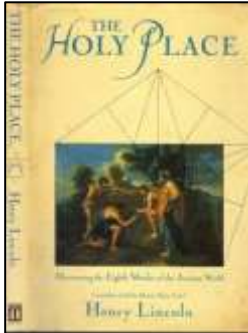


THE SHERWOOD FOREST PENTAGRAM

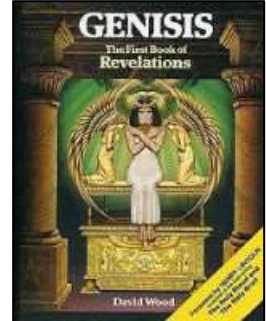
THE SHERWOOD FOREST PENTAGRAM

INTRODUCTION

Back in 2006 when I first started taking an interest in all things esoteric, I read the iconic book 'The Da



Vinci Code' by Dan Brown. This led me to the enigmatic mystery of Renne-le-Chateau in the Languedoc region of south-west France. However, what piqued my interest was not so much the mystery of a village priest and hidden treasure, but the landscape pentagram formed by high points in the surrounding landscape described by the late Henry Lincoln in his book 'The Holy Place: Discovering the Eighth Wonder of the Ancient World'. Another book 'Genesis: The First Book



of Revelations' by the late David Wood took the landscape geometry further and I was hooked.

I decided to see if there were any pentagrams in the landscape surrounding my home, so I took the Ordnance Survey Landranger 1:50 000 map of Mansfield & Worksop (Sherwood Forest, sheet 120) that covers much of Nottinghamshire, and spread it out on my dining room table. A long metal ruler and sharp pencils were duly purchased, and I spent many a happy hour poring over the map whilst my long-suffering partner complained about having to eat his meals from a tray.

The first thing that came to my attention was that Newstead Abbey and Southwell Minster are on a west-east alignment. I drew a 32cm horizontal line between the two. I was then inspired to bisect this line at its midpoint and draw a vertical line south to north up to the top of the map. To my surprise the vertical line hit two significant points. In the centre of the map, it hit The Major Oak which is an ancient tree in what remains of Sherwood Forest near Edwinstowe. At the top of the map, it hit Blyth Priory Church. I then drew two diagonal lines, one connecting Blyth Priory Church in the north with Newstead Abbey in the south-west and another connecting Blyth Priory Church with Southwell Minster in the south-east. I realised I had drawn a triangle with angles very similar to those of a pentagram.

I now needed to find another horizontal line parallel with the Newstead – Southwell line but not as long. Perusal of the eastern half of the map soon showed that Bolsover Castle was in more or less the required position. I drew a line due east from Bolsover Castle which extended to the Nottinghamshire - Lincolnshire border just west of the river Trent. I measured the distance between Bolsover Castle and my vertical centre line and started inspecting the area the same distance to the east of the centre line. I spent a long time pondering this area. Although no obvious significant site such as a Castle or large ecclesiastical building was evident, the Dowser in me was drawn to Wells Farm and Babbington Springs Farm, the names being indicative of underground water in the area. Just south of Wells farm was marked the site of Woodcoates deserted medieval village and dowsing suggested this was the spot. When I drew a line from here to Southwell Minster, it passed directly through Babbington Springs Farm.

