

A SURVEY OF LUNDY TELEGRAPH POLES

By A. F. LANGHAM

The telegraph poles that carry wires from the North end of Lundy to the South form a conspicuous feature along the western edge of the island plateau and as each pole is marked or numbered they are often used as a convenient reference point by field workers.

This survey undertaken in 1969 lists the markings of the individual poles, describes their position in relation to noticeable features, and gives compass bearings from one pole to the next, and also differential bearings between various poles. In this way a sighting made from any field feature to two poles can be clearly and accurately pinpointed.

History

The line was established in 1910 to join the North Light and South light with the Admiralty Coastguard station on Tibbetts Hill which had been built the previous year. Subsequently the Old Light and the Hotel were connected but the Tibbetts Hill line was abandoned when the Coastguards left in 1928. The poles joining Tibbetts to the main line at Pole No. 58 have since been removed though their position can be traced. In 1966 the Old Light connection was altered to reach Stoneycroft where the Deputy Agent lives.

The course of the main line has been altered only twice as can be seen from the numberings on the poles. The earlier occasion was when pole No. 12 was removed and replaced by two others, but a greater change took place in 1962 after frequent breaks in the line as it crossed the Saddle from a point near the Castle to a point near the South Light. To make the line more accessible for repairs it was rerouted by the South light path, via the Beach and Beach Road to rejoin its original course at the head of St. Johns Valley. This again can be seen in the numbering of the poles.

Key

This Survey No.:	(24)	in brackets
Marking:	24	underlines=so marked in lead studs on poles.
:	and GPO	
	22L	=inscribed marking on pole either additional
	37	to or in place of lead studs.

The Survey

318°	(1)	Only marking=1899 inscribed. At end of S. Light path.
309°	(2)	Seaward side of flat path to approach to S. Light gate.
303°	(2A)	GPO On S. Light island at seaward side of beginning 28L of steps, but landward side of old steps. 37
340°	(2B)	GPO At northern end of slippery shale. 20L 62 D
326°	(2C)	GPO Above landing-place stone on site of old bait- 22L house. 57
326°	(2D)	GPO Just south of ruined cottage, midway between 20L north end of landslip and Borlase Warren's Quay. 62 D

339°	(2E)	GPO 22L 67	50 ft. north of ruined cottage.
339°	(2F)	GPO 20L 62	South end of Lone Pine Gulch
306°	(2G)	GPO 22L 62	Midway Lone Pine Gulch
329°	(2H)	GPO 22L 62	On old steep path about 16 metres below elbow.
279°	(2J)	GPO 20L 62 D	High land south of Beach road
280°	(2K)	GPO 20L 58	Highest land south of Beach road
215°	(10)	10	By St. Johns Valley bungalow. (Obviously moved from original site). Close by wire fence, midway between footpath and bungalow.
265°	(10A)	—	No markings at all. Swampy ground between Bungalow and new St Johns cottages.
264°	(10B)	GPO 22L 62	On the Church side of the wall above St. Johns cottages
295°	(11)	11	By Church Vestry on west side of path.
299°	(11A)	GPO 241 37 63	On Church side of wall by Hotel to which it sends a branch. On west side of footpath.
304°	(11B)	GPO 22L 29 63	In the Tent field
304°	(13)	13	Between Reservoir and Hotel. South of wall in Tent field.
262°	(14)	14	Also marked : GPO Just west of covered 22L Reservoir. South of 49 wall.
264°	(15)	15	Inside Lighthouse field near south gate but 10 metres west of it.
288°	(16)	16	Inside Lighthouse field by western wall.

334°	(17)	17	In west side field close to Lighthouse field wall.
335°	(18)	18	In west side field close to Lighthouse field wall
326°	(19)	19	In west side field close to Lighthouse field wall.
302°	(20)	20	Inside Lighthouse field, near cemetery gate.
311°	(21)	21	Out wall of Old Lighthouse, near cartgate entrance (This pole gives branch to Stoneycroft).
291°	(22)	22	South of Old Lighthouse wall. West of the Old Light itself but east of the gate in OL wall.
292°	(23)	23	Western edge of plateau
001°	(24)	24 and GPO 22L 37	(All poles northwards from Pole 23 are a short distance to the west of the footpath unless otherwise stated)
360°	(25)	—	No mark
360°	(26)	26 and GPO 22L 37	
360°	(27)	·9	By stream and pond in gully
360°	(28)	2x	(second letter indistinct) and GPO 22L 37
346°	(29)	2. and GPO 22L 37	
344°	(30)	30	Out to the west on high ground
345°	(31)	31	Furthest west
360°	(32)	32	Battery path starts nearby
013°	(33)	33	South of Quarter wall but in sight of it
019°	(34)	34	Twelve metres north of Quarter wall
011°	(35)	35	Near quarry used for Old Light (East of path)
011°	(36)	36	On high ground
027°	(37)	3. and GPO 22L 52	(this pole is east of footpath)
025°	(38)	GPO 22L 37	
043°	(39)	39	By Toad rock.

