


Investigation Report		
Investigation Site	Minsden Chapel and Hitch Wood	
Investigation Date	27 th June 2025	
Report By	Luton Paranormal Society	
Team Members	Ben, Jane, Jim, Laetitia (Tisha), Lily, Lorraine, Racheal D, Richard K, Robin	

On Friday the 27th of June 2025 Luton Paranormal Society made the relatively short trip to the new, and not previously investigated, location of Hitch Wood (also known interchangeably as Hitchwood), which is situated about eleven miles to the east of Luton and nestled the other side of the picturesque Hertfordshire village of Whitwell and St Pauls Walden. Not a great deal is known about Hitch Wood, and reference to it being a known paranormal location will not likely be found in any ghost books or on the internet.

Luton Paranormal Society has prided itself for many years as being a society that is prepared to investigate locations that have no known haunting, or that other paranormal groups have unlikely investigated before, and Hitch Wood seemed like an excellent location for an investigation.

Upon arrival at approximately 21:00, the team decided to firstly visit nearby Minsden Chapel, which unlike previous visits, has now been restored and gated off. However, Ben took advantage of making a live video for social media purposes. Numerous group members also took photos etc before heading back to the meeting point, and then into Hitch Wood.

Minsden Chapel

Minsden Chapel is an isolated ruined chapel in the fields above the hamlet of Chapelfoot, near Preston, Hertfordshire. Today it is a roofless shell, partly surrounded by a small wood, and accessible only by footpath. It is a Scheduled Monument and is Grade II Listed. (Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minsden_Chapel)

Minsden chapel was named after St Nicholas – the protector of children and the poor. Its mother church was St Mary’s at Hitchin. The chapel of ease served the farming communities of Minsden, Langley, Preston and even farther afield – Robert of Walsworth rode to services in the middle of the fifteenth century.

As the chapel stood near St Albans (High)Way, it was also a sanctuary for travellers and pilgrims en route to St Alban’s Abbey. During the Reformation (from 1538) worship at Minsden chapel declined. The congregation was small and couldn’t afford a minister. As the local people were too independent to travel to St Mary’s, every few months a clergyman rode to Minsden to conduct baptism, marriage and burial services. The chapel continued to drift apart from its mother church and became increasingly neglected. In 1650, a report noted that “no dues had been paid to the Vicar of Hitchin for many years (by Minsden); that it had been destitute of a preaching minister for divers years past; that the chapel had fallen into great decay”. Then, incredibly, it added that “it was fit to be made a parish church”.

Source: <https://prestonherts.co.uk/minsdenchapel.htm> (Also provides a detailed report ‘The ‘Ghost’ of Minsden Chapel’ and further useful information)

Although the team attended Minsden Chapel, no investigation took place as the church is now fenced off and inaccessible to the public.

Hitch Wood

At Hitch Wood, about a mile south-east of Preston, two camps ('North ' and 'South') were established to train soldiers for fighting overseas and the D-Day landings. A local builder in Hitchin built huts in there, which housed some of the men. The remains of the brick ovens can still be seen.

Frank Thomas has recorded his experiences at a Hitch Wood Camp: 'About the middle of August 1942 a number of us younger soldiers were posted to 39th L.A.A. Regt which was in camp at Hitch Wood, a wood about 3 miles from Hitchin, Herts. The regiment was preparing to go overseas, but where no one knew. When I joined the 39th Light A/A (Anti-Aircraft) Regiment..... I was allocated to 111th Battery D Troop. I arrived at Hitch Wood in time for 6 weeks of infantry training before more serious A/A training for overseas. The infantry training stood us in good stead when in August 1944 we were ordered to leave our Bofors guns behind us and go into the front line as an infantry regiment.'

At the time I joined, intensive training was going on, not just with anti-aircraft guns, but also infantry training in case we had to resort to this. There was a large common opposite our camp where this training was carried out. Not only was there the usual assault course, and training in tactics, but also at times we would form a line in a clear part of the common and be ordered to proceed straight ahead. Whatever obstacle lay on our path we must not deviate from a straight line. Our motto was "Get through it". I have been thankful for that tough course many times in my life when things had been difficult. What did St Paul say? "I have fought the good fight; I have kept the faith" Yes he went straight ahead. Alas I have often failed, and yet often in difficult times I am thankful for Hitch Wood.'

