

# Touchstone

Surrey  
Earth  
Mysteries



No. 4

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## SKYWAYS AND LANDMARKS REVISITED

"Skyways and Landmarks" can be said to be the booklet that sparked off the post-war Earth Mysteries movement. Written by Tony Wedd and published by the Star Fellowship, it not only brought Alfred Watkins and leys before the rising generation, but also linked leys with Aime Michel's "orthotemies" of UFO alignments, so bringing in the UFO connection and also, by implication, the idea of leys as energy lines.

Nevertheless, many holes have been picked in it by later ley hunters. Orthotemy flourished some years after its discovery when no further orthotenic "flaps" occurred, and even its discoverer lost interest in it. Even if it had not done so, the few sightings in "Skyways and Landmarks" did not constitute orthotemies. The leys in the booklet are almost entirely constituted of pine clumps without any prehistoric monuments, and even the accuracy has been brought into question. So it fell to our group, with Philip Heselton of the Northern Earth Mysteries Group, to investigate the booklet and find exactly what of value, if anything, was in it.

So Philip, Paul Baines and I spent a pleasant weekend among the Scots pines of Kent, visited during the weekend by Michael de Styrcea. This fieldwork was necessary as clumps are not usually marked on Ordnance Survey Maps, either the 1:50,000 scale or the 1:25,000. The first job, therefore, was to record grid references for all the clumps mentioned by Tony Wedd in "Skyways and Landmarks" and in an article by him in "The Ley Hunter" which appeared during Paul Screeton's editorship.

A few of the clumps could not be found, but most were there, many being quite spectacular and prominent. The grid references provided a firm database for an evaluation of the booklet. We also visited some other places, including a cruciform cave mentioned by Tony.

The alignments in "Skyways and Landmarks" were in two overlapping groups - one of parallel lines and the other being a radiating star pattern centred on Chiddingstone. The latter was concentrated on as its basis was apparently a message from extra terrestrials which stated that there was a line 6 degrees north of north-east, with five other equally spaced lines forming a "star" or ley centre based on Chiddingstone. On these, it was said, centres of healing would be found. Accordingly, a transparent sheet was prepared with the 30 degree spaced lines on it, and this was laid over the map.

Tony seemed to contradict himself as to the centre of the system, at one point saying visual alignments could be seen aligning on Chiddingstone Castle, and in another place saying that a spiral tree near his home was the centre (we tried to find this tree but could not - we believe it no longer exists). The grid references for the Mark Beech, Wilderness Farm and Chested clumps, however, clearly show the castle to be the centre, so the star was laid over this. A seemingly above average number of "minor points" - cross roads, coincident tracks etc.- were found on the lines, but no "Classic" ley points except a church in Tunbridge Wells and the Chiding Stone in Chiddingstone. But a number of springs were on or near the lines, interesting in view of the healing aspect. As Tony Wedd said, one went very near the Tunbridge Wells Spa. Burrswood was missed, however, but one went through a spring nearby which may be connected.

Another interesting point was the very striking clump near the Sevenoaks bypass mentioned by Tony. He said it might be on one of the lines but it was not - however, when a line was drawn from it to Chiddingstone Castle, it passed through another clump at the Rock, Chiddingstone Hoath. This was mentioned by Tony, but he said it was not on any of the lines! So it seems there is something here, even if Tony's plotting was not as accurate as it might have been. This, in fact, tends to confirm the possibility of an extraterrestrial source - in other words, it was not something simply engineered by Tony. We are hoping that a booklet "Skyways and Landmarks Revisited" will be published in the near future giving full details of the research.

Jimmy Goddard

*Your sub. expires with this issue. We hope you will want to re-subscribe.*

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DOWSING A LEY

by Gordon Spinney (continued)

For our purpose the most important consideration is to contrast two ways in which wave systems may interact.

One is a strong interpenetrative interaction in which the identity of the two systems become merged and a particle is formed.

