

INVESTIGATION REPORT



Investigation Site	Tring Park
Investigation Date	Friday 13th March 2015
Report By	Bill King
Team Members	Bill, Steph, Jason, Andy F, Dee, Sarah, Richard

Background

The haunting of Wigginton Common (also known as Tring Park) spans the best part of two thousand years from Roman times to the English Civil War period.

In The Bucks Advertiser of July 1835 there was a report of a sighting of Roman soldiers on the common. It seems that over several days at around 06:00 the soldiers would assemble as if in preparation for some ancient battle. Some onlookers were even seen to walk straight through them.

During the Civil War Wigginton Common was used as a camp for some of Cromwell's troops. The common was a base from which the Roundheads could bombard Berkhamsted castle. Now Roundheads have been seen on the common in the evening as the light begins to fade.

As a consequence of the Inclosure Acts Wigginton Common was enclosed in 1854 and as a result became part of the Tring Park Estate owned by the Rothschild Family.

Bill's Report

For this investigation the team met in Hastoe Lane just before it reaches Park Street in Tring. From there we walked along Park Street heading east until we reached a public footpath which heads into the park. The footpath crosses over the A41 dual carriageway via an interesting bridge with spiral access ramps and enters the park in the northwest corner at one end of an avenue of trees. Once in the park we assembled at a description board near the bridge whilst we discussed how we would investigate the site. Consensus was divided as to where people wanted to investigate, I wanted to walk around the park instead of doing vigils with Steph and Jason deciding to join me. The rest of the team joined Andy doing vigils commencing at a circle of trees in the northeast corner of the park near the A41 and Park Wood.

Investigation

Steph, Jason and myself started out walking along the avenue of trees heading south-southwest towards the southern edge of the park. At the end of the avenue of trees we continued in the same direction for a while as the path dropped into a valley and headed towards the base of the hill that forms the south and east edges of the park and which is covered in trees. This hill rises approximately 50 metres above the park. Before we reached the base of the hill we decided not to head into the wood (and climb the hill which the wood covers) and instead started to turn more to the south then northeast with the intention of following the base of the hill. When we reached the hill base the path dropped down further with the main hill to the southeast and a round hill to the northwest which was surmounted by a clump of trees. As we walked into this valley between the hills Steph was in the lead with myself about 10 metres behind her and Jason a further 10 metres behind. Steph stopped and looked up at the clump of trees allowing me to pass behind her and when I was a few metres past her she seemed to react as if something had startled her. Steph said that she had reacted when she thought she was about to bump into me and was surprised to learn that, at the time, I was nowhere near her. The point at which this happened is shown on the image on the next page by the blue star. On the image the wooded hill is shown to the bottom right and the small hill with the clump of trees is just above the blue cross.

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From the narrow valley we walked east-northeast following the bottom of the hill which slowly curves to the north. Eventually we approached the circle of trees where the second team was investigating as we could see torchlight coming from within the circle. As we got closer the second team were just packing up and then they headed off back towards the point where we entered the park. We spent some time discussing the trees which almost looked as if they were arranged for some ritual purpose. Leaving the trees we walked a short distance to a path that enters the wood and slowly climbs the hill to an obelisk. At the obelisk the path almost doubles back on itself but continues to climb the hill going through tall trees that made the area so dark we could hardly see where we were going. We followed the path until it reached the Icknield Way Path (Ridgeway National Trail) and an ornate structure with columns on the top of the hill which was originally a summerhouse, most of which was demolished when the road at the top of the hill was constructed. After investigating the summerhouse we followed the Icknield Way Path back towards the southern edge of the park. Halfway along this path we came across an area which was being landscaped to provide views across the park with an information board and then further on another open area from which a path led steeply down the hill. We chose to follow this new path as it led to new areas to explore whereas the path we were on would have led back to the avenue of trees. Halfway down the hill the path turned to roughly follow the line of the ridge whilst still descending into the park. Back in the park we turned north until we encountered a path that ran northwest back to the point where we had entered the park and where we met up with the other team.

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Steph's Report

General

Cold breezy night. Steph decided to go on the walk around the park with Bill and Jay.

Equipment List

Digital Camera: Panasonic Lumix DMC-FS40

Notepad, pen, torch and watch

Investigation

21:36 Steph is walking down a path on the south side of the park. She is looking up at the trees on the hill to her left (looking for cows!) as she turns her head back she sees a dark mass next to her right side and thinks this is Bill. She thinks she is going to bump in to him (he was to her right while walking along this part). She stops and the mass disappears and she then sees Bill a few feet in front of her so this cannot have been him. Jay is several feet behind her at this time and is standing still as he has just had an experience of his own (see Jay's report).

Jason's Report

20:30 All members arrived at the rendezvous point, which was a lay-by in Hastoe Lane. The original rendezvous area had been rejected as the site was no longer suitable for four vehicles. The investigation area was accessed via a public footpath leading southwards from nearby Park Street and across a footbridge crossing the A41.

20:58 Arrival at the investigation area. After discussion it was decided to separate into two groups; Andy, Sarah, Dee and Richard chose to head off to a circle of trees reputed to have pagan associations, while I chose to accompany Bill and Steph on a tour of the whole area.

21:08 The two groups separate. We made our way in a SSW direction along the avenue of trees that borders the west of the site. When we came to the end of the avenue we turned south and descended the hill. We made a gradual u-turn and were heading NE when I thought I could hear a voice or voices coming from the avenue of trees up on the hill somewhere to our west...