Source:

<https://prestonherts.co.uk/wwtwo.htm#:~:text=At%20Hitchwood%2C%20about%20a%20mile,this%20training%20was%20carried%20out.>

Investigation Begins

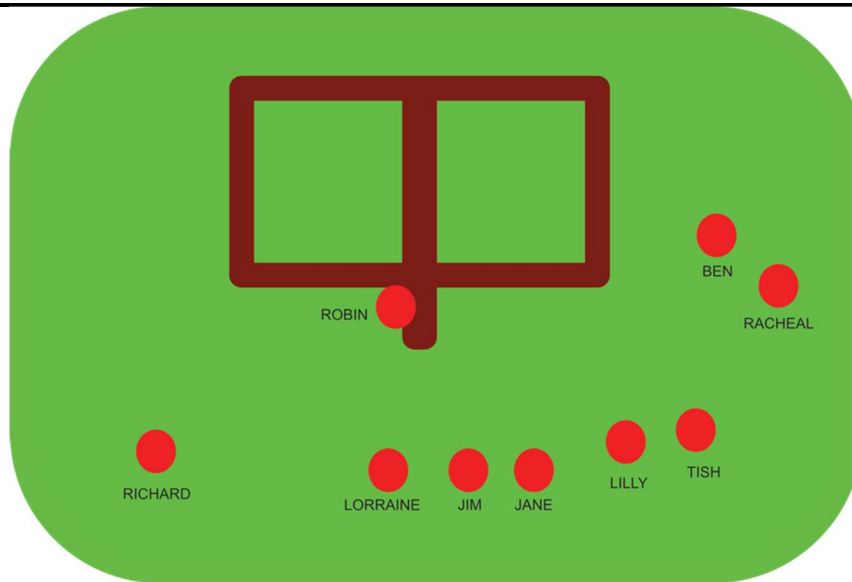
Location 1: There is only 1 location that the team base themselves around, being the remains of what may have been part of the WW2 barracks. The team did not split and all remained at the one location throughout the duration of the investigation.

Team: Jim, Lorraine, Ben, Jane, Racheal D, Richard K, Robin, Tisha and Lily.

Equipment Used: Cat balls; audio recorders; video cameras; stills cameras both DSLR and multi-spectrum; Rem pods; KII meters; light-up duck and bear; motion activated music box; plasma balls; night vision motion sensor cameras (trap/trail cameras).

Jim places his motion sensor night vision camera behind the team. He keeps one digital recording device with him, and another placed behind Robin sitting on the main structure's wall.

NOTE: This location is somewhat blighted by noise from aircraft coming and going from nearby Luton Airport.



Team members' positions at the location.

Vigil 1 – Silent Vigil

22:19 Silent Vigil commences.

22:23 Racheal's motion detecting music box activates.

[NOTE: the music box was made by Jim, who informs the team that during testing, the music box would always stop after the first tune. So, to remain active for as long as it did was unusual. Further, the music box is designed to turn off when further motion is detected. There was a breeze at this time, but it didn't keep setting the music box off.]

22:31 A REMPOD is placed in the remains of the shelter believed to have been used for practice during WW2.

22:35 Jane captures a large bright round light in a photographic image. Possible orb?

22:34 Racheal's duck turns off.

Tisha senses spirit activity; a man who was there during the war taking photographs.

Jane thinks the RemPod activates that was placed on a middle wall.

Tisha says the man she senses was tall, and although in the army was more of security/camp watchman. She gets the name Bill.

Tisha states the man did not die in the war but died later with lung problems, possibly lung cancer in the 1970s and was around 64 years of age. He just wants to watch us. Jane states that her father-in-law was called Bill and died of lung cancer in his 60s. He was a military man who was stationed in this area during the Second World War as a watchman and enjoyed photography.

22:40 End of vigil.

Vigil 2 – using mobile phone apps (Spirit Talker and Ghost Tube)

22:40 Vigil commences.

22:41 Robin starts his Ghost Tube app and Racheal uses the Spirit Talker app.

GHOST TUBE: Jo/Joe

Racheal asks if any spirits want to communicate with us.

22:42 SPIRIT TALKER: It's my happy place.

22:43 Jane's EMF meter triggers directly in front of her.

SPIRIT TALKER: They do rituals.

22:44 GHOST TUBE: Frightened.

SPIRIT TALKER: Footstep

Ben feels that the team is being watched.

Jane feels she can hear footsteps behind her.

22:45 GHOST TUBE: Feeling

SPIRIT TALKER: I was hung

22:46 Racheal's music box activates again.

GHOST TUBE: Excuse me.

SPIRIT TALKER: It creeps behind you.

22:47 GHOST TUBE: Train track/traitor?

Ben and Tisha hear the name 'Ben'

SPIRIT TALKER: Almost

Victim

The little girl likes you

Tisha picks up an energy that is not a good energy and believes it is not a little girl.

