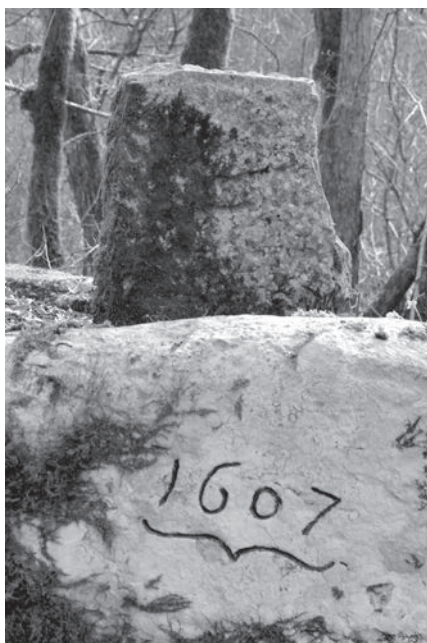


Boundary marks of former estates of the Northern Primorska region



GEODETIC HIGHLIGHTS

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Data Source: Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia, Archives of the Republic of Slovenia, State Archives of Trieste, Slovenian Forestry Institute

Cartography: Geodetic Institute of Slovenia

Cartographic design: Špela Intihar

Published: Geodetic Institute of Slovenia

Design: Jani Demšar

Number of copies: 200 copies

Ljubljana, 2025

Introduction

This book presents a selection of historic boundary marks from former estates that have been preserved in the Northern Primorska region of Slovenia, which is now part of the Goriška statistical region. Although the estates have long since ceased to exist, their boundaries have been preserved to this day in the form of the land cadastral municipality boundaries. Those were defined in the time of the Josephine land cadastral survey based on the conscription boundaries defined in 1770, which in turn were based on older administrative boundaries: from villages to estates. The Franciscan land cadastral survey, carried out in the Primorska region between 1818 and 1822, adopted the Josephine boundaries of land cadastral municipalities. The Franciscan land cadastral municipalities have remained largely unchanged to this day, as we still use them as the basic unit within which we carry out various land cadastral procedures. Therefore, most of the old boundary marks presented in this booklet still represent valid land cadastral points in today's Slovenian real estate cadastre. Some of the marks presented here had a dual role during the Franciscan land cadastral survey, serving as both boundary and trigonometric points, which formed the basis for cadastral surveying. In many cases, these locations were used later for new systematic trigonometric surveys. Therefore, in some places near old boundary marks, we can find newer trigonometric marks originating from the Italian interwar period (concrete pillars) or the post-war Yugoslav period (smaller granite marks) when trigonometric networks were established. At the same time, due to their considerable age, these boundary marks also have an important historical heritage role.

Moreover, many of the boundary stones presented are not only important from a geodetic point of view, but also connect geodesy with forestry. Most of them also represent boundaries of different forest management units. Here it should be noted that forests are an ideal environment for the preservation of old boundary marks, as they are mostly unaffected by major changes and therefore even boundary marks dating back to the 17th century have been preserved in them. For example, in this booklet the boundary mark located near the Legrada stream and dating to 1607 will be presented, along with two boundary marks from 1691 from the former Predjama estate in Hrušica.

The booklet is divided into three geographical sections: the Upper Soča Valley (the former Tolmin estate), the Vipava Valley and Nanos (the former Vipava estate) and the Banjšice and Trnovo plateaus (the former estates of Idrija, Sveti Križ and Gorica). At the beginning of each part, there is a map showing the locations of the presented boundary marks, followed by a description of the significance of each boundary mark and the route you have to follow in order to get to those locations. At the end of the booklet there is also a list of coordinates for those locations, given in the Slovenian national coordinate system.

We hope you are inspired by the following text and gain much enjoyment by exploring this exceptional form of cultural heritage.

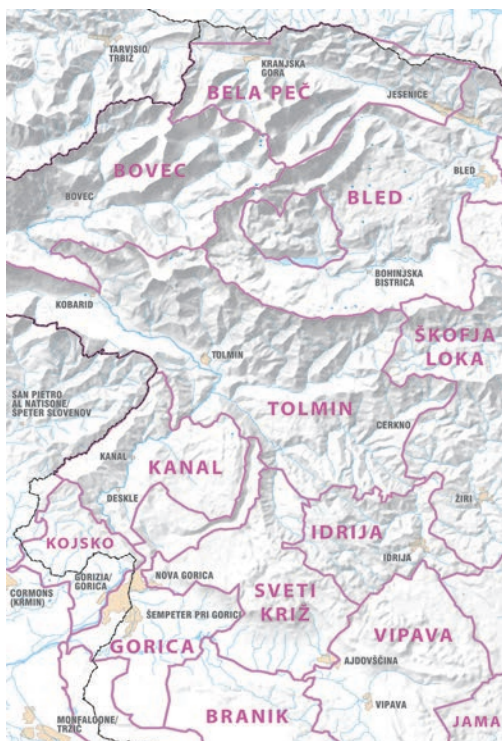
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Boundary marks of the former estates of the Northern Primorska region in Slovenia

After the colonisation and division of the Primorska region, the land became the property of two types of feudal estates, those belonging to the nobility and, in about one third of cases the provincial property, belonging to the court chambers or the state treasury (e.g., state mining holdings). The forests in the last had been of strategic importance both due to the timber trade and even more importantly large consumption of timber by such mining holdings themselves as a source of energy as well as for construction.

For a long time, the division and use of land was determined by the land registers of feudal lords. The boundaries were approximate, as they were agreed upon between owners and users and recorded only descriptively according to natural boundaries (ravines, ridges, distinctive trees and rocks). However, disputes often arose between various people in the local community using a specific piece of common land, as well as with their neighbours. The oldest boundary marks were erected to resolve such disputes, which also led to the first measurements of boundaries in the Upper Soča Valley. The provincial forests were first measured and demarcated in 1736, and later in 1803, 1840 and 1880. During each measurement, permanent boundary marks were erected in the field at key locations, especially on the borders of estates, and were labelled with the year of the measurement. Demarcations and measurements were also carried out by individual estates, e.g., Kanal (Germ. Herrschaft Canale) in 1716-1719 and Vipava (Germ. Herrschaft Wippach) in 1730.

Land of feudal origin was then divided in 1848, after the abolition of feudalism, mainly among those who had previously used the common land. In the Northern Primorska region, most of the land belonged to village communities. Numerous divisions and measurements of land are also documented from this period, as indicated on site by boundary marks of different kinds.

