MENYDH AND OTHER CORNISH WORDS FOR 'HILL'
a discussion paper by Ken George

1 BACKGROUND

The English word **hill** has several meanings, of which two are relevant here (meanings from *Reader's Digest Universal Dictionary*):
1)   a well-defined, naturally elevated area of land smaller than a mountain;
2)   an incline, especially on a road; a slope.
I shall sometimes refer to (1) as "*hill-top*" and (2) as "*hill-slope*". When translating street-names, it is desirable to distinguish these two meanings, by using different Cornish words. This paper considers which words might be used for this purpose.

Three sources for such words and their meanings are considered:
(a)   place-names;
(b)   writings in traditional Cornish;
(c)   usage in Revived Cornish.
We shall see that the evidence from these three sources is conflicting and difficult to reconcile. The following table shows the number of occurrences of various words for 'high ground' from sources (a) and (b).
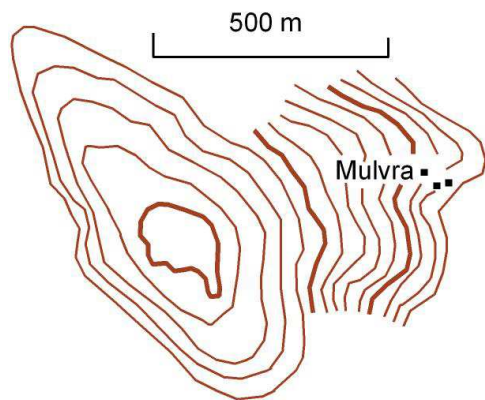
Word	Number of occurrences			
	places	used(1)	cited(2)	
ardh	~10	0	8	
bre	~20	0	9	
brenn	~8	0	1	
bronn	~20	0	10	(3)
drumm	~5	0	0	
knegh	1	0	0	
menydh	>60	34	35	
ros	>70	0	14	
run	~8	2	4	
runenn	0	0	1	
tolgh	0	0	0	

(1)   "Used" means used within a text (verse or prose), which implies that the word was used in common parlance.
(2)   "Cited" means quoted as an individual word in a word-list or a dictionary.
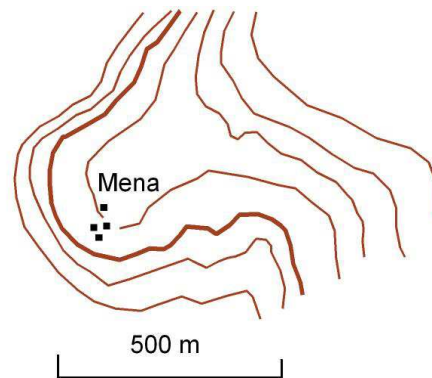(3)   Only those cases where **bronn** meant 'hill' are counted, not those where it meant 'breast'.

2 EVIDENCE FROM PLACE-NAMES

2.1 Classification of place-names

For as many place-names as possible, the local topography was examined on the 1:25,000 map. Often it is quite well-defined, e.g.
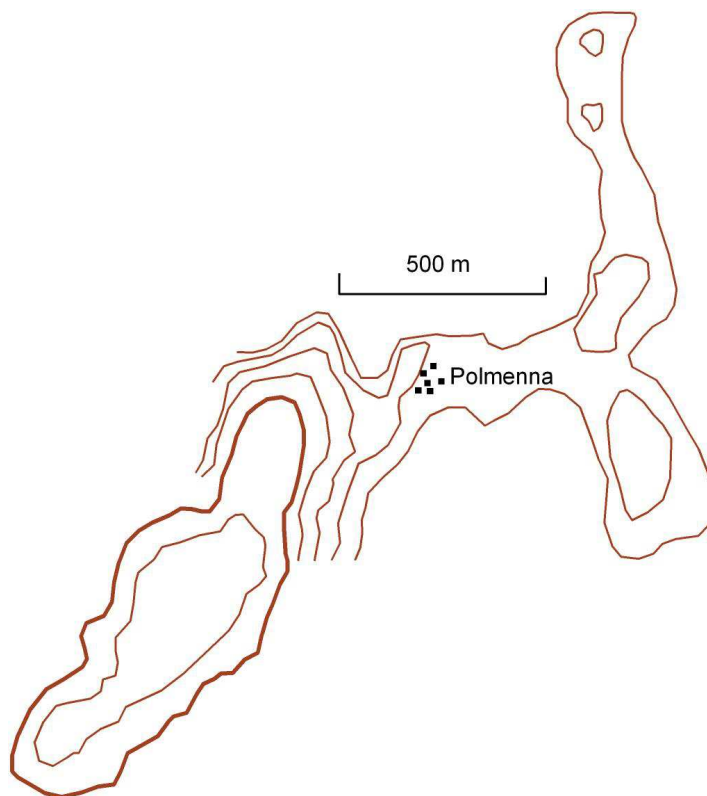

A well-defined hill with several closed contours; the name of the hill has been transferred to a settlement well down the slope.