The other is a much weaker affair in which pattern is exchanged between the units without any merger of identity. The first type results in an energy exchange which alters to some slight degree the balance of the universe.

The second is a purely local affair in which the units involved are not permanently altered, but retain the capacity to recover their initial state.

We may compare the way in which a man may decide on a change and act upon it, or else alter his attitude slightly without betraying any outward sign of what is happening in his mind. Thus changes at wave level alone are only potential changes, which may never pass into action, whereas a severe challenge, such as occurs in a collision, will trigger an irreversible change - the collapse of the wave function - in which the colliding wave systems become merged in a particle. For us the most important part of the distinction is that sensory observations, which, in the scientific view, form the only demonstrable basis of our knowledge of the universe can occur only in the course of the strong energy exchanging type of interactions. The role of our senses is sometimes put in a different way by saying that it is only by our act of observation that we can force a wave system to reveal itself by particulation. But we must not overstress the importance of our human intervention; the event of particulation will occur in appropriate circumstances whether or not a human observation is involved. The only difference would be that we should know nothing about it.

Sensory observation of a physical event requires two conditions to be fulfilled.

1. The interaction must be severe enough to reach quantum level and trigger an energy exchange.
2. The energy exchange must ultimately be transmitted to our brain through our nervous system.

This raises the notorious problem of how minute transfers of energy in the brain become states of mind. Briefly, the background to the theory of perception recommended here is that no sudden change from "physical" to "mental" ever occurs.

Every unit of being has its subjective side from the start.

It not only presents an objective fact to the world which we can observe and measure, but has a primitive form of self awareness as well. This is true even at the level of the faint wisps of energy that interact as waves in Quantum Theory.

Their condensation into a particle event is marked by a sudden intensification of subjective being. When myriads of such condensations occur in the human brain, a vast integration by the Mind transforms them into sensory experience.

But sensory stimuli of this kind, for all their strident claims on our attention, form only a small part of what the Mind grasps and unifies during consciousness. The physical energy exchanges in the brain are condensed out of an atmosphere of wave interaction, in which some systems are continually collapsing to become particles, while others maintain themselves as cyclic systems without entering the field of energy exchange.

We urge that it is wrong to try to derive Mental experience solely from the subjective status of particles produced during energy exchanges in our brain. We must include also the subjective states of what we might call the "wave envelope" of our brain. In our view it is this wave envelope that generates the sense of freedom of choice that precedes voluntary action, for in the wave state the Local prevails over the Universal, and Determinism has not yet established its value.

To come at last more closely to our promised subject matter, what we have here called the wave envelope of the brain is not composed solely of emanations from its own particulate structure.

Configurations of wave systems derived from the environment, existing at subquantum level, and therefore out of the reach of our senses or instruments, may well have the power to interact weakly with our own wave envelope.

The model for a weak interaction is a quasi-spontaneous change in our mind, for which we feel no strong sense of objective compulsion.

The change occurs at a very primary level of subjectivity which defies categorisation as a thought, a piece of imagery or an impulse to action. It can emerge into consciousness in any of these three ways. Since these weak interactions occur in "wave space", we should expect to find displacements with regard to physical space and time.

These arise, as we said, from the extreme flexibility of wave space and the increasing detachment of the spreading systems from the constraints of physical space. Such divergence from the physical order is the main source of what we call the Paranormal.

In the case of telepathy, wave configurations may be supposed to reach us from another human brain, and if such contacts are made in a period of relaxed cerebral activity, there will be a small chance that the "message" will enter our consciousness. In the case of Clairvoyance the intrusive wave patterns would be derived not from a human brain, but from the collective subjective states of biological and physical units below the human level. The Mind must be well practised interpreting these faint patterns, as, in normal sensory experience, we must suppose that the sensory reaction is always preceded by an aura, a pre-echo, of what is about to take place, derived from prior contact at wave level. Hypotheses of this kind may help to make dowsing more intelligible.

