

Archaeology Service Report Number 334  
© Shropshire Council  
May 2013

**OFFA'S DYKE PATH 2013  
A WATCHING BRIEF ON THE INSTALLATION OF NEW PATH FURNITURE AT  
HERGAN, CLUN, SHROPSHIRE**

by  
H R HANNAFORD MifA

A report for  
Countryside Recreation Team, Outdoor Recreation,  
Shropshire Council

**Archaeology Service**  
Historic Environment Team, Environment,  
Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND  
Tel: (01743) 252575 Fax: (01743) 252505



## CONTENTS

	Page No
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2 THE WATCHING BRIEF</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3 REFERENCES</b>	<b>5</b>

## ILLUSTRATIONS

### Figures

Figure 1: The location of the site at Hergan (ODP13 H)

### Photos

Photo 1: The old stile at Hergan, looking SW

Photo 2: New posthole at Hergan, looking SW (scale bar 1m)

Photo 3: The new kissing gate at Hergan, looking SW

## SUMMARY

*In April 2013 the Archaeology Service carried out a watching brief on the installation of new path furniture at a site along the Offa's Dyke Path at Hergan, Clun, in southwest Shropshire. This section of Offa's Dyke is a scheduled Ancient Monument, and it was part of the scheduled monument consent for the work that it should be carried out under archaeological supervision. The Archaeology Service, Shropshire Council, carried out the watching brief on the work. The excavations were all carried out by hand by the Shropshire Council Outdoor Recreation Service Countryside Recreation Team. The excavations were carried out with minimal disturbance to the ground. No significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered in the excavations for the new path furniture.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1** In April 2013 improvements were made to footpath furniture on a section of the Offa's Dyke Path National Trail at Hergan, Clun, in southwest Shropshire. The location of this work (see Fig. 1) lay within a section of the linear monument, Offa's Dyke which has been scheduled as an ancient monument as defined by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979:

<b>NGR</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Mon. no.</b>	<b>Mon. name</b>
SO 2613 8546	Hergan (ODP13 H)	32597	Offa's Dyke: section 400m east of Cwm Farm

**1.2** In accordance with the scheduled monument consent for this work, the Archaeology Service, Shropshire Council was commissioned to carry out an archaeological watching brief on the excavation of post-holes for a new kissing gate to replace an existing stile. The groundworks were carried out by hand by the Shropshire Council Outdoor Recreation Service's Countryside Recreation Team.

**1.3** The aim of the archaeological watching brief was to allow for the preservation by record of any archaeological remains that were encountered during the groundworks for the new path furniture.

**1.4** A schedule of work was prepared for the work on the site and submitted to English Heritage with the application for scheduled monument consent, and a written scheme of investigation was prepared by the Archaeology Service for the watching brief (Hannaford, 2012b).

**1.5** In 2009, the Archaeology Service carried out a watching brief on the installation of two finger posts at Hergan, one immediately adjacent to the location of the new kissing gate (Hannaford, 2009).

## **2 THE WATCHING BRIEF**

**2.1** The site at Hergan (NGR: SO 2613 8546) lay on a section of the Dyke immediately to the north of the lane from Three Gates, Mardu, to Skeltons Bank, at the meeting point of Clun, Mainstone, and Newcastle-on-Clun parish boundaries. The work area lay on a gateway in a fence-line off the north side of the lane. The bank and ditch sections here are relatively well preserved a few metres to the north of the gateway, and on the south side of the lane, though they have been levelled in the area of the gateway itself. To the north and south there is a possible counterscarp on the outer (western) edge of the ditch, but this is absent in the area of the road and the gateway.

**2.2** The work here comprised the removal of an old stile and its replacement with a new kissing gate. The old stile was situated just to the west of the line of the ditch component of the dyke.

**2.3** Six postholes were excavated by hand; one postholes (A) 0.95m deep by 0.5m x 0.3m in plan, and another (B) 0.9m deep by 0.4m x 0.3m in plan for the corner and strainer posts, and four postholes between 0.70 and 0.95m deep by 0.3m in diameter for the remaining posts. The lowest deposit encountered was a light brown sandy silty clay (4) with small stone fragments, probably the natural subsoil, seen at a depth of between 0.25m and 0.5m below the ground surface. This lay beneath a deposit of very dark greyish brown humic loam topsoil (3) up to 0.5m thick. The posthole (A) for the southeastern corner of the new gate re-used the old gate posthole, which had been filled with very dark greyish brown humic loam (1) packed around the old post.

