

INVESTIGATION REPORT



Investigation Site	Dinton Castle
Investigation Date	12 th February 2010
Report By	Bill King
Team Members	Bill, Steph, Marion, Elaine, Andy, Billie

Background

Dinton Castle is not quite what it seems. It looks like the ruin of a mediaeval castle but it was actually built in 1769 by Sir John van Hatten to house his fossil collection. The site is now haunted by the ghost of Simon Mayne even though the folly was not built until nearly a century after he died. Simon was the secretary to Oliver Cromwell and signed Charles I's death warrant in 1649. At the Restoration he was stripped of his wealth by Charles II. It seems he died a broken man whilst imprisoned in 1661 and his ghost now seeks shelter within the crumbling folly.

Pre-Investigation

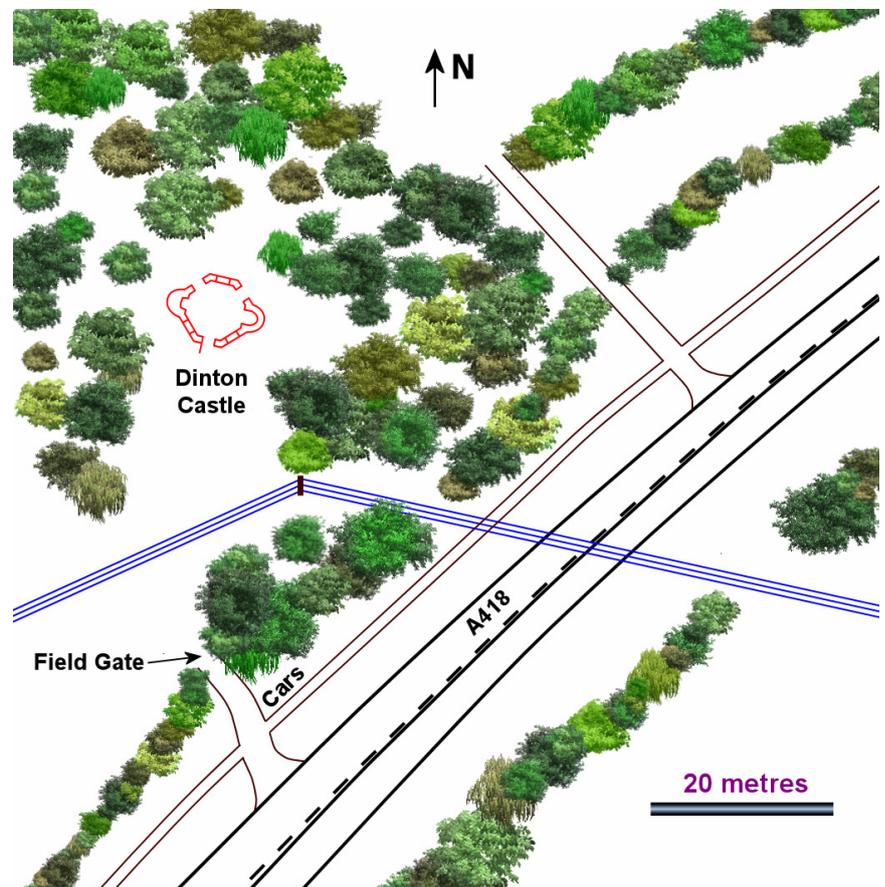
At 20:15 on Wednesday 10th February Marion decides to do half an hour of meditation concentrating on the aerial photo of the folly and picks up the following:

An image of a girl and a young man walking through the trees and bushes towards the folly. The girl is in front holding out her right arm behind her and hanging on to the right hand of the man pulling him along. She is slim with long auburn hair, tied back at the neck and falling into curls down her back. She is wearing a long white fine cotton dress fitted to the waist. It has long sleeves with a small "puff" at the shoulders (Edwardian). The dress has a wide stripe which is made up of tiny yellow flowers.

The man has dark hair and is a soldier. He wears the red jacket of a soldier and a fatigue or forage cap. They sit on a stone seat inside the folly looking at each other. He takes her right hand in his left and she looks shy.

Marion also gets the names *Annette* and *Marmy* and wonders if this is a pet name for Marmaduke. Marion's timer goes off and she loses the picture.

Bill and Steph reached the site at 20:25 and the first thing Bill did was to take his new data logger (an instrument that automatically records temperature and humidity) and placed it on a nearby fence to allow it to cool down. Recently such a device was used by Richard at Warden Abbey and it was found that it needed over 30 minutes to stabilise to the



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surrounding temperature before it would record the true ambient temperature. This can be seen in the data logger plot at the end of this report.