SPIRIT TALKER: Footstep

22:49 Jane's KII meter activates.

SPIRIT TALKER: Ivy

22:50 SPIRIT TALKER: Enid

Jim, Lorraine, Jane and Tisha hear a husky voice behind them. Richard states it may have been him, but it was not coming from his direction. This is picked up on both of Jim's audio devices.

GHOST TUBE: I don't like it.
Where is the little girl?

22:51 SPIRIT TALKER: Beware of the women.

Ben and Robins plasma balls are acting strange as if the electricity is hitting a specific part of the ball.

22:52 GHOST TUBE: Reasonable (said twice)
Mind (female voice)

Ben is filming the treetops and feels he is getting movement or a fog on the branches. Tisha and Lily feel that they see movement in the direction Ben is looking.

22:53 SPIRIT TALKER: Good evening
Mason
You are loved

22:54 Jane's KII activates

22:55 SPIRIT TALKER: They see the mist
[NOTE: There is notably a mist present in the trees surrounding the team]

Lily thinks she sees something in the tree but then thinks she is being overly paranoid.

SPIRIT TALKER: Feeling

GHOST TUBE: Do you need it? (male voice)

22:56 SPIRIT TALKER: I'm happy to talk.

GHOST TUBE: On the shelf (male voice)

SPIRIT TALKER: I'm in my twenties.

GHOST TUBE: He can't stay (female voice)

22:58 SPIRIT TALKER: Show

22:59 Richard takes a photo that shows an orange mist forming in the woods [Note: the mist cannot be seen by the naked eye]. As he shows the team the picture the Spirit Talker speaks:

SPIRIT TALKER: When.

Both plasma balls appear to be acting strangely again.

23:00 SPIRIT TALKER: I'm from the 1500s

GHOST TUBE: Familiar [Robin describes as a witch's familiar]

Jim feels his chair move.

23:01 SPIRIT TALKER: The rumours are true

Tisha picks up on a spirit, Mary, as a gentle woman and a witch, but not a bad person. She had no link to the woods but linked to a member of the team. Tisha thinks she is linked to Robin and is protecting him. Tisha believes Mary came from outside Norwich and was there to protect Robin as she felt the energy isn't good. Tisha was sensing a huge amount of spirit activity around the team. Coming from different times, some linked to the area, others to team members.

23:02 SPIRIT TALKER: Who are you?

23:03 SPIRIT TALKER: My name is Helen.

It is established that some of the spirits are indeed linked to the people present, with others linked to the area.

GHOST TUBE: Feeling frustrated (female voice)

23:05 SPIRIT TALKER: Who are you?

GHOST TUBE: Please (female voice)

23:06 SPIRIT TALKER: Name

23:07 SPIRIT TALKER: Ask me anything

It is noticed by the team that the wooded area in the direction of Hitch Wood Road has got significantly darker, pitch black. Jim notices a drop in temperature. The trees that could have been seen previously across the road can no longer be seen.

23:08 SPIRIT TALKER: Love

The pitch blackness is seen to lift. It was observed that nothing had happened that would have meant that the eyes had to readjust to the darkness.

23:08 Ben's plasma ball shows the electricity hitting a singular part of the ball.
Robin's plasma ball appears to be acting normally.

23:09 SPIRIT TALKER: Sir

23:14 Jim, Lorraine and Jane can hear wood chopping from the woods on the opposite side of Hitch Wood Road.

23:15 GHOST TUBE: OK (male voice)

23:17 At the same time as Ben announces we will do another 10 minutes silent vigil, Jim and Lorraine hear a rustling.

Robin says it was him moving but both Jim and Lorraine hear it from Richard's direction. Jim was watching Richard at the time and he was not moving. [This is picked up on Jim's Audio device that he had with him.]

23:18 Tisha picks up a female that died of breast cancer in her 30s, passed 10-15 years ago and the woods was a special place for her. The name Sarah came through, that was possibly her mother who is still alive, and she has a sister. Tisha feels that this female came to the woods as a child with her family. She liked people coming to the woods as they were happy.

As Tisha is speaking, a KII meter is dimming and losing power.
Both plasma balls are being drained of power.

Tisha senses a male coming through who has a raspy voice, had a tracheotomy. Died in his early 70s, passed 20-30 years or more, but died due to a heart condition. Wants to be remembered as strong. He is wearing boots and is in uniform, but not connected to the woods. Uniform in blue so possibly RAF or police.

23:20 It is noticed that it has become very dark again.
Jim picks up a faint whisper on both audio devices.

