

INVESTIGATION REPORT – Team 1



Investigation Site	Broxbourne Wood
Investigation Date	13 th August 2010
Report By	Bill King
Team Members	Andy F, Bill, Dee, Sarah

Background

'The Witch of Broxbon Wood' or 'The Devil of Broxbon' was an article written after the visit of a man to his uncle in Broxbourne on 1762. When the author visited the village he was surprised to find the village gripped by terror because of the goings-on in Broxbon Wood. It seems that a spirit had appeared in the wood in the form of a woman dressed in white robes and at times glittering all over as if she was covered in stars. She appeared to glide slowly over the ground between the closely spaced trees but if you approached (something that few would do) she would move off faster and slowly vanish. The locals gave her the name of 'The White Devil of Broxbon Wood'.

Some locals believed that it wasn't actually a ghost but instead was a local girl who had run away so as to avoid an unwanted marriage.

General

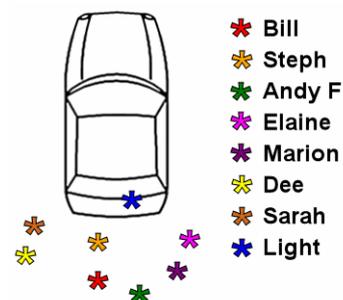
The night was a very damp one with intermittent and occasionally persistent and heavy rain. There was very little breeze in the woods. The area would normally have been a relatively quiet one but for the constant sound of raindrops or drips from the trees.

Pre-Investigation

19:55 Shortly after Andy, Marion and Elaine had arrived at the meeting point Marion and Elaine wandered off to the west and Andy went to the sign giving information about the woods just north of the car park entrance. Marion and Elaine were not in sight when Andy began walking back to Elaine's car. Andy was overcome by an intense feeling of faintness and light-headedness. Andy managed to get to Elaine's car where he had to lean on the bonnet for support as he felt that he was going to pass out. Marion and Elaine returned a few moments later and Andy, who by then was feeling better, informed them of what had just happened to him. The feeling Andy experienced lasted about two minutes but he did not experience this again during any part of the investigation.

On entering the wood Sarah immediately felt it wasn't as menacing as she had felt at Chicksands Wood previously or Blackgrove Wood before that.

20:16 As the team were standing in the car park, just before the investigation started, Bill saw a bright patch of light appear in the rear windscreen of his car. The door was open (a hatchback) so the window was well above the car at the time. The patch was about 30 centimetres by 20 centimetres, white and quite bright. At the time the team were positioned as shown on the plan on the right. None of the team members were wearing light colours, no one used a torch, only Andy moved and there is nothing beyond the car park (in front of the car) except Ettridge Farm and no lights were visible there through the trees.



INVESTIGATION REPORT – Team 1



Investigation Site Broxbourne Wood

Investigation Date 13th August 2010

As the team were standing near the display board, which lies just north of the car park, Bill tries to take a photograph but his batteries are flat. This was odd as the batteries were only charged that evening and he had taken very few photographs. This sort of thing does not usually happen to Bill.

As there was a distinct possibility of rain it was decided to conduct the investigation as a series of walks instead of vigils at fixed locations. This would also enable the teams to cover as much of the wood as possible.

Walk: The Outer Trail of Broxbourne Wood

Starting at the display board just north of the car park, the group split into two teams with the intention of walking along the path that goes completely around the wood just inside the boundary (the purple trail). Team 1 chose to do the walk clockwise and Team 2 set off anticlockwise. The routes walked are shown on the plan at the end of this document.

Dee's initial feelings were positive, as she enjoys being in the woods. She could sense nothing unusual initially and did not feel uncomfortable or nervous at all. The rain became heavier as the team made their way along the purple trail. The team discovered the remains of a lean-to constructed from logs. Dee attempted to go inside, but her coat got caught and she couldn't crouch low enough!

20:33 The teams start the walk.

20:38 Sarah had to turn her Handycam off as it began to rain heavier.

20:42 Dee thought she could see a flash of light far back in the trees a few yards past the strange wooden sculptures (of a warrior and two cow-heads!). The light seemed almost like torchlight, but none of the team had been facing that way at the time and the other team had gone off in the opposite direction from the car park (still on the purple trail). The logical explanation was that the light was somehow caused by car headlights from the road some distance beyond the tree line.

20:59 Just after crossing the brook in the northwest corner of the wood Bill's EMF meter beeped for no discernible reason. Walking backwards and forwards over the same area had no effect and none of his equipment would trigger it. The spot is shown by the *1 on the plan at the end of this document.

21:01 Bill's camera batteries went flat again. This was now very odd as the batteries he had inserted just over 30 minutes earlier were only charged that evening and he had taken very few photographs since they were inserted. This occurred at the point marked by the *2 on drawing at the end of this document, where the path split into two.

