


| Investigation Report | |  |
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| Investigation Site | Bradwell Abbey, Milton Keynes | |
| Investigation Date | 13/05/2023 | |
| Report By | Andrew Fazekas | |
| Team Members | Andy F, Ben, Jason, Dee, Maria, Racheal D, Rachel W, Sonia, Jackie & Dani | |
| Historical Background | | |
| <p>Despite its name the abbey, or more properly, the priory, was founded as part of the Wolverton estate, but because of its closeness to the village of Bradwell, became associated with that name.</p> <p>It was founded as a bequest of the baron of Wolverton, Meinfelin, at or soon after his death circa 1154. He gave the southern section of the manor, beyond the brook to support the priory. Building probably began soon after this date. As was customary, the new priory came under the jurisdiction of an established house, in this case Luffield, on the border of Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire.</p> <p>The monks followed the Benedictine order and as well as their expected duties to pray at regular hours, were also responsible for working the land, just as their peasant neighbours did. Most of the land came under the plough. The priory was never very prosperous. After the original endowment of land, little else was forthcoming. It was granted the right to appoint the vicar of Holy Trinity church, which meant that some of the revenue from tithes would find its way into priory coffers.</p> <p>The priory also held some land in Padbury and the churches of Padbury, Stantonbury, Stoke Hammond and Chalfont St Giles. Stantonbury was ceded to the bishop of Lincoln at an early but unknown date and Chalfont St Giles went the same way in 1259. Other than the prospect of future endowments there was not much scope for the priory. Many priories and abbeys functioned as hostelries for travellers, but the foundation of Stony Stratford around 1200 closed off that option.</p> <p>The route followed by Queen Eleanor's cortege in 1290, for example, went from Delapre Abbey in Northampton to Stony Stratford and then to Woburn Abbey. Had there been no inns at Stony Stratford it would have been possible for Bradwell Abbey to develop a hostelry a mere two mile further on the Watling Street.</p> <p>The records of the priory are extremely sketchy. The Priors that we know of were Nigel (mentioned in 1189), Richard (mentioned in 1201), John (mentioned in 1219); another Richard resigned in 1237 and was replaced by Simon de Kantia. Prior John was mentioned in 1253 and Bartholemew in 1272. Robert of Ramsey was elected in 1280 and 40 years later, in 1320, we know that Prior John died and Robert of Rowsham was elected to replace him. He may not have been there very long because in 1231 Prior Robert Foliot died and was succeeded by Simon of Elstow. He resigned five years later and William of Loughton was elected in his stead.</p> <p>This brings us to the Black Death, which reached the Wolverton area in 1349. There were probably as many casualties as there were elsewhere, but two that we know about are the last of the Wolverton barons, John de Wolverton, who died in that year, and William de Loughton, the Prior of Bradwell. We must assume that the plague also killed off many of the monks because there were simply not enough men to manage the estate in the following years. Browne Willis reports that the buildings were in a state of disrepair by 1361.</p> <p>John of Billing was elected Prior in 1349 and it is unclear how many years he served, but his successor, John of Willen, was deprived of the post for incompetence in 1361. Who succeeded him is not known but John Horwood was the prior in 1388. In 1380 the income of the priory was £32 6s. 2d. - not very much for an institution of this size.</p> <p>John Harwood died in 1410 and was replaced by William Horwood, who may have been a relative. After that the rest of the 15th century does not record the names of the priors.</p> | | |

The priory was undoubtedly poor but for some this was an attraction. One monk from St Albans petitioned his abbot to be allowed to spend his retirement years at Bradwell where he could get closer to God by living a life of real poverty. There are also no bad reports of Bradwell, no evidence of backsliding or corruption. The bishop of Lincoln, who visited at sometime between the years of 1431 and 1436, gave the priory a good report and was only concerned about the small numbers of monks.