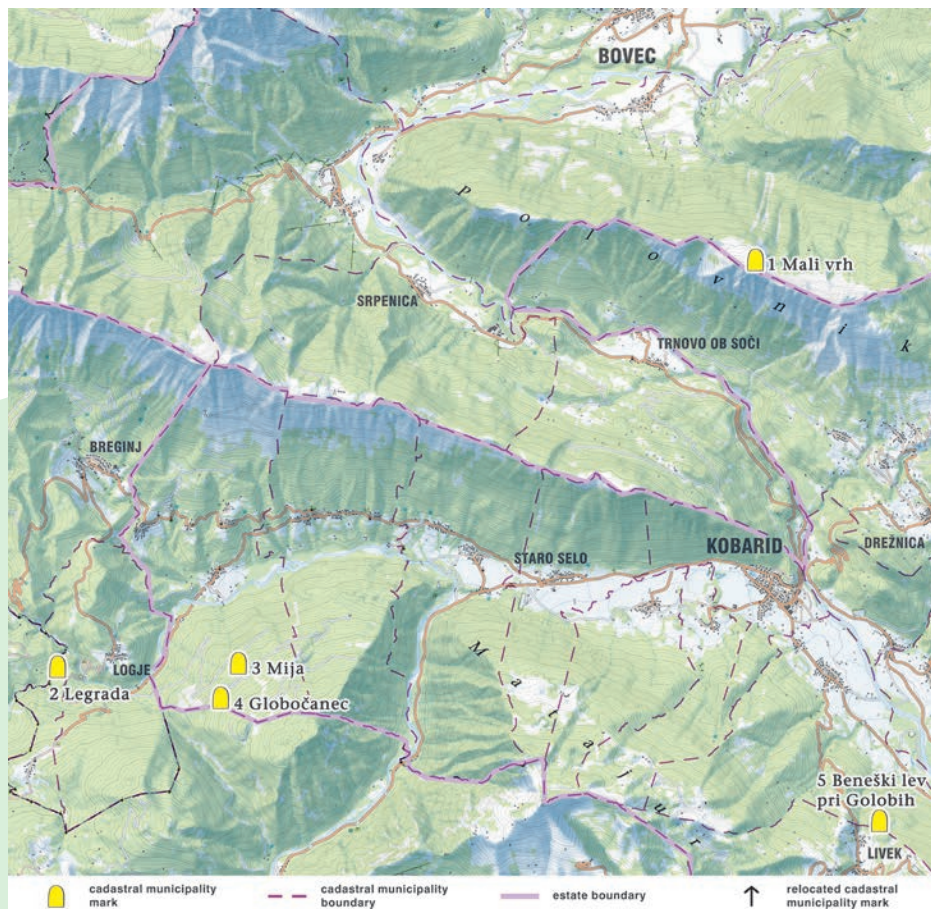


Overview map of the Northern Primorska region, today the Goriška statistical region, with the borders and names of the former estates (Bovec, Tolmin, Idrija, Vipava, Sveti Križ, Goriška and Kanal) from the end of the 18th century.

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Boundary marks of the Upper Soča Valley



Boundary marks of the Upper Soča Valley.

1. Boundary mark on Mali vrh from 1790

The borders of the Bovec estate were established as early as 1647. They were first proclaimed in Slovenian on Srpenica in 1738, and since then those borders have been proclaimed every year on St Florian's Day. They mostly followed natural boundaries, such as mountain ridges and valleys, which were not specially marked as they were clearly identifiable. One such natural border of the Bovec estate is the Mount Polovnik ridge, where the year 1790 is carved into the rock on Mali vrh (1757 m) above the former Dolec mountain pasture.

In the land register from 1757, mentioned by the famous Tolmin historian Simon Rutar in his 1882 book *Zgodovina Tolminskega* (*The History of Tolmin*), the border of the Bovec estate, which ran along Polovnik, is described as follows:

From the bridge over the Soča River to Jelenie broud, from Jelenie broud to Jelenie Rob, from Jelenie Rob to Pollovnik, from Pollovnik to Pirhni uurch (Pirhovec), from Pirhni uurha to Douz, from Douz to Slatenik...

A mule track leads to the Dolec mountain pasture, which is signposted from the forest road from the village of Magozd, about 500 metres towards Prvejk (Trnovo ob Soči). It takes about two hours to reach the mountain pasture along a well-marked mule track. From there, several poorly visible and overgrown paths lead to the ridge. All of them merge just below the top of Veliki vrh on the ridge path across Polovnik. Mali vrh is located east of Veliki vrh. To climb to the top, you need to ascend about 20 metres up the steep grassy slopes on the southern side. The boundary stone with carved inscriptions is located five metres north of the summit. It takes about four hours to walk to it from the village of Magozd.



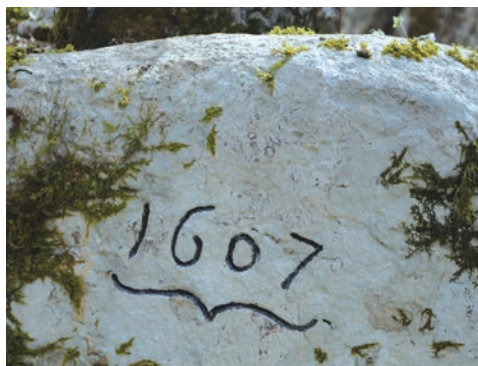
Carved inscriptions on the Mali vrh on the Polovnik ridge.

2. Boundary mark by the Legrada stream from 1607

In the land register of the Tolmin estate from 1607, which is mentioned by Simon Rutar in *The History of Tolmin*, there is also the following description of the border between the Venetian Republic and Tolmin estate:

At Sedlo, the Church of St Cross, by the Nediža stream, the Slovenian stream Rompet, called also Rapid. Towards Livk, the Tolmin estate extends to the middle of the Livška Gora; towards Klobučar, the border is at the top of Mount Kolovrat, from where it goes to the rock on Mount Vogrinč (Ogrinche, today's border between Tolmin, Kanal and Friuli).

Towards Doblar, the border is at the top of the Zaponice and Vogim mountains, where Tolmin, Kanal and the Venetian Republic meet. Elsewhere, the border between Tolmin and Kanal is formed by the Voginšček stream.



Boundary stone near Legrada.

In his second book, *Venetian Slovenia*, published in 1899, Simon Rutar also mentions disputes between villages from both sides of Venetian border at the Nadiža and Legrada rivers. The agreed border was in some places marked by boundary marks carved in rock bearing the symbol of St Mark and the name of the village. The first preserved boundary mark bearing the date 1607 can be found near the Legrada stream, right next to the present-day Slovenian-Italian border. Access to the rock with the carved year is via a forest road that connects to the Robidišče-Logje road just above the bridge over the Nadiža River. The boundary mark still indicates the border between the cadastral municipalities of Logje and Robidišče.

