INVESTIGATION REPORT – Team 3

Investigation Site	**Codicote, St Giles**
Investigation Date	31st October 2008
Report By	Bill King
Team Members	Bill, Leana, Claudia

Site Conditions

The church lies to the northeast edge of the village of Codicote in a fairly quiet area. Some traffic uses the road which passes the churchyard to the west but only about one car every 10 minutes or so (even less after 23:00).

It was a clear night with a brisk and cold breeze coming from the northeast by east. There was some snow in the churchyard and the grass became frozen by the end of the investigation.

One thing that was immediately obvious on entering the churchyard was that marker on the famous grave of John Gootheridge has gone. The marker was a board between two posts on which was written:

IN MEMORY OF JOHN GOOTHERIDGE
WHO DIED OCTOBER 30TH 1824 IN THE 79TH YEAR OF HIS AGE
REBURIED A WEEK LATER

It seems John's body had been taken by body snatchers but they were disturbed and left his body near his grave. Now the positions of the posts are marked by two small markers.

Part of the churchyard (to the north of the church) is fenced off and contains four sheep who wander amongst the graves. North of this area lies the more modern graveyard which is still in use.

Vigil 1: Bench Southeast of Church – 21:41 to 22:25

21:43 Leana and Claudia were sitting on the bench to the southeast of the church when Leana got up and walked behind the bench into the car park area. She had gone to check what was behind her as she said that when she had sat down she was sure there was a wall behind the bench. In fact there is no wall behind the bench, though there used to be (and certainly was when we last visited Codicote in September 2005). Leana had believed the wall was there until a few minutes after she had sat down when I walked across the car park causing the security light behind the bench to come on. The wall has been removed (and by the condition of the ground fairly recently) from about 15 metres to the southwest of the bench up to the end of the churchyard 35 metres to northeast.

21:45 Claudia gets an impression of a WW2 fighter pilot, standing by the tree in front of the church, smoking a cigarette. She also gets the names Frank and Jessie.

21:48 Temperature measured at -1.5 to -2ºC.

21:52 Claudia sees 2 children run across the field (with the sheep in) near the church, they are a girl and boy of roughly 8 and 6 years old.

22:00 Claudia sees a plane flying above us, again WW2 vintage.

22:05 Temperature measured at -2ºC.

22:10 Claudia sees a fire in the field near the church (again the sheep field).

22:12 I smell smoke coming from the direction from which the wind is blowing. The smoke smells perfumed. Knebworth lies in that direction about 3 kilometres away with very little in-between. Earlier on the sound of fireworks had been heard coming from the same direction

22:22 It is beginning to feel noticeably colder, the temperature is measured at -3.5ºC.

Claudia gets a strong impression of a woman walking down the path alongside the church, from the direction of the gate; she is carrying a basket on her arm and is walking quite briskly.

Vigil 2: Bench in Graveyard to North – 22:48 to 23:30

22:55 Bill hears a sound like 'Whooo' coming from the north-northeast. The sound was fairly musical.

22:58 Temperature measured at -3 to -4ºC.

22:59 Bill hears the 'Whooo' again but this time fainter. Eventually the noise evolved into what sounded like music and voices coming from a long way off.

23:01 Claudia reports that the two children are again playing in the sheep field. She gets the names of Elsie and Charlie. The girl seems curious and wants to talk, and says that she often plays there but has been told not to. She also said that they avoid a man who comes sometimes.

23:04 Bill sees a short streak of light, pale blue in colour, coming from the direction of the northeast corner of the church.

23:10 Bill sees a bright spot of light in the same area as he saw the streak at 23:04. It was too dark to say if the light was on the church, as the church itself was invisible, but it was again coming from the direction of the northeast corner.

23:14 Bill sees a bright patch of light again in the same area as the previous lights. At the time there were no sources of light nearby.

23:20 A flash of light, long, broad and pale, seen by Bill in the same area as before. This time it appeared to be above, then behind, a grave stone in front of the northeast corner of the church. Checking two cars as they went passed revealed that their lights could not reach far enough down the church due to the wall and hedge bordering the road. No other source for the light could be found.

23:26 Temperature measured at -3 to -4ºC.

23:28 Once more Bill sees a bright dot of light in the same area as before.

Vigil 3: Access Path to Church from Bury Lane – 23:38 to 00:15

23:58 Temperature measured at -3 to -4.5ºC.