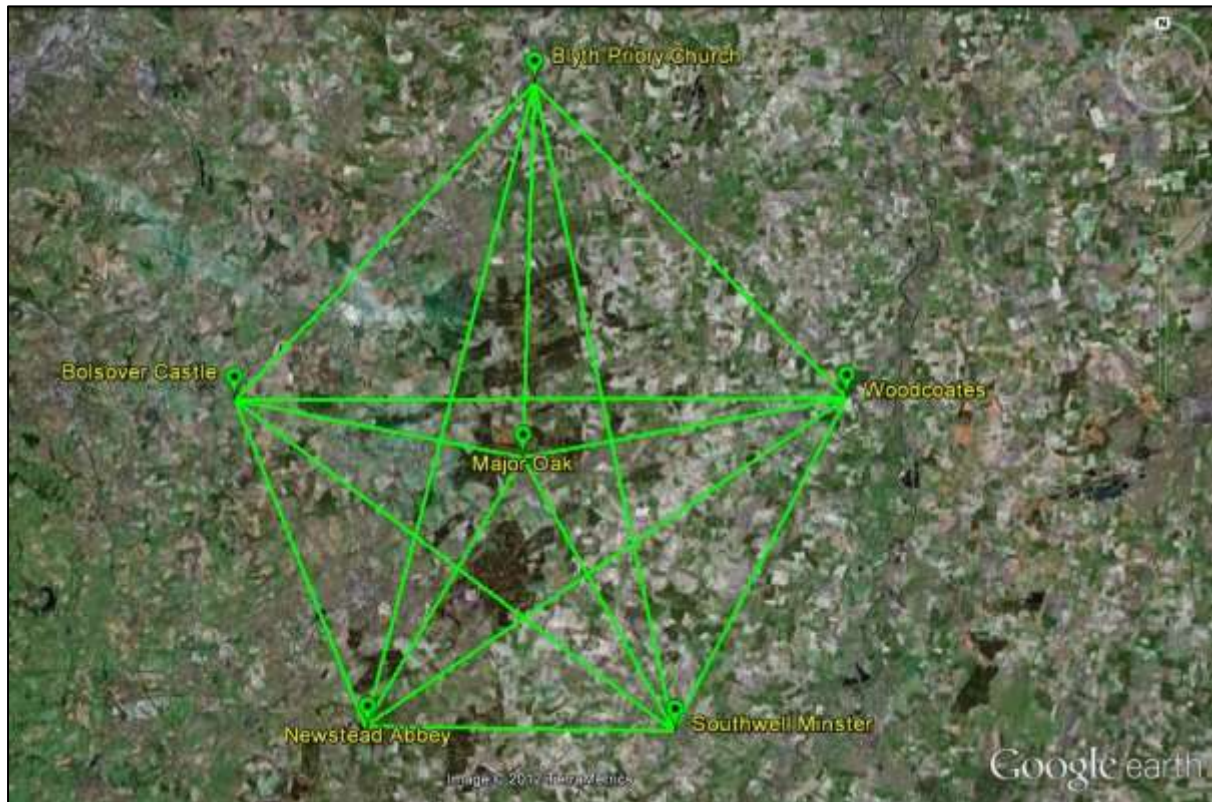
My first pentagram had taken shape and miraculously it fitted perfectly on the OS map sheet with the Major Oak almost dead centre.

Mave Calvert, aka Mave Marian, The Sherwood Dowser

August 2023

SITES AT THE FIVE PENTAGRAM TIPS

I plotted the pentagram on Google Earth and then visited the five sites making up the tips and the Major Oak in the centre. At each site I dowsed for the precise spot where the lines of the geometry converged. In each case I was led to a significant tree rather than a point within the buildings.



The N tip, or crown, is **Blyth Priory Church**, 5 miles NE of Worksop.

The E tip is **Woodcoates medieval village**, 3 miles east of Tuxford.

The SE tip is **Southwell Minster**, 5 miles west of Newark

The SW tip is **Newstead Abbey**, 5 miles south of Mansfield.

The W tip is **Bolsover Castle**, 5 miles east of Chesterfield.

The centre is **The Major Oak** in Sherwood Forest.

The Bolsover to Woodcoates line measures 19.7 miles (31.8km)

The Newstead to Southwell line measures 9.96 miles (16km)

The lines from Blyth to Newstead and Blyth to Southwell measure 21.3 miles (34.4 km)

The lines from Blyth to Bolsover and Blyth to Woodcoates measure 14.3 miles (23km)

The lines from Bolsover to Newstead and Woodcoates to Southwell and Blyth to Woodcoates measure 12 miles (19.5km)

The lines connecting each tip with The Major Oak measure between 10 and 12 miles (16 to 20km)