General

The night was a cold one with a fresh and very cold breeze coming from the east-northeast. During the investigation the sky became clear for a period but then the clouds returned and there were periods of light rain. The site was quite noisy due to traffic on the nearby A418 (only 50 metres away). The biggest consequence of the traffic was that large parts of the outside of the structure kept getting illuminated by the cars headlights otherwise this was a dark site.

Equipment List

Bill	Digital Camera: Fujifilm A150 Data Logger: CEM DT-172 Digital Infrared Thermometer: CHY 110 EMF Detector: Hutech Notepad & pen
Steph	Gauss Meter Digital Infrared Thermometer: Tecpel DIT-512 Digital Camera: Olympus μ Digital 600 Notepad & pen
Andy	Sony DVD Camcorder: DCR-DVD 306E Digital Voice Recorder: Olympus VN-480PC Digital Camera: Panasonic Lumix DMC-FS15 EMF meter: K-II Digital Infrared Thermometer: IR-102
Elaine	Digital Camera: Kodak C913 Digital Voice Recorder: Olympus VN-2100PC
Marion	Digital Camera: Samsung L313 Digital Voice Recorder: Olympus VN-2100PC

Pre-Vigil

Before starting the vigils the team had a walk around the site taking photographs and having a general look around.

21:05 Bill was taking pictures of the south side of the building when he noticed a bright red dot in the upper corner of the screen of his camera (at the time the camera was being held as if taking a portrait). This dot would have been in the area of the upper south window of the east tower. The rest of the screen appeared black as there was no light to illuminate the folly. Enquiring from the other team members revealed that no one had a laser on at the time (Bill's, Andy's and Steph's torches have built-in laser pointers but they were all off).

Elaine stood looking at the folly after Marion had taken some pictures and saw a man standing to the right; it was not a member of the team.

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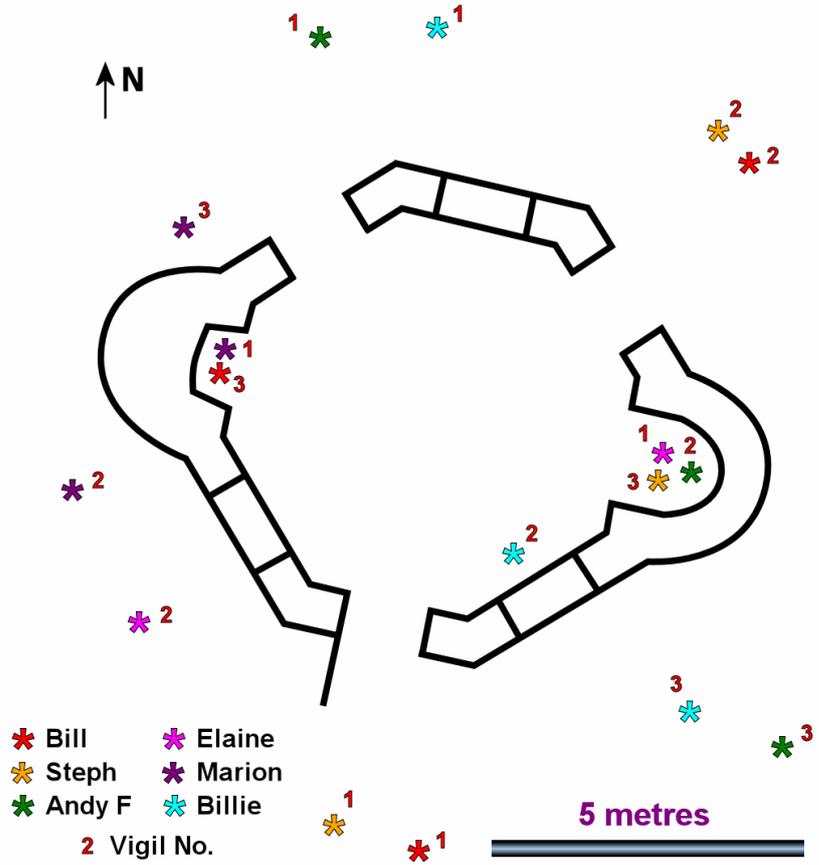


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Vigil 1: 21:15 to 21:50

For this vigil Bill and Steph sat to the south of what appears to have been the entrance in the southwest corner. Andy and Billie sat to the north and Marion and Elaine were inside the structure. For the positions of the team members see the plan on the right.