The French land cadastral map shows the location of another Venetian boundary mark dating back to 1609. It was located near the village of Robidišče, on the outskirts of the village and today facing towards Italy. However, this boundary mark was most likely destroyed on one occasion in the past when the road was enlarged.



Marked location near Legrada with the inscription: Stone with the sign of St Mark and the inscription Logje. On the map of the French cadastre of the cadastral municipality of Breginj with the enclave of Logje (Gemainde Bergogna mit der Enclave Lonch).

3. Carved crosses on Mija and Matajur

Border disputes between the Venetian Republic and Austrian monarchy were a regular occurrence, and thus commissions often met to decide on its course. In an attempt to settle the issue, the Austrian Empress Maria Theresa ordered a precise demarcation between the two states, which was carried out between 1751 and 1755. In 1756, the border commission decided that every other year, from June to September, they would inspect the border, check the border marks and resolve any new disputes.

Border marks with a cross and the letters A (Austria) and V (Veneti), namely A+V, were carved into the natural stones at mountains Mija and Kolovrat. To this day, such an inscription has been preserved on a larger rock outcrop on the mountain pasture Planina Mija. This is located on what is today an overgrown part of the pasture, in between the road and an old shepherd's hut, about 600 metres from the present-day state border, which has changed several times over the years. Similar signs were recorded in the French land cadastral maps at several other locations on the former Austrian-Venetian border, and at least one such mark has been preserved on the slope of Mrzli vrh above the mountain pasture Idrijska planina below the mountain Matajur.



The inscription A+V carved into a rock on the Planina Mija mountain pasture.

4. Boundary mark on Globočanec from 1841

During subsequent border adjustments with the Venetian Republic and the Kingdom of Italy, new boundary marks were erected, carved from stone or later made of concrete, bearing the years 1751-53, 1841-1845, 1847, 1865-67, 1886-85, 1890 and 1920. Some boundary marks bear several years. In some places, the border is the same as the present Slovenian-Italian border, and thus the current state boundary marks can also be found at these locations.

At the top of the Mount Globočanec (883 m) a boundary mark from 1841 is preserved dating back to the Austrian Empire. According to the archival maps of the Franciscan land cadastral survey, there once existed an older boundary mark or natural stone at this location with the inscription A+V carved onto it.

A marked mountain trail leads to Globočanec from the forest road bend on the Italian side, from where we ascend along winding path towards a hilltop, where a well-preserved boundary stone dating back to 1841 can be found.



Boundary stone on Globočanec from 1841.



Location of the boundary stone on Mount Globočanec (Monte Globazhanz), where a boundary mark with the inscription A+V stood during the French land cadastral survey in 1814.

5. Venetian lion at Golobi from 1753

From the period of demarcation between 1751 and 1755, an exceptional and very rare boundary mark of the Venetian Republic has been preserved in the vicinity of the hamlet of Golobi – a coat of arms carved into two adjacent natural rocks. The first bears the coat of arms of the Austrian Republic and a barely readable Roman numeral, while the second bears the Venetian lion with the Roman numeral 1753. After this demarcation, the villages of Breginj, Logje and Livek also belonged to the Venetian Republic. Today, this boundary mark with old coat of arms still represents the valid boundary mark between the cadastral municipalities of Idrsko and Livek.

The coats of arms are already inscribed in the Slovenian Cultural Heritage Register under number EID 1-00325¹, and located on the northern part of the saddle between the peaks of Plečica (726 m) and Hlevišče (775 m), which can be reached by a marked tourist trail from the hamlet of Golobi.



Golobi – Venetian lion with the year 1753.



Golobi – Austrian coat of arms.

¹ https://geohub.gov.si/ghapp/giskd/?showLayers=MK_RNPD_3386&query=MK_RNPD_3386_3641%2CCESD%2C325

6. Boundary mark at Široko (Tolminski Lom) from 1822

The carved year 1822 with two crosses on a natural rock dates back to the time of the Franciscan land cadastral survey and still marks the border between the cadastral municipalities of the Idrija pri Bači and Tolminski Lom.

From the village of Tolminski Lom, first drive to the Široko tourist farm, from there you continue along the forest road for a good kilometre. Immediately after the meadow ends on its lower side, turn onto the forest road. After going about 130 metres downhill, we come to a distinct levelling, where we find a rock about a metre in diameter and a meter in high. On this rock the year 1822 and two cross are carved.



Boundary stone at Široko.



The boundary stone is labelled with the number 15 and the inscription Pod Stracklam Rutam on the Franciscan land cadastral map of the cadastral municipality of Lom from 1822.

7. Boundary mark at Špile (Kanalski Lom) from 1738

Simon Rutar, in *The History of Tolmin*, states that the inhabitants of Tolminski Lom and Kanalski Lom had always had the custom of grazing and cutting wood together, which was recognised by the Tolmin and Kanal authorities as early as in 1695. To avoid disputes, they formed a commission which, on 20 May 1706, precisely described the border between Tolminski Lom and Kanalski Lom from the Soča River to the peak of Mount Pregon. However, joint grazing and logging continued to cause disputes between the people of both Loms. Therefore, on 17 October 1738, the border was redefined and the pastures and forests were divided across the peak of Špila (1020 m), with the aim of allowing the residents of both Loms to better protect their property. The preserved boundary mark on the rock outcrop is also drawn on the Franciscan land cadastral maps, but at a different location than we actually find it in nature.

Today, the boundary rock on Špile is one of the points on the marked tourist trail named *Lom je moj dom* (Lom is my home)².



Boundary mark at Špile.



Boundary mark as labelled on the Franciscan land cadastral map from 1822.

² More information about the tourist route *Lom is my home* can be found at: https://www.slovenia.info/uploads/lom_je_moj_dom_-_krozna_pohodniska_pot_1.pdf

Boundary marks on the plateaus of Trnovski gozd and Banjšice



Boundary marks on the plateaus of Trnovski gozd and Banjšice.

8. Boundary mark at Gačnik (Vrh Škrbine) from 1772

The Idrija estate was established after the discovery of mercury in 1497, after which Idrija developed into a town administered from Gewerkenegg Castle. In 1575, the provincial prince bought all the mining shares, and the castle became state property. Simon Rutar, in *The History of Tolmin*, writes again about disputes between the Tolmin and Idrija estates over a land on the Okrogla Gora. To settle them, a border commission was sent to this area on 21 July 1771, which found an old carved cross in a stone on Okrogla Gora. From there, they determined the border in a straight line to Konjski rob and then across Konjice, past the Laputnik spring, across Okroglica in Opno to Debelo brdo near Idrijca. Based on these inspections, the natural rock forming the tripoint between the estates was probably also determined. On it letters are carved on three sides: HT signifying the Tolmin estate (German: Herrschaft Tolmein), HI 17+72 for the Idrija estate (Herrschaft Idria) and HG for the Gorica estate (Herrschaft Görz), to which Gorenja Trebuša belonged at that time. Today, the tripoint of the former estates represents the quadripoint of the cadastral municipalities of Vojščica, Vojsko, Gorenja Trebuša and Prapetno brdo. In the past this point also represented the border point between the provinces of Carniola and Gorizia with Gradiščanska.

