

**A WATCHING BRIEF AT SHOOTING BOX BARROW,
LONG MYND, SHROPSHIRE 2015**

by
H R HANNAFORD MifA

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

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March 2015 the Archaeology Service carried out a watching brief on the restoration of a length of path in the vicinity of the Shooting Box Barrow on the Long Mynd, Shropshire (NGR SO 4210 9538). The restoration of the path was part of a programme of repairs to paths on the Long Mynd being carried out by Shropshire Council's Countryside Recreation Team.

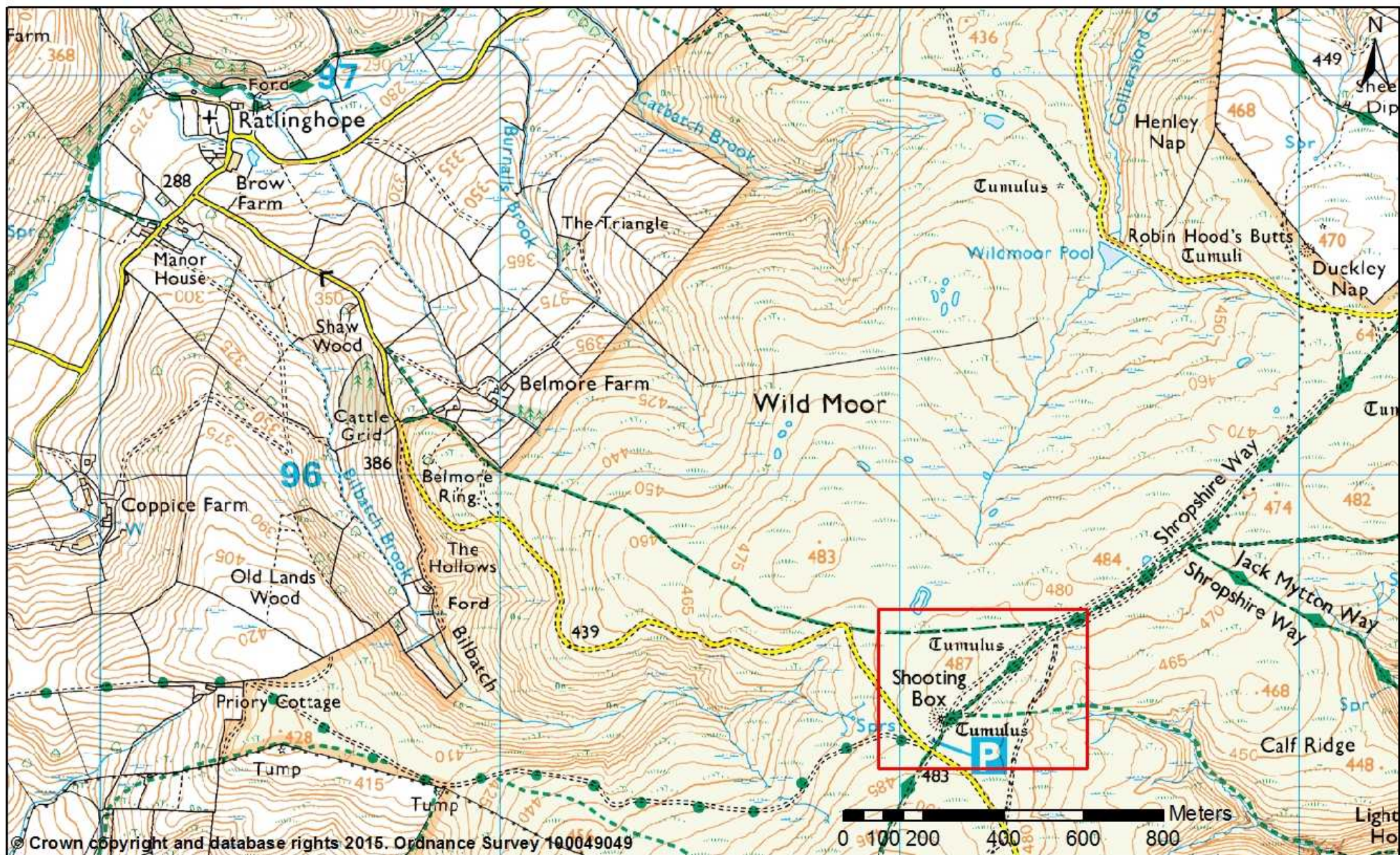
1.2 The section of new path followed the original line of the public right of way (Route codes 0552/16/1 & 2). The existing path past the barrow had deviated to the west and was encroaching on the eastern edge of Shooting Box Barrow. The barrow is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (National List Entry [NLE] no. 1007341). The opportunity was being taken as part of the programme of repairs to reinstate the original path to take it to one side of both Shooting Box Barrow and a nearby bowl barrow on Wildmoor (NLE 1007340). The line of the existing path would be filled in with turf and topsoil from the restored path.