00:03 Claudia is standing near the lych gate and feels that there is something near the side entrance to the church, so she walks over to investigate and walks down the small path which branches off the main one. She feels a strong presence as if something is pushing her back. She returns to the gate and feels quite anxious at this point, she feels like she is being followed.

00:04 Claudia gets too close to the light near the southwest corner of the church and it turns itself on.

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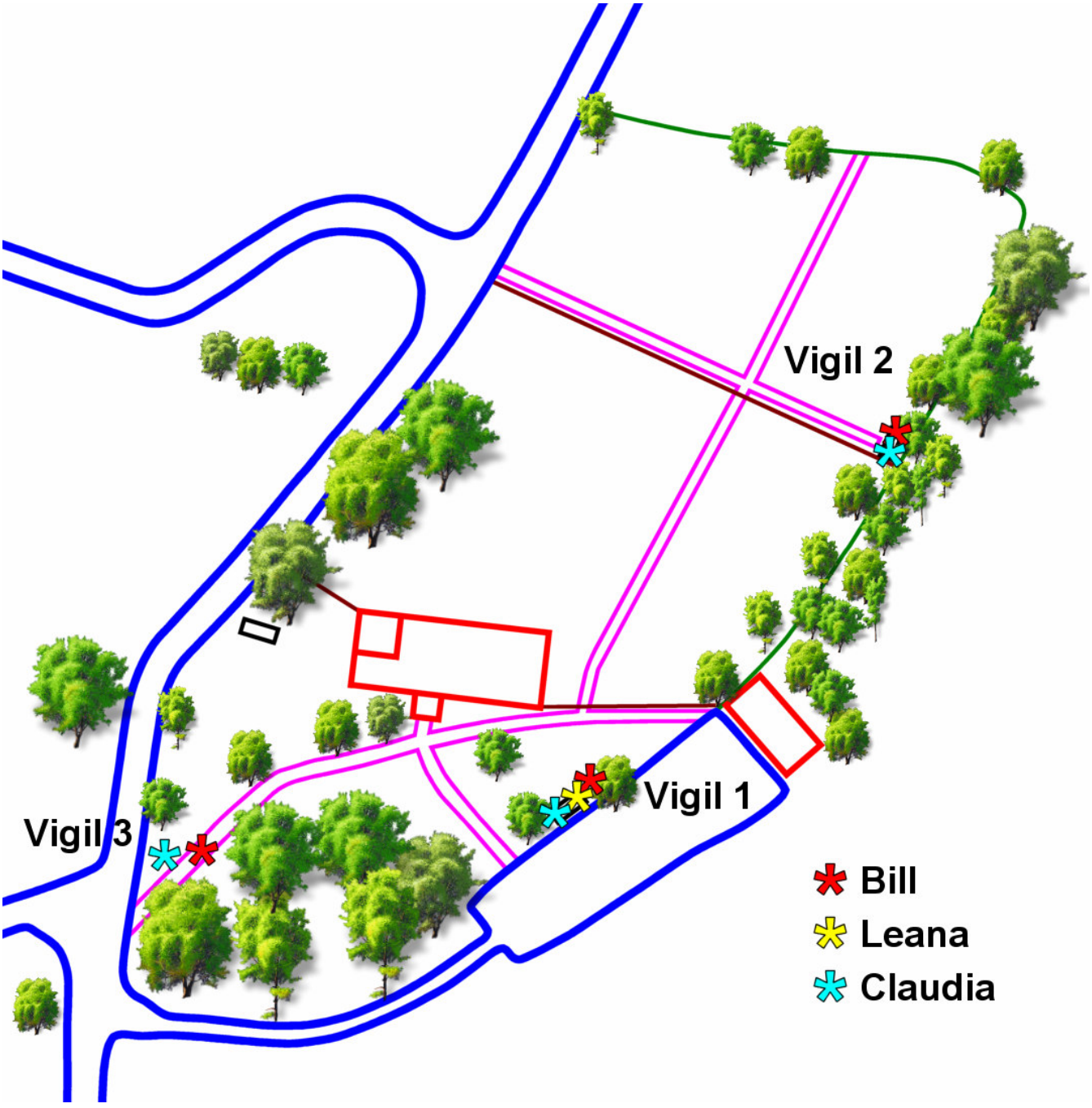
00:10 Claudia feels as if she's been hit in the chest, she is suddenly very cold and struggling to breathe but it only lasts a couple of seconds.