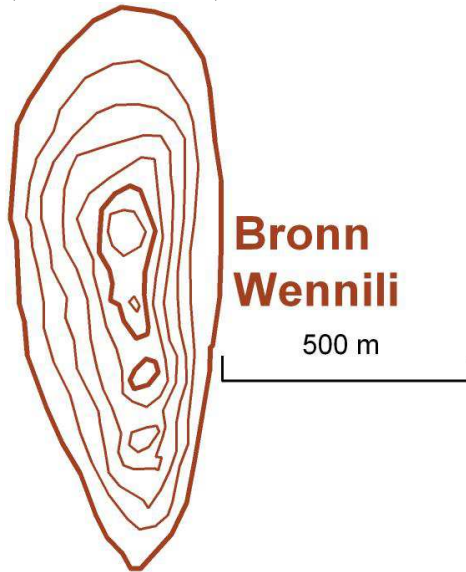*A definite spur, with no closed contours*

but in some cases it is not at all clear to which feature a given element refers, e.g.
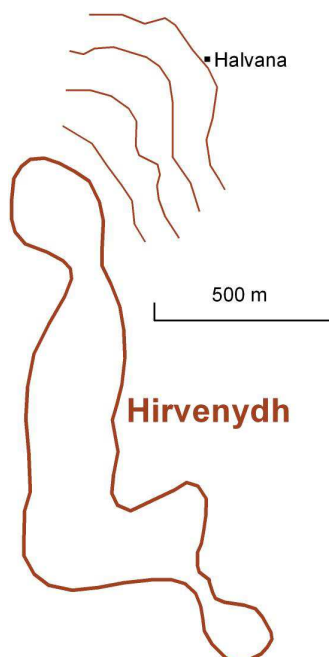
Here Polmenna is for **Pennmenydh,** *but which feature does* **menydh** *represent? It could be the small spur to the immediate west of the settlement, or perhaps the two-pronged ridge to the east. Is it the long hill to the south-west, or the slope between that hill and the settlement? The topography here is amorphous, in the sense 'not easily classified by shape'.*

Whereas Oliver Padel classified place-names according to their syntax, it is more useful in this investigation to use a different classification:

(a)   **F**eature: names for the feature itself (usually a hill), e.g. Brown Willy (***Bronn Wennili***)

Bronn Wennili

500 m

(b)   **T**ransferred: the name of the hill has been transferred to a nearby settlement (or other feature), e.g the name Halvana farm has been transferred from the nearby hill, ***Hirvenydh*** to a farm; although the name means 'long hill', the farm is unsurprisingly not on the summit, but more than 40 m lower.

•Halvana

500 m

Hirvenydh

3

(c) **R**elative: a settlement has been named after its position **relative** to a nearby hill, e.g. Tolmennor (**Talmenydh**) '(in) front of a hill' is evidently named relative to the nearby Tresoweshill, which is prominent and steep-sided.
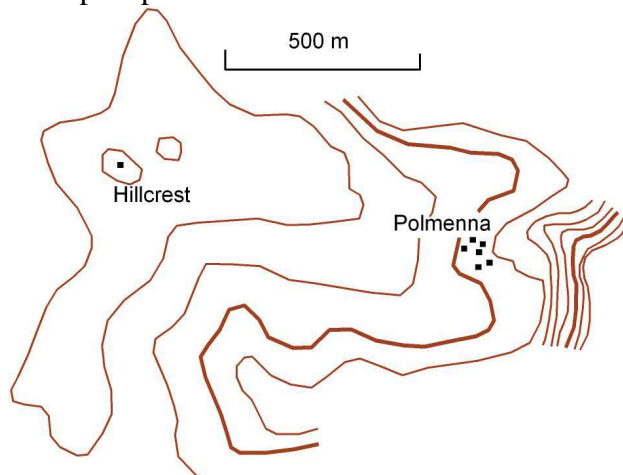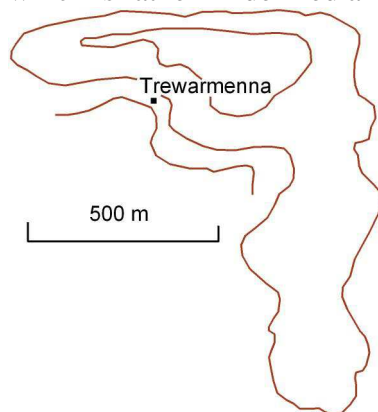

Compare Polmenna (**Pennmenydh**, with change of **penn** to **poll**) 'end of a hill'; the **menydh** in this case is neither steep-sided nor prominent, but the farm is close to the border between gently-sloping high ground to the west and a steep slope to the east..

The name **Trewarvenydh** is of interest, because it implies that the settlement is actually on the **menydh**. Examination of all such cases should give an idea of what **menydh** really meant in place-names; it did not necessarily mean a well-defined, steep-sided prominent hill: e.g. Trewarmenna in Creed lies on a hill which is rather ill-defined and insignificant.

2.2   The element *bre*

On examining place-names containing ***bre***, it is remarkable that three-quarters of them are close to a hill which is sufficiently prominent as to have its own name. These are listed in the table below, arranged geographically from west to east. Oliver Padel wrote "Perhaps a ***bre** was always the most prominent hill in a district". (He starred the word ***bre*** because it is not found in traditional Cornish texts; see below).