But we still face the difficulty about ley dowsing, arising from the lack of any obvious physical source for the ley from which faint signals could be supposed to reach our brain. If we try to form any kind of hypothesis about what a ley is, we are beset by pressure to include a large number of different considerations. A full account would include:-

1. Some reason why ley points were found beneficial, or made objects of great religious significance, by early man.
2. Some connection between the stones of his megalithic structures and "ley power". This could be extended to include the possibility that stones may absorb memories from the past, or be "charged", as Lethbridge believed, by a physical blow.

3. Some element of Earth Magic, the concept of benign or malign influences linking us to Mother Earth.
4. A purely geological association with faults, or underground springs.
5. Some directional factor linking up ley points in straight lines.
6. Some connection with prominent situations on high ground and primitive pathways, as Watkins believed.
7. Some connections with the appearance of UFO's.

It would take a great deal of ingenuity to knit all these very diverse factors into a single consistent hypothesis, and there seems little doubt that some must be omitted from the count. For my part I find the hypothesis that the ley has a physical presence of some kind very hard to accept. I prefer a Watkins type interpretation of ceremonial straight lines used for religious purposes, which, very much later, in a mapless age, were developed as primitive tracks for communication, using surveying techniques. But if dowzers could get together and demonstrate a reasonably consistent dowsing reaction when crossing a Watkins type ley line, in circumstances where they could have no possible reason for suspecting that it was there, it would be hard to deny the physical reality of the ley - in the widest sense of "physical".

The difficulty is with the alignments. It is not hard to suppose that ley points may each be associated with some underground anomaly from which flow emanations that are perceptible to the human mind though not detectable by instruments. But a continuous network of such anomalies coinciding with the ley line network seems very hard to provide for by natural causes.

Perhaps the dowser is not detecting a geometric line of energy, but is clairvoyantly sensing the direction of the next point source?

But we should still be left with the problem of why the sources fall in straight lines, and this is why a man-made interpretation seems preferable to me.

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STRANGE SURREY

More Reports of Curious and Unusual Phenomena - Bob Skinner.

OUT OF PLACE ANIMALS

From time to time there are reports that unusual wild animals have been seen roaming our countryside, members of species not native to our land, but indigenous to other countries. Chris Hall, a member of our group, has taken an interest in one such creature - the "Surrey Puma", an elusive animal that was widely reported during the 1960s and 1970s. One animal, however could not account for the wide range of descriptions of the big-cats seen, not only in Surrey, but elsewhere in the country - Di Francis, the author of a recent book on the subject Cat Country believes that there are several types of big-cat resident in the wild places and woods of this country, yet to be officially recognised and protected. Reports from Surrey and elsewhere continue to be published in the papers.

In May 1983 a motorist saw what he described as a cheetah run across the road at Walton Heath, near Banstead as he was driving to Dorking. The witness was well aware of what cheetahs looked like, as he had lived in South Africa, and was quite used to seeing wild life run across roads, especially cheetahs. No reports of any escaped animal came from the zoo at Chessington or private menageries.(1)

Sometime in 1982 a Wallaby was caught near Banstead, but this time it was an escapee, and its freedom had been shortlived. Elsewhere in the country, escaped wallabies have established breeding communities.

The stories that insist that the sewers of New York are colonised by alligators or crocodiles, unwanted pets that have been flushed away by their owners, are generally considered to be part of that body of folklore called "contemporary legends". However, such legends sometimes have a basis in fact. Only a few days ago, the national papers reported that a live crocodile had been caught in the sewers beneath Paris, and taken muzzled to the zoo (2). Reports of crocodiles at large in this country, (particularly it would seem, in the area of Over Norton, Oxfordshire, during a 30 year period in the last century) can be found in John Michell & Bob Rickard's Living Wonders (3). Another report I came across is in a paragraph in the Natural History Journal of 1879, where it is reported that a small crocodile was caught in the Thames at Isleworth (4).

