

INVESTIGATION REPORT	
Investigation Site	Bull's Green and Thundridge, Old Church
Investigation Date	12 <sup>th</sup> March 2010
Report By	Bill King
Team Members	Bill, Steph, Andy F, Elaine, Billie

### Equipment List

Bill      Digital Infrared Thermometer: CHY 110  
             Digital SLR Camera: Pentax K2000  
             EMF Detector: Hutech  
             Notepad & pen, torch and watch  
  
 Steph     Digital Camera: Pentax K-m  
             Notepad & pen, torch and watch  
  
 Andy      Digital Camcorder: Sony DCR-DVD 306E  
             Digital Voice Recorder: Olympus VN-480PC  
             Digital Camera: Panasonic Lumix DMC-FS15  
             EMF meter: K-II  
  
 Billie     Notepad & pen, torch and watch

### Bull's Green, Bramfield Road

### Background

Along the Bramfield Road near Bull's Green there are said to be two hauntings.

In the 1980s a driver travelling along the Bramfield Road was surprised when a woman wearing white, Victorian clothes stepped out in front of his car. The driver, Mr Archer, braked but could not avoid hitting her. He stopped his car a little way down the road and when he turned round he saw a man step out from the woods at the side of the road, pick the woman up then step back into the woods. Mr Archer returned to the scene of the accident but there was no trace of the man or the woman and no accident was every reported.

Beside the Datchworth to Bramfield road can be found a post bearing the title 'Clibbon's Post' and the date 28.12.1782. The post marks the resting place of a notorious criminal Walter Clibbon who terrorised that part of Hertfordshire.

Walter Clibbon and his three sons sold pies and cakes at Hertford market and country fairs but that was not their sole source of income. In the guise of pie men they would listen in on conversations and find out which people had made money that day. Then they would change into the guise of highwaymen and lie in wait for the unsuspecting victims who they would attack and rob as they made their way home. Even Mrs. Clibbon was not adverse to donning a disguise and joining her family on their outings. As a good measure they would usually savagely beat up their victims as well.

On December 28th 1782 they waylaid a young Datchworth man named William Whittenbury as he came through the woods at Oakenvally Bottom. Whittenbury knew the reputation of the robbers so he allowed himself to be robbed then immediately went to nearby Queen Hoo Hall where his uncle Benjamin Whittenbury lived. Together with Benjamin's servant, Shock North and a gun they returned to the wood where the Clibbons were awaiting there next victim. A gun battle then ensued which saw the Whittenbury's getting the worst of it and in dire peril for their lives. Benjamin was knocked down

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and fearing for his life he called to his servant to fire. Shock fired and hit the father Walter Clibbon. One of the sons escaped but the other was captured. It is here that the versions of the story differ. Of the two accounts one has Walter being killed by the bullet but in the other he survived though he probably wished he hadn't. In the latter version of the tale he was tied to a horse and dragged to Bull's Green where he was clubbed to death by the angry locals. In both tales he was then taken to the Horns public house and his body left overnight in an outhouse while the locals celebrated. In the version of the story in which Clibbon was shot dead the locals tied his body to a horse the next day and dragged it through the village. In a contemporary report it says that 'they dragged it up and down the Green and through the furze to their heart's content, and when satisfied, they took it back to the Horns' outhouse'. The captured son was tried at the Assizes and later hanged for his part in the crimes.

The locals would not have Clibbon buried in consecrated ground so they decided to bury him where he met his end. To ensure he did not return they drove a stout wooden post through his heart. On the post was the inscription:

**Here continues to rot the body of Walter Clibbon, who with his sons robbed and ill-treated many persons in this neighbourhood. Please do not deface this.**

The post was supposed to stop Clibbon's ghost from walking but evening travellers in the area have seen the shadowy shape of a horse pulling a writhing black body. Other people have heard the sounds of the horses' hooves and the groans of the pie man.

## General

The night was a damp one with lots of very fine rain. There was a brisk, cold wind blowing across the road from the fields to the east. The area was a very dark one as there is only one street light at the top of the road. There was a moderate amount of traffic with a car about once every five minutes.

## Bill's Report

Whilst walking northwest up the hill from the road where we had parked the cars (in Tewin Hill just south of the Bramfield Road) I measured the temperature at between +1.5 and +2.5°C. On the return journey, down into the valley the temperature was +0.5 to +1.5°C.