Name (F)	Grid ref. Height	Location	Nearby place-names with *bre* (T)
Chapel Carn Brea	386282 198 m	St Just in Penwith	Brea, Brea Vean, Brea Downs, Little Brea Farm
Bartinney Downs	395294 224 m	St Just in Penwith	Bartine Castle, Numphra, Bartinney
Mulfra Hill	451354 222 m	Madron	Mulfra
Trendrine Hill	479388 247 m	Towednack	Brea Cove, ?Breja
Carn Entral	664397 181 m	Camborne	Brea, Higher Brea, Lower Brea, Brea Adit
Carn Brea	683407 228 m	Illogan	Carn Brea Village
Bryanick 1884	710503 192 m	St Agnes	Goonvrea, Goonvrea Farm, Lennabray
Brill Hill *bre helgh*	719298 165 m	Constantine	Brill, Brilleigh, Brillwater
Brea Hill	928772 61 m	St Minver	Brea House
Bray Down	189822 346 m	Altarnun	Trebray, Wheal Bray
Bin Down	271575 203 m	Morval	Bray
Kit Hill	375713 334 m	Callington	Kellybray

Of the other place-names with ***bre*** which were located geographically, three are close to steep-sided, though not particularly prominent, hills:

Place-name	Location	Topography
Dinnever Hill	St Breward	spur, almost flat, 272 m
Mulberry	Lanivet	steep-sided hill, 136 m
Mulvra	St Austell	steep-sided hill, 104 m (see small map above)
Torfrey	Golant	steep-sided hill to S, 118 m

2.3 The element *menydh*

2.3.1 Possible meaning

In place-names, the word **menydh** does not necessarily mean 'mountain'. The difference between a hill and a mountain is arbitrary. In the whimsical film *The Englishman who went up a Hill but came down a Mountain,* the dividing line was taken as 1000 feet (305 m). This would allow over 30 summits in Cornwall to be termed mountains, all except for Hensbarrow Beacon and Kit Hill being on Fowey Moor, where there are few Cornish names. There is, however, almost no correlation between these higher hills and the element **menydh**. If the dividing line were taken at 500 m, then Cornwall would have no mountains at all, but still plenty of place-names containing **menydh**. What, then, does **menydh** mean in place-names?

It is reasonable to suppose that the original meaning was 'hill'. The place-name **Trewarvenydh** therefore meant 'settlement on a hill': but few would build a house on the summit of a hill in the Cornish climate. It effectively meant 'settlement on a hillside'; thus **menydh** could come to mean 'hillside'. Since a hillside is a piece of sloping ground, a further semantic shift to 'slope' is also possible.

2.3.2 Place-names containing *menydh*

(a)   Close compounds of **menydh**, like **Hirvenydh** (Halvana), are likely to be either names of the feature itself (F), or transferred names (T). These include:

Name	Location	Cornish	Adj.	Type	Topography
Cogveneth	Lelant	**koegvenydh**	empty	?	*(lost)*
Colvennor	Wendron	**kalghvenydh**	phallic	?	*not found on map*
Colvennor	Cury	**kalghvenydh**	phallic	T	flat-topped spur, 61 m
Gonvena	Egloshayle	**gwynnvenydh**	white	T	small hill, 36 m
Halvana	Altarnun	**hirvenydh**	long	T	long hill, 305 m
Harvenna	St Enoder	**hirvenydh**	long	T	hill, 212 m
Molevenney	St Germans	**moelvenydh**	bare	F	small hill, 124 m
Tuelmenna	Liskeard	**tewalvenydh**	dark	T	small hill, 157 m

The topography in these cases is a hill or a spur of no particular prominence.

(b)   These place-names include **war venydh**:

Name	Location	Cornish	Type	Topography
Chywarmeneth	Budock	**Chiwarvenydh**		*historical name now lost*
Trevena	Tintagel	**Trewarvenydh**		foot of steep slope
Trevenna	St Neot	ditto ?		E side of spur, 209 m
Trevenna	St Mawgan in Pydar	**Trewarvenydh**	R	N side of small hill, 94 m
Trevenner	St Hilary	**Trewarvenydh**	R	W side of small hill, 50 m
Trewarmenna	Creed	**Trewarvenydh**	R	S side of flat-topped hill, 96 m
Trewarveneth	Paul	**Trewarvenydh**	R	on a flat-topped hill, 105 m

Again, the *menydh* in these cases appears to be a hill or a spur of no particular prominence, but see the discussion on Trevena below.