21:35 **Voices:** I stopped walking, checked my watch and made a note on my digital recorder. It sounded like very faint calling out and only lasted for about ten seconds or so. Steph was at least five paces ahead of me when I stopped and Bill was even further ahead but neither of them heard anything. However, Steph stopped at about the same time as I did and after I had recorded my incident she asked me if I had seen anyone, which I hadn't. But she had. She was either looking down or looking away (I'm sure her report will clarify this point) and as she faced ahead stopped suddenly to avoid bumping into who she thought was Bill, only to realise that Bill was about five metres ahead of her. Glimpsed for only a split second she was certain that somebody was directly in front of her. I think the figure that Steph saw must have been male as she asked me if the voice(s) I heard was a man but it was too faint for me to say, although I got the impression it was female. There may be a rational explanation for both of our incidents but it is curious that they happened simultaneously. **[Editor's note:** The team did discuss the voices and it was pointed out that the area of the park we were in was a long way

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from any habitation or parking area and certainly beyond the range over which a voice would carry. We had also not seen anyone in the park.]

22:04 We entered the ring of trees after observing the other group leaving it as we approached. We had been told that the ring has pagan associations but I would suggest that its existence is more mundane than mystical. It's easy to see 'though how a perfectly circular (or hexagonal, as Bill pointed out) group of trees could be seen as having magical properties by new age pagan devotees – more on this later.

20:20 We left the ring of trees behind and continued our walk into the woods that climbed the hill towards the ancient ridgeway. At 22:20 we arrived at the Obelisk, a classical column marking the point where a number of paths meet in the middle of the woods. We continued along one of these paths.

20:28 Arrival at the summer house. This is little more than a façade designed to look like a summer house, mausoleum or classical temple when viewed from the obelisk. It looks as though the ground behind it was reinforced with concrete when the A41 was constructed, to prevent it from slipping the cutting embankment.

23:05 Information Board. We arrived at an area where we could see that there had been recent landscaping (felled and cleared trees mainly) and a circle of young trees were being planted. In the darkness, we did not immediately notice that there was an information board which included a reproduction of an old map showing how the park had originally looked, or been intended to look, when first landscaped two to three hundred years ago. This clearly showed that the ring of trees we had visited earlier was the sole survivor of a group of three rings that had been planted, and there were other groups of three rings located around the park that have also disappeared. So, in my view the ring of trees has everything to do with how the park was originally landscaped and how the 'natural' features were viewed from the house (now a performing arts academy on the other side of the A41), rather than any pagan considerations.

23:20 We continued along the ridgeway path until we found a path leading down the ridge. At approximately 23:20 we had descended the ridge and were making our way back to the information board at the southern end of the A41 footbridge, where we had started. There we met up with the other group and concluded the evening.

23:40 We arrived back at the layby in Hastoe Lane and I was on the road home by 23:45.

Conclusion

I came to this investigation without any knowledge of the paranormal activity that has been recorded here and still have little idea. It was an enjoyable and informative evening but the only noteworthy incident I can report for LPS purposes was the very faint voice or voices that I heard at the same time that Steph saw a figure directly in front of her.

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Andy F's Report

General

Very windy and cold. Traffic noise from nearby road

Equipment List

Digital Camcorder: Sony DCR-SR75E
Digital Voice Recorder: Olympus WS-560M
Ovilus III
EMF Detector: K-II
Digital Infrared Thermometer: IR-102
Notepad & pen, torch and watch

Investigation team consisted of Andy F, Dee, Richard, Sarah

Vigil 1: Circle of Trees Tring Park – 21:35 to 22:00

Ovilus III experiment. Andy F is filming the experiment.

21:35 Ovilus III gives the word *Famous* and temperature is +5.5° C.

21:40 Between this time and 22:00 Ovilus III gives the words *Light, Twelve, Teacher, Alphabet, Drift, Car* and *Chloride*.

22:00 Vigil ends as the team feel too cold at this location due to the wind.

Post-Vigil

Team are walking back to the avenue area across the field and encounter a hot spot of warm air that is present but only from the hip level down and there is cold air above this area. Team assumes it is because this area is more sheltered. There is also a strong smell of burning wood that is smelt by all team members.

Ovilus III gives the team the following words; *French, Poppa, Rent, Person, Stones, Where* this is captured on film by Andy F.

Walk: Avenue of Trees – 22.35 to 22:53

Andy is filming the team and carrying the Ovilus III.

22:40 Dee tells the team she can see hundreds of people in the park in small clumps in different places. She describes some people as just walking up and down carrying large poles or pikes and others are stationary. She feels that these people are in different realities. This continues for some time and the Ovilus III comes up with the words *Send* and *Card*. Dee states that these people are not in battle and they are not Romans. **[Editor's Note: Roundheads?]**

During this same period Richard begins describing how he feels stuck in a loop on the spot where he is standing where someone was cut in half on horseback or has no head. He tells the team he has the year 1638 stuck in his head.

Ovilus III comes out with the word *Sultry*.

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Dee now starts to pick up a sense of urgency as the person on horseback had a sense of urgency to get somewhere. She also states she is starting to feel spaced out and at the same time Ovilus III comes up with the words *Substance* and *Restored*.

23:53 Andy picks up another hot spot this time in the avenue and again at only hip height the rest of the team also feel this. Andy goes to a nearby hollow tree that is broken in half from the top like a lightning hit and Ovilus III comes out with the word *Light* for the second time this evening. Once again the team encounter a smell of burning wood.

Vigil 2: Avenue of Trees – 22:53 to 23:20

EVP Experiment

23:03 Ovilus III comes up with the word *Graveyard* and during the next few minutes also *Pine* and *Hours*. The team also encounter another smell of burning wood.

23:20 Experiment ends

Post-Investigation

As the team was mostly mobile during the investigation and Andy was not only filming, he was also carrying the Ovilus III as directed by the team, therefore was not able to keep track of times of events as they happened so quickly one after another.