




27 HEREFORDSHIRE KINGTON & HERGEST RIDGE

■ Distance: 7 miles/11.4km ■ Time: 3 hours ■ Grade: Moderate 




HEREFORDSHIRE'S HAUNTED BORDERLANDS



CHOSEN BY...
SIMON WHALEY

Arthur Conan Doyle once stayed at Hergest Court, where Thomas Vaughan (nicknamed 'Black Vaughan') lived until his death at the Battle of Banbury in 1469. His headless

body was buried in Kington and it's said his restless spirit haunted the town for years afterwards, as did the ghostly apparitions of his huge black dog. Was this Conan Doyle's inspiration for *The Hound of the Baskervilles*? This route explores the tranquil Arrow

Valley, passing Hergest Court and the earthwork remains of Castle Twts before heading up the whaleback border hill of Hergest Ridge (of Mike Oldfield fame), with its fine views across Herefordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire, and the Black Mountains. 



Bradnor Hill seen from Hergest Ridge, between Points 4 and 1.



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OS Explorer map 201 Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

1 Start

From Mill Street car park, head to primary school, and turn L. Follow residential road. Take metal gates into recreation ground. Follow tarmac path (Herefordshire Trail). At corner, fork R to kissing gate. Follow through playing fields (to L of trees). Take kissing gate and follow L-hand field edge. Take kissing gate and path between houses (R) and pond (L). Take kissing gate to join road. Turn sharp L to Hergest Mill. Bear R around Mill, bearing R by stream. Take gate into field, then footbridge to next gate. Cross River Arrow and follow R edge, climbing to stile. Follow R-hand field edge. Take gate into field (crops), then into next field and bear diagonally L (signed). Climb briefly, then head to stile in hedge. Drop to Lane. Turn R. Follow to road junction.

2 1½ miles/2.8km

Turn R, follow lane, ignoring path and lane on L. Opposite timber-framed building (Hergest Court) on R, take stile in hedge on L. Cross stream and stile into field, taking grassy path climbing through bracken. At path fork, bear L around earthwork. Follow R to gate. Take kissing gate and turn L to road. Go ahead, through Lower Hergest. After last cottage, take signed gate into field. Head to diagonally opposite corner (livestock). Take gate into next field, and bear diagonally R. Near field corner, head between fences to reach gate. Turn L along L field edge. Take gate and go ahead on track. Drop to tarmac lane. Continue through Upper Hergest.

3 3¼ miles/5.4km

Take signed brideway on

R, through gate, climbing between trees. Take gate onto open hillside (open access land). Bear L towards waymarker posts. Climb wide grassy path (deviates from right of way on map), between gorse and stone outcrops, to trig point.

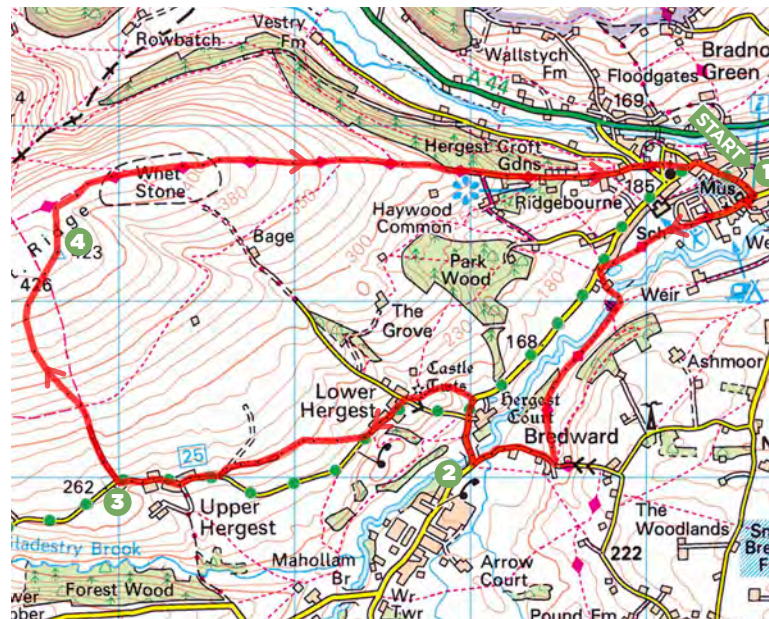
4 4¼ miles/6.9km

Continue ahead, passing to R of pond. Turn R and head towards monkey puzzle trees. Cross disused racecourse, pass monkey puzzle trees and follow Offa's Dyke Path as it drops gently. Cross racecourse route again and drop to gate. Join tarmac lane. Pass Hergest Croft Gardens (R), dropping to road junction. Cross straight over, climbing to church. Enter churchyard, pass to L of church, then drop to lychgate. Follow road into town, passing Royal Oak (R). Turn R into Mill Street (toilets) to car park. **CW**

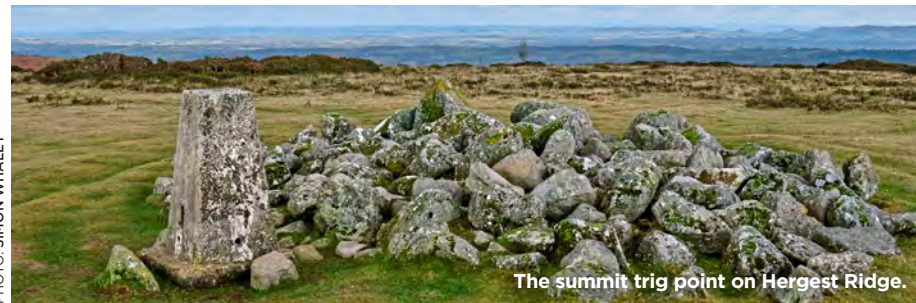


Hergest Court, between points 2 and 3.

PHOTO: SIMON WHALEY



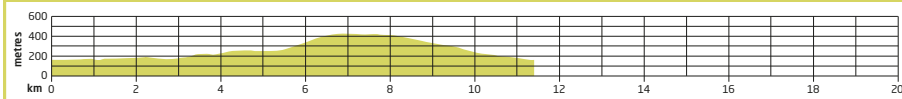
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The summit trig point on Hergest Ridge.

PHOTO: SIMON WHALEY

GRADIENT PROFILE



PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Mill Street car park (P&D Mon to Sat - free Sun), postcode HR5 3BH, grid ref SO295565
Is it for me? Paths, field edges and open hillside
Stiles 4

PLANNING

Nearest town Kington
Refreshments The Royal Oak (01544 231864); Hergest Croft Garden Tearooms open Wed, Sat, Sun 11.30am-4.45pm
Public toilets Mill Street (opposite Burton Hotel)
Public transport Bus service 461/462 Hereford to Llandrindod Wells (sargeantsbros.com/timetables)
Maps OS Explorer 201; Landranger 148

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:

walk100miles.co.uk/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



DATE WALKED
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

TIME TAKEN
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

YOUR RATING
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