(c)   The following names are of the form ***Menydh*** by itself or ***Menydh*** + qualifier:

Name	Location	Qualifier	Topography
Manywithan	St Winnow	*gwydhenn* 'tree'	*not found on map*
Mena	Lanivet	none	flat-topped spur, 158 m
Menaburle	Boconnoc	?	hill, 175 m (1)
Menachurch	Kilkhampton	?	small coastal headland (2)
Menaclidgey	Sithney	*klusyow* 'heaps'	*not found on map*
Menacrin	Temple	*krin* 'dry'	(2)
Menacuddle	St Austell	*goedhel* 'thicket'	hill, 175 m
Menadew	St Columb Maj.	*du* 'black'	flat-topped hill, 108 m
Menadews	St Clement	*du* 'black'	spur, 63 m
Menadrum	St Germans	*drumm* 'ridge'	*not found on map* (3)
Menadodda	St Germans	?	*not found on map*
Menadue	Tintagel	*du* 'black'	on slope (see discussion)
Menadue	St Breward	*du* 'black'	*not found on map*
Menadue	St Cleer	*du* 'black'	small hill, 314 m
Menadue	Talland	*du* 'black'	flat-topped hill, 131 m
Menadue	Luxulyan	*du* 'black'	spur, 146 m
Menaglaze	St Neot	*glas* 'blue'	(see discussion)
Menagwins	St Austell	*gwyns* 'wind'	spur, 90 m
Menagwins	Goran	*gwyns* 'wind'	1 km long hill, 101 m
Menakirk	St Stephen in B	?	*not found on map* (4)
Menawicket	Boconnoc	*gwibes* 'gnats'	*not found on map*
Menawink	Lanlivery	*gwyns* 'wind' ?	*not found on map*
Mennabroom	St Neot	*bronn* 'hill' ?	(see discussion)
Menelidan	Trevalga	*ledan* 'wide'	foot of steep slope
Menerdue	Stithians	*du* 'black'	small hill, 197 m
Menerlue	Stithians	*leugh* 'calf' ?	small hill, 180 m
Menewithan	St Germans	*gwydhenn* 'tree'	*not found on map*
Menna	St Dennis	none	slope below Meledor hill
Menna	Ladock	none	*not found on map*
Mennergwidden	Gwennap	*gwynn* 'white'	hill, 151 m
Menniridden	St Neot	*reden* 'bracken'	hill, 275 m (5)
Mennor	Lelant	none	hill, 119 m
Minawint	Talland	*gwyns* 'wind'	*not found on map*
Minneypark	Quethiock	*park* 'field'	(6)
Minnimeer	Tremaine	*meur* 'great'	spur

(1)   The most notable local hill is Buckabarrow
(2)   Menacrin Downs are relatively low-lying; the original ***Menydhkrin*** is likely to be a nearby tor, probably Temple Tor.
(3)   Oliver Padel (personal communciation) now doubts whether this name contains ***drumm***, and indeed whether ***drumm*** ever existed in Cornish at all.
(4)   May not necessarily contain ***menydh.***
(5)   The farm, but not the hill, was drowned when Colliford Lake was formed.
(6)   English word-order; may not be ***menydh***

(d)   The following are named according to their position relative to a **menydh**, and are therefore labelled R, except for three which are so far away from the hill as to be classified as transferred.

Name	Location	Cornish	Type	Topography
Penmennor	Stithians	*Pennmenydh*	R	on a flat-topped hill, 161 m
Penmennor	St Buryan	*Pennmenydh*	R	S end of spur
Polmena	St Winnow	*Pennmenydh*	R	end of amorphous high ground
Polmenna	Liskeard	*Pennmenydh*	T	small hill, 114 m
Polmenna	St Neot	*Pennmenydh*	R	E end of small hill, 181 m
Polmenna	St Enoder	*Pennmenydh*	T	S end of hill, 212 m
Polmenna	Philleigh	*Pennmenydh*	R	end of amorphous high ground
Polmenna	Veryan	*Pennmenydh*	R	N end of small hill, 97 m
Polmennor	Madron	*Pennmenydh*	R	S end of spur
Polmenor	Gwinear	ditto ?	R	N side of flat-topped hill, 93 m
Polvenna	Perranzabuloe	ditto ?	T	W side of small hill, 91 m
Tolmennor	Breage	*Talmenydh*	R	front of prominent hill, 187 m

Only in one case (Tolmennor) is the **menydh** a steep-sided (25% slope) well-defined prominent hill with its own name (Tresoweshill). In the other cases (with the possible exception of Polmenna in St Enoder), the **menydh** is a relatively minor topographic feature, usually a small hill, but in some cases a spur.

(e)   The following are other names ending in **menydh**:

Name	Location	Cornish	Type	Topography
Ballaminers	Lit. Petherick	*Melinow menydh*		*not found on map*
Carnemenna	Constantine	*Karn an menydh*	T	hill, 151 m
Gonamena	St Cleer	*Goen an menydh*	R	(see discussion)
Tregamenna	Veryan	*? + menydh*	T	hill, 101 m

2.3.3   Phonological development of the word **menydh**

The historical forms of the place-names containing **menydh** give information about the phonological development of the word.   There appear to have been two developments:
    (a)   menɪð > menɪ > mene > mena;
    (b)   menɪð > meneð > mener.

