INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation Site	**Battlesden and Clophill, St Mary**
Investigation Date	26th February 2010
Report By	Bill King
Team Members	Bill, Steph Andy F, Dee, Sarah

Equipment List

Steph	Digital Camera: Olympus µ Digital 600 Notepad & pen
Sarah	Digital Camera: DSC- H50
Dee	Digital Voice Recorder: Olympus VN-5500PC Digital Camera: Fuji FinePix F31fd
Andy	Digital Camcorder: Sony DCR-DVD 306E Digital Voice Recorder: Olympus VN-480PC Digital Camera: Panasonic Lumix DMC-FS15 EMF meter: K-II
Bill	Digital SLR Camera: Pentax K2000 EMF Detector: Hutech

Battlesden

Background

In the autumn of 1982 two people were out cycling along a country lane near Battlesden when a disembodied pair of hands suddenly appeared over a hedgerow and proceeded to throw a small log into the road. The log landed directly in front of one of the cyclists, causing them to swerve violently so as to avoid hitting it.

When they looked back there was no sign of the hands and, no matter how much they searched, they could not find anyone in the vicinity who could have thrown the log at them, and no explanation as to why the log had been thrown.

Dee's Report

Ambient sounds: Distant traffic; occasional aircraft; occasional distant dog barking; waterfowl; wind whistles; a babbling brook; other team members and their equipment.

Ambient conditions: Bright moonlight; clear sky; very cold (fairly brisk) wind; little shelter from the newly cut-back hedgerows and scant tree line. Visibility was very good for night time despite the lack of street lighting.

Notes: I had never been to Battlesden before and had no knowledge of the history or reputed haunting(s).

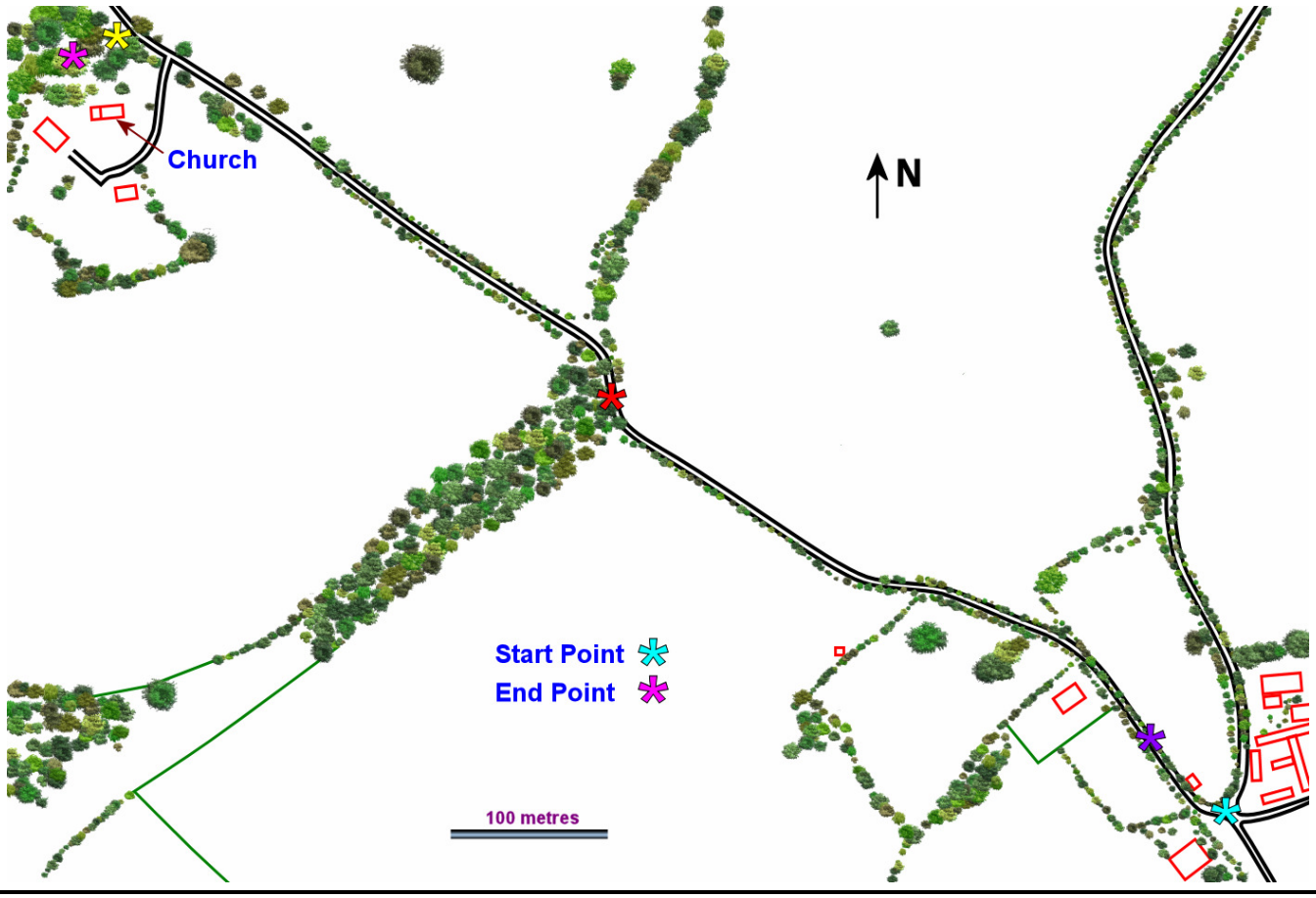
The investigation consisted of walking a 1.5 kilometres or so from our parked cars near a couple of houses in the tiny hamlet to the small church dedicated to St Peter. The wind was bitterly cold, but visibility was excellent in the moonlight and we could mostly walk without torchlight to guide us.