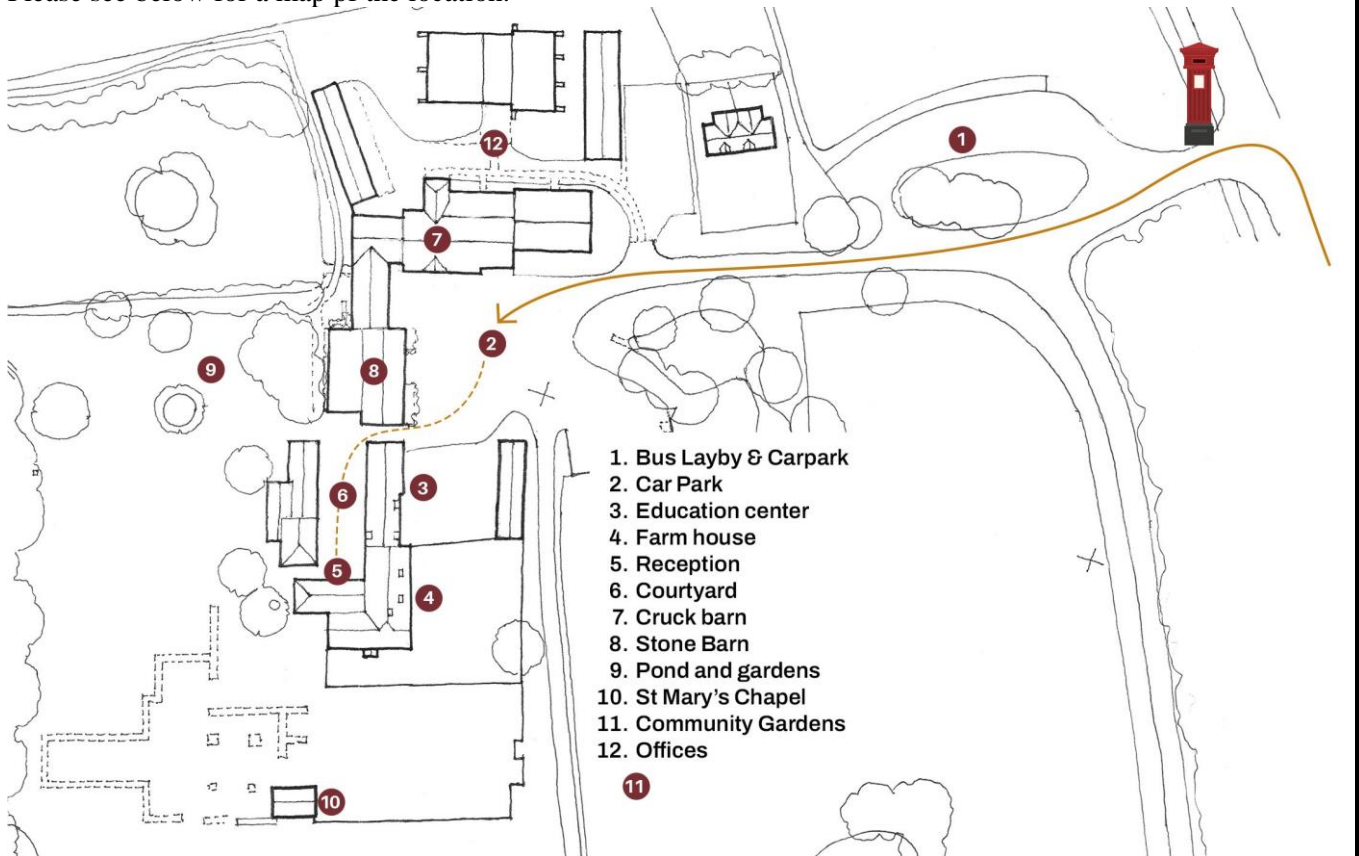
By the turn of the 16th century the monastic movement was in decline. Contrary to popular belief, which associates the monastic dissolution with Henry VIII and Thomas Cromwell in the late 1530s, many were closed down in the 15th century to fund other projects. In many cases the income was used to support the new colleges which were growing up at places like Oxford and Cambridge, and such was the fate of Bradwell Abbey.