The rock with carved inscriptions is located on the hill Vrh Škrbine (979 m) above the hamlet of Gačnik in the Idrija hills. It can be reached by following a forest road from Gačnik and then going through the forest to an indistinct rocky peak on the top of Vrh Škrbine.



Boundary mark at Gačnik from 1772, with the carved abbreviation HI standing for the Idrija estate.



The name Vrh Škrbine with the year 1772 and all three inscriptions carved into the rock as drawn on the Franciscan land cadastral map in 1822 for the cadastral municipality of Gorenja Trebuša.

9. and 10. Boundary marks on Suha and Pod robom in Trebuša

A carved boundary stone in Suha is located on the cadastral municipal border, formerly the provincial border as well as an estate border, along the old road going from the village of Trebuša to the village of Vojsko. The boundary stone in Suha has a carved cross on the top and, below it, a very faint carved inscription, which can be interpreted as the year 1661, followed by the word *Tribusa* and the years 1776 and 1703. Below the years are the abbreviations of the Idrija and Tolmin estates: HI HT (Herrschaft Idria Herrschaft Tolmein). At this location on the Franciscan land cadastral map the years 1661, 1757 and 1772 are written, which probably overlap in the carvings on the stone.

On the same map the years which can be obtained from the boundary stone on Suha are also drawn near the Scok farm (today the Pod robom farm). But in reality at this location only the year 1862 with a cross and the number 17 are carved into the rock under a prominent rock ledge above the road.

The boundary stone at Suha can be reached from the village of Gorenja Trebuša by taking the road towards the village of Vojsko. After four kilometres, turn left at the Čuk farm and follow the road for another good two kilometres to the Jelenk stream. From there, go uphill 50 metres along a forest road and then another 150 metres along an old overgrown path that leads to Vojsko.

The Pod robom farm with a rocky edge above the road, where the second border sign is carved in natural rock, is about 400 metres further along the road.



The boundary stone marked Tribusa at Suha with carved years and estate abbreviations HI HT.



The boundary mark at Pod robom.



The boundary mark at Suha as drawn on the Franciscan land cadastral map of the cadastral municipality of Gorenja Trebuša from 1822.

11. Boundary mark on Zeleni rob

Zeleni rob (1291 m) is one of the most beautiful viewpoints on the northern edge of the Trnovski gozd plateau, accessible via old forest roads and forest paths marked by old mountain trail signs from Anina koča near Smrekova draga. At the foot of the larger rocky outcrop on Zeleni rob, a cross and the inscription HG have been preserved, with the latter indicating the Gorica estate (Herrschaft Görz). Today it still represents the triple border point of the cadastral municipalities of Otlica, Lazna and Vojsko. The years 1775 and 1820 are drawn on the maps of the Franciscan land cadastre at this location, but they cannot be found on the ground anymore as they probably wore away from the crumbling rock from which the outcrop at Zeleni rob is formed.



Rock outcrop Zeleni rob with inscription.



The site of the Zeleni rob rock outcrop as drawn on the Franciscan land cadastral map of the cadastral municipality of Vojsko from 1823.

12. Boundary marks at Smrekova draga

The Idrija mercury mine also managed the forests in the Idrijca and Belca river basins. On the outer border of the mine forests, in addition to crosses, a well-known alchemist's symbol was carved in 1820, representing the chemical element mercury – the symbol of the god Mercury – which was also the symbol of the mine and the Idrija estate. This symbol is still found today in the coat of arms of the municipality of Idrija. Numerous boundary marks from the period around 1820 have been preserved. Several such marks have been preserved on the border at Smrekova draga, which demarcated the border between the Idrija and Sveti Križ estates and the provincial border between the Carniola and Gorizia with Gradiščanska.

On the boundary stone at Smrekova draga, next to the cross and the symbol for mercury, we can also see the engraved forestry boundary label 24/H, which designates the boundaries of sections in forest management units, while the letter H designates forest clearings that have been maintained at those boundaries.

Smrekova draga can be reached by road from the hamlet of Lokve (10 km) or from the hamlet of Vojsko via Mrzla rupa (about 15 km).



Alchemist's symbol representing mercury with a cross at Smrekova draga.

13. Boundary mark at Kurje brdo from 1820

The Vipavski križ estate of the Attems family included, in addition to part of the Vipava Valley, a large part of the forest of Trnovski gozd, which was partly also provincial property, which led to frequent disputes between state officials and the subjects of Vipavski Križ. Trnovski gozd was therefore measured and demarcated several times with dry stone walls and boundary stones, first in 1736, then in 1820 and 1822, when the Franciscan land cadastral survey was carried out. From this originates the inscribed number 50 on the boundary stone at Kurje brdo. The outer boundary of the provincial forests was also labelled with letter W, standing for German word Wald, meaning forest. The number 28 is the sequence number of the boundary stone in this forest measurement, and this number is also drawn on the later forest maps. The letter H, which represents the forest clearing designation, is carved below the number 28.

Access to the boundary mark at Kurje brdo is from the landscape park sign at Smrekova draga, where you should head 200 metres uphill along the ridge to the top of Kurje Brdo hill (with a difference in altitude of about 80 metres).



Boundary mark at Kurje brdo.



Boundary marks on Zeleni rob, near Smrekova draga, and Kurje brdo on a forest map from 1953.



Boundary mark at Kurje brdo on the Franciscan land cadastral map of the cadastral municipality of Otlica from 1822.

14. Boundary mark below Veliki Golak from 1775

Preserved documents show that the Idrija forests were demarcated in 1724, 1775, 1792, 1820 and 1832, but only a few boundary marks from these periods have been preserved until today. Between 1875 and 1880, the forest was divided into two forest management units, Idrija I and Idrija II, and boundary stones with carved labels were placed on the outer and inner boundaries.