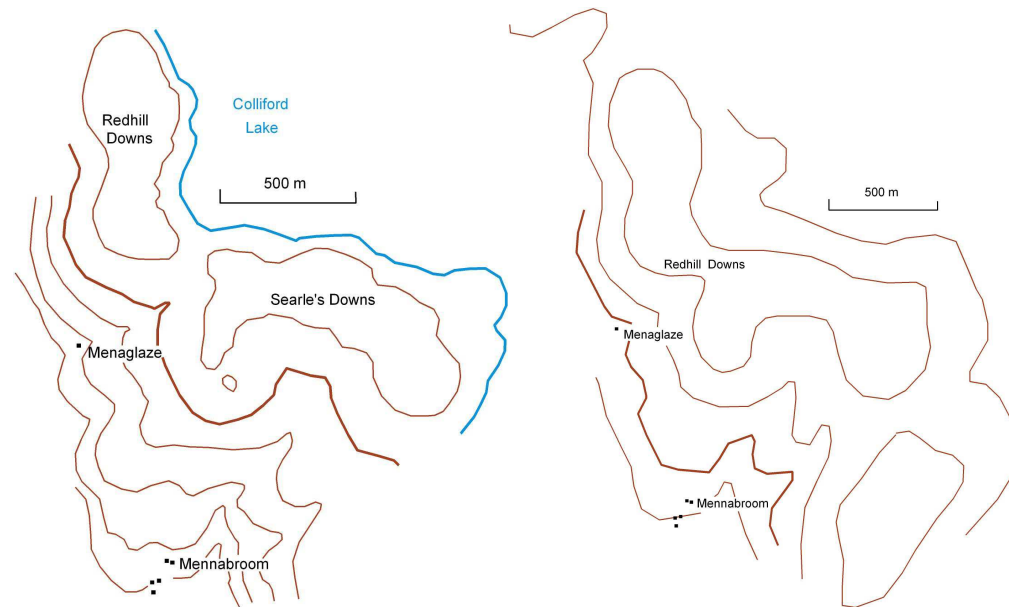The loss of [-ð] is found very early (12th and even 11th century).

The development to *mener* is seen in 12 place-names, all in the west. The dating is:

before 1748	both <-th> and <-r> recorded 1611
before 1683	between 1512 and 1884
between 1540 and 1619	between 1441 and 1844
between 1351 and 1660	between 1415 and 1757
between 1389 and 1805	between 1478 and 1812
between 1750 and 1763	between 1343 and 1841

The change is assigned to *c.*1600.

2.3.4   Case studies of *menydh*

(a)   In St Neot parish, we find two different names containing *menydh* less than 1
          km apart: these are Menaglaze (***Menydhglas***) and Mennabroom. It is possible
          that these are transferred names, respectively from the two flat summits now
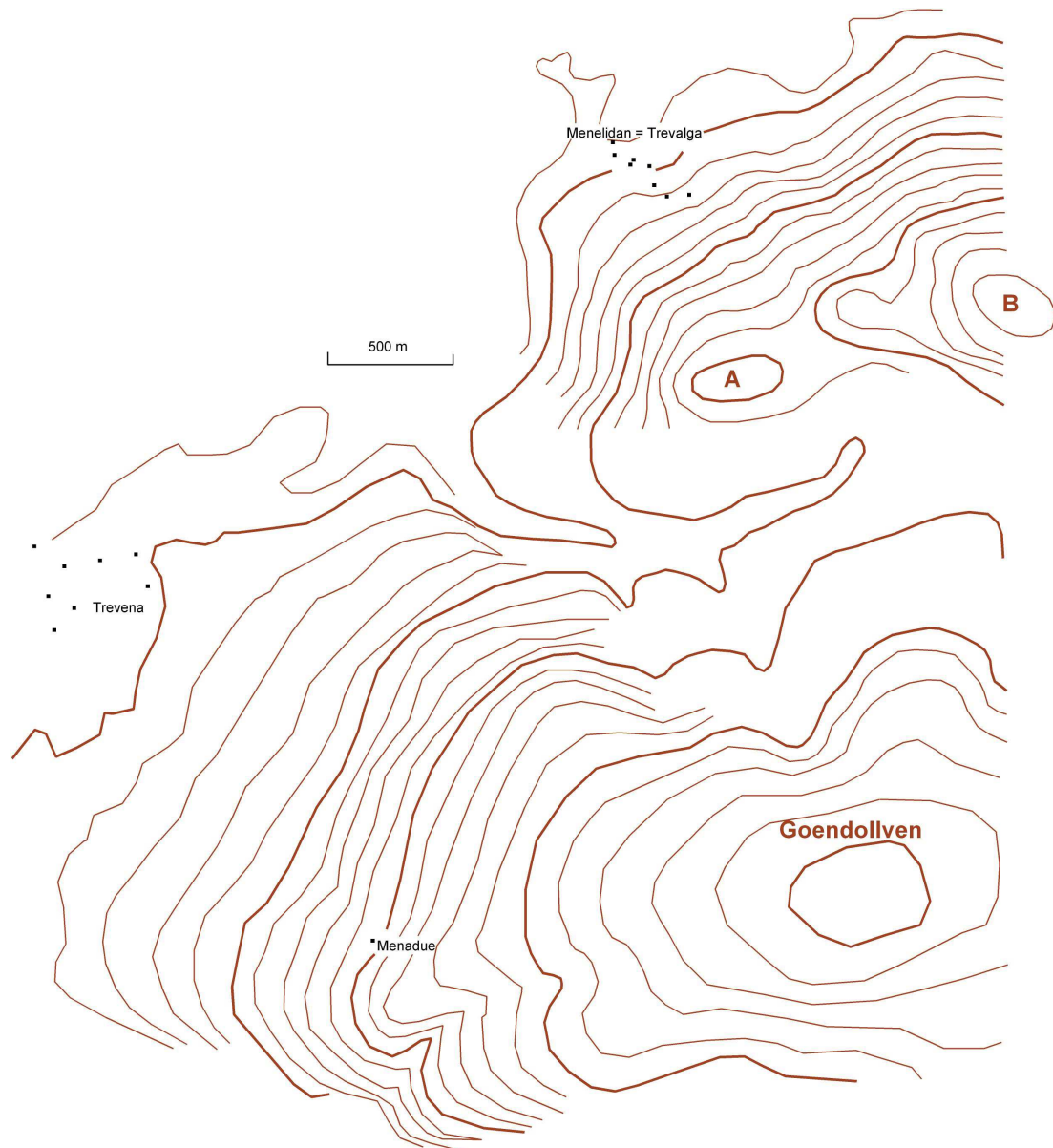   called Redhill Downs and Searle's Downs.