We walked up to Clibbon's Post on the west side of the road and remained there for a few minutes then continued northwest along the Bramfield Road. During this time the team became strung out along the road with me falling behind. As I walked up the road towards Steph (Billie, Elaine and Andy were well ahead of us) I saw a misty figure cross the road from the east. At the time I was a few metres behind Steph and the figure seemed to be about five metres beyond her. I was standing just to the right of the centre of the road and Steph was just to the left of the centre. When I first saw the figure it was just to the right of the centre of the road and when it disappeared it was three-quarters of the way across the road and approaching the grass verge. As I watched the figure it passed behind Steph and that was the last I saw of it. If the figure was about five metres beyond Steph then I estimate the height at being around two metres. The figure was generally oval in shape and was like fog (pale and misty). Investigating the area it seems that the figure was seen just a few metres south of the cold tree that I found during a previous investigation (29<sup>th</sup> October 2004, when the temperature around the tree was up to 12°C lower than the surrounding area). See the plan of the area on the next page.

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## Steph's Report

21:02 I was walking northwest along the Bramfield Road taking pictures at various places. Andy, Elaine and Billie were further up the road and Bill was a short distance behind me. I had turned back on myself and taken a picture back in the direction of Clibbon's Post. I then turned around to take a picture of the road in the direction I was headed, northwest, along Bramfield Road.

As I turned I saw a white figure 'float' diagonally down the road from the middle of the road to the edge of the road on my left. It disappeared when it reached the grassy bank at the side of the road.

Later when walking back down the road towards Clibbon's Post, I heard a noise like something heavy briefly scraping along the road

## Billie's Report

Whilst standing by Clibbon's post I got the image of a highwayman when the group photographs were taken.

20:53 Whilst walking up the road past Clibbon's Post I felt a weird sensation in my vision. It felt like I was seeing out of one eye as opposed to two. I did not sense pain so perhaps an old injury or disability. I felt that the sensation belonged to an 'old man', but who was younger than he actually felt or appeared physically, perhaps in his 40's or 50's. He had a white shirt and black waistcoat on. I felt that the energy of this man was 'disturbed'. I kept getting the name Jack with this man. The sensation lasted about 10 minutes.



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21:01 I stood slightly ahead of Andy and Elaine on the grass verge by the road and from the open clearing to the right of the road I heard chains clanging. I also got an image of a grey speckled horse's face which had black leather on it.

21:18 During the short silent vigil, I stood slightly lower down on the verge to the tree which Bill and Steph made significant reference to, where Andy stood. During the silent vigil I again got the image of the grey speckled horse. Once more I was drawn to the open field as opposed to the road.

## Andy's Report

During this part of the investigation my torch and sound recorder failed due to batteries dying. This was not paranormal as I was not using rechargeable batteries on the investigation at this time and maybe I should have.

Sound recorder used but picked up no sounds apart from traffic. Photographs showed only rain orbs.

I picked up nothing of note at this location.

## Elaine's Report

21:01 When I was walking up the lane just before the vigils I saw a man standing by the tree on my left-hand side.

21:20 We spread out on the grass verge, I stood furthest away and was facing down the road towards the cars and saw two red flashes of light on the road.

## Thundridge Old Church

### Background

In November 1978 a local newspaper received a letter from a woman telling them of an experience she had had near the old church at Thundridge when she was young. She had been for a walk along the River Rib and was approaching the ruined church when she became aware of fires burning in the church and the sounds of shouting. The next second a troop of soldiers appeared rushing straight towards her. Unable to move she stood frozen to the spot as the troops passed around her without saying anything, then they simply melted away.

### General

During this part of the investigation there were occasional spots of rain. The sky did clear for a while then became overcast again. Generally the temperature around the site was between +0.5 and +1.5°C.

### Steph's Report

During the time at Thundridge Old Church, I felt it was very peaceful and calm. I did not see, hear or feel anything else

### Billie's Report

We arrived at the old church and the energy of the area felt very welcoming and warm. It felt that there would be some very interesting results come up. However, upon arriving many torches were seen on

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the path behind and it was determined that it was a large and loud group of youths. They went straight past us continuing on the path past the site. Following this, another large group of youths headed up the path and came to congregate at the church. The youths were very vocal and animated.

I closed down my aura and chakras (which I use to receive energy) as I did not want to absorb the energy of the youths. The youths stayed for some time. Once they had left, the LPS team seemed apprehensive and it was decided that we would not do the usual vigils. Youths were frequently seen and heard on the nearby path throughout. Members took photos and we left the site at 23:50. I did not pick anything up at this site as I remained closed down due to the youths and the level of apprehension that existed within the team.

## Andy's Report

Unfortunately the investigation was once again hampered by visitors to the location making it difficult to actually settle down and prepare both physically and mentally to investigate properly without the fear of interruption. My DVD camera was used but nothing of note was recorded on this or on any photographs taken.

## Elaine's Report

While we were standing next to the church at the end of the night I looked to my right where the graves are and it looked misty.