One of the two preserved natural boundary stones with carved inscriptions from 1775 is located below the summit of Mount Veliki Golak (1480 m). It dates back to the period of the famous land surveying school of Jožef Mrak from Idrija. It is located by the Slovenian mountain trail on the Poslušanje-Golaki section, which runs along the border between the forests of Idrija and Trnovski gozd, or between the former estates of Sveti Križ (German: Herrschaft Heiligenkreuz) and Idrija (German: Herrschaft Idria). Today, this boundary stone designates the border between the cadastral municipalities of Dol Otlica and Vojsko. At the same time, this stone still marks the border between the Idrija II and Predmeja forest management units, both of which are designated by forest section boundary stones (labels 48/H and 1/22).

The boundary stone below Veliki Golak can be accessed by the Slovenian mountain trail from Mrzla rupa via Poslušanje, which leads to Mount Mali Golak. On the rock next to the boundary stone a round red and white mountain trail sign is still faintly visible.

Another preserved boundary stone from 1775 is located on Prižnica on the southern ridge of Golaki, but in the heart of the Golaki forest reserve, where movement is prohibited except on the existing marked trails. Today, the forest boundaries are marked with two red lines, the forest management unit boundaries with three red lines, and the forest reserve boundaries with blue lines. Old forest marks help with orientation in the forest, so they are usually painted blue or red for better visibility. The boundary marks in this area are carved deeply into the stone and therefore very visible.



Boundary stone from 1775 below Mount Veliki Golak.



Location of the boundary stone below Mount Veliki Golak on the Franciscan land cadastral map of the cadastral municipality of Vojsko from 1822.



Boundary stone from 1775 at Prižnica on the southern ridge of the Golaki forest reserve.

15. Boundary mark at Razpotje by Kraljeve kamre from 1820

Along the Slovenian mountain trail from Vojsko via Poslušanje on Mount Mali Golak (1495 m), another interesting boundary mark is preserved on a natural rock at Razpotje on the border between the cadastral municipalities of Vojsko and Dol-Otlica, or between the forests of Idrija and Trnovski gozd. The first thing we notice on it is the symbol of the Idrija mine with a cross and forest labelling of the forest section boundary with a crosscut (54H). On the rock next to it the carved labels 49 W 1820 can be seen as well, which are drawn on the Franciscan land cadastral map. The measurement of the forest of Trnovski gozd in 1820 was carried out in connection with the Franciscan land cadastral survey, as some of the foresters who worked in this area at that time also draw the Franciscan maps. The rock is located on a saddle about 20 metres south of Razpotje.



Boundary stones at Razpotje by Kraljeve kamre.



Boundary stones at Razporje by Kraljeve kamre (Obkladaine or Routerska pot) on the Franciscan land cadastral map of the cadastral municipality of Dol-Otlica, 1823.

16. Boundary mark at Pri Numerah from 1820

The natural boundary stone Pri Numerah is located about 30 metres along the forest track from the junction with the Brinov grič forest road, which leads from the hamlet Griž pri Črnem vrhu, past the hamlet of Na Vrh and along the Francoska cesta road to Podroteja. In the natural rock the following labels are carved: a cross with the number 28, the year 1820, the forestry marking DE 68 and the Idrija mine symbol. The number 28 refers to the sequential number of the boundary mark in the 1820 survey on the border between the cadastral municipalities of Idrijski Log and Črni Vrh, which at the same time defined also a border between the Idrija mine forests and the Idrija estate, hence the addition of the Idrija mine symbol.

Between 1875 and 1880, the border was redefined as part of a new forest survey. At that time additional labels were carved into the rock: the sequential number 68 and KK, which stands for imperial and royal forest (German: Kaiserlich und Königlich). Between the two World Wars, when this area belonged to Italy, the Italians overcarved the letters KK to DF, which stands for state forest in Italian (Italian: Demanio Forestale). About 100 metres further east along the forest road, which runs exactly along the cadastral boundary, there is another sign with a cross and the forest symbol 67 DF and the cadastral designation 27. These boundary marks are not drawn in the Franciscan land cadastral maps.



Boundary rock at Pri Numerah.



Location of the boundary mark at Pri Numerah on the forestry map of the Idrija I forest management unit from 1957.

17. Čaven

Mountain Čaven (1186 m) is one of the most beautiful viewpoints of the entire Vipava Valley with the southern slopes of the Trnovski gozd. A marked mountain trail leads to it from a bend of a forest road going from Krnica-Čaven.

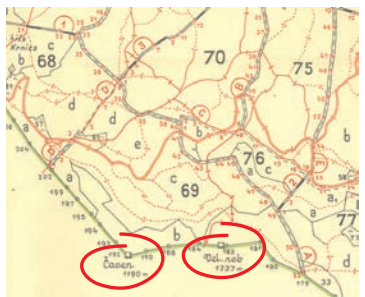
A carved boundary stone on Čaven designated the border of the former state forest, which is why it bears the letter W (German for Wald, meaning forest) and the year 1872 on one side. On this side, it is also connected to the dry-stone wall. The other two sides of the boundary stone are labelled by letters describing past common lands: GO meaning Gemeinde Osek and GR Gemeinde Ravne. Also, the forestry label 192 is engraved on it. Today, the boundary stone in the land cadastre only marks the parcel boundary and in forest evidence the outer boundary of the forest Trnovski gozd.

The peak of Čaven has a long history of been also a trigonometric point, which today is marked by an iron benchmark embedded in the natural rock (an iron head a few centimetres in diameter) located 12 metres from the before described boundary stone.

A natural rock with a carved cross and the same year 1872, can also be found on the neighbouring peak of Veliki rob (1237 m). It also bears the designation KK, which indicates that once it belonged to the imperial and royal forest (German: Kaiserlich und Königlich), and the forestry label 183, which is also drawn on the forestry map from 1952. The mountain trail with round read and white signs runs along the ridge across Čaven to Veliki rob. We recommend a circular route, which turns north below Čaven onto a forest road going back into direction of Krnica.



Two boundary marks and a dry-wall on Čaven.



Excerpt from the 1953 overview forestry map of the Dol (Predmeja) forest management unit.



Boundary mark on Veliki rob.

18. Boundary mark of the Kanal estate at Rebro

Of the former six carved boundary marks with coat of arms of the Kanal estate (German: Herrschaft Canale), only the one on Rebro has been preserved on its original location. All the others were destroyed during the Soča Front in the First World War or moved to other locations, one of them to the village of Bate and other to Kanalski vrh, for example.

On the western side of the boundary stone at Rebro, there are carved two wings, the coat of arms of the Rabatta family, who ruled the Kanal estate until the family died out in 1794. On the eastern side, there is the coat of arms of the Strassoldo family, who ruled the Goriška estate at the time, with six crossbars.

On the maps of the Franciscan land cadastral survey, we find written at the locations where the boundary stones of the Kanal estate once stood the years 1716 or 1719, which can be connected to the year of creation of the Kanal estate land register from 1716.



