

**A WATCHING BRIEF AT POLE BANK,
LONG MYND, SHROPSHIRE 2014**

by
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A report for
**COUNTRYSIDE AND RECREATION,
SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL**

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March 2014 the Archaeology Service carried out a watching brief on the creation of a short length of new path at Pole Bank on the Long Mynd, Shropshire (NGR SO 4152 9443). The section of new path was part of a programme of repairs to paths on the Long Mynd being carried out by Shropshire Council's Countryside Recreation Team.

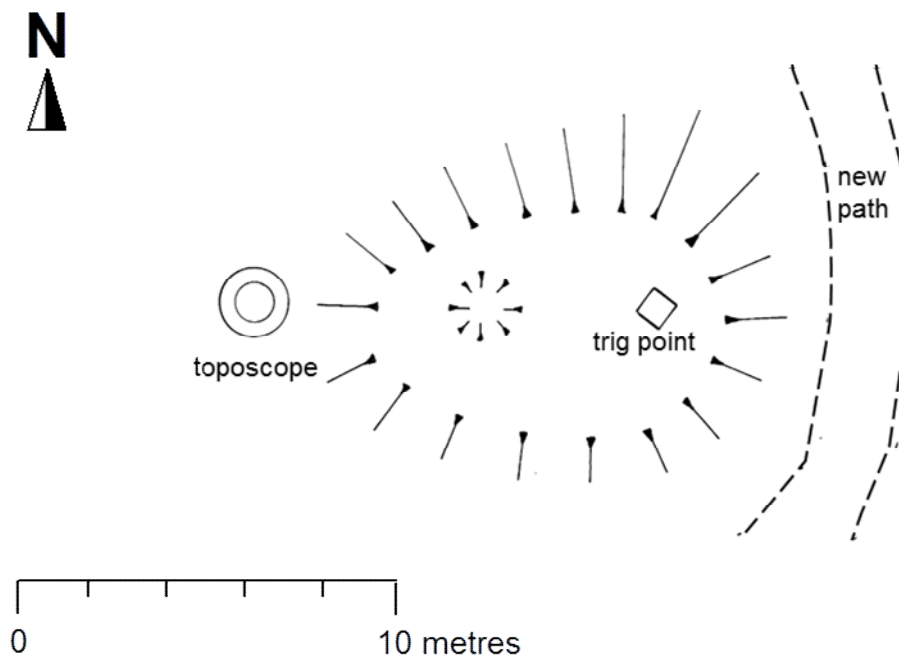
1.2 The section of new path lay where a bridleway (Route codes 0562/UN2/1 and 0562/UN2/2) runs past a trig point and a toposcope. The bridleway is also joined here from the NE by a footpath (Route code 0562/37A/1). The trig point stands on a low oval mound, about 0.6m in height, which it is thought may comprise the remains of a Bronze Age barrow, one of a number which stand on the Long Mynd.

1.3 The aim of the watching brief was to allow for the preservation by record of any archaeological remains that might be encountered during the groundworks.

2 THE WATCHING BRIEF.

2.1 The topsoil was removed by mechanical minidigger from the line of the new path in a strip 20m long by 2m wide by 0.15m deep. A thin layer of turf lay over topsoil of very dark greyish brown humic loam. This in turn lay on the natural subsoil, which comprised rock fragments in a dark brown sandy loam. No significant archaeological features or deposits were recorded during the watching brief.

2.2 The opportunity was taken to produce a quick sketch plan of the mound on which the trig point stood. The mound is roughly ovoid in plan, about 12.5m long by up to 10m wide at its widest point, with the longer axis aligned east-west. The mound rises about 0.6m above the surrounding ground surface. There is a circular depression or shallow pit towards the western end of the mound, and the trig point has been built on the eastern end.



A sketch plan of the mound at Pole Bank, Long Mynd, 1:200 scale



Photo 1: The site, showing the low mound, looking SE



Photo 2: The north end of the cut for the new path, looking S; scale bar 0.5m



Photo 3: The cut for the new path, looking N