place named.

Carry straight on towards Camelford.

### SX088715 Helland 3 B 3 points

In just under half a mile is the three mile stone. Apart from the first two milestones, which are on the Bodmin turnpike route to Launceston, all the milestones on the

Judges' Road are on the right hand (east) side of the road. They are older than the Bodmin turnpike and were erected in the first half of the 18th century. Notice the verge cutting damage to the top of the milestone.

Carry on down the hill which gets steeper. Imagine coming up this hill in a horse drawn coach like the judges' vehicle. Remember the road would be un-surfaced and had only recently been cleared of fallen trees!

Map Two

### SX089729 Tresarrett B 4 3 points

At the bottom of the hill the Bodmin to Wenford Bridge railway appears on the left, following the river valley. This is now part of the Camel Trail cycling and walking route. The Judges' Road climbs another hill and descends to the hamlet of Tresarrett. Just past a road junction is the fourth mile stone. Note that the B for Bodmin is above the 4 on this milestone. The arrow shaped bench mark is an Ordnance Survey spot height mark, giving an accurate fixed datum above mean sea level.

### SX089731 Merry Meeting 2 points

The next road junction in less than 200 yards is a good place to stop and explore, because there are several roadside features to note. The granite-capped guide stone has writing on four sides. See how Blisland is spelled.

### SX089730 Tresarrett Bridge East side 2 points

On the opposite side of the road is a stone with a letter C carved on it. This is a county bridge stone and marked the limit of the county's responsibility for road maintenance on each side of a county bridge. Maintenance of the rest of the road was the duty of the parish.

### SX087731 Tresarrett Bridge West Side 3 points

Cross the Camel Trail and Tresarrett Bridge to find the other county bridge stone. Return to the Judges' Road which is the lower road heading north, not the road climbing towards Bliss-land.

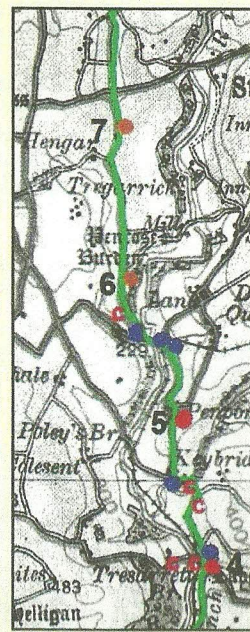
### SX088738 Key Bridge East side 4 points

This county bridge stone is hard to spot, on the left hand side on the hill before the bridge.

### SX087738 Key Bridge plaque 2 points

There is a sundial on Key Bridge and a metal plaque warning drivers of traction engines not to cross the bridge (because they were too heavy). The plaque reads:

"To owners and drivers of



Map Two

locomotives, take notice that this bridge is insufficient to carry weights beyond the ordinary traffic and such owners and drivers are by law prohibited from driving over it without the consent of the County Council."

### SX087738 Key Bridge West side 2 points

This county bridge stone should be easier to find. The county was supposed to maintain the road 100 yards each side of a county bridge.

### SX087738 Keybridge, St Breward 2 points

The guide stone at the next junction is the only capped granite guide stone in Cornwall that has a wooden fingerpost on top. The wooden post is mounted on an iron spike set into the granite. Follow the direction for Camelford.

### SX086743 Penpont 5 B 3 points

The five mile stone is at the top of the hill, just before the roads fork. It was completely buried under a pile of stone rubble in 2013, until the farmer at Keybridge volunteered to clear it.

Take the left fork and come down to the River Camel at Wenfordbridge.

### SX086751 Wenford Bridge (repainted 2011) 1 point

This fine example of an early 20th century cast iron fingerpost is a rare sight around Bodmin Moor, where granite is the preferred material.

### SX085751 Wenford Bridge guide stone 2 points

Beside the cast iron fingerpost is an 18th century guide stone, giving directions to Bodmin and Camelford. Note the spelling - a road was something you rode along.

### SX084751 Wenfordbridge, St Tudy 1 point

Cross Wenford Bridge and bear right at the granite fingerpost with wooden arms towards Camelford. The granite pillar is an unusual shape..

### SX084752 Wenford Bridge North side 3 points

This was the main road because it is the road with the county bridge stone.

### SX082757 Penrose 6 B 3 points

The original six mile stone was destroyed by a hedging flail in 2007. All four replacement granite milestones were made at De Lank Quarry in St Breward parish.

### SX082773 St Tudy, 7 B 3 points

The seven mile stone is another replacement stone. The sponsors' names for each stone are on a small plaque on the back.

### SX082776 St U and St B 3 points

Just before the junction with the B3266 to Camelford, there is a turn on the right to St Breward. A hundred yards towards St Breward is a stone marking the boundary between three parishes - St Breward, St (T)Udy and Michaelstow. The inscriptions are difficult to pick out through the lichens and mosses.

At the B3266 junction turn right towards Camelford.