Blyth Priory Church

GPS Coordinates: 53°22'50.38"N 01°3'42.82"W

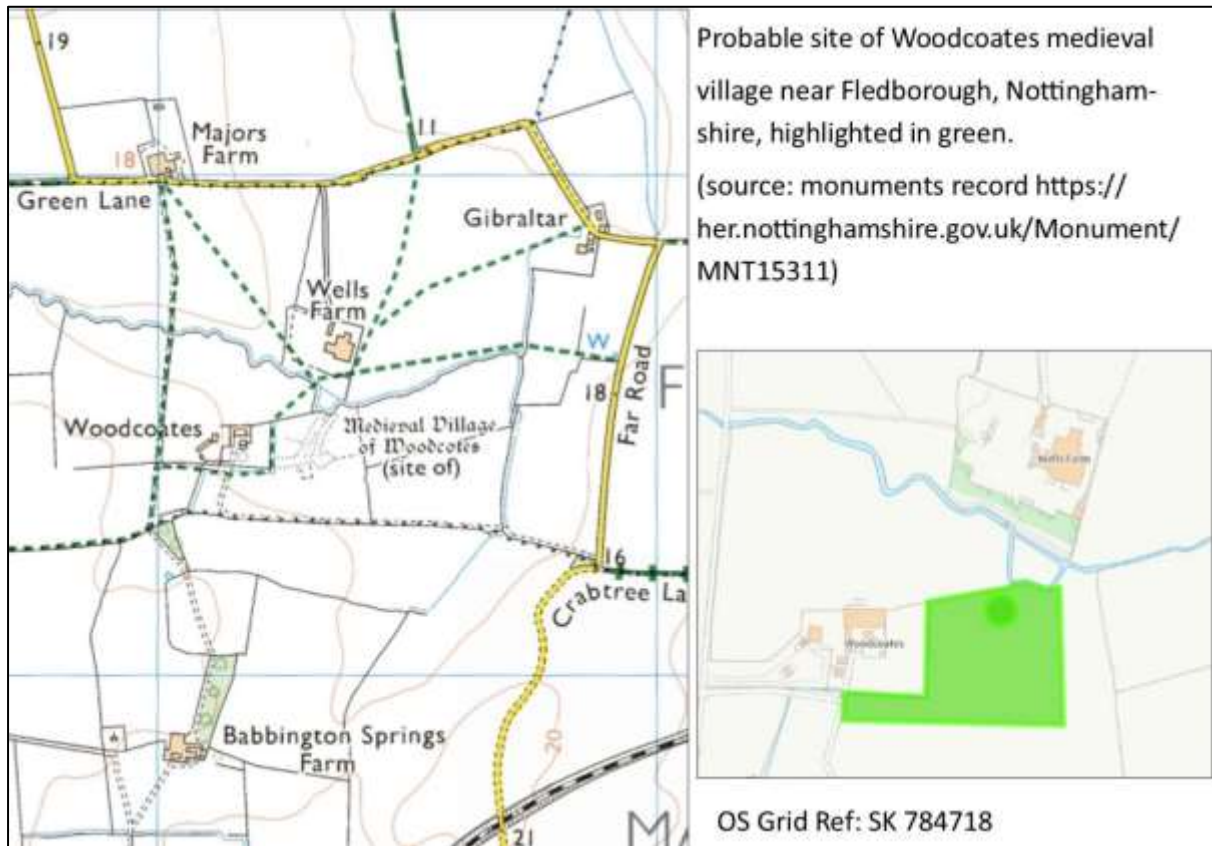


Blyth Priory was once a house of Benedictine Monks founded in 1088 following the Norman conquest. It was a daughter house of St Katharine's (Holy Trinity) Priory at Rouen in France. It was dissolved in 1536 as part of Henry VIII's dissolution of the Monasteries. Although the remains of the priory buildings are mostly under what is now Blyth Hall and a recently built housing estate, the 11th century Priory Church dedicated to St Mary & St Martin still stands, having undergone numerous restorations. Part of the Priory can be seen at the eastern end of the Church. Being on the Great North Road, Kings and their retinues often stayed at Blyth Priory. (The Great North Road has now been replaced by the A1, the course of which has been changed to bypass Blyth village).

<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/notts/vol2/pp83-88>

When I visited Blyth, dowsing led me to a Yew tree in front of the Church which seemed to be where the lines of the pentagram converged.