Carved boundary stone of the Kanal estate with the coat of arms of the Strassoldo family at Rebro.



Boundary stone at Rebro as drawn on the Franciscan land cadastral map of the cadastral municipality of Deskle from 1822.

20. Relocated boundary stone of the Kanal estate in the village of Kanalski Vrh

This boundary stone was relocated to the main crossroads in the village of Kanalski Vrh sometime in the past. Originally it stood on the border between the cadastral municipalities of Kanalski vrh and Bate, by the main road going from the village of Kanalski vrh to Bate.



Relocated boundary stone of the Kanal estate at the crossroads in the village of Kanalski vrh.



Former location of the boundary stone from the village of Kanalski vrh, on the Franciscan land cadastral map of the cadastral municipality of Vrh pri Kanalu from 1822.

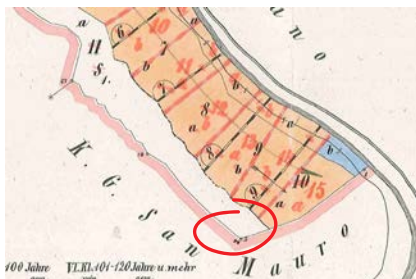
21. Boundary mark at the Church of St Valentin on Sabotin

At the top of the hill of Sabotin (609 m), near the former church of St Valentin, there is a boundary stone with a carved number 5 and the year 1875. It marks the boundary of the former provincial forest of Sabotin. The boundary stone also marked the former border of the Gorica estate (German: Herrschaft Görz). The provincial forest was intended to supply the city of Gorica with firewood and covered an area of 186 hectares. The year 1875 on the boundary stone represents the year in which the second measurement of this forest was conducted. Carved into the rock are two other abbreviations: K.K. stands for imperial and royal (German: Kaiserlich und Königlich), and F.S. stands for the Sabotin forest (German: Forst Sabotin).

Almost all of the boundary marks of the Sabotin provincial forest have been preserved to this day, with at least two remaining along the picturesque ridge trail from the mountain hut on Sabotin to the ruins of Church of St Valentin.

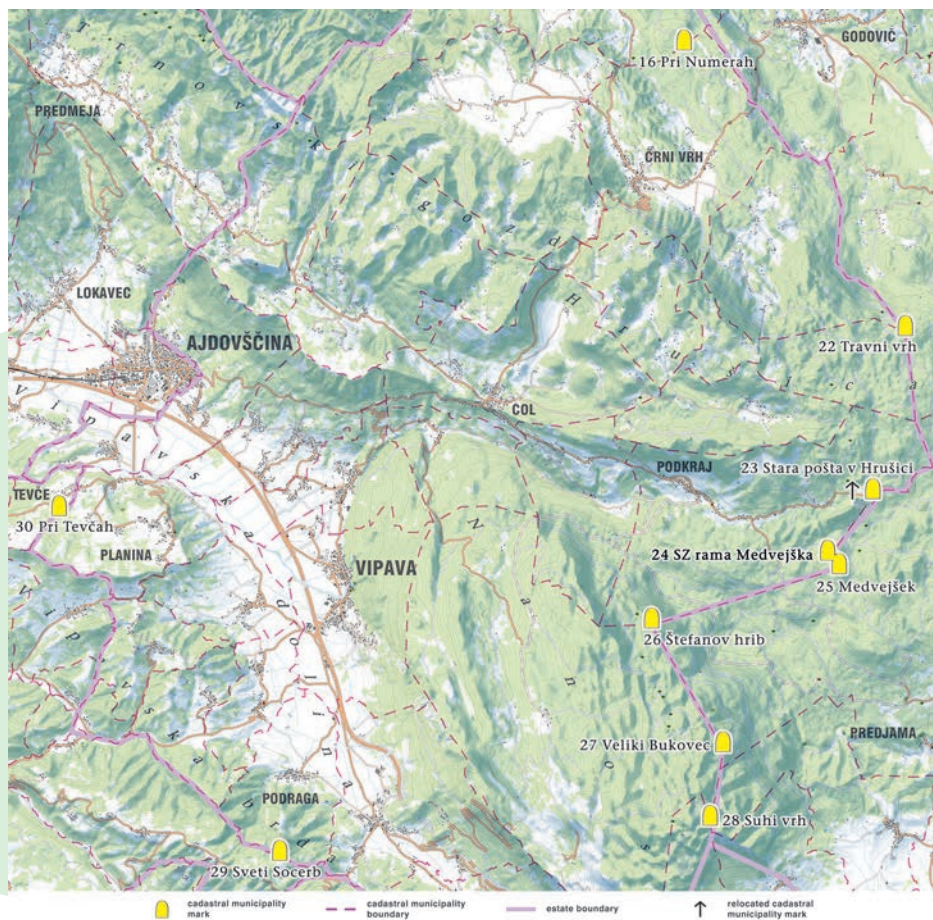


Boundary stone number 5 below the ruins of the Church of St Valentin on Sabotin.



Excerpt from the inventory map of the provincial forest of Sabotin in the Goriška economic district from 1879

Boundary marks in the Vipava Valley and on Nanos



Boundary marks in the Vipava Valley and on Nanos.

22. Travni vrh above Novi Svet from 1867

On the top of hill of Travni vrh (930 m), above the village of Novi Svet near Hotederšica, there is a beautifully preserved carved boundary stone from 1867, which at that time designated the border between the estates of Vipava (HW – Herrschaft Wippach) and Logatec (HL – Herrschaft Loitsch), therefore the abbreviations HW and HL are carved on it. It also bears the number 108, which represents the forest boundary mark of the internal division of the Nadrt forest management unit, which was owned by the Vipava estate at the time of its establishment. In 1912, the Vipava estate sold the Nadrt forests to France and Adolf Jurca, large landowners from Postojna, who then sold them to Antonio Rizzatto in 1929. After World War II, all large estates in Slovenia became public property under the 1953 nationalisation law, and later became state forests. In the immediate vicinity of the boundary stone (5.5 m away), there is a smaller granite trigonometric mark with a cross section of 15 cm×15 cm erected after World War II. Between them is a natural rock outcrop with a metal box attached to it containing a paper logbook for mountaineers. Two crosses are carved into this rock outcrop.

Access to the hill of Travni vrh is from the village of Novi Svet via the forest road to Na kaličih. From there it will take you about 15 minutes by foot to walk to the top of Travni vrh.



Boundary mark from 1867 and post-war trigonometric mark on Travni vrh.