In the same paragraph, it is reported that a small turtle was found in the Thames at Kingston in the same year. Turtles have been seen in the Thames again this year, when five were seen swimming in the river (5). Only a few days previous to that report, the same paper reported two instances of loggerhead turtles being found on beaches, at Hayle & Perranporth (6). It is assumed that these two turtles had arrived at our shores by the Gulf Stream and through the North Atlantica.

Sightings of exotic birds in this country can be put down to straying migrants or rare visitors, but this explanation cannot be used for the unusual land-based animals that are sighted : have animals that have escaped from captivity or been deliberately dumped in the countryside acclimatised themselves and established breeding colonies, unknown to man? More speculative theories suggest that some of the animals seen are not flesh-and-blood creatures, but phantoms, on a par with the "Black Dogs" of folklore. Di Francis, on the other hand, suggests that the "Black Dogs" reported as phantoms by superstitious country people, might have been black cats, like panthers, one of the types of large cat she believes inhabit our island secretly. It is true that a number of the "mysterious big-cat" sightings of recent years have been of black animals, the Exmoor Beast of 1983 being an example. Although widely reported as having been a rogue dog, some of the sightings and descriptions of the kills seem to be more cat-like - a recent report in the national press describes three sightings of a black cat-like creature south of Dartmoor (7), so that saga still continues.

#### References.

1. 'Cheetah on the Loose' - Banstead Herald 19.5.83
2. 'Sewer Croc' Times, 'Croc mon sewer'! Daily Mirror both 9.3.84
3. 'Errant Crocodiles' Living Wonders, J Michell & R Rickard (1982) pp.56-58
4. 'Strange Creatures in the Thames' - Natural History Journal 3:128 15.10.1879
5. 'Thames Turtles' Daily Express 7.2.84
6. 'The Turtle Doves' Daily Express 3.2.84
7. 'New Hunt for Moors Beast' Daily Mirror 8.3.84.

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#### THE OLD STRAIGHT TRACK IN SURREY

by Jimmy Goddard

- 3) The Hurt Wood Track (previously published in Quicksilver Messenger)

The Hurt Wood Track, straight and over two miles long, sticks out like a sore thumb to any ley hunter looking at the Dorking O.S. map. Philip Heselton found it and walked it before me, and a member of the Surrey Earth Mysteries Group found it quite independently. It is the best example found to date of an aligned track found in Surrey.

It begins miles from anywhere in Winterfold Forest, and runs dead straight to an equally inaccessible cross-tracks not far from Holmbury St. Mary. About halfway along its length it is broken by a farm around which walkers must skirt. Thus there are four indications that this might be an ancient ley track; firstly, it is not a modern track from A to B; secondly, the continuation of the track in the same alignment past the farm suggests that it is older than the farm; thirdly, the nature of the track varies considerably along its length (unlikely if it was of recent origin); and fourthly, it runs straight up some quite steep hills and becomes quite difficult to travel along in these places. In addition to this, the track seems to be a good ley. As well as at least one Scots pine clump on the track itself and numerous cross-tracks, the alignment passes through a junction/crosstracks in Holmbury St Mary, Leylands Farm near Abinger Bottom, Leigh church (15th Century and very interesting), a church south of South Nutfield, a fort south of Westerham and several minor points. On contacting the Hurt Wood Control Committee, I was informed that the track was "Roman, as far as we know". On enquiring as to the course of this Roman Road, however, they did not know. There is a Roman Road skirting Hurt Wood from another direction, but it is thought likely that the track is just assumed to be Roman because it is ancient and straight. It is, however, interesting evidence that the track is thought to be ancient.

I met the track at the point where it crosses Houndhouse Road. To the west the track climbed steeply to a hilltop where there was a clump of Scots pine. Here the path was stony and difficult to walk. Eastwards, however, the character of the path changed completely. It became wide, straight and well-made. This continued for some distance, crossing another track and eventually coming to Lawbrook Lane.

Here it abruptly changed once more, and plunged steeply downwards as a very narrow track until it met another. This latter track ran along the bottom of the valley. The track now became almost lost in encroaching vegetation. At this point there was an extremely striking view of a beautiful Scots pine clump directly through which the track runs. Here that special feeling of walking a ley was felt.