Woodcoates Medieval Village



Woodcoates Medieval village is a deserted settlement that appears to have existed from at least 1066 to 1546. Although no archaeological digs have been undertaken, the Nottinghamshire monument record states “Earthworks indicative of desertion comprise a sunken road with adjacent, probable house sites and enclosures, flanked on the E and S by rig and furrow - all in permanent pasture. Traces of the road can be seen immediately N of the stream where a shallow depression crosses arable land. Further enclosures and roads are visible, but have been ploughed out and the whole field is under crop”

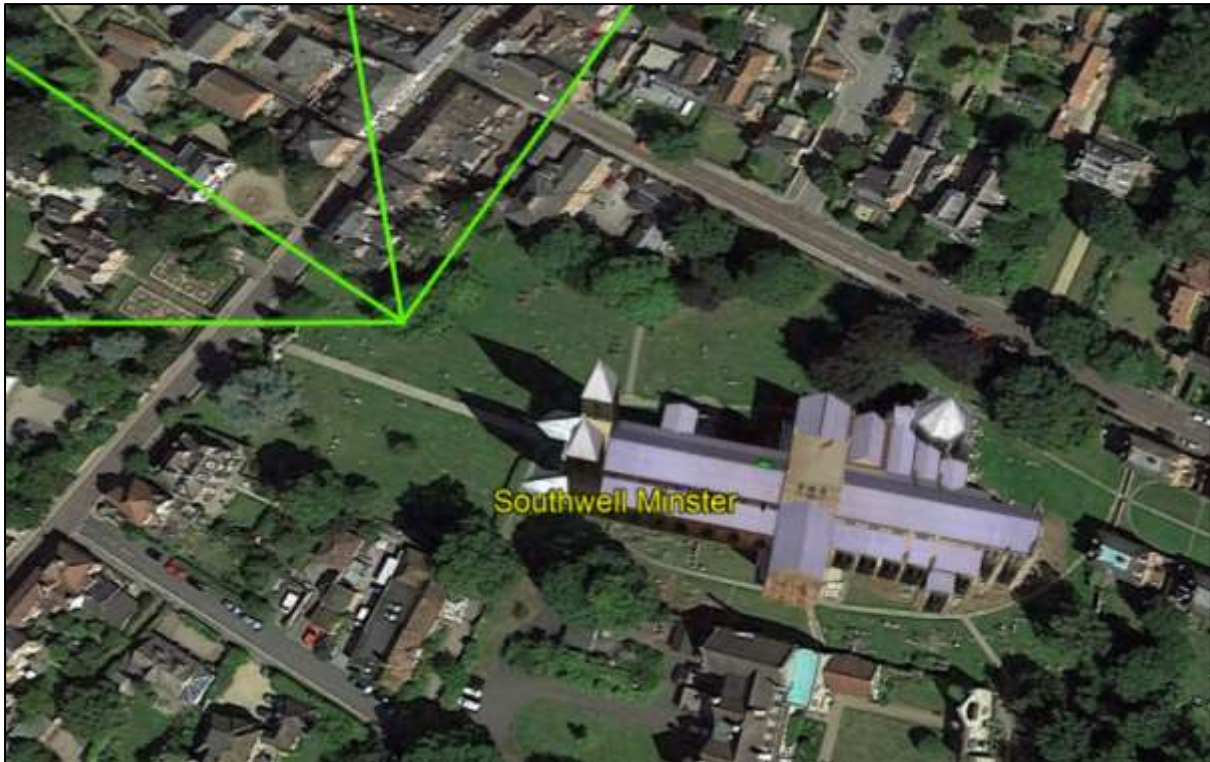
<https://her.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/Monument/MNT15311>

On visiting the site dowsing led me to a nearby copse of trees which seemed to be where the pentagram tip was located.



Southwell Minster

OS Map Ref: SK7034854129; GPS Coordinates: 53°4'36"N 0°57'14"W



There has been a church on the site that Southwell Minster now occupies since at least 627AD. To the east of the building archaeologists have found significant Roman remains. The Normans built the current Minster between 1108 and 1150, replacing a Saxon Minster. To the south of the Minster is the Bishops' Palace, once the seat of the Bishop of Southwell. Dedicated to St Mary, the Minster was a collegiate seat of theological learning and the mother church of Nottinghamshire. The Chapter House and the corridor leading to it boast some of the best carvings of leaves and green men in the world.