21:03 Sarah heard a thud on the muddy path ahead as the team stood at a three way junction, as Bill was investigating the EMF meter alarm. As Sarah stood and watched, a small deer jumped out of the undergrowth across the path. Whether the deer made the thud as it approached the path, Sarah could not say for sure, but the deer's hooves did not land on the mud path.

21:06 By the small bridge over a stream, Dee's new torch, which had been working fine in the car park, was noted to be faltering. The batteries were new and yet the small LED reflectors were no longer emitting light evenly. (The torch has subsequently been returned to the supplier, as the problem seemed to be fatal.)

INVESTIGATION REPORT – Team 1



Investigation Site Broxbourne Wood

Investigation Date 13th August 2010

21:20 Dee is walking behind the other team members where the path runs west-southwest to east-southeast before a bend to the right when suddenly there is a big movement to her right. This is marked by the ✱3 on the drawing at the end of this document. It is so sudden and loud that it makes her jump and her heart race. She wonders if it was an animal, except nothing was seen or heard running away through the undergrowth – and if it had been an animal, it surely would have reacted when the other three members had walked past before Dee.

21:25 Sarah heard a cough come from the thicker trees due west of the path. Sarah immediately asked Bill if he had heard it, he hadn't.

21:26 Further down the trail, just past the trail divergence, Dee begins to feel a little less 'secure' and is overwhelmed by a sense of people 'wandering around' as though they are lost. She wonders if this is psychological, but as she is not in the least worried about being (or becoming) lost, she feels this is unlikely; besides which, the feeling is quite strong and came on relatively suddenly. Dee cannot pick up anything more specific and apart from echoes of the same feeling, nothing further occurs.

Dee tells Bill about her sensing people wandering around and Bill just replies "wrong wood". At the time Bill did not elaborate further as it was related to the planned second investigation site of the night, Wormley Wood. The haunting of Wormley Wood is as follows:

Spirits have been seen wandering aimlessly through Wormley Wood. The wood is an ancient one which is first mentioned in documents from the sixth century. One interpretation of the Worm part of the name is a Saxon corruption of 'Vermes'. This refers to a patch of waste ground near the River Lea where the remains of Danish soldiers have been found who fought in a battle in the area. Is it the spirits of the soldiers who walk the woods?

21:30 Whilst walking around the wood Bill's EMF meter beeped again. This occurred at the point marked ✱4 on drawing at the end of this document.

Walking through a darker part of the wood toward the north corner of the walk route, Sarah felt strongly that she heard screaming in her mind's eye.

As the team neared the end of the walk Bill's EMF meter beeped yet again. This was highly suspicious as it very rarely beeps. Dee suggested that it may be due to Bill's mobile phone as he was carrying it for the first time for a long time due to new club rules. These rules were created after the investigation at Clophill (in Pedley Wood) when Team 1 lost Team 2 and could not contact them (each team leader now has a radio, mobile on silent and a very loud whistle). Bill's phone was likely to have been the cause as it was just 30 centimetres from his EMF meter.

21:40 Team 1 join Team 2 back at the cars.

Post-Walk

21:43 Whilst gathered at the car park after the walk, Sarah had a sensation of being poked in the right buttock with a finger or stick! This wasn't another member of the team mucking about, as Steph was the only person near and she was quite surprised. Also Sarah had a thick knee length coat on which well covered her buttocks, and a fleece under that.

21:50 Sarah had another poke in the right buttock and this time there was no-one behind her at all. Sarah did not feel uneasy about it, but felt like it was a joke.

INVESTIGATION REPORT – Team 1



Investigation Site Broxbourne Wood

Investigation Date 13th August 2010

The rain continued to fall steadily so when the team arrived back at the car park, the investigation was called off and the second planned location (Wormley Wood) was abandoned, especially as it was intended to do vigils there.

Post-Investigation

Examination of Andy's audio, video and photographs revealed no paranormal or unexplained activity on any of them.

Equipment

Bill Digital Camera: Fujifilm A150
 Digital Voice Recorder
 EMF Detector: Hutech
 Notepad & pen, torch and watch

Andy Digital Camera: Panasonic Lumix DMC-FS15
 Digital Camcorder: Sony DCR-DVD306E
 Digital Voice Recorder: Olympus VN-480PC
 Digital Voice Recorder: Sanyo TRC-525M
 EMF meter: K-II

Sarah Digital Camcorder: Sony Handycam DCR-SR55E
 Video IR Light: Sony HVL-IRM
 Notepad & pen, torch and watch
 Pink Wellies!

Dee Digital Camera: Fuji FinePix F31fd
 Notepad & pen, torch and watch

INVESTIGATION REPORT



Investigation Date – 13th August 2010

Investigation Site - Broxbourne Wood

Report By – Bill King