Crossing another forest track, it changed again becoming wide and straight and running across heathland. After crossing yet another track, it became narrow, descending steeply until it met the barbed wire fence of Gasson Farm. I had to leave the straight track here and take a north-easterly one to the Ewhurst-Peaslake road. I rejoined the last stretch of the track from Radnor Road and from here to its end in a junction of tracks near Holmbury St Mary it ran straight and wide all the way through woods and flowering heather.

There is an interesting anecdote regarding the track told to me recently by Philip Heselton. When walking the track in May 1966 he met the Hurt Wood Ranger (there is only one). After a short conversation, the ranger pointed to the ridge and exclaimed "What's that?". On the ridge was a rather strange object, round and standing on some kind of legs. The Ranger then drove off to investigate, and Philip, not particularly interested in UFO's at the time, simply carried on down the track and did not know the outcome of the incident. Although the same ranger is doing the job, he could not remember the incident when I contacted him, but he did mention that 1966 was the year when a puma had been sighted several times in Hurt Wood. On enquiring of Chris Hall, currently researching the puma, I was informed that 1966 was indeed the peak year for the puma and Hurt Wood was the centre of activity.

Only one account lined it to a UFO, however, and that was very tentative. So the mystery of the object of the ridge must unfortunately remain a mystery.

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From Mike Collier, Brighton, Sussex

Thank you for the latest copy of Touchstone. A ley that might interest you comes out of the sea here and disappears into Surrey beyond Lingfield Church. On the way it goes through four churches in Brighton, Norman to Modern, and an ecclesiastical folly. Preston is the Norman one. Then it goes past Ditchling church but through the pond and the local "Holy Hill", Lodge Hill. Then a private chapel on Ditchling Common, just misses Wivelsfield church, a newish church in Haywards Heath, misses Lingfield church but goes through the Tudor house next door. Then another private chapel, two churches in West Hoathly and Lingfield Church. Try taking it from there if you are interested.

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#### A LOCAL CLUMP

A beautiful little Scots pine clump visible from the Samaritan Centre car park in Addlestone is found to align with both Ottershaw and Weybridge churches, and another further East.

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#### LONDON EARTH MYSTERIES MOOT 1984

Despite the rather miserable weather, this two day gathering was a great success. Unfortunately I was not able to arrive until fairly late on the Saturday (26th May) but Paul Baines went earlier and kindly agreed to take our display boards, so the group was represented.

A number of very interesting topics were expounded, including the ubiquitous Earth Lights, some talks on examples of psychic quest work, and an account of black panther sightings in Essex by the Moot's host, Andy Collins. A connection between beast sightings and gateways was mentioned, a strange correlation which could link the animal sightings to the ley system.

The following day was perhaps even more interesting to me as it was given over to a guided tour by Andy Collins of ten of London's mystical sites. I have to confess that although I have lived within twenty miles of London all my life, I still do not know the capital as well as I should, possibly because I find it (as Andy mentioned in his booklet) a rather depressing place.

Nevertheless, the trip was a fascinating one and our guide had certainly done his homework as we were all presented with a booklet on the walk which went into the historical and Earth Mysteries aspects of the sites in great detail. Starting at the Tower, we visited the mysterious "London Stone" and the nearby Mithraic Temple, followed by St Paul's Cathedral and its intriguing associations with the goddess Diana. After this we saw a number of other churches (several were on Alfred Watkins' St Paul's ley) including the amazing round Temple Church with its ringing pillars and St Clement Danes where the verger gave us a demonstration of dowsing. It was a very interesting and thought provoking weekend which I would not like to have missed.

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#### The Behaviour of Ball Lightning

Paul Baines in his article on the Columnar Standing Wave in the last issue of Touchstone states that 'The rare phenomenon of ball lightning is an example of a natural columnar standing wave', and that it is its field 'which prevents the ball from colliding with anything; thus the well known fact that ball lightning never goes through any but a hole'.