An interesting connection exists with Newstead Abbey in that the brass lectern now used in Southwell Minster was rescued from the lake at Newstead Abbey, having been hidden for safekeeping by the Monks of Newstead during the Dissolution of the Monasteries. Also, the poet Lord Byron who at one time owned Newstead Abbey, lived in Southwell for a time.

The landscape to the NE of Southwell exhibits significant Templar and Hospitaller activity at places including Winkburn and Averham. A couple of miles to the ENE of Southwell is Micklebarrow Hill across which I found no less than XX alignments crossing on the OS map.

As with the other sites, the dowseable arms of the landscape pentagram converge tree in the grounds, rather than the building itself.

<https://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/southwell-minster/hhistory.php>

An article about my dowsing of Southwell Minster and its environs, in which I suggest that the site was once a Druid grove, can be found on the 'Dowsing Sherwood' page of my 'The Sherwood Dowser' website.

Newstead Abbey

GPS Coordinates: 53.078333°N 1.1925°W

A former Augustinian Priory dedicated to St Mary founded in 1170 by King Henry II of England, Newstead Abbey and its extensive parkland is now a tourist attraction managed by Nottinghamshire County Council. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries, Newstead became a county house, eventually passing into the hands of the poet Lord Byron.

A couple of miles WSW of Newstead Abbey is Annesley Old Church, next to Annesley Hall, where I found 21 alignments crossing on the OS map. Dowsing of the site showed that these alignments also converge on a tree.

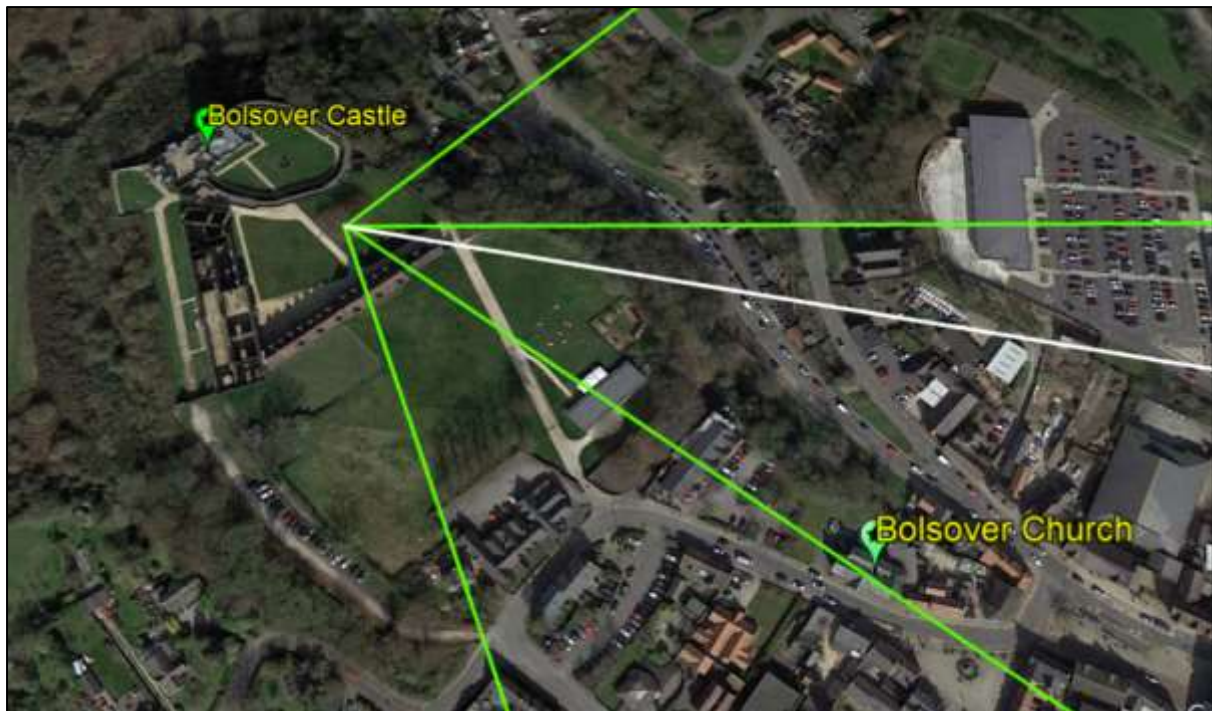


<https://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/newstead-abbey/hhistory.php>

An article about my dowsing of Newstead Abbey and Annesley Old Church can be found on the 'Dowsing Sherwood' page of my 'The Sherwood Dowser' website.



