

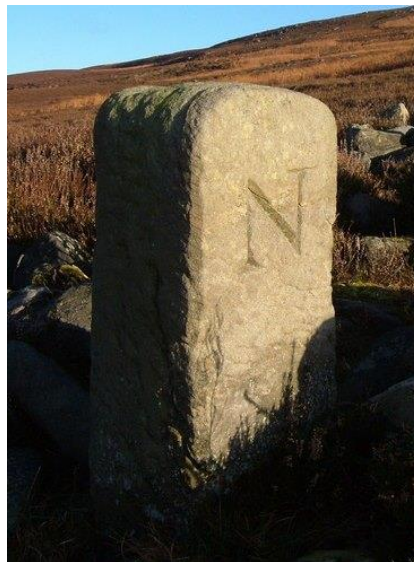
**Albury History Society - alburyhistory.org.uk
Albury Northumberland Estate marker stones, to the west, by John Dawson
INTERESTING BOUNDARY STONES ON BLACKHEATH COMMON**

Having noticed a couple of boundary stones on the common I decided to do some research.

A large part of Blackheath Common is owned the Tangle Estate (East Bramley Manor) and managed by Waverley Borough Council, some is owned and managed by the National Trust and a large part to the north and east is owned and managed by Earl Percy Albury Estate which belongs to the Duke of Northumberland.

There are parish and district boundaries running through the common for Waverley (Blackheath parish) and Guildford (Albury & St. Martha's parishes) but these only partially follow the old ownership boundaries.

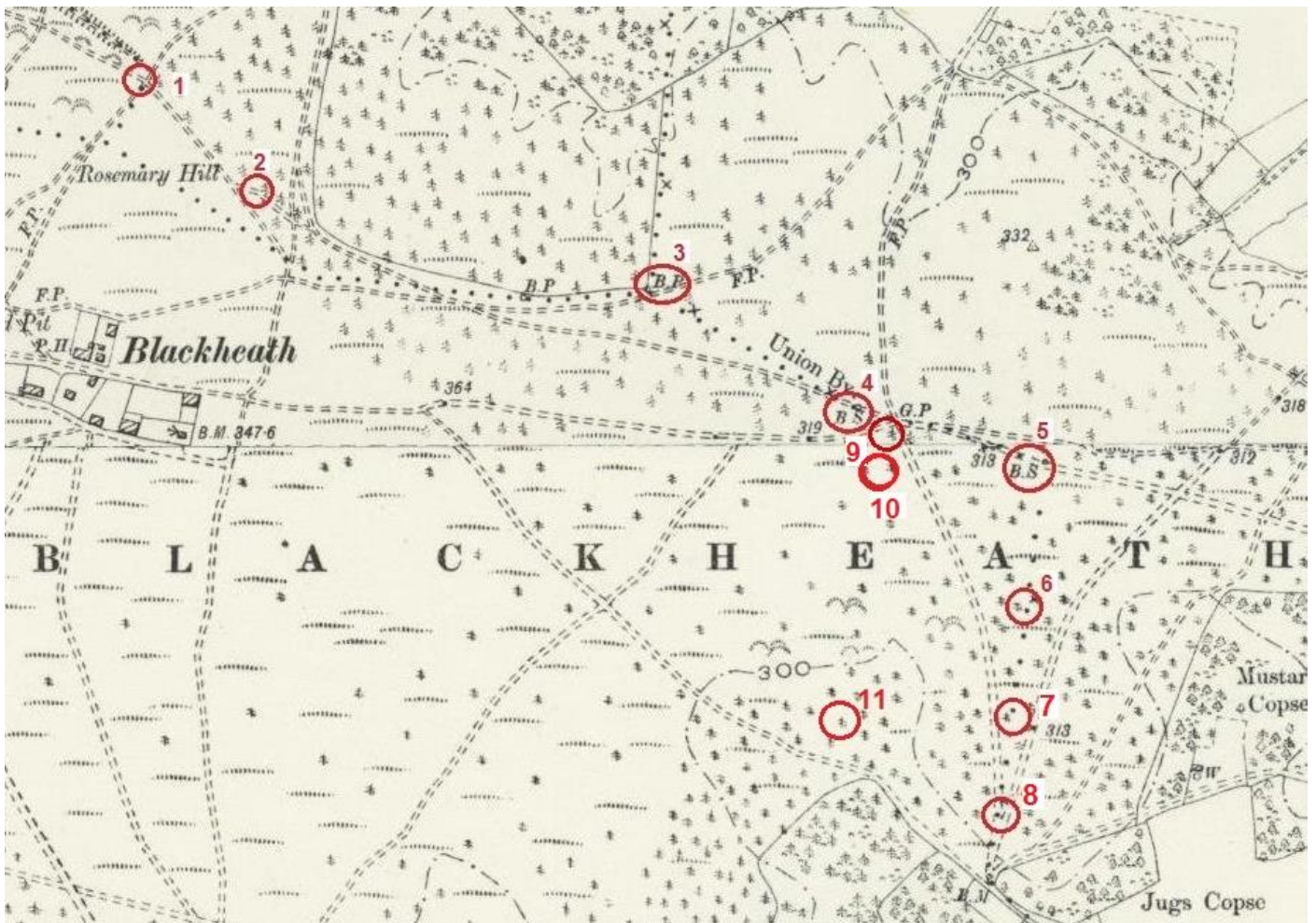
In former times it was common for landowners to have their initial engraved on their side of boundary stones. This is a typical old boundary stone marking the boundary of some of the Duke of Northumberland's land in Northumberland. N for (Duke of) Northumberland.