I attempted to 'tune in' to the surroundings, but sensed very little until the team came to a crossroads about halfway to the church (see the * on the plan on the next page). I immediately sensed that the

road to the left was originally a busy tree-lined avenue. There was energy coming from that direction which became stronger as I stood on a concrete block at the fenced-off avenue. Bill explained that there was once a hall or large house to the north and a lodge at the end of the avenue.

It was also around this point that I suddenly sensed (many) men on horseback/riders and the energy seemed to be coming from a field in the vicinity, but I couldn't pin it down. This sense of riders persisted for a couple of hundred metres up the hill towards the church (shown on the right).

We stayed by the church for some time, and I sensed that the church was much older than it looked. I thought I could sense a presence near the church but it was very weak and left me with nothing significant to note. I did feel that half of my face felt hot, but that could have been due to the after-effects of the biting wind.



Nothing unusual showed up in any of Dee's photographs.

Steph's Report

As I walked up the first stretch of the road from the centre of the hamlet towards the house on the left (the stretch of road marked by the ✱ on the plan on the last page), I had the word 'Mediæval' repeated in my head three times.

21:03 The team had stopped during the walk and I heard what sounded like music; in the form of a few notes of a tune and a man singing. I noticed that other members had heard this too and thought it was someone's mobile phone ring tone but it wasn't.

21:30 At the church, I felt that it was charged with energy and felt that it was 'coming back to life' like it is going to be used again.

21:34 When walking away from the church, I got an impression of an old man walking along the east side of the church (towards the north side) where there is now a fence. I felt there was something there, following a very similar line as the fence, as he is putting his hand on what looks like a small stone wall as he walks. He is wearing a long brown hooded cloak.

Sarah's Report

It was a cold night but very brightly lit by moonlight. At the beginning of the walk I kept looking behind me, and felt as if someone was behind us.

I felt uneasy around the bottom of the hill where the tree-lined avenue starts.

When we reached the church, I had for a moment an impression of a girl run over by a cart on the road, and a young girl on the back of a cart. (Horse cart)

One of my photos showed a double 'orb', which is shown in the picture on the right, taken by the church trees (marked by the ✱ on the plan on the last page).