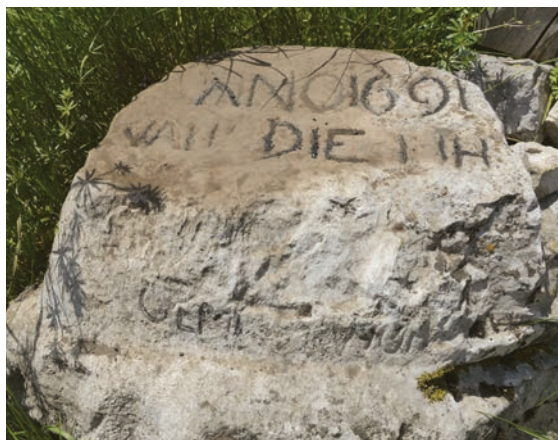


Excerpt from the 1952 forestry map of the Nadrt forest management unit.

23. Boundary mark on Hrušica from 1691

In the immediate proximity of the Stara pošta inn in the hamlet of Hrušica, a few metres to the south, within the archaeological park, and at the end of the first low wall, there is an irregularly shaped rock on which we can see faintly recognisable inscriptions and the year 1691. The rock is a remnant of a longer rock outcrop that was blown up with explosives in 1980 as part of a road widening project at location approximately 900 metres to the west, by the road going towards the village of Podkraj. The preserved part of the rock, which now stands behind the Stara pošta inn, was drilled with a compressor, blasted off and transported to the Stara pošta location. It once marked the boundary of the Jama estate (German: Herrschaft Luegg; today the castle is called Predjama).

Another boundary stone from this estate bearing the same year of 1691 can be found a good three kilometres from the Stara pošta inn by the Hrušica-Kalce road towards Kalce, next to a wooden cross, just before the side macadam road branches off from the main road and leads to the top of the hill of Srnjak. The local name for the wider area around this boundary stone and cross is Brunk. Unfortunately, this boundary stone stands no longer on its original location, as it was moved here in 1994 due to road reconstruction. It previously stood next to the same main road, but about 20 metres back to the west.



Stara pošta in Hrušica: the remains of a moved boundary stone from 1691, with the inscriptions highlighted with charcoal.



Brunk: moved rock with inscriptions and the year 1691.

24–28. Boundary marks of the Vipava estate on the eastern slopes of the Nanos mountain range: two Medvejšeks, Štefanov hrib, Veliki Bukovec and Suhi vrh

From 1863 to 1865, the forests of the village of Podkraj were measured and demarcated with forest boundary stones. On the border between the Vipava and Jama estates, larger carved stones were placed with the markings HW standing for the Vipava estate (German: Herrschaft Wippach) and HL for the Jama estate (German: Herrschaft Luegg), with Roman numerals for subsequent boundary marks I–V and additional forestry labels describing the forest sections. Five consecutive boundary stones have been preserved on the peaks of the eastern slopes of the Nanos mountain range. The number V stands on the north-western arm of Medvejšek (909 m), IV on the main peak of Medvejšek (922 m), III on Štefanov hrib (1113 m), II on Veliki Bukovec (1257 m) and I on Suhi vrh (1313 m). In addition to boundary stones, on most of these peaks granite trigonometric marks were also erected after World War II (on the main peak of Medvejšek, Štefanov hrib, and Suhi vrh), and there is even the remains of an Italian masonry trigonometric pillar from the interwar period on Suhi vrh. Even older boundary marks already stood at these locations before the demarcation in 1863, as at all these locations on the Franciscan land cadastral maps from 1824 the cartographic signs for boundary marks are drawn. An additional year of 1834 is also carved into the boundary rock on Suhi vrh.



North-western ridge of Medvejšek.



Main peak of Medvejšek.

Even older boundary marks exist in the Podkraj area, dating back to 1730, but they are no longer preserved at their original locations.

This area is also linked to some very old stories about border disputes, as the border here was not definitively established for a long time, which led to casualties. Evidence of this can be provided once again by the historian Simon Rutar, this time in his work *Schloss und Herrschaft Lueg* (The Jama Estate), from 1895.

The Vipava estate sold the Podkraj forests to Anton Černigoj in 1891, who sold them to Josip Šiško in 1910. In 1915, the forests were passed to the bank Ljudska posojilnica Ljubljana, from which they were purchased by Hugo Veriand Windischgrätz in 1917. He retained ownership during both world wars, when this area was under Italian rule. After the World War II, the forest estates were nationalised and became public property, and later state property.

Most of the mentioned peaks can be reached by forest roads, with the exception of Suhi vrh, which is the highest peak of the entire Nanos mountain range, and can only be reached by following the labelled mountain trail.



Štefanov hrib.



Veliki Bukovec.

*Suhi vrh on Nanos:
boundary mark in the
foreground, masonry
trigonometric pillar from
the Italian period in the
background.*



*Hrušica and both peaks of Medvešek
on an excerpt from the 1966
forest map of the Podkraj forest
management unit.*

29. Boundary marks around St Socerb in the hills of Vipavska brda

The southern border of the Vipava estate, bordering the Senožeče and Rihemberg estates, was marked by boundary stones with rounded tops and bearing no inscriptions. They were probably erected in the first half of the 19th century or during the Franciscan land cadastral survey. These boundary stones also marked the border between the provinces of the Carniola and the Gorizia with Gradiščansko. Three have been preserved, with the easiest to reach being accessible by the main forest road heading from the Church of St Ana to the hill of St Socerb (555 m). St Socerb is a very panoramic peak in the hills of Vipavska brda, on which the Church of St Socerb stands, which was completely renovated in 2007.

This boundary stone still designates the border between the cadastral municipalities of Podraga and Štjak. On the Franciscan land cadastral map of the cadastral municipality of Štjak from 1822, the boundary stone standing by the main forest road heading towards the St Socerb is labelled with number 8 and the name Na Lusrah.

The panoramic hill of St Socerb lies above the village of Podnanos. From the Vrabče-Štjak road, branching off at the Church of St Ana, there is the main forest road, poorly passable by car. From Church St Ana it takes you about 15 minutes to walk to the boundary stone and a good 20 minutes to St Socerb. From the top of St Socerb there is a beautiful view of the Vipava Valley, Nanos and the forest of Trnovski gozd. At the entrance to the renovated church, set in the ground, a granite trigonometric mark with a cross section of 15 cm×15 cm can still be found, although it no longer has its characteristic cross on top.



Boundary stone next to the forest road heading towards the hill of St Socerb.



Boundary stone next to the forest road heading towards the hill of St Socerb on the Franciscan land cadastral map from 1822 of the cadastral municipality of Štjak.