043°	(40)	40	By Earthquake
043°	(41)	41	High land south of Punchbowl valley
043°	(42)	42	North of Punchbowl valley
043°	(43)	43	On rising ground
043°	(44)	44	On high ground
057°	(45)	45	South of Cheeses Bay (East side of footpath)
048°	(46)	46	Midday along Cheeses Bay (East side of footpath)
021°	(47)	47	By Cheeses
018°	(48)	48	19 metres north of a watercourse
353°	(49)	4.	12 metres south of Halfway wall
002°	(50)	50	38 metres north of Halfway wall.
358°	(51)	51	Near an outcrop of rock
358°	(52)	52 and	GPO This pole is above the Pyramid Rock 22L landing place and has been painted 54 white. L
358°	(53)	53	
358°	(54)	54	By a stream which flows Southwest. The stream is dammed at the plateau edge to form a pond.
358°	(55)	55	
358°	(56)	56	
015°	(57)	57	
015°	(58)	58	This pole originally gave a line eastwards to Tibbetts.
015°	(59)	59	Near Gladstone Rock, 8 metres east of Wendy Mitchell's tablet.
015°	(60)	60	On high land west of Round Tower, north of a stream and pools.
357°	(61)	61	
357°	(62)	62	14 metres south of Threequarter wall
357°	(63)	63	18 metres north of Threequarter wall (East of footpath)
357°	(64)	.4 and	GPO This is the highest pole of all 22L 57
014°	(65)	65	
014°	(66)	66	

014°	(67)	67	
014°	(68)	.8	Devils Slide is just north of this.
014°	(69)	69	18 metres south of a stream with a dammed pond.
010°	(70)	70	
351°	(71)	—	No mark on this pole
318°	(72)	72	
318°	(73)	12	(Should read 73.)
318°	(74)	74	
318°	(75)	75	
318°	(76)	.3	(Should read 76)
011°	(77)	5	
019°	(78)	78	About the Middle of Gannets Combe
019°	(79)	GPO 22L 49	
019°	(80)	80	Near this pole the east and west footpaths meet.
019°	(81)	81	
019°	(82)	82	
019°	(83)	83	
019°	(84)	84	
009°	(85)	85	
009°	(86)	86	
009°	(87)	87	The highest point is just beyond this pole, and the footpath goes down to the North Light.
014°	(88)	88	The wires here make a sharp bend.
316°	(89)	89	By the North Light winchhouse on South side of tramway.
322°	(90)	90	By Lighthouse.

Differential bearing between various Lundy Telegraph poles

2B—2D	332	41—45	047
2C—2E	328	44—46	053
2C—2F	329	44—47	042
2D—2G	325	44—48	036

2F—2H	320	44—49	027
2K—10B	265	45—47	033
2K—11	277	46—48	019
11A—14	286	46—49	011
22—24	321	47—48	006
26—29	356	59—61	006
26—30	353	67—71	009
30—32	352	68—70	012
30—33	358	68—71	005
30—34	004	69—71	001
30—35	005	69—72	348
32—34	016	70—72	334
35—37	018	70—73	329
35—38	020	76—78	013
36—38	026	78—87	015
37—39	034	81—87	014

PRINTED MAPS OF LUNDY

BY COLIN TAYLOR

Lundy will be found upon almost any medium or small scale map of this country, but usually no detail is shown other than a few names. The reason for this is quite obvious and so the inquisitive or interested individuals will search for maps depicting the island in much greater detail. Such persurance brings one into contact with the Ordnance Survey (O.S.) maps and the Official Map of Lundy. The latter is a specialised map drawn by myself and which is based on the O.S. 6" map.

The Ordnance Survey cover Lundy at all their standard scales except 1:1,250 which is reserved for urban areas, Lundy was surveyed in 1884 as part of the National Programme, and from this survey the first maps of the island were printed in 1888 at 1:2,500 in the County Plan series. Horizontal control with the mainland was provided by triangulation. The Primary Triangulation Station in 1884 was the Old Light, being observed from Prescelly, Parracombe, High Wilhays, Brown Willy, Hensbarrow and Trevoise Head. The station name was Lundy Island.

During the 1936-57 Retriangulation the North and South Lights were used as additional Intersected Triangulation Stations. The island's Triangulation Stations are now Old Light, North Light and South Light, numbered "Int", 1, 2, and 3 respectively. The actual station is the point of intersection of rays from the observing stations, the point being the centre of the Light. In the Retriangulation the stations were observed from Pendine, Cefn Bryn, Parracombe, Eastcott Hill and Hendon Moor."

Vertical control is given by the Triangulation Stations whose altitude above the assumed mean sea level (M.S.L.) at Lundy has been calculated.

Revision of the 1:2,500 plans took place in 1903 and they were reprinted in 1905. Initially the island was covered by four plans at this scale, but in 1962 Lundy was revisited and the plan: reconstituted to form the National Grid Plans. These are in the 2Km by 1Km format and they cover the island in six sheets instead of the previous four.

In addition the first 1:10,560 or 6: plans were published in 1888 and were revised in 1903 and 1932 in County Series form. The first Provisional Edition appeared in 1963 and upon subsequent revision and alteration of style it reappeared as the Regular Edition in 1967.

First published in 1950 and reprinted in 1951 was the Provisional Edition of the 1:25,000 or 2½" map. This was derived from the County Series 6" plan but included the 1938 revision. The year 1960 saw the publication of a special sheet at 1:25,000 incorporating Lundy as an inset with the north west Devon coast. In essence the Lundy portion is the same as the previous edition with the