

INVESTIGATION REPORT



Investigation Site Luton, Galley Hill

Investigation Date 9th August 2013

Report By Bill King

Team Members Bill, Steph, Andy F, Oz

Background

A hill called Galley Hill on the outskirts of Luton was, in former times, the site of a gallows, where public executions would have taken place. The site was also used to bury the bodies of local witches who were hanged during the witch hunts of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Often these witches were no more than village wise women. All it took was for them to be accused by villagers who had a grudge against them. However, a strange discovery was made on the site during excavations in the 1960s. A steer skull was found with a die placed on top of it with the six uppermost, evidence of possible ritual usage in the past.

Even industrialised Luton had strange tales including that of a hound from hell which was seen in the early part of the eighteenth century. At that time there was a gallows on Galley Hill to the north of the town, along with a gibbet from which the bodies of the criminals would be hung as a warning. A warning can only act as a warning if people are aware of it, so to make sure the bodies lasted they were first soaked in tar. One night a terrible storm hit the town with strong winds and tremendous bolts of lightning but surprisingly little rain. As Galley Hill is one of the highest points around it attracted the lightning which soon struck the bodies which were hanging on the gibbets in chains. The tar ignited and soon the whole hill was ablaze with flames leaping up into the sky. As the flames leapt higher the locals were terrified to see a large black dog which was virtually dancing around the flames. As the bodies burned it continued to prance around until all that remained were ashes, whereupon the dog gave out a long, bone numbing howl and vanished. The locals were convinced that the dog was a hound from hell. Since then the dog has returned on odd occasions, causing great dismay to those who have seen it. Apparently if you turn and flee you will live to tell the tale, but those who have chosen to approach the hound have never been seen again. Some hounds may be a good omen but the Hell Hound of Luton is not one of them.

We have also received a report from a member of the public who had witnessed a figure who had walked over the brow of the hollow between Galley Hill and Warden Hill only 50 metres away but by the time he had reached the area the figure had vanished, despite having nowhere to hide.

General

The sky was overcast with a light cloud layer. There was a slight breeze. Traffic noise could be heard coming from the A6 to the west. The area was a very dark one apart from in the direction of Luton, especially to the west.

Initial Walk

The team met in the car park at the end of Warden Hill Road and Links Way then walked north along the footpath that borders the west edge of the South Bedfordshire Golf Club. Five hundred and fifty metres to the north this path intersects the Ickniel Way Trail/John Bunyan Trail. Turning east we followed this trail as it climbs up over the hollow between Galley Hill and Warden Hill. At this point the John Bunyan Trail continues east while the Ickniel Way Trail turns north; it was in this area where we received a report of an unusual sighting and where the first part of the investigation was to take place.

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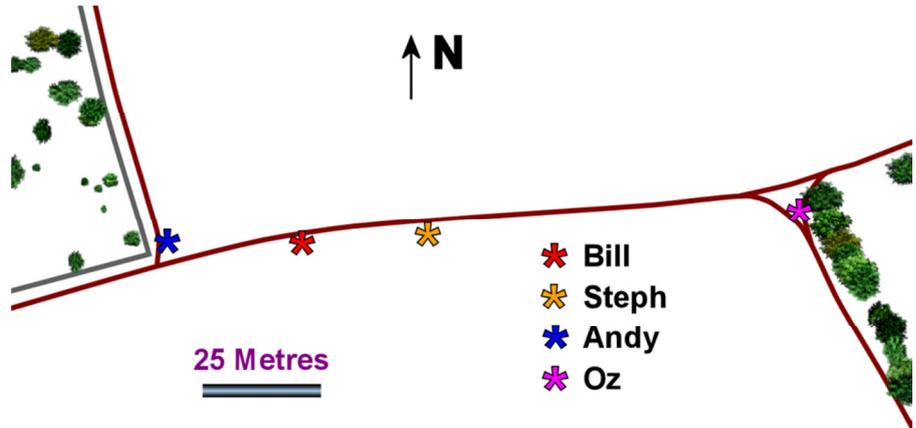


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Vigil 1: John Bunyan Trail – 21:13 to 22:00

For this vigil the team positioned themselves along the John Bunyan Trail between Galley Hill and Warden Hill. For a plan of the team members vigil sites see the drawing below. Bill and Steph sat facing north whilst Andy sat facing east beside a wooden gate.



21:14 Steph measures the temperature as +14.9°C.

21:18 Bill hears a sound like a distant scream to his right, towards Steph. He looked around at Steph and it seemed as if she hadn't reacted to the sound.

Steph hears a high pitched screeching noise that lasted about 3 seconds. It was quiet but clear and appeared to be coming from directly in front of her.

21:22 Bill measures the temperature at +14.3°C.

21:29 A sneeze coming from Andy is heard by Bill.

21:30 Steph hears a sneeze from someone over to the left (Bill or Andy?).

Andy speaks to a woman and man who are passing him on the pathway. The woman laughs and the man does not speak.

Andy takes a temperature check of +14.8°C.

