

INVESTIGATION REPORT



Investigation Site	Great Wymondley
Investigation Date	Saturday 13 th July 2013
Report By	Bill King
Team Members	Bill, Steph, Marion, Sarah C, Oz

Background

It came to member Elaine's attention that there was a ley line which ran through the Three Counties area and passed through Wymondley (between Hitchin and Stevenage). These are lines that connect geographically or historically interesting sites, a phrase that was first used by archaeologist Alfred Watkins who believed that they were ancient track ways that followed easily visible features in the landscape. In 1969 John Michell reused the term to refer to a mystical network of lines.

Research revealed that two ley lines run through this area but details were sketchy and there was no evidence, at the time, as to the actual route and whether either passed through Little Wymondley or Great Wymondley. Both villages had churches and both were dedicated to St Mary so either was equally likely as churches tended to be built on historically significant sites. Looking at a local area map revealed that there was an old motte and bailey site right next to the church at Great Wymondley making that area doubly significant so that was the site chosen for the investigation.

Pre-Investigation

Arriving on the site the team followed the public footpath which runs through the churchyard passing just south of the church as shown on the plan on the next page. In the southeast corner of the churchyard the path passes through a gate then drops into a hollow, this is the ditch around the motte. We followed the path across the motte to the east side where we stopped to discuss the investigation. The plan for the evening was to use whatever means we had available to see if we could detect the line. Steph and Marion used their own pendulums whilst Sarah used the traditional 'L' shaped dowsing rods and Oz used a Hartmann Rod (see the image on the right which shows 'L' shaped rods at the top and the Hartmann Rod at the bottom). Bill used a 'V' shaped rod (man-made but similar to the traditional hazel rods). Using their chosen tools, the team spread themselves out about the motte, the adjoining field to the southeast and the churchyard. Each member then walked wherever they were drawn to for about 20 minutes before reconvening on the east edge of the motte to discuss their findings.



General

The site was a quiet one set in a small village but away from habitation so that we were not disturbed during the time we were on the site. The evening was a dry and warm one with no breeze. A very pleasant summer's evening.

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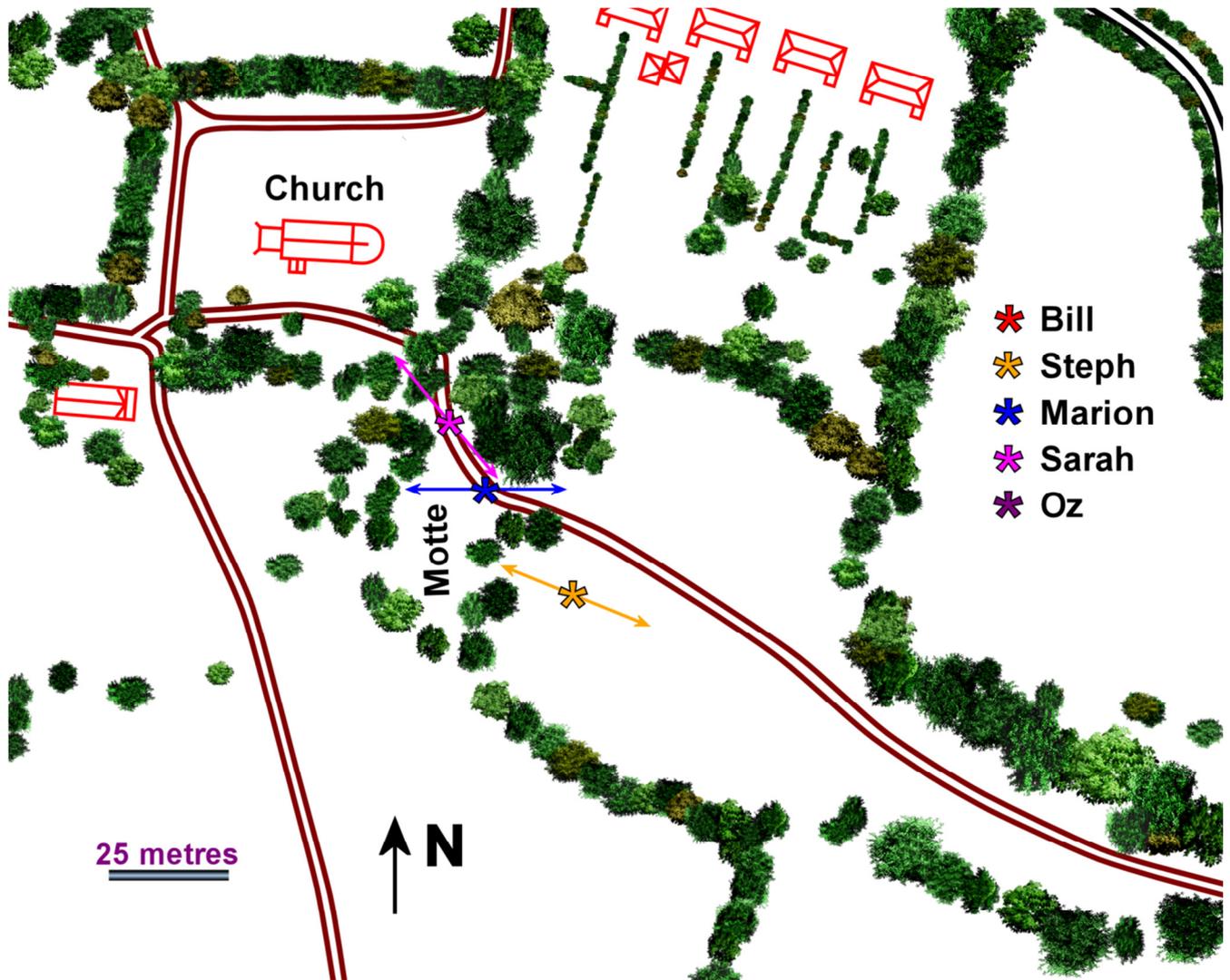
Steph: Steph decided to walk clockwise around the motte and bailey. From the main path she turned right and walked through a trodden path in the long grasses. She was roughly two thirds of the way along to the next field when her pendulum started swinging energetically from side to side (northwest

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to southeast). She stood and let it swing then slowly moved forward and back, checking the area around but the pendulum seemed to react on that particular point.