Tisha picks up on a very old lady named Margaret. States they all want to be a part of this. Margaret feels she hasn't been in the spirit world long. Was a good age before she died and died peacefully. May have had dementia or a condition causing confusion. Tisha then says that Margaret as a younger woman was well-dressed, glamorous and a teacher. Had nervous energy about her and anxiety in life.

23:25 Racheal feels three taps on the back of her chair.
The KII shows signs of dimming again.

23:27 KII meter continues to show dimming. Then as the team are talking, it starts to flash.
The lights dim twice and both music box and cat hall are activated.
Once again, the temperature drops, and a darkness is observed to form around the team.

23:31 KII meter that was dimming, now shows itself as working normally.
Ben's plasma ball is showing as losing energy despite having new batteries in.

23:33 Lorraine hears footsteps behind her.

23:34 **The team ends the vigil for a break.**

23:49 During the team break, the music box activates, and a cat ball activates. This is the first time all night that a motion ball has activated.

Vigil 3 – Spirit box session (SB7)

23:51 Vigil commences.

SPIRIT BOX: LOOK DOWN

It is noticed that once again it has got very dark around the team. Jane can barely see Richard sitting approximately 10 meters away from her.

Tisha picks up on another person coming through. Matthew. He may have taken his own life. May have had undiagnosed schizophrenia misdiagnosed as depression. He may have overdosed. He really liked bike riding and his younger life may have been hectic. He left behind a girlfriend and unborn son and his mother died after him. He is unhappy about the fact he left his son behind, but the son is doing alright now. Drug abuse with the girlfriend is picked up on and he may have liked alcohol as well. Possibly from the Stevenage area, died in the 1980s/1990s. Matthew was in his 20s, 24.

Jim and Robin both feel that there is someone watching them from behind all the time.

Speech is heard coming from the Spirit Box but difficult to tell if this is just radio broadcast.

00:10 Jane and Tisha see a blue ball of light above a rempod. Jane and Tisha also see a flickering light.
Ben can hear children.

00:14 Ben and Racheal hear a male cough coming from the direction of Richard. Those sitting next to Richard do not hear the cough and confirm that no one in that area coughed. [Nothing caught on Jims audio.]

Jane hears a man talking behind Robin.

00:15 SPIRIT BOX: STOP MUCKING ABOUT

Tisha gets the spirit of a man with Parkinsons and false teeth. As she is talking, a RemPod activates.

SPIRIT BOX: 2000s

Tisha believes this man died 2003/2004. Ill in November and died in the January. Wore thick glasses and had dark hair. Tall and slim. Dry sense of humour. Not connected to the area.

00:17 RemPod activates again.

Tisha mentions that the tall, slim man (spirit) had a passion for gardening and likes this place, especially as the seasons change.

Robin thinks that he can see shadows and a red light in the ruins.
Jim and Jane see flashing lights dodging around behind Robin.

00:19 Rempod activates again.

Jim hears a branch snapping behind him. Could be an animal.
Jane catches a large light behind her in her camera from where the snapping sound came from. This is captured on the audio device closer to Robin but not the one in Jim's possession. This is strange as the snapping sound was heard behind Jim and not behind Robin.

00:24 A husky voice is captured on Jim's audio device just prior to the vigil ending.

Racheal D's investigation notes:

Racheal enjoyed the investigation with a great team. The use of different equipment was great especially when two or more types of equipment used activated together and the Spirit Talker app bringing up words and phrases that seemed relevant. Within this session cat balls, EMF, the bear music box, plasma balls, and sensor lights were activated multiple times. On some occasions multiple devices were going off at the same time. EVP, duck light and music box activated at the same time. Footage was captured on Ben's video which potentially no one can explain. Whilst seeing this footage and mist surrounding it Racheal's Spirit Talker said "they see the mist".

Racheal took some photos behind the team and captured small blue orbs as if they were peeping behind the trees watching the team.

Racheal had a personal experience where she felt her lower back been tapped 3 times, she is unaware of the time this happened. Racheal was not sitting with the circle, she was sitting behind the rest of the team. Racheal looked behind her but no trees or branches were near to cause this. This is still unexplained for Racheal.

Racheal didn't record much she did duck up two EVPs: the first as Ben says he is quite impressed that spirit drain the plasma balls, a male voice shouts "get out my home".

Post-Investigation Notes

Jim

Jim's motion-sensing infrared camera picked up on **a lot** of moths and other insects during the investigation. This may explain the 'orbs' that may have been captured, and this cannot be ruled out as a possible explanation. The number of insects that were around may have set the music box off, which activates via a motion sensor. However, motion also de-activates the music box and this did not happen, which would be expected if set off by insects. Audio has been captured but requires further analysis to confirm it as potentially being paranormal.

*** END ***