In 1524 the lands and the revenues of the priory were acquired by Cardinal Wolsey to help towards funding his great project of Christ Church College at Oxford. The income amounted to £47 4s. 1 1/4d. Not a great deal of money, but as the cardinal no doubt noted to himself, "Every little helps!"



This drawing, taken from a Bradwell Abbey brochure, illustrates how the priory may have looked in 1524.

Please see below for a map of the location.



Pre-Investigation

Dee arrived after a long drive from Suffolk... on getting out of the car in the courtyard at the location, she was immediately sensing a lot of energies but was not able to differentiate at that point whether they were residual or intelligent as there were too many impressions coming in too quickly. The strongest and clearest 'pull' on Dee's senses while standing in the courtyard awaiting the arrival of other team members was towards the cottage(s) adjacent to the site, which were not part of the investigation. This pull was very strong.

Weather conditions:

Mild; some light rain; light breeze.

Ambient sounds:

Occasional train passing on nearby electric line; birds; wind in the trees.

Dee's equipment:

Notepad, pen, torch

19:30 Arrival at site, meet in car park and escorted into the farmhouse building by the site curator Noelle, who is also known as Ellie.

20:00 Preliminary walkthrough:

The Director of the location walked us around the site, which is of considerable size, and was asked to give some history of the various parts of the site, but not anything to do with potential paranormal incidents. While entering the Stone Barn, Dee immediately felt disoriented for a moment. The team was taken into all available areas, including the men's and ladies' toilets near the Cruck Barn. Dee began hearing a bell - not a church bell, but a small chiming/tinkling. This continued to follow Dee all through the investigation with varying degrees of volume, which became very distracting. Dee also felt dizzy in the Prop Room. While walking around the back of the barns past the cottages Dee was initially drawn to, the Director did mention that there had been reports of

strange occurrences in one of them. This validated Dee's feeling about the cottages. In the Chapel, Dee felt off kilter and felt movement through the floor or walls (to Dee, the whole space felt like it was moving/vibrating).

While Andy and Ben set up equipment around the site. The rest of the team are shown the chapel and then are given a walk around the site by the staff member. Dees hears bells ringing whilst walking round, not large bells but smaller. Feels a limping man is following her. She mentions to the staff member about maybe rhubarb growing there.

20:41 Jason sets up an infrared (IR) motion activated trail camera in the main corridor of the farm building, facing the entrance porch which was part of the original Benedictine Priory building and remains in situ. Jason's Camera = Ceyomur CY50 Trail Camera

21:00 First Vigil – The Cruck Barn

The team is seated on chairs in a circle in the middle of the room. It is a normal call out session, beginning with each person stating their name and then taking turns to ask questions, one after the other in a clockwise direction around the circle.

However, Dee is distracted. She eventually apologises and states that she has a man talking to her in her right ear. His voice is very indistinct, and she finds it difficult to understand what he is saying. She says that he is also finding it hard to understand what we are saying. She also states that he is accompanied by the sound of bells. It is assumed that the sound of bells and the man's speech problems may indicate that this person could have been in life a leper. (However, see note at the end of this report).

Cat balls and a stuffed Bear are used as trigger objects, EMF meter are also placed in the middle of the circle with these. Bear triggers in answer to Dee's questions. "Do you know you are dead?"
Dee senses a taller man pacing along the back wall trying to stop the disabled man.
Dee and Rachel feel a little sick.

Dee thought that the man was trying to say his name and that it was either Geoffrey or perhaps Godfrey (he will be referred to as Geoffrey from this point onwards).
Sonia senses a tall dark figure standing behind Rachel W and Jason. She says he is stressed by the fact that we are here.

Hexcom comes out with the word "nearby".

21:03 Start of session. Dee becomes immediately (and strongly) aware of a 'person' standing behind her by her right shoulder. When Dee asks the person to go to the centre of the circle where the equipment is set on the floor, it lights up.