I cannot argue with Paul's theory about the nature of Ball Lightning, but would like to suggest that ball lightning avoids contact with objects only in some cases, not all of the time. Classification of such a rare and momentary phenomenon is difficult, and at the best superficial; however, after a study of some 600 accounts, of which over 200 were detailed, a Dr Walther Brand attempted to deduce the principal characteristics of the phenomenon. B.O. Goodlet, in a paper in 1937 (1) gives Brandt's summary of his findings, from which I quote the following relevant passage:-

'"Floating" (freischwebende) and "attached" (aufsitzende) fireballs appear to behave quite differently, although they can change into one another. Floating balls suggest a discharge of high voltage but small current; attached balls suggest a discharge of lower voltage but large current. "Floating" fireballs have the red colour of meteor tracks in the lower atmosphere. They shun good conductors and generally choose a path through the air. They are attracted towards closed spaces (i.e. houses) which they enter through the open window or door, sometimes even through small cracks; the chimney, with its conducting but non-inductive gasses, is a favourite path, so that fireballs frequently appear in the kitchen from out of the fireplace. After circling the room several times the fireball leaves by some air path, often the one by which it entered ..... "Attached" fireballs are of a blinding brilliance and white or blue in colour. They attach themselves to good conductors, preferring the highest points, or roll along such conductors (e.g. roof gutters). They heat the objects to which they are attached or along which they roll. They cause severe burns on the human body when they move over it (occasionally under the clothes) (2) and produce lethal effects. The transformation of a "floating" into an "attached" fireball usually occurs by its making a dart to a good conductor in the vicinity. On touching the conductor it may either disappear, quietly or with an explosion, or it may continue as an "attached" fireball (3). The transformation of an attached into a "floating" fireball occurs by the ball simply rising from its support and floating upwards, usually along an inclined path, towards the clouds. In general such balls are extinguished very shortly afterwards.'

Goodlet concludes his section on Ball Lightning with the following words:-

'No satisfactory theory of ball lightning has so far been developed. As the phenomenon cannot be observed at will it is likely to remain a mystery for some time to come'.

Despite subsequent technological development and theoretical innovations, I believe the same can be said today. Although aspects of the phenomenon, in isolation, can be made to fit theories, no overall satisfactory explanation has yet been developed to my knowledge.

#### NOTES

1. "Lightning" Journal of the Institute of Electrical Engineers Vol. 81 pp 1-26 (1937) reproduced in part in W.R. Corliss' Strange Phenomena - a Sourcebook of Natural Phenomena (Vol. G2). (1974). Courliss's Sourcebooks and Handbook give a great number of reports of Ball Lightning. He has recently published Lightning, Auroras, Nocturnal Lights and related luminous phenomena, which is a catalogue of reports of such observations.
2. The detail reported here, of ball lightning occasionally moving over the surface of the human body, under the clothes, causing burns, brings to mind the strange phenomenon of Spontaneous Human Combustion; in some reports of this, it is said that bodies of victims have been burnt, whilst clothing they have been wearing has been untouched by the fire. One wonders whether ball lightning and such reports of SHC are in some way connected?

3. I remember in the 1960s there was a case of Ball lightning at Farnborough, the ball of light leaving the room via an electric plug socket. Details appeared at the time in Pegasus the magazine of SIGAP. (The Surrey Investigation Group into Aerial Phenomena).

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From Richard Colborne

257 Silchester Drive, Harpurhey, Manchester - 17.9.83

I was particularly interested in your article on Fox Hill and Carter's Lane, Old Woking. I am not sure if you're aware of this, but - if I may misquote something you wrote - there are not two, but three leys here, very close to each other. (Call it four if you count another, roughly at right angles to the others). In the early 70's I spent a great deal of time researching something I shall call 'The Kings' Ride'. Near the point where your 'Fox Hill' line meets the Old Woking Road, there is a hill called Roundhill, or Monument Hill, (actually it's a semi-circular promontory) from which go two lines which have some unusual connotations.

