

**A WATCHING BRIEF AT OAKER WEIR,
ASTON ON CLUN, SHROPSHIRE 2017**

by
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A report for
THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September 2017 alterations were made to a weir at Oaker on the River Clun at Aston on Clun (NGR SO 3818 8140) to create a riffle/cascade to distribute the head-drop of the weir over a greater length of channel.

1.2 The site is located to the east of the confluence of the Rivers Clun and Kemp. It comprises a weir within the complex remains of a water management system associated with a post-medieval corn mill known as Aston Mill, Oaker, Aston on Clun (Shropshire Historic Environment Record [HER] No. PRN 15744).

1.3 Because of the potential significance of the archaeological resource it was considered appropriate that these works should be accompanied by a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation. The archaeological work was to include a Level 1 photographic survey and a watching brief.

1.4 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.

1.5 The Archaeology Service, Shropshire Council, was commissioned by The Environment Agency to carry out the programme of archaeological work. The work to the weir was carried out by Fishtek Consulting on behalf of the Environment Agency and the Severn Rivers Trust.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 In the medieval period Aston on Clun was a vill or township in Hopesay manor and formed part of the FitzAlans' Barony of Clun. Aston on Clun itself is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, but will have formed part of the holdings of Picot de Say, which subsequently passed to the FitzAlans. There is no record of a Domesday or medieval mill at Aston on Clun.

2.2 Oaker is an early 17th century timber framed farmhouse, with later brick extensions (PRN 18095), and is a Grade II Listed Building (National Ref. 1054959). The farmstead contains a number of barns and outbuildings of 17th century and later date, one of which is also Listed in its own right (National Ref. 1176380). A late 17th century cottage to the west of the farmstead is also Listed (National Ref. 1367019).

2.3 There are extensive remains of a water mill and water management system at Oaker, including mill leats, a number of weirs, and the remains of a wheel bay on the River Clun, and the earthwork remains of water-meadows to the southeast (centred on SO 386 815) which are visible on LiDAR imagery. Also visible on LiDAR are a number of palaeo-channels of the River Clun.