Boundary stone in Northumberland

The Duke of Northumberland acquired Albury Park in 1890 through his wife's inheritance but evidently owned land and property in the area much earlier. Surrey History Centre holds documents dated 1st December 1886 being an agreement between the Duke of Northumberland and Lord Grantley confirming the boundary between the manors of Albury and East Bramley on Blackheath and referring to boundary stones already in place.

Several boundary stones are marked on an 1870 Ordnance Survey map of Blackheath and some of these and others are marked on the 1897 map shown here. I have marked the map showing the 11 stones I have found which still exist today.



Nos. 1, 2 & 3 engraved N and EBM (East Bramley Manor) are shown on the 1870 map and mentioned in the 1886 agreement. They are made of moulded concrete which was probably quite progressive for rich country estates in the second half of the nineteenth century but also overcame the problem of having no suitable local stone for carving.



1a



1b



2a



2b

Although they are now in poor condition they were well made, tapered towards the top and have an iron reinforcing bar inside. You cannot mistake the N and EBM on opposing sides. Interestingly the one numbered 3 has an Ordnance Survey brass rivet benchmark on top and the usual OS benchmark arrow chiselled into the side. The height is shown as 110m above sea level on some recent OS maps.



3

The other eight are also concrete but more crudely made and taller than the old tapered concrete posts and they only have the N. The position of the two numbered 4 and 5 on the map are also on the 1870 map but nos. 6 to 11 are not on any maps that I have seen.

The one I have numbered 10 is broken and lying on the ground. Nos. 9, 10 & 11 follow the line of an ancient boundary bank (9 is also broken but half is still in the ground) whereas nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8, follow the line of the parish boundary between Albury and Wonersh.



4

5

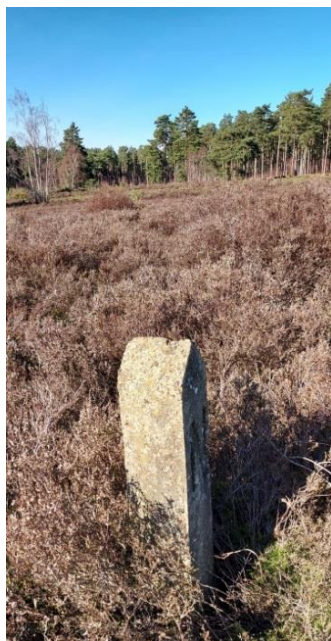
6

6b showing red paint

At the time of WW2 more of Blackheath common was treeless open heathland. From 1940 to 1944 a large military camp was established on the common.

The taller concrete posts may have been installed after the war when the remains of the camp were removed and the Northumberland Estate wanted to re-define its boundaries. Some of them replace stones damaged or missing after the camp, whilst 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 were not on old maps so maybe newly marking the boundary as the common was restored. A 1916 map indicates a benchmark on the one numbered 5 which does not exist on the more modern replacement.

The crudely moulded N of no.6 shows residues of red paint (photo 6b).



7



8



9



10



11