21:10 Dee hears slight movement behind her, which Rachel D also hears. Dee recites the Lord's Prayer in her mind.

(Time not noted): Dee mentions that she feels the person 'clinging' to her has trouble understanding what the team is saying and doing. She also is aware that the person has an illness and wonders if maybe the bell she is hearing is a leper's bell. Dee is aware that the entity is nervous about what is going on and does not really understand what the team is saying. Dee hears what sounds like "Geoffrey" (or "Joffrey" or "Godfrey" - that kind of name) and it is not spoken well, as though the man has a speech impediment or something wrong with his mouth.

21:27 Dee hears a 'click' noise in the corner to her right.

21:29 – a shadow walks past chairs along back wall
Rachel D goes to sit along back wall.

Man screams in Dee's ear.

21:29 PIR Sensor Light is activated but this is proven to have been caused by Racheal D standing up.

21:30 Dani feels a sharp pain in her left temple.

21:33 ‘Geoffrey’ screams in Dee’s ear. Dee says he is frustrated that the rest of us cannot hear him, and that Dee finds it difficult to understand him (this may not be because of his apparent illness or disability. English spoken in the Middle Ages would sound very different to our own modern version of the language).

21:35 Ben has been experiencing the sensation of someone stroking the back of his head for some time during this session and at Jason’s suggestion swaps places with Dee to see if he continues to feel the sensation in his new position. He does not.

Sonia says that she can see a crippled man (the same person that Dee is hearing) who is sad that there are not enough prayers being said. It is agreed that the team should recite The Lord’s Prayer specifically for Geoffrey, and this is done.

21:35 – Ben and Dee swap places

Rachel W feels her hair being touched.

Hexcom says ‘Gary’.

Sonia feels the man is worried that these days there is no religion, no community.

The Team says the Lord’s prayer

The team say thank you to Godfrey.

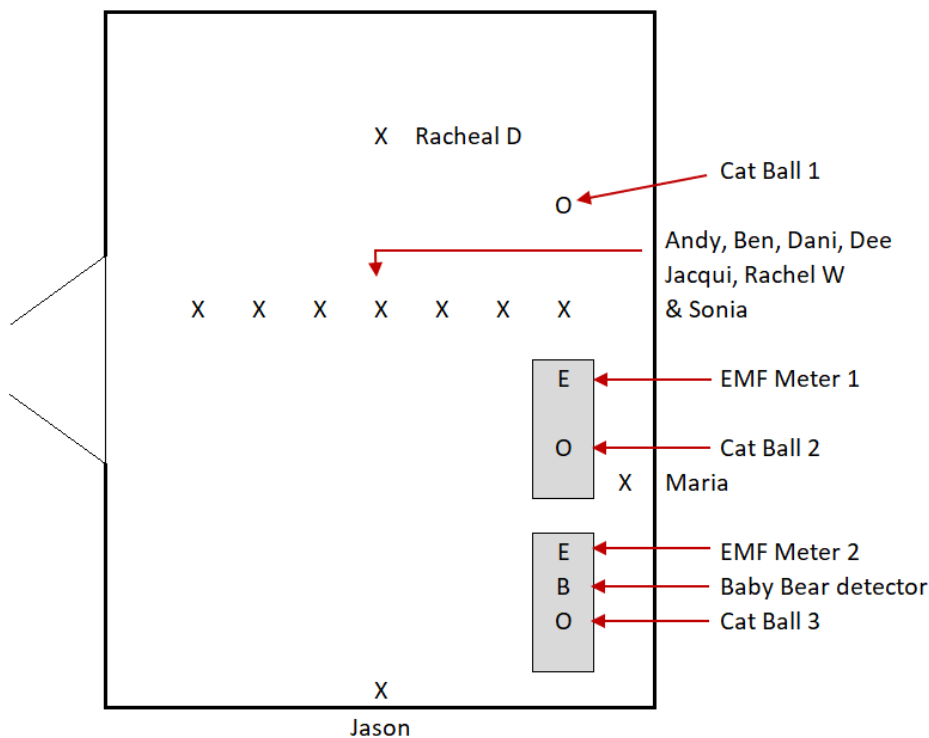
21:45 End of session. Note: 'Geoffrey' is still with Dee and is less agitated than at the start of the session; the bell is still heard.

