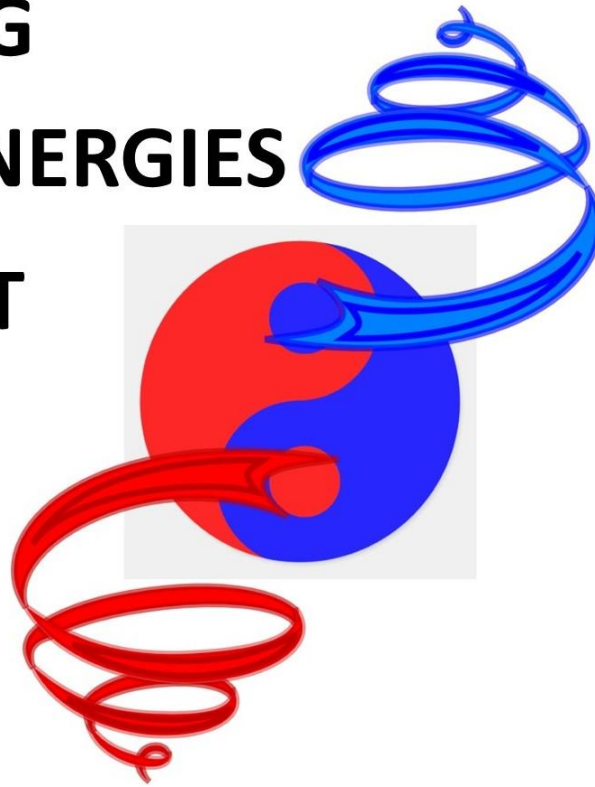


DOWSING EARTH ENERGIES WITHOUT TOOLS



THE SHERWOOD DOWSER



A Sherwood Dowser article
www.dowsingsherwood.com

DOWSING EARTH ENERGIES WITHOUT TOOLS

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INTRODUCTION

When I first discovered the existence of “Earth Energies” back in 2006, I realised that the best way to investigate them was by Dowsing. However, I was unable to master the art of using conventional dowsing tools such as L Rods and Pendulums. They would just spin around uncontrollably in my hands. So instead, I taught myself to dowse using my hands and eyes and to become sensitive to subtle feelings within my body.

I was mostly self-taught through books and by practical experience and tended to work alone as I felt rather self-conscious and didn't even know if what I was doing could be classed as “Dowsing”. All this changed in April 2015 when I attended my first British Society of Dowsters (BSD) Symposium in Worcester and found out about an Irish Dowser named Billy Gawn who also dowsed without tools and had coined the term “*Deviceless Dowsing*”.

It was not for another five years that I finally managed to get L Rods to work and started using an Egyptian pendulum for healing work. However, having already spent 14 years dowsing Earth Energies devicelessly, I decided that I preferred to work that way rather than with tools, so when I do use tools I tend to double check my results using my hands, just as many Dowsters learning to work devicelessly will check their results using Rods.

This article is divided into two parts. In the first part I will explain how and why I dowse without tools. In the second part I will discuss the energetic phenomena that I was guided to work with when I first discovered the subject of “Earth Energies” and explain how using the various deviceless dowsing techniques explained in Part One helped me explore them three-dimensionally so I could feel their structure, temperature, and the movement within them. Through this I have been able to notice similarities between seemingly separate phenomena and investigate how they are connected and what might cause them to change their behaviour at different times of the day, month and year.

So, follow me down the spiralling rabbit hole to explore a wonderland of unseen energies ...

Mave Calvert, aka Mave Marian, The Sherwood Dowser  

Sherwood Forest, September 2023 (updated May 2024 and August 2025)

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WHAT IS DEVICELESS DOWSING?

Deviceless Dowsing is simply dowsing without tools. The current definition of the term in the British Glossary of Dowsing Terms on the website britishdowsing.net reads as follows:

“Also called Body Dowsing. A reminder that it is possible to dowse without the use of tools by recognising various body reactions. Common methods include rubbing thumb and forefinger together where the ‘stick’ is the ‘yes’ reaction; making ‘chain loops’ using thumbs and forefingers of both hands pulling against each other, using the lower arms as L-rods, blinking, leaning backwards or forwards, etc”

Dowsers the world over have been able to divine for water and minerals using their hands for centuries and many still do. Researchers who have sought to explain how dowsing works have often begun by investigating deviceless dowsing.