Andy's Report

21:25 Andy, Sarah and Dee stopped on the road. I was looking back and saying I felt that we were being followed as the area where the road bends was in darkness (yes, I know it was night time).

Sarah stated that she also felt the same and Dee commented that she could sense riders and there was more than one.

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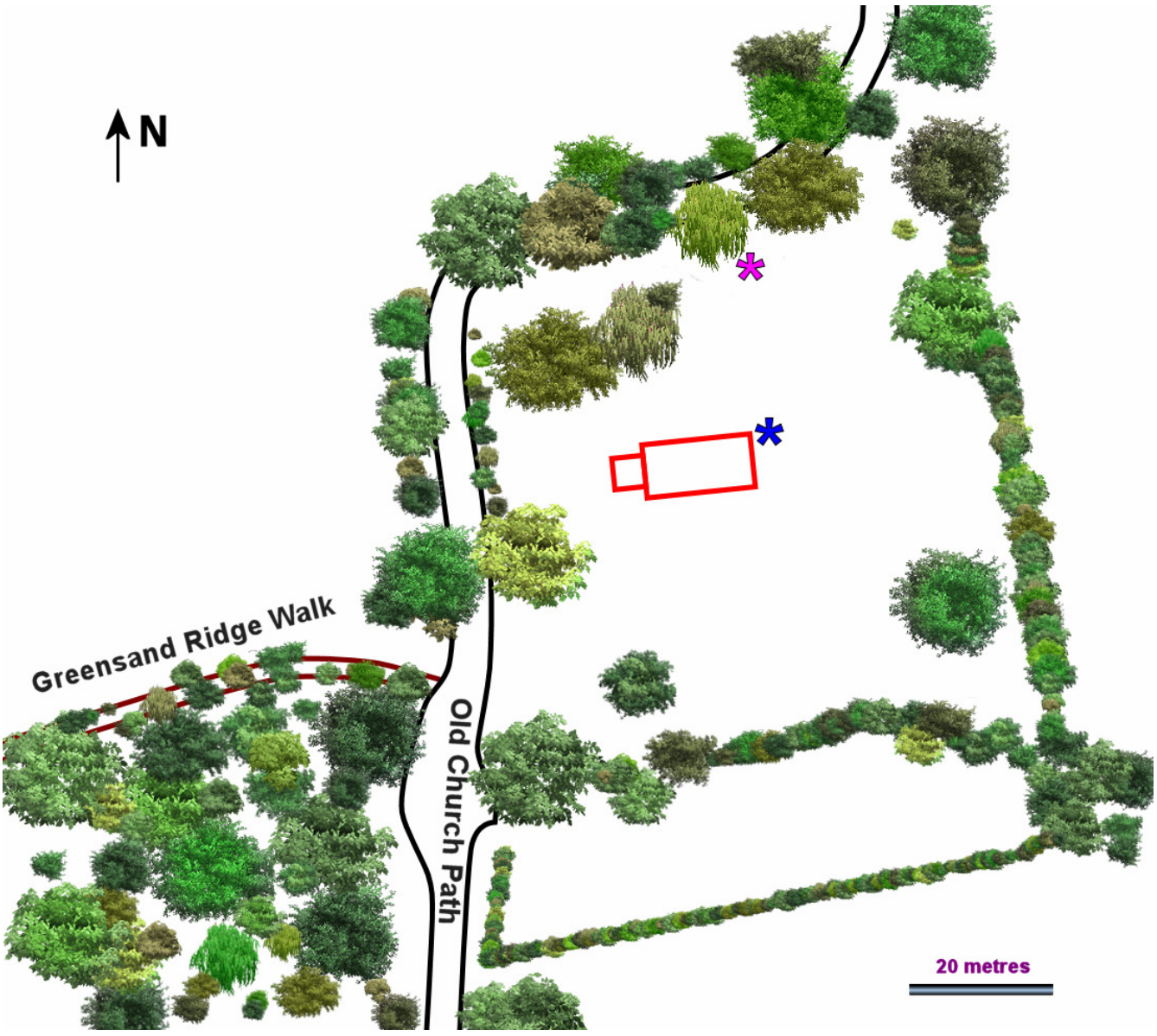
Clophill, St Mary