21:55 Second Vigil – The Wedding Barn

Trigger objects are placed along the side of the barn

An experiment was conducted during this vigil in which Racheal D was seated at one end of the barn wearing headphones plugged into an SP7 ‘Spirit Box’. All she could hear was the signal from that device. She could not hear any of the rest of the team. The rest of the team sat in a line calling out questions to the spirits. Racheal D called out any words or phrases that she heard in her headphones.

Maria sat at the first of two tables, further back and to the side of the barn and Jason sat at the back of the barn – both observed the EMF meters, Baby Bear and Cat Ball motion indicators placed on the two tables.



Dee stands opposite the entrance with Ben on her left. Rachel D is seated on the opposite side of the barn with headphones attached to the SB7. The other team members ask questions and Rachel D speaks any words that come through from the SB7 - she is unable to hear the team talking, because of the loud SB7 sounds in the headphones.

Sonia senses the spirit of a girl who drowned in the pond (originally where the monks would breed fish but still in existence when Bradwell was used as a farm long after the dissolution.

(RD = Racheal D)

22:00 Start of session. The team introduces themselves to which Rachel D hears "Eden" (man's voice) in the headphones.

22:01 Baby Bear activation

22:04 Dee notes that the cat ball on the table to Dee's right (opposite Rachel D) lights up then the one next to Marie (seated at a table to Dee's left) then the one on the right again. Rachel D says "I'm ready".

22:05 Cat Ball 1 activation (continuous for a minute)

22:05 Cat Ball 2 activation

22:08 Cat Ball 2 activation

22:09 RD: "I'm ready"

Marie asks "Do you know you're dead" and Rachel D immediately says "Awkward"

22:10 Maria: "Do you know you're dead?"

RD: "Awkward"

22:11 RD: "I'm here"

Cat Ball 3 activation

22:12 Cat Ball 1 activation

Dee gets a sense of being watched from above. This quickly passes. Apart from the intermittent bell continuing to plague Dee's ears, she is not sensing any presences at all.

22:13 "Did you live in the farmhouse?"

Cat Ball 1 activation

There is talk amongst the team about drowning.

22:14 RD: "Heart attack"

Ben comments that many people who drown do have heart attacks as part of the drowning process.

22:15 "When did you die?" the year 1871 comes to Sonia's mind.

22:16 Sonia: "We can help you cross over?"

Ben asks "Was this a barn you played in as a child" and Rachel D says "Fields".

RD: "Thank you"

Maria: "Do you like Racheal?"

RD: "Friend"

22:16 Cat Ball 2 activation

22:17 Maria: "Does Racheal make you feel safe?"

RD: "Stupid"

22:18 Maria: "Have you got any brothers?"

(Not sure who asked this): "What's your name?"

RD: "Hopeless"

Andy: "Do you have a message for us?"

RD: "Be quick - Heartbeat - Don't screw up" (laughter)

22:20 RD: "Bells - Bells - Bells"

22:21 RD: "Bells - Bells - Bells"

On both occasions Racheal was actually hearing the sound of bells through her headset.

22:21 Andy: "Are you Victorian children?"

Ben: "We're you alone at the river or pond?"

RD: "No"

Andy: "What's your friend's name?"

Maria: "Is it Clara?"

RD: "We Do"

22:24 Ben: "Was the person at the pond supposed to keep an eye on you?"

RD: "Cute lady"

Ben: "Tell me about the cute lady. Was she family?"

RD: "Rhubarb - scabs"

22:25 Andy: "Who's on the throne of England?"

