



Sheetlines

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“Not in tham thar hills!”

Richard T Porter

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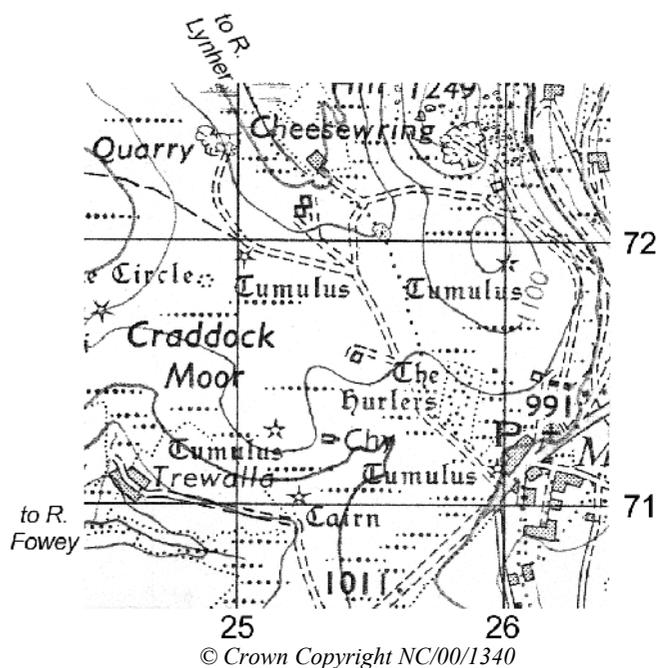
The Charles Close Society was founded in 1980 to bring together all those with an interest in the maps and history of the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain and its counterparts in the island of Ireland. The Society takes its name from Colonel Sir Charles Arden-Close, OS Director General from 1911 to 1922, and initiator of many of the maps now sought after by collectors.

The Society publishes a wide range of books and booklets on historic OS map series and its journal, *Sheetlines*, is recognised internationally for its specialist articles on Ordnance Survey-related topics.

Not in them thar hills!

I regret to report that the Liskeard and Caradon Railway Act, 1882,² mentioned in Don Clayton's letter³ does not contain more details of his gold diggings: railway no. 6 is simply described as 'terminating in the parish of St. Cleer at or near the stone quarry known as Gold Diggings Quarry'. The plan, showing the lands through which the proposed railways were intended to be made, and the associated book of reference, were 'deposited with the clerk of the peace for the county of Cornwall', and should be in the County Record Office as well as in the House of Lords Record Office. These may, just possibly, reveal some further information. The three earlier Acts dealing with this railway, in 1843, 1847 and 1860, do not seem to help.

The 1809 OS map does not show any quarry near SX 249723. Incidentally, its topography is not particularly reliable hereabouts: on modern maps the Withey Brook has its source immediately ESE of the quarry and thence flows NNW; to the south it is separated from the headwaters of the Fowey by an interfluvium, NW of The Hurlers, which rises nearly 100 feet above the source of the Withey Brook (if one ignores the tiny pond on the parish boundary and astride the 1050 ft contour). On the 1809 map something like a gorge cuts through this interfluvium, so that the brook flows both NNW (ultimately to the Lynher) and SW to the Fowey.



One-inch Old Series sheet 25 (1809) and Seventh Series sheet 186 edition C (1972), enlarged to c. 1:40,000.

This 1809 'gorge' did have some basis on the ground, however. The 1:25,000 1997 Explorer sheet 109 shows a 500m-long feature, indicated by slope hachures, along the parish boundary between the 320m (1,050 ft) contours on either side of the interfluvium, as if someone had started to dig a canal, or rather had been following a mineral vein.

Richard T Porter

² 45 & 46 Vict. cxi.

³ Sheetlines 74, 52.