In the British Society of Dowsers (BSD) Journal from June 1940 (Volume IV, No 28) there is an obituary of a **Mrs Mary Pogson** who was an original member of the BSD. She and her late husband, William Norman Pogson both dowsed for water and minerals with their hands and were pioneers of scientific dowsing. The obituary says that “... together they worked many experiments and discovered the attraction of the right hand towards the positive pole and the left hand towards the negative pole of a bar magnet. In 1905 they discovered that ***it is movements of the Dowser’s hands that cause the Dowser’s twig to turn and that the human hands themselves are the detectors of emanations or radiations given off by all substances, while the twig or rod used in dowsing is merely an indicator.***” The full obituary appears in Appendix One.

Writing in the Journal of the British Society of Dowsers (JBSD IX 279-286) decade or so later, **Guy Underwood** stated *“I agree with most of those who have made any attempt at scientific investigation of dowsing, that the movement of the rod in the dowser’s hand is due to a reflex action of his arm or hand muscles when he comes within the influence of an underground stream and that this influence involves some wave motion ... Reflex actions are due to stimulus to our nerve centres and my experiments suggest that this nerve centre is located at the base of the skull at the top of the spinal column ”*

In 1954 the Cornish water diviner, **Catherine Bent** was filmed locating underground streams with an intense physical reaction from her arms pulling her this way and that. Her success rate was extremely high. The short black and white video can be found on the British Society of Dowsers YouTube channel entitled “Catherine Bent – Water diviner extraordinaire”

In the book ‘Dowsing and Church Archaeology’ (1988) **Denis Briggs** writes *“By fixing a mirror to the back of one hand and reflecting a beam of light onto a remote screen the writer has discovered that the wrist tilts minutely inwards, causing the rod to pivot under gravity. Another experimenter, Dr Jan Merta, as recorded an oscillogram (Bird, 1979, 5-6) showing that the stimulus of the wrist muscle (carpus radialis tensor) always precedes the movement of the rod. Hence angle rods provide an amplified visual indication of a slight movement caused by an unconscious muscular stimulus. What causes this reaction is unknown”*

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In the mid-1990s **Billy Gawn** started the Earth Energies Special Interest Group (EESIG) within the British Society of Dowsters and has become a modern-day pioneer of dowsing without tools, coining the term “Deviceless Dowsing.” His techniques go way beyond divining for water and obtaining yes/no answers and he has developed many other deviceless techniques for the research of earth energies many of which are detailed in the book “Beyond the Far Horizon: Why Earth Energy Dowsing Works: The Life and Work of Billy Gawn” compiled and narrated by Nigel Twinn.

I myself am finding that now we are a quarter of the way into the twenty-first century, more and more people who are able to easily dowse without the aid of tools are being drawn into the world of dowsing and, working alongside those who are proficient in the use of tools, they can help to build up a bigger picture of the amazing unseen world that surrounds us.

Note 1: BSD Journals Volumes I to IV from 1933 to 1940 can be found on the website dowsing-research.net which was created by the BSD historian, Dr Nick Haywood:

[Dowsing Research - a comprehensive library of publications and a dowsing blog \(dowsing-research.net\)](http://dowsing-research.net)

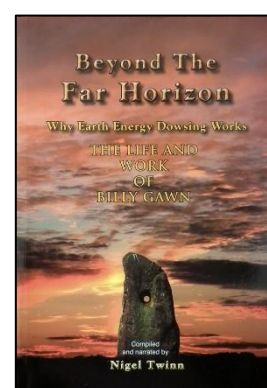
Note 2: In January 2025 a book was published by Mrs Pogson’s great granddaughter, Sarita Armstrong, entitled “Astronomer Norman Pogson and his Amazing Family” which talks about how William and Mary Pogson dowsed with their hands and describes some of their dowsing experiments. Sarita (Cherry) Armstrong also wrote an article for the BSD Journal in 1985 entitled “My amazing Great-Grandparents: The discoveries of William and Mary Pogson in the field of Divining for Water and Metals. From their Diaries and Letters”

DOWSING EARTH ENERGIES WITHOUT TOOLS

DOWSING BEYOND THE FAR HORIZON

When I arrived at my first British Society of Dowsters (BSD) Symposium in Worcester in 2015 I didn't know anyone there. I had attended a BSD Earth Energies Foundation course at Avebury six years earlier and although the tutor had been excellent, I had felt a bit uncomfortable being the only one who was unable to use Dowsing tools so hadn't renewed my BSD membership. I had also found that what was being taught on the course was a bit different to what I had figured out for myself. It was therefore with some trepidation that I arrived at Worcester wondering whether I would fit in. I needn't have worried though as I was warmly welcomed by Bill Holding who had taken over as Chair of the Earth Energies Special Interest Group originally started by Billy Gawn.