- 21:20 Steph records the temperature as 0°C.
- 21:21 Bill measures the temperature at -0.5°C.
- 21:23 Elaine saw someone popping their head round to see what we were doing; this was to the left of Marion.
- 21:25 Steph is repeatedly getting the words *Jolly Holiday* in her head although she notes there is no jolly feeling to the words. They come across as grim.



Marion gets the words *a folly for a lover* and the name *Tom*.

- 21:28 Steph has the feeling of being abandoned.
Elaine gets the impression of a sea captain wearing a dark-blue uniform.
- 21:29 Marion gets a feeling of contentment and feels that a woman was very happy there and used to come and sketch in the peace and quiet.
- 21:30 Steph gets an impression of a man in his forties. He is a country man, a hunter, wearing a flat cap and has a long rifle resting on his shoulder. The man walked to the ruin often, he stops and gazes up at it. His left leg is perched on a grassy mound causing his knee to bend and he rests his left hand on his thigh. He is troubled by a secret.
Elaine picks up the names *Albert* and *Arthur*.
Marion asks if there is any spirit here and sees a dot of red light on the wall to her left.
- 21:31 Bill sees a flash of light on the bushes behind him and to his right (to the southeast). At the time there were no cars on the road and it did not appear to have originated from any of the other teams.
- 21:35 Marion gets the name *Jason*.
Elaine can hear whispering.

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21:36 Bill measures the temperature at -2.5°C.

Marion gets the names *Marguerite* and *Deirdre*.

Elaine sees a red light to her right this was the second time this had happened.

21:37 Billie hears the sound of movement behind her and Andy, to their right. This is likely to have been the wind rustling the leaves.

21:40 Andy is at the north of the location and sat facing the building. He feels drawn to the area on the right-hand area nearest the building.

Elaine sees a woman dressed in a maid's uniform standing to the left of Marion.

21:41 Both Bill and Steph hear a click from behind them (towards the road). To Steph it sounded like a clink. She looks over her right shoulder in the direction of the cars and sees what looks like a figure standing by the fence. She can see this against the dull glow of Billie's silver car.

Billie hears the sound of running water. To her knowledge there was no running water nearby. (*Editor's Note: Dinton Castle is at the top of a hill and there is no free water indicated on the maps*).

21:42 Billie hears the sound of bells like tingsha bells. This lasted for at least two minutes. (*Editor's Note: These are small cymbals used by Buddhists during prayer*).

21:45 Bill measures the temperature at -2.5°C.

Marion gets the words *distinction* and *Doris*.

21:46 A car passes by sounding its horn several times (probably because of our three cars parked on the grass verge).

21:47 Bill sees a bright dot of red light on the north wall of the building high up. This was seen through the window over the entrance.

Marion can hear music and the sound of people enjoying themselves.

21:48 Elaine could smell pipe smoke.

Vigil 2: 21:58 to 22:30

For this vigil Bill and Steph sat to the east of the building whilst Elaine and Marion sat to the west. Andy and Billie were inside the structure. For the positions of the team members see the plan on the previous page.

22:01 Bill measures the temperature at -1°C.

Elaine could hear horses' hooves.

22:03 Billie could hear the tingsha bells again.

22:05 Marion gets the names *Marshall* and *Talbot* and the word *kin*.

Elaine felt uneasy, like something was going to happen.

22:10 The Folly was lit up by flashing blue lights from down the road.

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22:14 Bill went to investigate the blue light that was illuminating the folly and found it was a police car in the road about one hundred metres to the southwest.

22:16 Bill was standing by the field gate (and footpath access point) to the south of the structure making sure the police were not interested in the teams cars. He turned around to look at the castle and saw a figure disappearing behind the east tower. It turned out this was just Steph who had gone to see what was happening.

Marion gets the song 'pack up your troubles in your old kit bag' and wonders if this song is related to the soldier she saw earlier although Marion has no idea how old the song is. *(Editor's Note: The song 'Pack up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit-Bag, and Smile, Smile, Smile' is a World War I marching song, published in 1915 in London. It was written by George Asaf, the pseudonym of George Henry Powell, and was set to music by his brother Felix).*

22:20 Marion gets *steadfast men and true*.

22:23 A short time after Bill had gone to investigate the flashing lights. Steph hears the sound of someone walking through the trees to her left. She thinks this is Bill coming back but he does not appear. Steph reported that she heard the sound of someone urinating and thought it was Bill having a much needed break. *(Note from Bill – It definitely wasn't me).*

22:25 The blue flashing light is turned off and the police car is moved to the west side of the road to Dinton.

