

12. HANGMAN'S HILL. 17 APR 2024

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What's in a name?

This photograph shows part of the path known locally in Falmouth as Hangman's Hill, which continues up to the highest point of Pennance Road.

Hangman Hill is recorded on several maps including this one, created by Lieutenant Robert Dawson, Royal Engineers, Ordnance Survey in 1831.

However, despite searching through the Falmouth History Archives, we cannot find any reference to a hangman, hanging or a gibbet or gallows for this location.

So, how did the name Hangman Hill or Hangman's Hill originate?

The ground in this location is known to have been stony, so one credible suggestion is that 'Hangman' is a corruption of the Cornish 'An Maen' meaning 'the stone.'

...However, if anyone has more information about the origins of the name Hangman Hill in this location ... we would love to hear about it!