Bolsover Castle



Standing high on the magnesian limestone cliff overlooking the M1 corridor in NE Derbyshire, Bolsover Castle is said to be one of the most haunted places in England. The original castle was built in the 12th century. In the 16th century it was much dilapidated and passed into the hands of George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury who later became the 4th husband of Bess of Hardwick. It then passed into the hands of the descendants of Bess of Hardwick and her 2nd husband William Cavendish who later became the Dukes of Portland of Welbeck Abbey. They built the current structure on the site and it became a lavish playground for entertaining high profile guests. Harwick Hall, built for Bess of Hardwick in the late 16th century stands on the same magnesian limestone cliff a few miles to the south and can be viewed from Bolsover on a clear day.

<https://derbyshireheritage.co.uk/buildings/castles/bolsover-castle/>

The dowseable pentagram lines once more converged on a significant tree in the grounds, in this case a Copper Beech. The line connecting Bolsover Castle with Southwell Minster passes through Bolsover parish church.

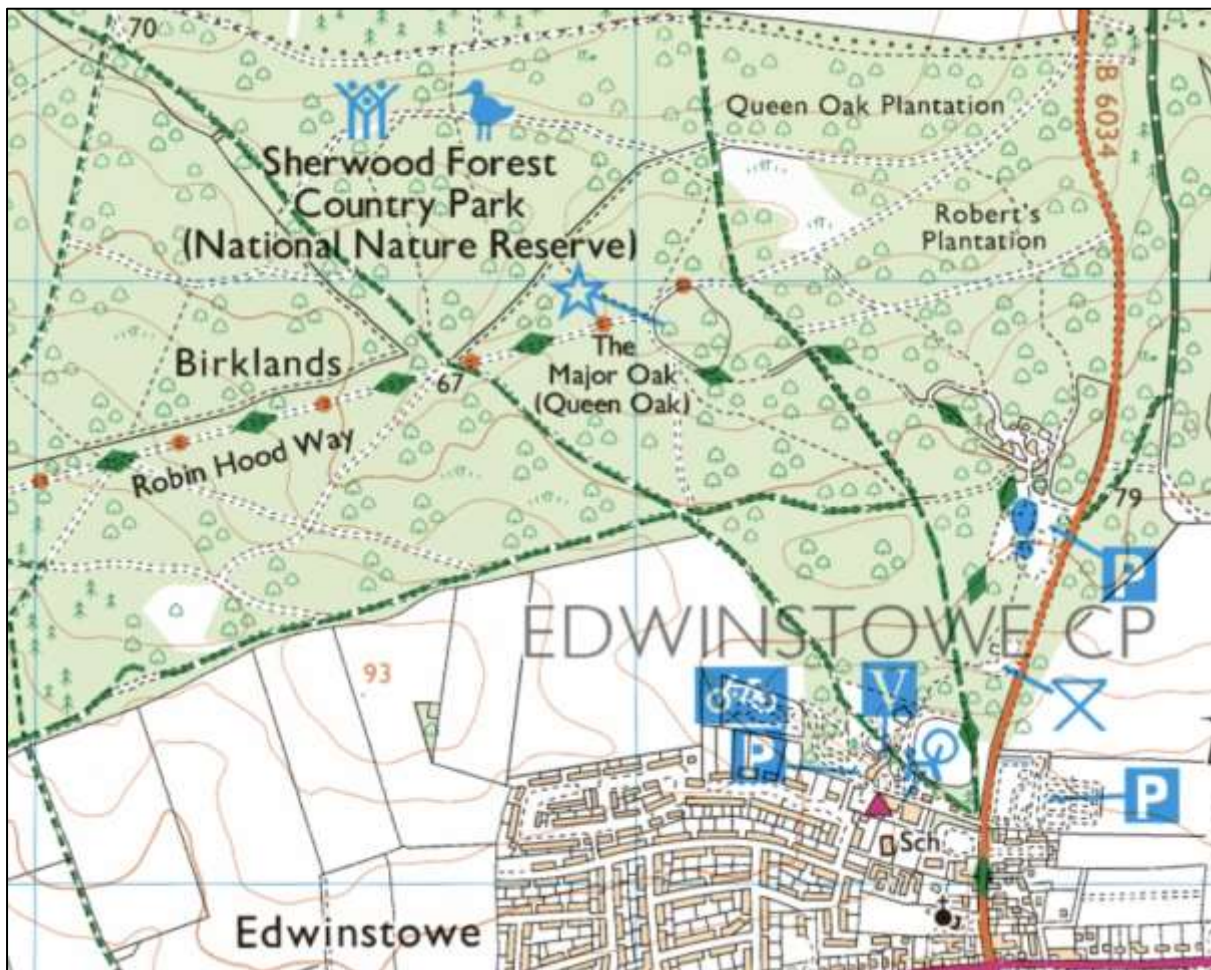
Articles about my dowsing of Bolsover parish church can be found on the 'Dowsing Sherwood' page of my 'The Sherwood Dowser' website.



