

INVESTIGATION REPORT



Investigation Site	Swanbourne, St Swithin and Varsity Line
Investigation Date	27 th March 2009
Report By	Bill King
Team Members	Bill, Steph, Andy

Swanbourne, St Swithin

Background

Between the old manor house and the church of St Swithin a ghost dressed all in green can be seen. This is the ghost of Elizabeth Adams who continues to walk the route from her home to her husband's tomb in the churchyard. Elizabeth Adams was married to Thomas Adams and bore him four children. Their life seemed ideal until, on 17th October 1626, Thomas was robbed and murdered by thieves. Elizabeth never got over his death and each evening she would walk from the manor house where she lived to visit the tomb of her husband. She was devoted to her children and they kept her alive. As her children grew older she just seemed to fade away as if she had lost the will to live. Eventually she died and was buried alongside her husband. Shortly afterwards her ghost made its first appearance and can still be seen today. Locals say that she is still searching for those responsible for her husband's death.

General

For this investigation the sky was very clear with a slight breeze. It felt cold and there was no moon. There had been localised showers during the day but the area seemed to be dry. The area should have been a very quiet one with just a small amount of road noise coming from the north-northwest. Unfortunately the church is at the junction between two roads, one approaching the church from the south and the other (the B4032) passing the church to the south to join the former then turning north passed the church. These roads were quite busy with a car every few minutes and at times several cars going by every minute and, as it was a junction, they would slow then accelerate away causing more noise.

Pre-Vigil

20:52 When walking around the back of the church, Stephanie feels an intense tingling all over as she walks between the two Celtic cross tombstones beneath the east window.

Vigil 1 – 21:25 to 22:00

For a plan of the site and the vigil locations see the end of this section.

Bill set up a video recorder to record from the southwest corner of the churchyard across the Winslow Road in the area in which the ghost appears.

21:24 While Steph is setting up her equipment she picks up the name *Miriam*.

21:25 Steph measures the temperature as 2°C.

21:29 Bill measures the temperature at -1.5°C on the ground and +2°C on the nearby church walls.

21:35 Steph was filming her surroundings, holding the camcorder in her hands. As she finishes filming she lowers her right arm which is holding the camera and is unable to do so. It feels as if something is either holding her arm up or preventing her lowering it. After 3 attempts she is able to lower her arm on to her lap. She runs through the action again to see if her coat could

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have been caught on anything. If her arm was close to her chest it became caught on the walkie-talkie aerial in her top coat pocket. She did not think it could be this because as she pulled her arm down with her coat caught on the aerial, the walkie-talkie presses hard in to her ribs which she is sure could not have gone unnoticed during the original experience. Also she notes her arm was not pressed up against her chest, which was required for her coat to catch the walkie-talkie aerial

21:42 Steph hears what sounds like two taps on the church window to her left.

21:42 Temperature measured by Bill at 0 to -1°C on the ground and +2 to +5°C on the walls.

21:51 Bill measures the temperature at -1°C on the ground and +4°C on the walls. Ambient measured with barometer/thermometer +5°C.

21:52 Bill hears a sound like ticking coming from high up in the tower,

21:55 A rustling sound like that made by clothes is heard by Bill coming from just in front of the tower to the west.

Bill notes that during this vigil traffic noise was excessive so that it was very difficult to hear anything apart from the cars.

21:57 Bill hears a noise like pebbles hitting metal (several clicks) coming from the direction of the Mursley Road sign on the opposite side of the road (near the war memorial)

21:58 Temperature measured by Bill at -0.5°C on the ground and +5°C on the walls, +4°C with barometer/thermometer.

For this vigil Andy reports that he saw nothing and only heard birds and an animal making a whining noise. He reports that there was nothing on the video recording he did, however his sound recorder, which was placed on a metal cage located on the church wall, recorded the sound of stone hitting metal loudly on two separate occasions. At the time he was sat near to the recorder and heard nothing. Later in the recording can be heard the sound of stone on stone and animal noises.