Steph hears movement to her left again but this time it is much closer but she could still see nothing.

22:27 Marion sees a grey shadow about a metre tall go from right to left in front of the clump of trees to the left, back of the folly. It has turned bitter cold and she thinks the cold is getting to her as she can see the face of 'The Cheshire Cat' in the branches of the tree.

22:30 Bill returns to the castle and calls an end to the vigil.

Billie does not sense any spirit energy in the area and noted that it felt quite peaceful and warm energy generally inside the folly; although the temperature was very cold.

Post-Vigil

When the vigil is over, Steph asks Bill if he walked around in the trees where she heard the movement. He replied that he walked over to the gate and back again at the end of the vigil and did not walk anywhere near the trees to the left of where Steph was sitting.

The team convene to the east of the castle and decide what to do next. As it was so cold we decided to go back to the cars for a warm up before continuing.

22:35 The police car leaves and Bill measures the temperature at -1.5°C just to the east of the east tower of the building.

During the break Marion sees a dark-mauve light shining like torch light across the field with the gate (to the west of the folly). It's about three-quarters of the way up the field and suddenly disappears.

23:00 Just as we were getting ready to go back to do another vigil a police car turns up. The two female officers were checking to make sure we were not stealing the scaffolding poles that had been left around the building after its recent renovation. Bill explained why we were there and

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one of the officers expressed an interest in the actual haunting so Bill took her off to one side to explain so that the other team members could not hear. The officers then wished us good luck with our investigation and left.

Vigil 3: 23:24 to 00:00

For this vigil Bill sat in the fireplace inside the castle whilst Steph sat in the east tower. Andy and Billie sat to the west of the tower and Marion to the north (Elaine chose to remain in her car as she was being affected very badly by the cold). For the positions of the team members see the plan on page 3 of this report.

23:28 Bill measures the temperature at -2.5°C .

Steph records the temperature as -3°C and feels very cold.

23:30 Steph can hear what she thinks is rain and asks Bill if it is raining; and he replies that it is. This lasts for a few minutes.

23:33 Three separate white petals landed about two metres in front of Billie slightly to her left. The trees were bare. It could have been snow although there was no white 'snow' falling anywhere else. It was raining/sleeting though. Again no spiritual energies were picked up.

23:37 Steph keeps getting the name *Sir John* in her head. (*Editor's Note - The builder of Dinton Castle was Sir John Van Hatten*).

23:40 Marion gets the name *Marcus* and can hear what she hopes is an animal scraping around.

23:42 Bill sees a light patch go across the stones to the left of the 'entrance' on the east side of the castle. It was moving from right to left and did not appear to have been due to any of the investigation teams.

23:43 Bill measures the temperature at -2.5°C . There are still a few spots of rain which has been off and on for the last ten minutes. Now it becomes more persistent.

23:52 Marion sees a streak of light on the ground in front of her; it's not a bright light but looks like it has been dimmed.

23:55 Bill measures the temperature at -2°C .

23:58 Bill sees a small scintillating blue light on the 'pillar' to the left of the east 'entrance' and about 0.75 metres off the ground. Again this did not seem to be caused by any other team member. The nearest to the pillar was Marion but her torch uses an incandescent bulb so the light is yellow.

Post-Vigil

By the end of the vigil Steph was saying it was too cold to carry on, Elaine had retired earlier and Bill's knees were becoming very painful due to the cold. As the next site to be investigated was even more open to the weather than Dinton Castle, Bill decided to call an end to the investigation.

Marion is behind the cars by the field gate and sees the dark grey shadow of what can only be a sheep dog. It's low on the ground and moving slowly as if it is controlling sheep. It has come up from the road over the grass verge and moving towards the gate.

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Post-Investigation

There was no paranormal activity on Andy's video recording or photographs and the wind combined with traffic noise from the road made sound recordings inaudible.

Billie felt that the investigation was quite disappointing in terms of picking up on any energies. However, the location itself was very nice and the folly provided a nice atmosphere. Perhaps the low temperature and the physiological effects made it too closed to pick up on anything!

The data logger results are given in the graph shown below. As can be seen the temperature and humidity remained fairly constant during the investigation apart from a jump in the humidity when it started to rain. The temperature was around +1 to +1.5°C which is higher than recorded by the team members during the vigils. It is possible this was because the data logger was placed on the east end of the ledge of what was a south facing window. This meant that the data logger was shielded from the east wind.

Dinton Castle Environment Data