But the perception of the topography as two hills may be an artefact of the contouring;
the contour map of the same area taken from the 1:63,360 map (before Colliford
Lake) looks rather different, showing one flat summit instead of two. I visited this
area purposely, and noticed that the upland appears to have two summits when viewed
from some directions, and only one when viewed from others.

This leads to the alternative explanation; that *menydh* here does not mean 'hill-top'
but 'hillside', and that we have here names for two different slopes on the same hill.
It is not clear what Mennabroom means; historical forms are *Menabroome* 1590,
Menagroome 1590 (looks like an error), *Mena Browne* 1715 and *Menabroome* 1884.
It could be Cornish *menydh* + English *broom,* but hybrids like this are rare. It could
be ***menydh bronn***, which, if *menydh* means slope, is not tautologous,. Both farms are
well away from the summit.
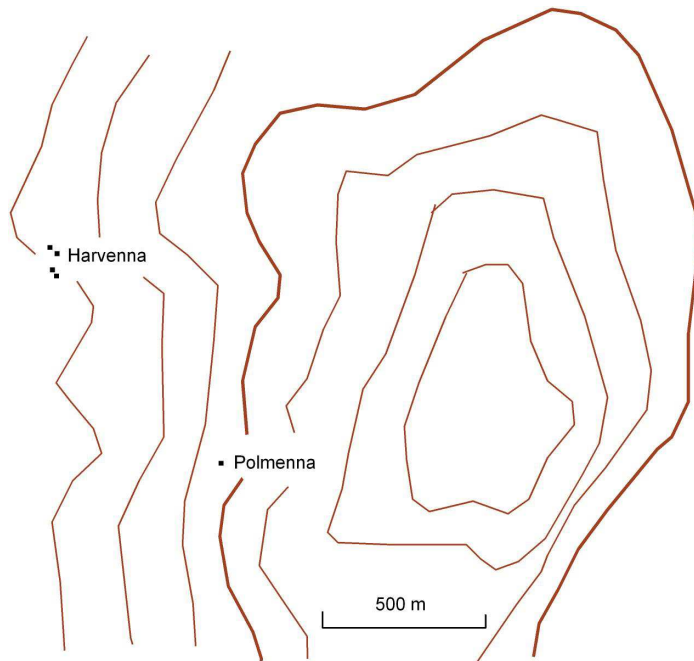

(b)   Consider now the terrain to the east of Tintagel, a much larger area than the
          others examined hitherto. Three names containing *menydh* are found here:
    • Trevena (***Trewarvenydh***), the former name for Tintagel village,
    • Menadue (***Menydhdu***), a farm about 2 km away from Tintagel;
    • Menelidan (***Menydhledan***), the former name for Trevalga.

9

If *menydh* means 'hill' in these cases, then Trevena is associated with the dominant hill 308 m eminence called Condolden Barrow (this is *Goendollven* 'moor of a holed stone'). Nevertheless, Trevena is not exactly on this extensive hill; it is over 3 km from the summit and 200 m lower down, on the coastal shelf between the hill and the sea. Menadue is higher up the hillside, but if the name has been transferred from the hill to the farm, then we are obliged to suppose that the hill had two Cornish names: *Menydhdu* and *Goendollven.* If Menelidan is a name transferred from a hill, then there are two nearby unnamed hills (labelled A and B) which might qualify.

Alternatively, *menydh* might mean 'slope', in which case Menelidan would mean 'wide slope' at a place where the slope there is over 1 km wide. Trevena would mean 'settlement on the slope' and Menadue would mean 'black slope'. This interpretation arguably fits the topography better than the assumption that *menydh* means 'hill'.

(c)   Polmenna (for ***Pennmenydh***) and Harvenna (both in St Enoder) are evidently associated with the same hill, a 212 m summit east of Fraddon. This hill has relatively recently been re-modelled by the china-clay industry, so that the contours on the map below have been taken from the old 1:63,360 map.