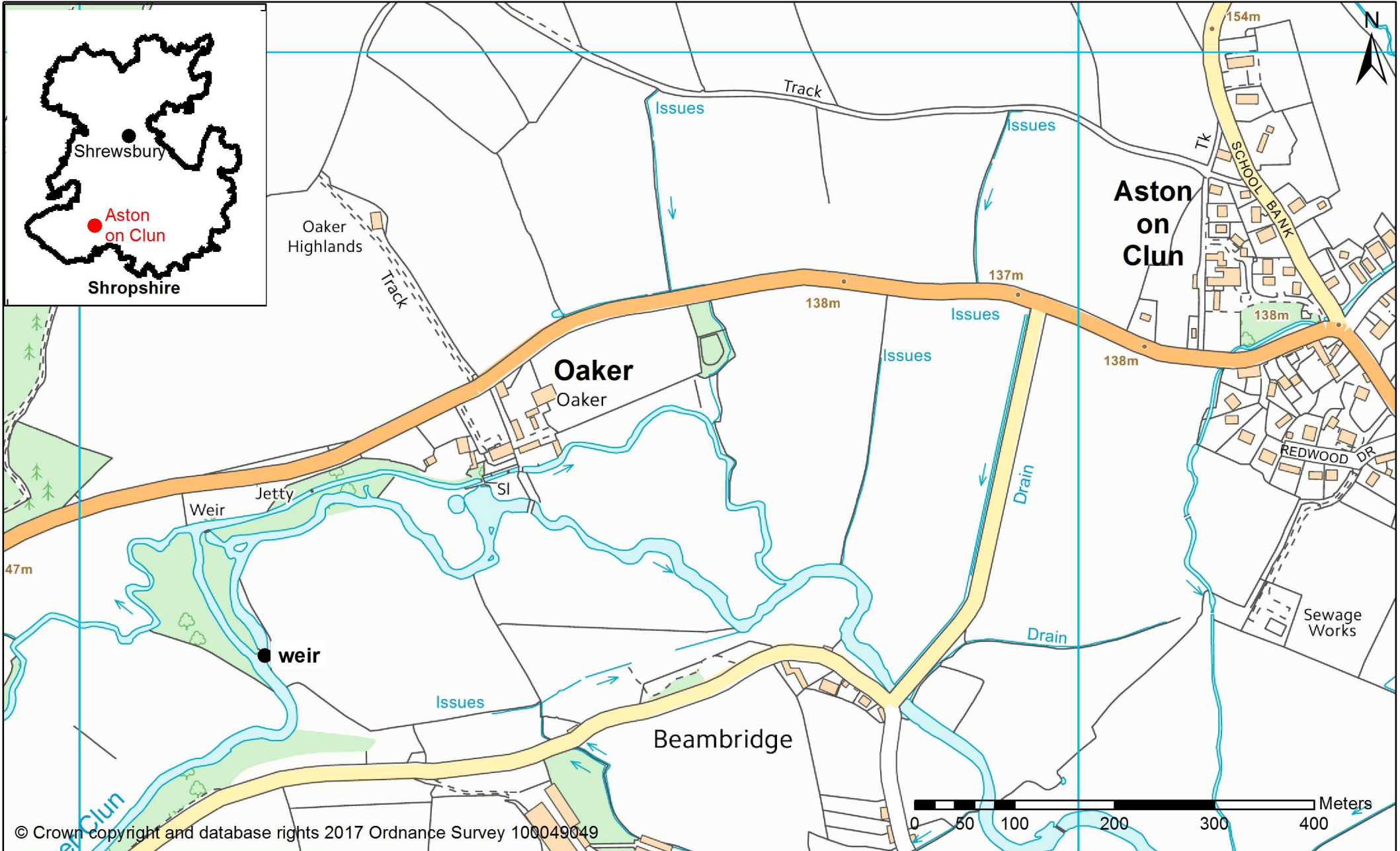
3 THE WATCHING BRIEF

3.1 The Level 1 photographic survey of the site was carried out in August 2017 before the works to the weir commenced.

3.2 The removal of the existing weir was carried out in September 2017 under archaeological supervision and the removal of the upper courses of the weir was monitored.

3.3 The weir was seen to be constructed of limestone blocks set in a hard lime mortar. A single row of stone flags lay along the upper length of the weir. These were retained for possible re-use by the landowner. No earlier structures or features were seen during the works.

3.4 No other significant archaeological features or deposits were recorded during the watching brief.



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Oaker Weir, Aston On Clun 2017

Figure 1: The location of the weir

Archaeology Service,
 Historic Environment Team, Shropshire Council,
 Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