Background

St Mary's is now a ruin and has had a grisly past. During the 1960's it was twice used for what were purported to be black magic rituals. In March 1963 the grave of the wife of an eighteenth century apothecary, Jenny Humberstone, was opened and the bones were later found in the nave of the church arranged in what appeared to be a ritualistic fashion. The bones formed a circle with cockerel feathers placed nearby and the skull was found impaled on a railing. The bones were eventually reburied in her original grave by the church porch. In 1969 on Midsummer's Eve graves were again broken into and bones removed. No clue has ever been found as to the people who did this but it seems likely that the Black Mass was involved as the sixties were a time of occult revival with many groups being interested in the darker aspects. In 1975 bones were again removed from the graves but this time they were just



scattered around the site which may, therefore, have been the work of vandals.

Local inhabitants believe that the site is haunted by 'Sophie's Ghost' especially when a visitor and his wife photographed the church and discovered a figure in the church window clad in white and looking down the nave. The strangeness was heightened when they realised that the window lies nearly two metres above the floor of the nave.

Dee's Report

Ambient sounds: Other visitors to the site; distant traffic; occasional aircraft; distant dogs barking; other members' and their equipment.

Ambient conditions: Very clear sky; extremely cold; brisk wind (though not as brisk as at Battlesden); bright moonlight.

Notes: I had visited this site once before in the daylight with Andy F but knew little about the site's history.

When the team arrived there were some young people also on the site. This made it difficult for us to do proper vigils. I wandered around the ruined church and the surrounding cemetery. I sensed very little and it was notable to me that the inside of the ruin felt completely devoid of presence to the point of feeling 'cleansed'. I had thought that visiting the site in the dark would be somewhat frightening for me, but to my surprise (and relief) it was not unpleasant or menacing in the slightest.

At around 23:50 I decided to stand inside the ruined building under the derelict bell tower and do some DVR work. Steph wandered in and both of us heard the young people leave the site at this point. Bill wandered in a few minutes later. I left the building and walked around outside the south-facing wall. I detected nothing at all.

Sarah and I then walked around the outside of the building past the east doorway to stand outside the easterly end of the north-facing wall. I began to get a sense of a place of healing/tending the sick 'somewhere else not too far away'. There was also a sense of much prayer (which is probably not surprising near a church).

As Sarah and I took a few steps away from the wall (in the area marked by the * on the plan on the last page), at approximately 23:10, Sarah mentioned that she thought she saw someone by the line of gravestones on the edge of the site to the north (directly opposite, marked by the * on the plan). The other members of the team were walking along that line of gravestones at the time, but were quite a way further to the west of where Sarah was pointing. I did not see anyone, so could not corroborate Sarah's experience.

We then walked across the open space between the north wall and the northern boundary to the line of gravestones. As I walked this area I became a little bit disoriented and was filled with a sense that I couldn't speak properly or that my speech was seriously impaired. Andy reminded me that this had happened on our last visit in exactly the same spot near the gravestones opposite the trees on the open space. The investigation ended soon after that with no further incidents.

My DVR and Digital Camera showed no unusual anomalies.

Steph's Report

I did not have any unusual experiences during the visit to Clophill. I only felt calm and peaceful.

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Sarah's Report

Apart from local teenagers who had also come to visit the church, I found it to be peaceful and very cold.

23:10 Dee and I were standing talking (in the area marked by the * on the plan on page 4) and were looking over to the area where Steph and Bill were taking pictures by a tree and the gravestones at the back of the church (marked by the * on the plan). I said to Dee "who's that at the back there with Bill and Steph?"

I saw movement behind Steph, Andy was further down past the tree and he also recorded emf movement.

Andy's Report

22:40 My emf meter spikes while I was walking around the back of the cemetery near to the location of a tree.

23:00 I gets an emf spike in the same area as earlier