2.3.5   Conclusions about ***menydh***

- Most of the places whose name contains ***menydh*** have an identifiable piece of high ground in the vicinity.
- The high ground is only rarely a prominent hill; it is often a small hill or spur.
- The high ground is often gently sloping (< 10% slope).
- Some of the place-names are more compatible with ***menydh*** meaning 'gentle slope' rather than 'hill;
- The semantic development of ***menydh*** may have been: 'hill, including the top and the sloping sides' > 'any elevated area (hill, spur or amorphous high ground), both top and sides' > 'any elevated area, sloping sides' > 'slope'

2.4 **The element *bronn***

The table below gives the location of over twenty places which contain the element ***bronn***, according to Oliver Padel.

Place-name	Type	Location	Topography
Barncoose	T	Illogan	Carn Brea? 228 m (1)
Berrangoose	T	Probus	flat-topped hill, 91 m
Bozion		Egloshayle	flat spur, 106 m
Brimboyte	T	Liskeard	small hill, 106 m
Bronhiriard (3)	F	Lanreath	small spur
Brown Willy	F	St Breward	prominent hill, 420 m
Burncoose		Gwennap	flat spur, 109 m
Burncoose		St Mawgan in M.	small hill, 66 m
Burngullow	F	St Mewan	prominent hill, 214 m (2)
Burnoon		St Mawgan in M.	flat spur, 96 m
Burnow		Cury	flattish spur, 71 m
Burnuick		St Mawgan in M.	col, 69 m
Burnwithen		Gwennap	spur? 131 m
Camborne	T	Camborne	flat-topped hill (1) The Beacon? 161 m
Lanthorne	R	St Germans	small hill, 68 m
Pencoose	R	Stithians	flat-topped hill? 153 m
Penvearn	R	Cury	flat-topped hill, 68 m
Tolverne	R	Philleigh	small hill, 88 m
Trebrown	R	Morval	?steep-sided, well-defined hill named Blackadon, 109 m
Trebrown	R	Quethiock	small hill, 146 m
Trefronick		St Allen	col? 86 m

(1)   Barncoose and Camborne are on relatively flat ground, and it is not clear to which hill the ***bronn*** refers (some people doubt whether the name Camborne contains ***bronn***);   here I suggest that the ***bronn*** is on the high ground to the south (Carn Brea and The Beacon respectively).

(2)   This hill may have been much higher formerly, but the top has been removed by china-clay working.

(3)   Herodshead on the map.

In only three cases does the ***bronn*** refer to a prominent hill (one would like to add Brown Gelly to these, but the historical forms do not support ***bronn***). All of the others are minor topographical features: small hills, spurs and even apparently cols. One would expect a hill called ***bronn*** to be breast-shaped, but at least eight of the features are notably flat-topped (!)

2.5 The element *brenn*

The table below gives the location of six places which contain the element **brenn**, according to Oliver Padel.

Place-name	Type	Location	Topography
Brunnion		Lelant	Trink Hill, 212 m (1)
Brynn		Withiel	flat-topped hill, 161 m
Breney		Lanlivery	Helman Tor, 209 m
Burn		St Winnow	small hill, 112 m
Burniere		Egloshayle	2 small hills, 41 m
Lambrenny		Davidstow	flat spur, 259 m

Two of these are close to prominent hills, and the others to relatively minor features.

2.6 The element *ros*

I have not investigated **ros** in such detail, since it would take considerable time, but I may do so in the future. In any case, **ros** is not proposed as a generic for use in street-names. For the moment I accept Gover's conclusion, supported by Padel, that **ros** means a 'spur' or 'promontory'.

2.7 Summary

The following table confirms that the element **bre** is associated with prominent hills, whereas **menydh** is only rarely associated with them.

Name	Number of cases		
	total	located	prominent hill
bre	16	16	12 (75%)
brenn	6	6	2 (33%)
bronn	21	21	3 (14%)
menydh	66	51	4 (8%)

3 EVIDENCE FROM TRADITIONAL CORNISH WRITINGS

The words **ardh, bre, brenn, bronn, ros** and **runenn** were known to traditional Cornish writers as denoting high ground in place-names, but were not apparently part of everyday parlance. They were recorded only in lists of vocabulary. The only words recorded in continuous text are **menydh** and **run**, and of these **menydh** was by far the commoner.

3.1 The element *run*

Until the discovery of BK., the only known example of **run** was PC.2654: *ha why a pys an runyow,* translated by Graham Sandercock as 'and ye shall pray the hills', and by Oliver Padel as 'and you will beseech the hills'. Now we also have BK15.51: *drys tvow dryrs Rvn drys mene.* This was translated by me as 'over dingle, over slope, over mountain'. In his edition, Williams wrote: "**dryrs Rvn**: this is probably for *drys gun* 'over moor'". I think not; there is no need for emendation here; the line indicates a progression upward from lower to upper topographic levels.

Otherwise, the only references to **run** are in *Pryce's* (really Tonkin's) *Vocabulary:* "RHŶN, *a hill;* Penrhyn, *the head of the hill*; pronounced now, Reen; *pl.* Runyow." Nance translated the word as 'promontory, projecting ground, hill, hill-side, slope', and commented "the meaning 'hill' … seems very rare in place-names". It appears, therefore, that the primary meaning of **run** is 'hillside' or 'slope' rather than 'hill-top'. For this reason, it was proposed as a suitable word to use to translate "hill-slope" in street-names like Church Hill.

