‘The Linear Landscape – Long Straight Lines in the Ether’

Talk by Nigel Twinn given to Devon Dowsers on Tuesday 13 November 2018

Nigel Twinn, Chairman of Tamar Dowsers for 16 years, dowser, author and winner of the prestigious BSD Billy Gawn award, gave Devon Dowsers an extraordinary presentation, introducing us to the multiple dimensions of earth energy dowsing.

All dowsers find various straight flows and currents when they are out in the field, and these can be confusing. Nigel discussed the difference, significance and even existence of many types of earth energy feature including ley lines. He showed us there is still much more to earth energy dowsing to discover, by leading us through his decades of research and revealing how dowsing for straight lines in the landscape has led to the current situation.

Nigel started with an impressive literature review, tracing the history of ley lines and other earth energy lines over the past century. He began with Alfred Watkins (*The Old Straight Track*, 1925). In 1921 Watkins noticed alignments of archaeological sites on the English landscape dating back to Neolithic times. He called these 'ley'. Next came Guy Underwood, whose *The Pattern of the Past* (1973) introduced the term 'ley lines', marking a transition from alignments to lines. John Michell added a 'spiritual dimension' when he alleged he saw a straight line extending from Glastonbury Tor to St Michael's Mount (*The View Over Atlantis*, 1969). In the 1990s, Hamish Miller used dowsing to trace what he named the Michael Line, and he went on to discover and name more ley lines. Alan Neal (*Ley Lines of the South West*, 2004) suggested that ley lines are more like lines of consciousness (or psychic lines) than physical lines. Former BSD Chairman Graham Gardner called ley lines 'energy lines' and Billy Gawn showed that ley lines are not straight at all. Gawn used dowsing to demonstrate the intriguing fact that although energy intensifies as ley lines straighten, when leys join things in a dead-straight line, the lines shatter.

Nigel then drew on the work of European dowsers to illustrate how the simple concept of energy lines is becoming increasing complex, and has been extended to include new dimensions, to give 'interplanetary grids' (where each celestial body has an effect, creating a grid of straight lines), Hartmann's 2D grids and Benker's 3D grids. He also mentioned the significant contributions of Curry and Wittmann. Amongst other things, Nigel told us how he dowsed the menhir at Merrivale and discovered that it stands at the intersection of Berker's lines and also at the intersection of the lunar and Jupiter interplanetary grids.

The plot thickened and the situation became increasingly complex and fascinating when Nigel mentioned further variables, such as lines temporarily created by the Sun, and by himself as he was dowsing, so he asked us to consider a number of questions including:

- What are the sources of earth energy lines?
- What is the effect of human involvement?
- What is earth energy?
- What is the impact of the biosphere?
- What effects do different earth energy lines have?
- To what are they benevolent or detrimental?
- Are they moveable?
- Earth energy lines wriggle, so if we come across a straight one, might it not be an earth energy line?
- Do earth energy lines follow geological fault lines?
- What is the effect of the dowser? As dowsers, we don't all find the same linear alignments.
- Do earth energy lines overlay each other?

Nigel showed us how information about earth energy lines is increasing and it is now up to dowsers to try to interpret the increasingly complex system they are discovering. He ably demonstrated why this is such an exciting time for earth energy dowsers, who now have more information than ever before to translate and build into a new, comprehensive theory.

Devon Dowsers listened with rapt attention and bombarded him with questions throughout the break and into the second half of his presentation. Everyone I spoke to was brimming over with enthusiasm and appreciation for all he had revealed to us, and excited animated conversation buzzed round the hall as members shared their ideas.

In discovering how many types of lines Nigel had discovered in the landscape, I was struck by the parallel with particle physics, in which experimental observation regularly outstrips theory, giving the impetus for the further refinement of theory. This seems to be where Nigel's research has placed him now: an awareness of many different, experimentally observed lines waiting for dowsers to weave them together into a coherent theory.

With thanks to Nigel Twinn, Ali Denham and Stuart Dow for their comments on this write up.