Scale: 1:5,001



DSC07686



DSC07687



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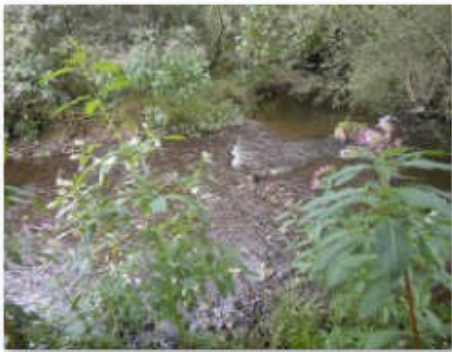
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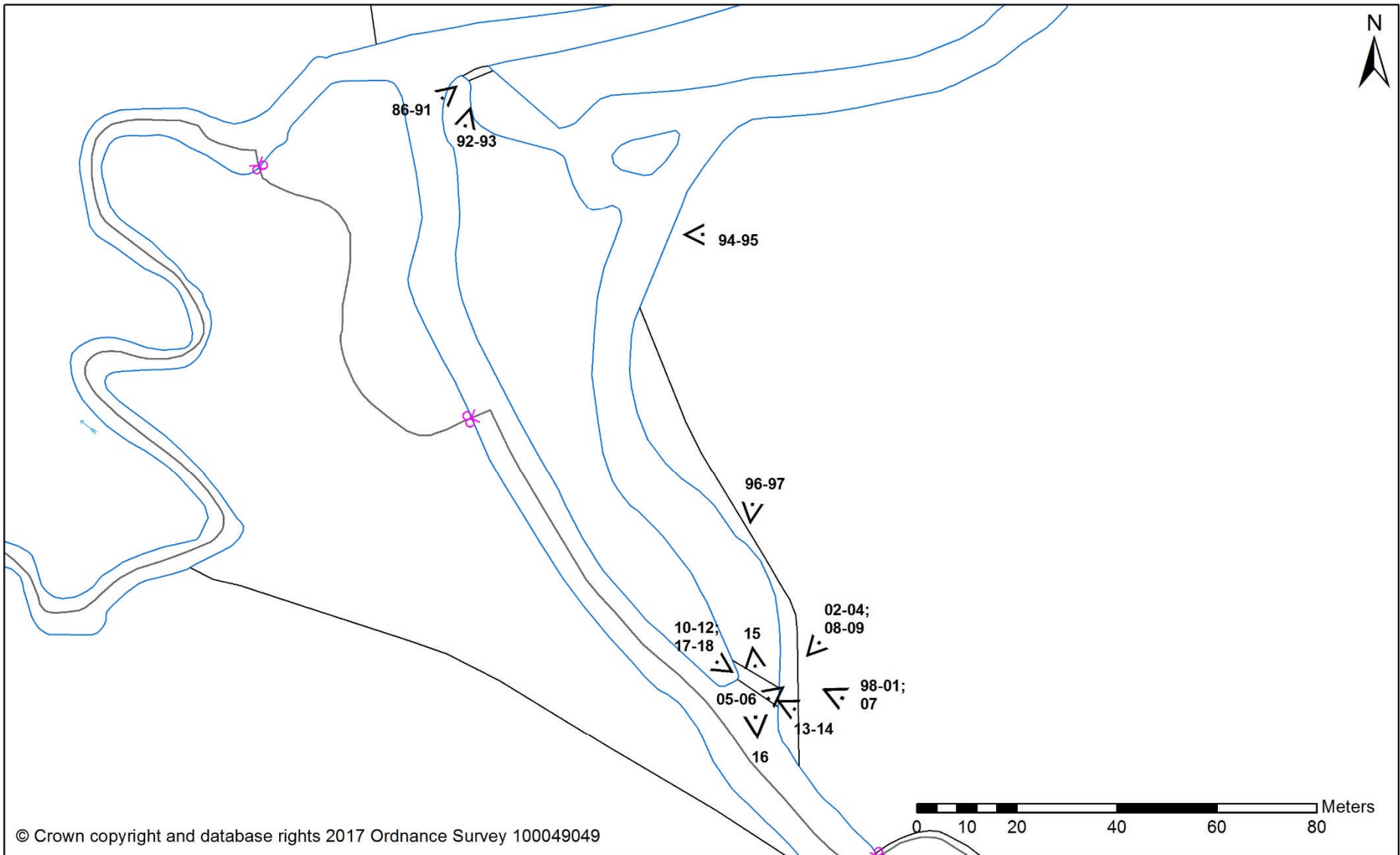
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OAKER WEIR, ASTON ON CLUN 2017

Site Code:	OW17	Name: Oaker Weirs, Aston on Clun 2017			
Date	Photo No	Area	Description	Looking	Scale(s)
23/08/2017	7684		River Kemp W of study area	SE	
	7685		" "	NE	
	7686	A	Weir A	NE	
	7687	"	"	NE	2m
	7688	"	"	NE	2m
	7689	"	"	NE	
	7690	"	Weir A - E abutment	NE	
	7691	"	Weir A	NE	
	7692	"	Weir A - E abutment	NE	
	7693	"	"	NE	
	7694		Ford / low weir	NW	
	7695		" "	NW	
	7696	B	Weir B, looking upstream	S	
	7697	"	" "	S	
	7698	"	Weir B	W	
	7699	"	"	W	
	7700	"	Weir B, NW abutment	W	
	7701	"	" "	W	
	7702	"	Weir B	SW	
	7703	"	"	SW	
	7704	"	"	SW	
	7705	"	Weir B, SE abutment	NE	
	7706	"	" "	NE	
	7707	"	Weir B	W	2m
	7708	"	"	SW	2m
	7709	"	"	SW	2m
	7710	"	Weir B, SE abutment	SE	2m
	7711	"	" "	SE	2m
	7712	"	" "	SE	
	7713	"	Weir B, NW abutment	S	
	7714	"	" "	S	
	7715	"	Looking N from Weir B	N	
	7716	"	Looking S from Weir B	S	
	7717		Weir B, SE abutment	SE	2m
	7718		" "	SE	2m



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OAKER WEIRS, ASTON ON CLUN 2017

Photographic survey 23/08/17: photo locations.
(Nos. refer to last two digits of photo nos.)

Archaeology Service,
Historic Environment Team, Shropshire Council,
Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

Scale: 1:1,000



Photo 1: The weir, immediately before the work, looking W



Photo 2: The weir reduction underway, looking SW



Photo 3: The completed work, looking NW