21:35 Steph sees a glimpse of a tall dark shadow move across the path down the path on her right; where the gap in the hedge is. She knows Oz is doing his vigil down there somewhere and will have to check.

21:43 Andy hears birds chattering behind him.

21:44 Andy observes a black rabbit coming towards him down the path from the top of the hill. The rabbit promptly turns around and runs back up the hill when Andy moves.

21:47 Bill measures the temperature at +14.0°C.

Post-Vigil

Steph knows Oz was further down the path but when checking he did not walk around during the vigil.

Second Walk

After the vigil the team regrouped at the point where the Icknield Way Trail split off from the John Bunyan Trail. The team then followed the former trail towards Galley Hill. On the way up the hill, just after a 90° bend in the path, Steph spotted a glowworm so we stayed to look at it for a while.

When the team reached the top of Galley Hill we stood in a group discussing why this was a gallows site etc.

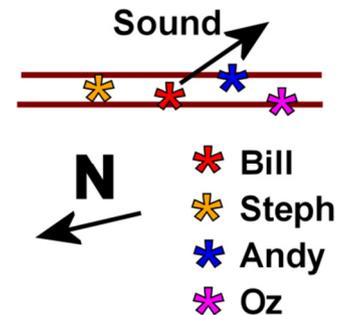
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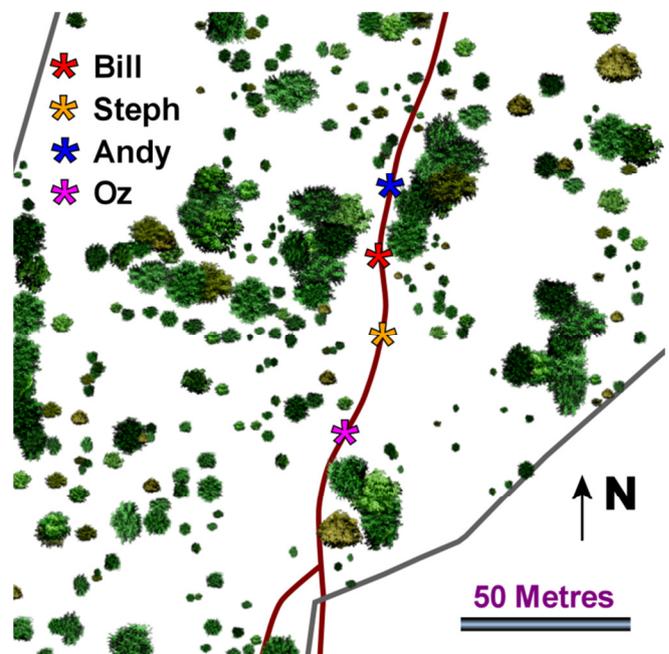
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22:21 Bill was pointing out the Icknield way in the valley to the southeast when he heard the sound of a male voice over his right shoulder. He looked round but there was no one there so he looked back and carried on talking whereupon he heard the voice again coming from the same area. The voice sounded like someone talking normally and about 20 or 30 metres away. It very definitely sounded like a man talking but he could not make out any words. No one else heard the sound. The sound was coming from the south-southeast. The drawing on the right shows the positions of the team members and the direction of the sound.



Vigil 2: Top of Galley Hill – 22:32 to 23:00

On the way up to Galley Hill the wind had been noticeable and quite cold as the path is quite exposed but on top of the hill Bill noted that there was only a gentle breeze due to screening by the trees to the north and west. Bill sat by a footpath marker post at the south end of a dense row of trees/bushes which lay to the east of the path. Andy's first choice of site was to the east of the path by the same bushes. He said he was standing on a mound of earth and didn't like it so he returned to the path. Bill went to investigate the mound and found it to be about 0.75 metres wide and 0.5 metres high...it was a huge ants' nest. Andy was glad he moved away from it. For the positions of the team members see the plan on the right.



In this area there was still the sound of the A6 accompanied by the stridulation of several crickets and grasshoppers.

21:35 Steph measures the temperature as +13°C and notes a slight breeze and she is feeling a bit chilly. She does not pick anything up during this vigil.

23:47 Andy hears what sounds like two steps near to close to his left-hand side in a grassy area but takes this to be an animal in the grass.

22:49 Bill measures the temperature at +15.1°C.

Post-Investigation

Andy reports that no photographs were taken by him on the night. Audio and visual media have nothing on them

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Equipment List

Steph Digital Camcorder: Sony DCR-SR75E
Digital Camera: Panasonic Lumix DMC-FS40
Digital Infrared Thermometer: INS-TOOL09
Digital Voice Recorder: Olympus WS-560M
EMF Detector: K-II
Video IR Light: Sony HVL-IRM
Notepad, pen, torch and watch

Andy Digital Camcorder: Sony DCR-DVD306E
Digital Camera: Panasonic Lumix DMC-FS15
Digital Infrared Thermometer: IR-102
Digital Voice Recorder: Olympus WS-560M
Notepad, pen, torch and watch

Bill Compass: Silva Type 7 NL
Digital Camera: GE E1480W
Digital Infrared Thermometer: Karknee DT-300
Notepad, pen, torch and watch