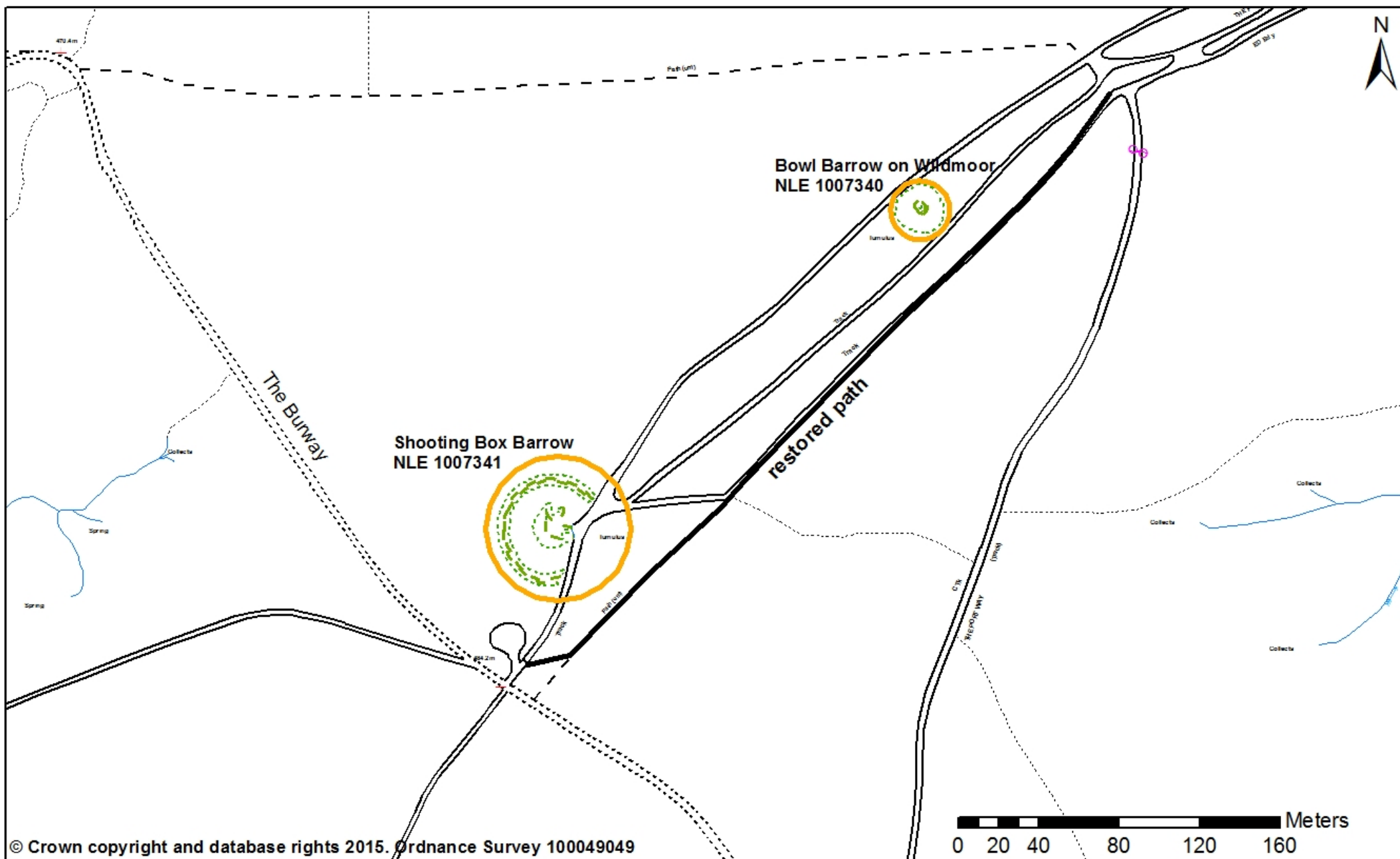
1.3 The aim of the watching brief was to allow for the preservation by record of any archaeological remains that might be encountered during the groundworks.