I had for years laboured under a misapprehension that Monument Road was named after an Indian shrine in the woods, (the odd things one believes!) until one day I suddenly realised that it aligned on Monument Hill. (I had recently come to understand the 'ley' hypothesis.) Investigation showed, that from the tower, (site of) on Monument Hill, the line along Monument Road went to Windsor Castle, but apart from a very vaguely aligned road beyond Windsor, two tumuli close to the line at Maybury (one is very close and tumuli are somewhat rare around Woking, I think you will agree) and the fact that where Monument Road/Maybury Hill meets Old Woking Road, the line can be seen as a faint depression and a gap in the trees, going towards the hilltop, there was no real evidence that this was a ley. In fact it won't stand by itself.

However, imagine my surprise when I found that by extending the alignment of the road north-east from the tower site, it went, (eventually) to Buckingham Palace, St James's Palace and on towards the Roman city. That though, is not nearly the end of the Palace/Royal/Ecclesiastical connections.

The above mentioned road from the tower site does not exactly follow this 'ley', but goes directly to Pyrford Court. (It would appear to be a modern road). The alignment passes Pyrford Court (connections with nobility?) a few yards to the north, after passing over Foxhill. (N.B. Fox hill indicates a lookout, or sighting point,, not a place where foxes live! Another Foxhill lies on, or close to the Windsor line). It then passes through a locality called Ridgway, (no 'e') past Lees Farm and along a stretch of aligned track to a point near the canal, where it is joined by a lane called Dodds Lane. It then passes West Hall, (nobility?) and a spurious church. It passes St George's Hill Fort well to the north (doesn't your line go right through it, as it appears on the the old 1" to the mile map?) and on to East Molesey, where it scores a direct hit on St Mary's (pre-Ref.) church.

The line then crosses the Thames via the bridge and immediately past Hampton Court Palace. It re-crosses the Thames, well to the north of the modern Kingston Bridge, but not so many yards north of King's Passage (which leads to the river) and a short stretch of road called King's Road. (It passes rather to the north of that part of Kingston where English kings were once crowned). It is then (very?) close to Latchmere House as it enters Richmond Park. (Where I can find no trace of it).

Then it again crosses the Thames via a bridge (Putney - formerly a ford) and past Fulham (Bishop's) Palace. Its mean course is followed by the King's Road, Chelsea to Buckingham Palace (evolved site?) and on to St James's Palace.

On the one line we have no less than four palaces (one more - Windsor - on the other) and at least four (inc. Hoe Place) houses connected with nobility. (Incidentally, your line passes through the hospital at Pyrford, which I believe was previously Pyrford Place, from which an avenue is supposed to have led straight to Hampton Court, though I wonder if this really identifies with Pyrford Court).

If that were not enough in itself, Bob Skinner has dug up a lot of archive evidence on this singular alignment. King James I was known to travel from Whitehall to Hoe Place, where he was often entertained by Sir Edward Zouch. Hoe Place was built when Woking Palace fell into disuse (or earlier? - another palace?! Yes, it lies on the site now marked only as 'moat', just to the south of Carters Lane. (As all lanes were used by carters, I wonder what that really means.)

The King's Road, Chelsea was known to be a royal road (not open to the public) in the time of King Henry VIII. Katherine Beaufort, mother of Henry VII, lived at Woking Palace. Wolesey was living at Woking Palace when he received the news that he was to be made Cardinal. He later had Hampton Court built, but I think there was already a house on that site.

I am afraid I cannot follow your line further to the south west, but it seems to be within the southern boundary (Hog's Back) of Windsor Great Park and it would appear that this is a very significant area for a certain type of alignment. (Hoe Place locality being particularly so).

Have you noticed the Worplesdon Church - Fox Corner track/boundary alignment, towards Dawney's Hill? Short, but clear.

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EXCHANGE LIST

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