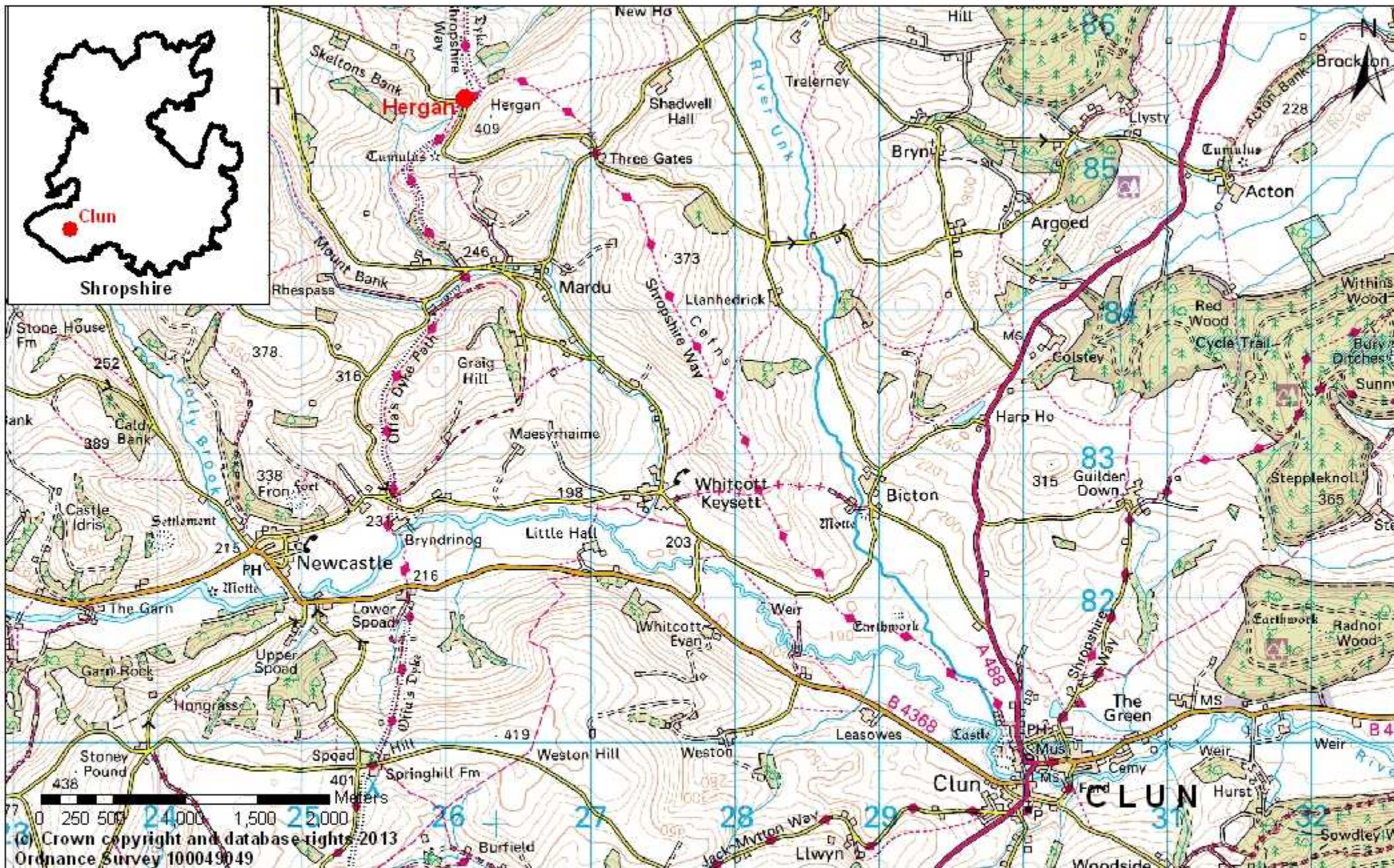
**2.4** No significant archaeological features or deposits were seen in the excavations for the new postholes at this site. The site archive, comprising the written, drawn, and photographic records form the watching brief, will be deposited with the Shropshire Museum Service.

### **3 REFERENCES**

- Hannaford, H R**, 2009: *A Watching Brief on the Installation of New Path Furniture along Offa's Dyke Path, Shropshire, 2009*, Shropshire Council Archaeology Service Report No 269
- Hill, D, and Worthington, M**, 2003: *Offa's Dyke: History and Guide*. Stroud, (Tempus), Fig. 28 & pp193
- Wigley, A**, 2012: *Brief for a programme of archaeological work on Offa's Dyke at Hergan, Newcastle on Clun*, Shropshire Council

### **ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>CBA</b>	Council for British Archaeology
<b>HER</b>	Historic Environment Record, Shropshire Council
<b>NGR</b>	National Grid Reference
<b>OS</b>	Ordnance Survey
<b>SAM</b>	Scheduled Ancient Monument
<b>TSAHS</b>	Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society



*Offa's Dyke Path 2013  
A Watching Brief on the Installation of New Path Furniture at Hergan, Clun, Shropshire*



Photo 1: The old stile at Hergan, looking SW



Photo 2: New posthole at Hergan, looking SW (scale bar 1m)



Photo 3: The new kissing gate at Hergan, looking SW

**HERGAN, CLUN, SHROPSHIRE 2013**