2 THE WATCHING BRIEF.

2.1 The topsoil was removed by mechanical mini-digger from a strip about 400m long for the new path, in a line between 12m and 20m to the southeast of the Scheduled areas (see Fig. 2). The standing heather and its shallow roots in a thin layer of turf were removed from a strip 1.8m wide by 0.12m deep. The strip exposed a topsoil that comprised of a very dark greyish brown humic loam and, in places, an underlying natural subsoil which consisted of rock fragments in a dark brown sandy loam. Ruts on the line of the former path here showed up as a stripe of darker soil in this dark brown sandy loam. No significant archaeological features or deposits were recorded during the watching brief.

2.2 The heather and topsoil that had been removed from the new path was laid on the line of the existing path. In the vicinity of the two barrows, it was laid over a sheet of geotextile membrane.





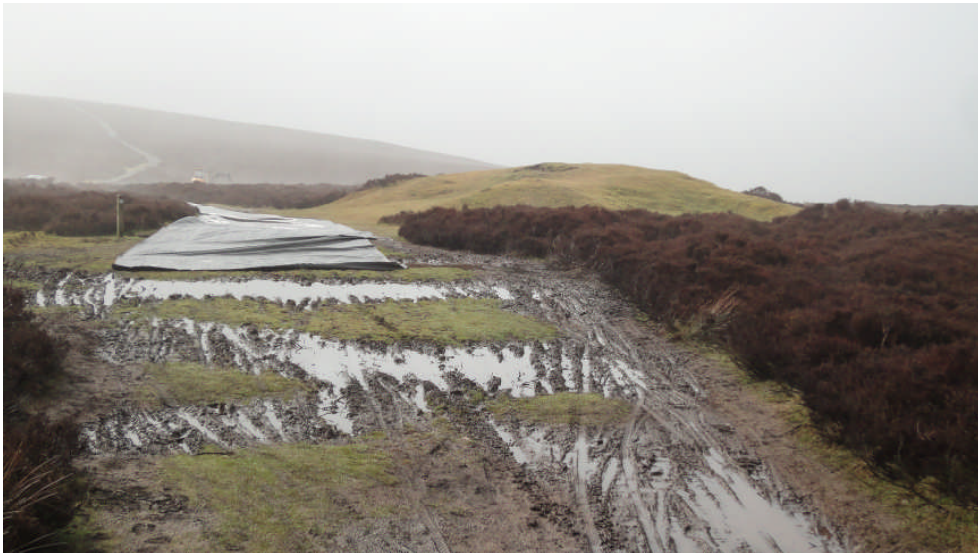


Photo 1: Shooting Box Barrow, and the existing path (partly covered in membrane), looking SW



Photo 2: The strip for the restored path, looking SW, with the bowl barrow (NLE 1007340) on Wildmoor to the right; scale bar 1m



Photo 3: The strip for the restored path to the SE of Shooting Box Barrow, looking SW; scale bar 1m

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