3.2 The element *menydh*

It looks as if the word **bre** was obsolete in Middle Cornish and therefore not available to speakers or writers at that time. When writers needed to translate 'hill', they used **menydh**. For example, Bonner's quotation from Matthew 5:14: *A citie that is set on a hyl, can not be hyd* was translated by John Tregear as *Cyte a ve settys bo byldys war meneth, ny yll bois coveys.* The same word was used to denote 'mountain'; *Arta an Jowle an comeraz en mann wor hugez meneth euhall* is William Rowe's rendering of part of Matthew 4:8: *Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain.* In the Breton Bible, both quotations from Matthew use the word *menez;* and in the Cornish Language Board's **Testament Nowydh**, both quotations use **menydh**; this is because these translations are from the Greek, which uses the same word in both cases. In the Welsh Bible, *bryn* is used for 'hill' and *mynydd* for 'mountain'.

The following is a list of cases where **menydh** is used.

OM.0439	*yn meneth then tas an nef*	on a mountain to the God of heaven
OM.1281	*war veneth a thysquethaf*	on a mountain that I shall show
OM.1288	*ef a vyth war an meneth*	he will be on the mountain
PC.0108	*war menythyow the wandre*	to wander on mountains
BM.1140	*war an meneth dyogel*	safe on the mountain
BM.1714	*in meneth sur neb vsy*	who is surely on the mountain
BM.1956	*yma eff in meneth bras*	he is on a large mountain

TH17v	*Cyte a ve settys bo byldys war meneth*	a city that is set upon a hill
TH31v	*Cyta war an meneth*	CIUITATEM SUPRA MONTEM
M4WK	*wor hugez meneth euhall*	on an exceedingly high mountain
AB230c	*Ụar an venedh*	*On the mountain*
PV140	*war venyth*	*upon a hill*

These examples show that both **yn menydh** and **war venydh** are acceptable.

A **menydh** is an extended geographical feature (slopes and summit), because different parts of it may be specified:

MC.016	*vghell war ben vn meneth*	high on the summit of a mountain
BM.1976	*poren in top an meneth*	exactly on the summit of the mountain
BK39.47	*kŷfe in cres menath horn*	though he were in the centre of an iron mountain

4 USAGE IN REVIVED CORNISH

Revived Cornish has a plethora of words with the general meaning 'high ground', but if asked to translate 'hill', most of today's speakers would say **bre**; and for 'mountain', they would say **menydh**. .

Some might contend that because traditional writers did not use **bre**, then modern-day speakers should not use it either; similarly, **ardh, brenn, bronn, ros** and **runenn** would be proscribed. In my opinion, this is unnecessarily restrictive. It would mean that one would be unable easily to distinguish 'hill' from 'mountain'.

5 DISCUSSION

The following table attempts to differentiate 'mountain' from 'hill' and the two senses of 'hill' in street-names ('hilltop' and 'hillside').

		mountain	hill-top	hill-slope
English	common parlance	mountain	hill, hilltop	hill, slope, hillside
	naming roads	-----	hill	hill, rise
Cornish	toponyms	*bre* (1)	*menydh*	*menydh, run*
	traditional writing	*menydh*	*menydh*	*run*
	traditional lists	*menydh*	*ardh, bre, brenn, bronn, menydh*	*runenn, ros*
	21st cent. speech	*menydh*	*bre*	*bre* (?), *run*
	naming roads	-----	see below	see below

(1)   equating 'prominent hill' with 'mountain'

There is a clear conflict here; Cornish speakers tend to use **bre** for 'hill' and **menydh** for 'mountain', whereas the toponymy indicates the opposite, and traditionally **menydh** was used for both.

In most street-names of the form 'Church Hill', the element 'hill' does not refer to a specific hill-top, but to a hillside, or even just a slope. To take an extreme case, the street-name Looe Hill is not in Looe (it is in Seaton, 6 km away), neither is it on a hill-top; it means 'a sloping road leading upwards towards Looe'. It is desirable to distinguish this use of the word 'hill' from its use as 'hill-top'. The word **run** would fill this need admirably, but for the fact that it would be mispronounced by English speakers. For this reason, an alternative is needed.

We have seen that in place-names **menydh** probably meant 'gentle slope' as well as 'high ground', and would therefore be a suitable translation of 'hill' in such names, were it not for the fact that it is taken to mean 'mountain' by most Cornish speakers.

I therefore propose that the form **mena** be used to translate 'hill-slope', leaving **menydh** for 'mountain'. It is noticeable that the final consonant (spelled <-th>) was present in all of the examples from the texts, whereas in place-names, it was lost very early. 'Looe Hill', quoted above, would be rendered as **Mena Logh**. Effectively **menydh** and **mena**, although sharing the same etymology, would be treated as separate words in the modern vocabulary. I thus recommend:

for naming streets	Hill	**bre**	if a hill-top is meant
		mena	if a slope is meant
	Rise	**riw**	as at present
	Mount	**menydh**	is more Cornish than Mont

in general speech	**bre**	prominent hill
	drumm	ridge
	leder	steep slope
	mena	small hill or a gentle slope
	menydh	mountain
	ros	spur
	run	slope