She then carried on walking round the path and upon reaching the north end of the area the pendulum began to swing again but not as energetically as before but it was roughly in the same direction from side to side (northwest to southeast).

Steph then walked through to the churchyard. She turned left out of the gate into the churchyard. She experienced slight movement, again side to side, when she reached the point parallel with the rounded part of the church. She decided to go round to the other side of the church to see if there was any reaction there. There was some slight movement, nothing really notable.

Sarah: General notes - It was a lovely warm evening after a hot summer day, and the walk around the church and to the field behind was pleasant with a peaceful atmosphere.

21:06 Started the investigation which was to discover if we could find ancient ley lines, which are said to be near this site, using different means of divining.

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Sarah used copper dowsing rods. She had her pendulum with her, but did not use it. Sarah walked around the church and along the path to the field, wandering off the path.

21:35 Investigation ended

Sarah thought the ley line to be running north/south from the church, but it was shown to be running west/east!

Nothing else to report.

Marion: The group met at St Mary's church and Marion felt this was peaceful quiet location. The church was in a lovely spot and very well kept. The path at the back leads through to the site of an old motte and bailey castle with paths trodden through the long grass. It is a lovely warm night for a change and the group are in T-shirts and tops although by the end of the night some of us had been bitten to death by mosquitos in the long grass.

Marion worked with her pendulum to find the ley line. She started on the small slope of the motte and bailey that is approached from the gate that leads from the back of the church. She placed her notepad on the grass flattening it as much as she could as it was long. She placed her compass on the book and set it to north. It looks level or near as practical. She asks her pendulum to show her the ley line. She holds it over the compass and it swings east/west. She repeats this in a line at intervals of a metre and each time the pendulum swings east/west. She then tries to find the spot the ley line passes through. Using her pendulum on a yes/no basis she narrows down the spot which is part way up the slope of the motte and bailey she has been working on. She marks this spot with a cross made from two pieces of dry grass and takes photos facing east and west of that spot.

Marion now goes back to the churchyard to see if she can find the ley line there. Using her pendulum again and asking questions on a yes/no basis she asks if the ley Line goes through the churchyard and gets 'No'. She asks if the ley line goes through the church and gets 'No'. She asks if the ley line goes east/west and gets 'Yes'.

Bill: Using his dowsing rod Bill walked all over the accessible area of the motte (some areas could not be accessed due to trees) and the field to the southeast. A few times the dowsing rod seemed to react twisting upwards but on retracing his steps Bill found that it did not react again irrespective of which direction he walked in. There was nothing to indicate in the results that there was anything there.

Oz: Oz used a Hartmann rod to attempt to detect the presence of the reported ley line and a traditional compass in case of any magnetic fluctuations. Following a slow circumnavigation of the churchyard and the motte Oz reported no distinguishable results from either instrument.

21:35 During the re-group Marion had detected the line running roughly east-west across the mound; Oz stated that, completely without corroborating evidence, he would guess the same.

NB - Thinking about this later, Oz had noticed an aircraft taking-off and had located Luton Airport in the west, which is very close to home and hence may have subconsciously impacted his guess.

Analysis

The team regrouped after the dowsing experiment and discussed the results. Bill visited each area where the team members had had some sort of response and noted details of which way they thought the ley line ran. After this Bill informed the team that, generally, in this area the line is said to run east to west. This was later found to be incorrect as further research revealed (see below).

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Post-Investigation

During further research whilst writing this report it was discovered that there is actually a book about the ley line, the St Michael Line. Written by Paul Broadhurst and Hamish Miller the book, 'The Sun and the Serpent', gives details of the line which runs from St Michael's Mount in Cornwall following a straight line across the country towards the May Day sunrise, eventually crossing the coast in Norfolk. Two currents follow the line, the Michael and Mary currents which run close to each other and even cross over each other in several places. The currents are shown on the plan below with the Mary line being coloured blue and Michael being shown in green. It is these that pass through our area as two separate lines, eventually crossing again at Royston. The book details how the authors dowsed both lines and discovered that Mary runs through the site of Dunstable Priory whilst Michael runs to the north passing through Waulud's Bank at Leagrave. The Mary line then runs south of Hitchin whilst Michael runs to the north with the two lines eventually crossing at Royston Cave. From the text of the book it was found that Mary passed through Temple Dinsley then St Ippolyts before passing between Great and Little Wymondley and turning east to cross Graveley to the north of Stevenage. In the area we investigated the line passed through the site of an Augustinian Priory which lies just 640 metres to the southeast by south. On the left-hand side of the plan on page 2 can be seen a footpath heading roughly south, this path actually crosses the Mary line so it would be worth returning to the site at some time in the future to see if we can find where.