Ben: "Do you want us to help you cross over?"

22:26 Dee: "Can you see a man with bells?"

Maria: "Are you making the atmosphere colder?"

22:27 Ben: "Thank you for your responses."

22:27 Baby Bear activation

22:28 Ben: "Do you want us to stay or leave?"

RD: "Good luck."

22:29 Ben: "We'll be leaving soon. But thank you anyway."

22:30 End of session.

Note: As Dee was getting ready to exit the Stone Barn, she began hearing a lady's voice in her ear saying "Maisie" and this lady indicated to Dee that she was strongly connected to Sonia. Dee mentioned it to Sonia as they were leaving the Barn and Sonia acknowledged that "Maisie" (now passed) is known to her and that she had been thinking about her earlier that week!

22:45 Third Vigil - footbridge by the pond.

The team hold a short silent vigil by the pond, next to the footbridge in response to information that had been picked up in the Wedding Barn vigil.

22:47 The EMF bear lights up behind Dee (it is set on the ground a few paces behind).

En route back to the Centre for a break, several team members all hear what sounds very definitely like running water. Dee asks the Director about it, but she says there is none in that part of the site. Very strange... it was not the wind in the trees (that sound is distinctive and was heard in a different area). No explanation for the running water sound.

23:00 BREAK

23:15 During a break, Jason switches off the infrared (IR) motion activated trail camera he'd set up in the main corridor of the farm building. A subsequent study of the photos taken show in each case that the camera had been activated only by either Noelle or LPS team members.

23:30 Fourth Vigil – Farmhouse: Low Parlour

This was the first of two vigils in the 'low parlour' section of the building. It was connected in two rooms either side of a short passageway (only 4 or 5 feet in length) that had been bricked up for many years and was only recently rediscovered. Ben, Jason and Racheal D observed from the first room (closest to the main part of the building, while the rest of the team sat in the second room.

Two cat ball motion indicators and a K2 EMF meter are placed in the passageway.

The team set up either end of an old passageway and puts trigger objects either end. One cat ball goes off 10 times.

Rachel W swaps round balls to debunk they don't go off in new location

Andy sees a stickman, but it was debunked.

On entering this area, Dee hears the Hail Mary being recited very clearly in her mind.

23:31 CB2 activation – this flicker on and off almost continually and it is eventually decided to swap the two Cat Balls over to see if CB2 still activates in its new position or if CB1 now activates in CB2's old position. However, neither cat ball activates from this point on.

23:49 Someone asks out "Are you the lady of the house?" and Danni says "Eden" (she is listening to the spirit box with headphones).

Dee does not really sense much in this area apart from still hearing the bells. She is also hearing singing intermittently.

23:50 The Cat Balls are swapped back and CB2, now returned to its original position, is once again activated.
23:53 CB2 activation
23:56 Dee is disturbed by how Danni's face seems to change - very downturned mouth, an almost drooping face and it does not look at all like Danni. Very odd.
Dani is now channelling a spirit and found it difficult to remove herself from that.
Dani wears the noise cancelling headphones and uses the spirit box.
Dani 'quiet quiet quiet!'
Are you a priest or monk? Dani 'No, only, quiet, mine, work, friend, gone'.
Did you ring bells? Dani 'noisy, like them, the bells, hard, stop, weak.'
The team hear a thump in the wall, Dani 'Quiet gone'
Do you like it here? Dani 'leave (ladies voices) eden, sure'
Jason swaps the cat ball over in passageway, same ball begins to go off again.
Dani 'Don't leave, adam gone'.
Who is adam? Dani 'gone'
Ball is trigger in passageway.
Dani 'darn? Ready'
Dani feels overwhelmed has to detach and go outside for a bit.
Dee picks up on someone not happy Ben isn't bowing to them.

Midnight – Session concluded. and the team moved to the next room.