Vigil 2 – 22:06 to 22:40

At the start of the vigil Bill set up a video camera to record across the west end of the tower from amongst the graves to the northwest.

22:06 Steph measures the temperature as 1°C.

22:13 Bill measures the temperature at -3°C on the ground and -1°C on the nearby graves.

22:15 Temperature measured by Bill at +8°C with barometer/thermometer.

Steph can hear something moving on the opposite side of the road. It appears to be coming from the grounds of the school house. She notes it sounds like crunching gravel and rustling. This is heard intermittently for roughly 15 minutes before going silent.

22:16 Bill hears the sound like someone walking through leaves coming from the northeast.

Due to the weather conditions and the place where Bill sat caution is required with respect to any sounds as the slight breeze was causing the leaves on the nearby cotoneaster to rustle.

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Remote Sensing

Marion had been unable to attend the investigation but had said she would 'tune in' from home. As she concentrated on the aerial photo of the church she reported the following:

I sensed someone walking north on the right side of the church between the two rows of gravestones and got *daughter* and *died in childbirth*. I wanted to stop and sit by the trees just above and east of the church. There was a little girl sitting there. She had dark shoulder length hair and was wearing a white cottony dress with a white patterned stripe and pink sash. The dress was about calf length and she had white ankle socks and white shoes. Got the name *Mary*. She's looking down holding her hands in her lap and I can sense teardrops. I kneel by her and take her hands which are cold and ask why she's crying. She says she's lost her mummy. I say I'm sure someone can help you find her, shall I ask someone?

I see an elderly woman dressed in an ankle length black dress, black shawl and black lace cap walk towards her from the right and stand by her side I also see my Guide standing behind her. The picture then disappeared.

I also picked the name *Jennings* or *Jenkins...sadness* and *upholsterer...Sandy ...stevedore* (which seems a funny thing to pick up as the church is nowhere near the docks)...*greengrocer...speculate to accumulate*.

Swanbourne, Varsity Line

For the second investigation of the night we parked on the entrance to the Midshires and Swan's Way footpath just to the northeast of the intersection of Station Road and Mursley Road to the north of the village of Swanbourne.

General

This area is very quiet with very little traffic on the nearby roads during the time we were there. The sky was still clear and the air cold with a very slight breeze.

Investigation

From the area where we had parked we walked down onto the old trackbed and followed it northeast for about one kilometre before returning to explore the area of the bridge over the railway on the Mursley Road. For a plan of the site and the route we walked see the drawing at the end of this section.

During the return journey Andy and Steph reported hearing a strange sound but Bill did not hear anything.

Steph's report for that incidence is as follows:

As Steph was walking back towards the bridge with members Bill and Andy, she hears a noise which she described as a moderate high pitched rush of air which lasted no more than 2 seconds. At this time Bill stops and Steph thinks he has heard the same thing but he has stopped for another reason, although Andy then reports hearing something similar.

Andy's report for that incidence is as follows:

At 23:49 as the team were walking towards the railway bridge I clearly heard the sound of rushing wind coming from behind our location and moving nearer. This did last for several seconds and I

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thought everyone had heard this as Bill had stopped walking. I would describe this as something moving quickly through the air. I would state that this sound did not appear to be coming from high up in the air either but nearer to ground level and I felt within the embankment area itself. The nearest sound I can think of to the sound I heard would be the sound of carriages moving along a track and the air that is dispersed as they pass through it.

Looking at this from a critical viewpoint it is easy for the mind to relate this to a railway sound as this is where I was stood. However I do not remember feeling any wind just hearing the sound and I am unable to offer any other explanation at this time.

Andy recorded some video during this investigation but there was nothing of note on it.

Remote Sensing

Once more Marion concentrated on the site and got the following:

Had the image of a stockily built man standing on the track looking along the track into the distance. His legs and arms were wide apart but his forearms and hands were out in front and his fingers were half clenched as if in anger and he was bellowing after someone.

