

## Boundary stone on Bathwick hill

The Bath Archeological Society does agree that this definitely looks like a boundary stone as it is on the original Bathwick parish boundary. However, they suggest it could be even older because it also looks very like some of the wall stones on Claverton Down. In addition, an extract from the Bath Chronicle of 1869 (also attached) describes the ceremony of the "beating the bounds" of Bathwick, and in the article there is mention of stones *at the top of Bathwick Hill* which marked the *extent of the parish*.



About two o'clock, after rather more than an hour's rest, the peregrination was continued from the Sham Castle stile, the point where the perambulation ceased in the morning. The footpath was followed to and through the field on Claverton Down, in which the yeomanry formerly exercised. The path in question has long been the subject of dispute, and (so we were informed) attempts have been made to deprive the public of the use of it. It cannot be said that there is a proper path now in existence. The only piece of ground left for the public to walk upon is a small narrow strip under the wall, and this is overhung with ivy that ought to be removed. The path we allude to led up to a coppice, but to no purpose, for there was no getting beyond it, the ground through which it should have passed having been ploughed up. Loud complaints were made about this infringement on the rights of the public, and a strong hope was expressed that the Footpath Preservation Society would take up the matter. The beaters followed the path to the coppice as the general public would have done, but, unlike the general public, they were licensed trespassers, and passed through the wood, the wall on the left hand being the boundary of the parish. On emerging from the plantation the boundary line followed the wall of the road leading to Bathwick-hill, some stones on the top of which marked the extent of the parish. Here another little boy was sacrificed on the bumping-stone, but we doubt whether the operation was so successfully performed as to impress the fact upon the youngster's mind. From the boundary stones at the top of the hill the line passed within the boundary wall of Grove Lodge (taking in the house) the length of the road joining Bathwick and Widcombe hills, and emerging on the western verge of the copse on the latter. On reaching Widcombe-hill a detachment of the party was told off to pursue the boundary from the point where it left off back again along the inside wall of the plantation before alluded to, to the gardens at the rear of Woodland-place, following a recess in the wood and emerging by the upper boundary of Smallcombe-wood into Widcombe-hill at the boundary stone, about 150 yards from the summit. The high road was crossed and