00:08 Fifth Vigil – Farmhouse: Low Parlour (End Room)

Team members present: Andy, Ben, Jason, Maria, Racheal D, Rachel W

Dee, Jacqui and Sonia were outside the building, helping Dani after her experience in the previous vigil.

00:15 A silent vigil was begun but it was shortly decided to take a break and resume the vigil after that.

It was noticed while the lights were out that the light inside a closed cupboard at the far end of the room kept on switching on and off. Noelle confirmed at the end of the investigation that some of the electrics within the house were problematic, so it's doubtful that this had any supernatural cause.

00:45 Silent vigil is resumed.

00:54 Recorded music; Ave Maria followed by a Gregorian Chant is played in an effort to stimulate a response. Dee plays Gregorian music on her phone. The team decide to play a Latin prayer in the hope this will attract the spirits, this room wasn't active, Andy's music box wasn't triggered all the team felt no energies were present within this room the only activity was the light in the cupboard being turned on/off which was unexplainable to the team possible sensor?? As Andy mentioned the team will be leaving the EMF bear was triggered **EVP captured male "LIKE HER"** the light in the cupboard came on and off on request x2

00:54 Start of session. The team decides to play some Gregorian Chant to see if this stimulates any activity. Dee noted that it did not.

01:09 Dee hears a popping noise somewhere near her. She is seated near the storage cupboard which contains a movement activated light, which came on intermittently, even when the door was closed. We could not rule out a faulty light (the Director said these lights are very sensitive), but it was odd and seemed to happen on demand.

01:11 The cupboard door is closed. Light keeps coming on and off inside closed cupboard – there is a sensor light found by the team. **EVP captured male** saying the word "**CURSING**" The team were notified that a member of the group was experiencing some difficulties with her breathing Andy decides to stop for a break to ensure the individual was ok. As Jason, Racheal D, Rachel w discuss the unexplained light in the cupboard, **EVP captured Male "BRING IT ON"** The team head back to base for a break Sonia and Racheal D both say how strange it was they both brought white sage tonight **EVP captured Female "GOOD IDEA"**

01:12 Racheal D's 'Baby Bear' motion detector is activated.

01:16 Session is ended. (the cupboard light flashes on an off for good measure!)

01:20 Jason sets his Ceyomur CY50 Trail Camera up in the second Low Parlour room, facing the recently discovered interconnecting passage from across the room.

01:30 Sixth / Final Vigil – Pilgrims Chapel

01:30 Start of session. Dee and Jay recite the Hail Mary, as Dee feels it is obligatory. Dee also feels very dizzy and off-balance in the Chapel. Dee and Racheal D both hear a female voice. Ben and Jason check outside the chapel both going around the building in opposite directions, but no one is outside.

Rachel D and Dee hear the bells immediately.

Sonia feels there was a person hanged in the corner between doors.

Maria feels there was a monk that has been stabbed and there's blood.

On entering the chapel **EVP captured female "HUMMING SOUND"** straight after a female child voice **EVP captured "IM TIRED"** cat balls set up photos taken Jay and DEE say the hail mary prayer together. **EVP captured a lady upset "whimpering"**. Dee played a prayer on her phone, she says to the group she heard bells, Racheal also confirmed hearing bells through her headphones but thought this was the prayer music. **EVP captured the SOUND OF BELLS RINGING.**

Dee tells the group she is sensing someone saying for the team to cover their heads, as this was disrespectful not to do this in the chapel. The team raised their coat or jacket hoods out of respect. Dee tells the group she hears voices, Racheal also confirmed hearing voices through her headphones but couldn't make out what was said. **EVP captured a female voice unsure of what was said.** The team unsure if there is anyone outside the chapel, the team go out to look no one around.

Marie notes that at first things were ok questions being asked but all at once I saw monks everywhere and blood all around. I saw the ministry in all its glory but on fire. I saw a sword being thrust into a monk and monks running around asking for mercy. This was not in Henry VIII time but more like Viking times.

01:35 Dee and Rachel D hear a bell at the same time.