The Major Oak



Thought to be between 800 and 1100 years old, and originally known as The Queen Oak, legend has it that this ancient tree is where Robin Hood and his Merry Men would meet. The Nottinghamshire antiquarian, Major Hayman Rooke (1723-1806) apparently spent many hours sitting under this tree in contemplation and as a result was led to re-discover many forgotten historical and archaeological sites in Nottinghamshire, hence the tree being re-named in his honour. It is now the centrepiece of what remains of Sherwood Forest, now managed by the RSPB, and this magnificent tree receives thousands of visitors each year. It boasts a massive 28 metre spread canopy and the circumference of its hollow trunk measures over 10 metres.



OTHER SIGNIFICANT SITES ON THE PENTAGRAM LINES

Babworth Church

King John's Palace

Kirklington Church

Norwell - Moat

Scarcliffe Church

Shepperd's Stone near Newstead Abbey

Thorseby Perlethorpe Church

Tumulus to the north of the Major Oak and west of Thoresby Church

Warsop Church

Wellow St Swithin

Weston - Moat

Whitwell Church

Worksop Priory

EXTENDING THE PENTAGRAM LINES

Being at heart a Leyhunter, I decided to extend the lines of the Sherwood Forest Pentagram on Google Earth to see if they would hit any significant points a long distance away. I was not disappointed:

The Bolsover Castle to Newstead Abbey line extends Northwards to **Rosslyn Chapel**

The Bolsover Castle to Newstead Abbey line extends southwards to **Temple Church in London**.

The Bolsover Castle to Woodcoates line extends westwards to **Chesterfield Crooked Spire** and **Chatsworth House** in Derbyshire

The Bolsover Castle to Woodcoates line extends eastwards to **Lincoln Cathedral**.

Extending the centre line from Blyth Priory Church to the Major Oak takes us to **Radcliffe Hall** near Nottingham. The Newstead Abbey to Radcliffe Hall line then passes through **Papplewick Hall** and the Southwell Minster to Radcliffe Hall line passes through **Halloughton Tower**.

After realising that the Bolsover Castle – Woodcoates line of the Sherwood Forest Pentagram extended to Chatsworth in the west and Lincoln Cathedral in the east, I went on to find a similar sized pentagram centred on Chatsworth House (built in the 16th century by William Cavendish and Bess of Hardwick) and another one centred on Lincoln Cathedral. All three amazingly linked into one another by extending various lines. I also realised that there are links with the Templar Mechanics 5.151 mile landscape geometry that was discovered by Tony Peart, which seems to surround sites associated with the Knights Templar. This included both Southwell Minster and Chatsworth House.

<http://templarmechanics.com/main.asp>

More details about all this and many more pentagrams and other landscape geometries that I subsequently found can be found in my article 'The Landscape Speaks (2015)' available for download from the 'Landscape Geometry' page of my 'The Sherwood Dowser' website.