30. Boundary mark near Tevče

A good 500 metres from the village of Tevče in the hills of Vipavska brda, along the road and then the forest road that branches off at the sign where Planina ends and Tevče begins, there is a natural rock with a long inscription carved on it in Bohorič's alphabet:

Gospodstvo Vipava (+HW), Mi Planina, konfin na 21 listah skuzi 2 komesiji potrjeno.

Which translates as: »The Vipava estate (+HW), us Planina, border confirmed on 21 sheets by 2 commissions.«

The boundary stone stands near the former provincial border between the Carniola and the Goriška with Gradiščanska, as well as on the former border of the Vipava estate (German: Herrschaft Wippach). Today it only designates the boundary between two land parcels. It is included among the points on the Vertovče tourist route³, where the former provincial border is referred to as an "invisible border". Next to it stands an information board with a rest area.



Boundary stone in Tevče.

³ <https://www.vipavskadolina.si/aktivno/pohodnistvo/organizirani-pohodi/pohod-po-vertovcevih-poteh>

Recognition and preservation of boundary marks as part of our cultural heritage

Despite their significant age and cultural and historical importance, most of the boundary marks presented here still play a role as valid boundary marks in the current real estate cadastral and forest records. Moreover, this booklet presents only a selection of boundary marks from this area, and there are many more to be found and admired in nature, all of which should be preserved in their original locations.

The boundary marks discussed in this booklet bear witness not only to the development of geodesy, surveying and forest management, but also to the administrative and organisational history of the area in question over time. The former boundaries of estates and villages, districts, counties and provinces have been transformed into cadastral municipality boundaries, which today form the basis for municipal boundaries. Therefore, the boundaries of cadastral municipalities represent our link with the past and testify to the fact that the current administrative division of Slovenia has its roots far back in history. The oldest boundary mark in this booklet, located by the Legrada stream below the village of Breginj, dates back to 1607, and bears witness to more than four hundred years of history, from the time when land ownership was still recorded in land registers, through the entire development of cadastral surveying and land mapping, to the marking of boundaries with modern technologies, and it still represents an official boundary mark today.

More details about the boundary marks of former estates in the Northern Primorska region can be found in the following sources:

Kozorog, E. (2008): *Boundary signs in Northern Primorska region*. *Goriški letnik*, 32, pp. 77–90.

Kozorog, E. (2023): *Pomerium of Gorizia*. *Goriški letnik*, 47, pp. 103–116.

Bončina A., Kozorog, E., Perko, F. (2014): *Začetki načrtnega gospodarjenja na Slovenskem:*

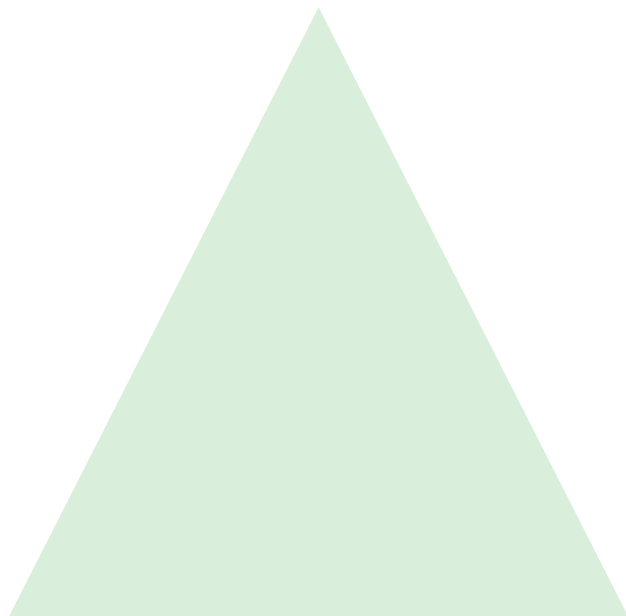
Flameckovi in Lesseckovi načrti za bovške in tolminske gozdove ter Trnovski gozd, 1769–1771. Zveza gozdarskih društev Slovenije, Ljubljana.

Triglav Čekada, M., Kozorog, E., Premrl, B. (2025). *The Jama (Luegg) estate boundary marks in the forests of Hrušica, Slovenia*. *Geodetski vestnik*, 69 (2), pp. 180–204.

Overview of selected preserved boundary marks in the Northern Primorska region

	Boundary mark	Year	Inscriptions	Estate	E D96/TM	N D96/TM
1	Mali vrh	1790	850	Bovec	390133	129356
2	Legrada	1607	{	Tolmin	378170	122394
3	Mija	1753	A x V	Tolmin	381270	122478
4	Globočanec on Mija	1841	CV 10	Tolmin	380965	121861
5	Venetian lion at Golobi	1753	coat of arms	Tolmin	392258	119752
6	Široko	1822	xx	Tolmin	405129	110291
7	Špile	1738		Tolmin	405694	108913
8	Gačnik	1772	HG-HI-HT	Tolmin	412850	101245
9	Pod robom	1762	x 76	Tolmin	412419	98970
10	Na Suhi	1703	HI HT	Tolmin	412481	98468
11	Zeleni rob	1820	X HG	Gorica	411321	96272
12	Smrekova draga	1820	☞ 24H	Idrija	412595	94948
13	Kurje brdo	1820	☞ W 50 x	Sveti Križ	412281	95137
14	Pod Golaki	1775	x 1/22	Idrija	413265	93494
15	Kraljeve kamre	1820	☞ W49 54H	Idrija	413768	93368
16	Pri Numerah	1820	☞ DF 68	Idrija	426868	90729
17	Čaven	1876	GO GR	Sveti Križ	406670	88950
18	Na Rebru	1719	coat of arms	Kanal	395774	101818
19	Bate	1716	coat of arms	Kanal	↑ 394790	99518
20	Kanalski Vrh	1717	coat of arms	Kanal	↑ 396807	102928
21	Sabotin	1875	KK FS S	Gorica	394867	94548
22	Travni vrh	1867	HWHL	Vipava	431783	84414
23	Stara pošta at Hrušica	1691	inscription	Vipava	↑ 431028	80771
24	NW top of Medvejšek	1865	HWHL V	Vipava	430085	79426
25	Medvejšek	1863	HWHL IV	Vipava	430316	79199
26	Štefanov hrib	1864	HWHL III	Vipava	426163	77938
27	Veliki Bukovec	1863	HWHL II	Vipava	427742	75200
28	Suhi vrh at Nanos	1834	HWHL I	Vipava	427468	73572
29	St Socerb		-	Vipava	417930	72796
30	Pri Tevčah	1750	inscription	Vipava	413028	80425

↑ The boundary marks is no longer at its original location.



Scan the QR code to view the digital booklet on the Boundary marks of former estates of the Northern Primorska region

This booklet was produced in the Applied research project L2-50090,
co-financed by:



Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency



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