01:36 Dee and Sonia hear the bell! Dee then plays a short burst of Gregorian Chant.

01:37 Dee gets the strong feeling of the team being reprimanded for "not being respectful" and needing to "cover their heads". The members all pull up hoods and put on hats to cover their heads.

01:40 Dee hears a couple of small sighs or moans - high pitched like a young woman or a child.

01:45 Dee hears the sighs/moans/murmuring again.

01:46 Everyone hears a burst of female voices. Team members check outside to see if anyone is out there but can find no one. Everyone leaves the chapel and continues the session outside. The visibility is very good. Dee takes some photos of the Chapel.

Team walks around site of abbey, Rachel W feels sick when she passes large end door of the chapel, over the flagstones. Maria has an impression of a violent incident involving monks running scared. One monk has a sword in his stomach. Noelle was asked after the investigation if there was any record of such an event having taken place. According to Noelle, there was not.

Racheal D and Maria decide to investigate the woos area whilst the rest of team stay outside the chapel area. Andy mentions to the group that the remains of bodies are still here. **EVP captured female "BLACK BIN"**

02:30 - 03:00 The woods investigation EVPS included Equipment used cat balls EMF bear headphone and digital recorder.

Maria notes that at first wood felt peaceful, but the second Rachel D and I walked around. My senses were drawn to this wood. As we were walking around, I felt we were being followed and being stared at. We both came to a clearing Rachel placed trigger objects and between us called out it was quiet, but little did we know what Rachel recorded refer to report what Rachel got.

Racheal and Maria ask many questions the EMF bear was activated when Racheal mentioned about the woods being the spirits sacred place. Introduce themselves the bear was activated again. When they asked for a name from spirit **EVP captured male "HELLO"**

Racheal asked for a name **EVP captured male saying the name ASTON, ASPEN, OR Possible ASHLEY** As both women move closer to the water **EVP captured male "ASK WHAT WE ARE DOING HERE"** Maria finds a place to sit, as the women move into this slightly secluded area **EVP Captured male "DON'T LOOK BACK"** Just to note this evp was very clear!!!! Both lady's ask each other did you hear that?? Both say they heard

something?? Racheal asks spirit did we just hear you? **EVP** female “**HURRY UP**” Racheal asks spirit to flash the ball **EVP** capture male “**ROLL**”

Both women decide to regroup with the team as the whole investigation was coming to an end. The team head back to debrief and pack up for the night.

Team Analysis

Jason - Note on Geoffrey the leper.

Once the investigation had been concluded, Noelle revealed some of Bradwell’s history to the team and was asked by Dee if there had ever been a leper’s colony at the site. Noelle said that there had been one some miles away but there was no record of such a colony ever having been established at Bradwell Abbey.

The following day, Jason found a British Museum article online concerning a ‘Pilgrim Bell’, which is one of the many artefacts stored at the museum. The article stated that these bells were often worn by pilgrims journeying to and from Canterbury.

Bradwell Abbey was a stop-off point for pilgrims heading to Canterbury so rather than being a leper, it seems plausible that Geoffrey was a pilgrim who was simply unwell and/or disabled, and who died at Bradwell Abbey whilst either making his way to or perhaps more likely returning *from* Canterbury.

Here is a link to that article: https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/H_2001-0702-4

Dee - None of Dee's photos showed anything unusual.

There were some very interesting parts of this location, which would benefit from further investigation (i.e. the Cruck Barn and the Chapel). The team will return to the location later in the year to investigate the areas not available on this investigation.

Rachel D - I enjoyed the investigation what a great place with so much history. Interesting to find no files on my digital recorder I saw the shadows and I sat and recorded. No files at all were found when I was going through what I captured in that room. I really enjoyed the SP7 experiment with the headphones, really looking forward to doing that again and coming back to Bradwell.

Maria - All in all there is some activity but more imprints of different decades around this site from the Viking Henry VIII Civil war but it’s a shame that all that remains is the small chapel Can’t wait to our next investigation back at this site.