During the first break on the Saturday morning, I wandered into the room where the BSD shop was set up and my eye was drawn to a book entitled "Beyond the Far Horizon: Why Earth Energy Dowsing Works" by Billy Gawn. Clutching my purchase, I wandered into the room where refreshments were being served and installed myself at a free table, placing the book in front of me. Presently a little bearded man with a twinkle in his eye asked if he could join me. He glanced at my purchase and said, "That's a good choice of book, would you like me to sign it for you?". Confused, I looked at his name badge and then at the name at the bottom of the book cover. They both read "Nigel Twinn". It turned out that Nigel had compiled and narrated the book on behalf of Billy Gawn.



Later in the weekend I attended a very interesting workshop about 'Pictograms in the Ether' run by Nigel Twinn and Bill Holding where I met some members of the Yorkshire-based Ridings Dowsters. These people all became friends and I started to make regular pilgrimages up the A1 from Nottinghamshire to Yorkshire to attend some of the Ridings Dowsters events, having finally found people who shared my interest in earth energies and lived reasonably close to me. They were quite accepting of me not using Dowsing Tools and didn't try to tell me it was some sort of special gift and put me on a pedestal as had happened on the couple of occasions I had attended some Dowsing events a few years previously. To me at that time, the ability to use Rods and Pendulums was the real skill, and one that illuded me.

During the 2020 Lockdown the various British Dowsing groups turned to the virtual platform of Zoom. A monthly Earth Energies Zoom group was formed and was attended by Dowsters from all over the country. Through this, I got to know more people who shared my passion for Earth Energies and were open to new ideas and different ways of doing things. Many fascinating virtual brainstorming sessions led to a couple of meetups at Avebury where we all attempted to dowse the same features in our own unique ways, many of us doing so devicelessly while others demonstrated various novel ways of using conventional tools. This group is still going strong, and I look forward to many more years of exchanging ideas and sharing research.

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INFORMATIONAL OR MENTAL DOWSING BY HAND – THE YES/NO RESPONSE

The first step in learning dowsing seemed to be to establish how to obtain answers to questions in the form of a positive (Yes) or negative (No) response.

Having found that when attending group Reiki shares, my hands would float around in spiralling movements without any conscious intention on my part to move them, I decided to program my hands to give me 'Yes' and 'No' answers in the same way the 'Learn to Dowse' books taught people to get their rods or pendulum to give 'Yes' and 'No' answers. Other deviceless dowsers that I know use blink reactions or body dowsing where they blink once for 'Yes' and twice for 'No', or their body moves forwards for 'Yes' and backwards for 'No' or vice versa. Another method is to loop the index finger and thumb of both hands together in a chain. This is a form of muscle testing where the chain loop holds firm when you try to pull it apart for a positive (yes) response and comes apart easily for a negative (no) response.

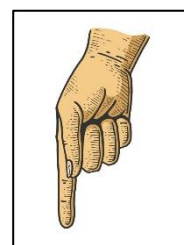


I started by asking my body what my answer for 'Yes' was. My left hand moved in a wide spiral and came to rest on my collar bone. When I asked what my answer for 'No' was my right hand made a similar movement coming to rest on my right collar bone. Initially I was very pleased with these responses. However, after a fellow traveller in a non-dowsing related tour group asked my friend if I was very religious because I seemed to be crossing myself all the time, I realised that I needed to be a bit more subtle. After this, the movements changed to my left hand curling into a first for 'Yes' and my right-hand curling into a fist for 'No' which was much more subtle.

Sometimes it is not convenient to use my hands, so one of my feet might twitch instead or an eye might blink. It is always a movement on the left side of my body for 'Yes' and a movement on the right side of my body for 'No'. Occasionally I will be taken by surprise with a nod or shake of the head without any conscious intention on my part.

THE FINGER PENDULUM

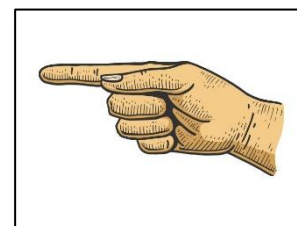
Although I now use an Egyptian Pendulum for healing after attending a course with Maria Wheatley, I have never been able to use a pendulum for map dowsing or with pendulum charts. Instead, I simply use the index finger of my right hand. When I hold it over the chart pointing downwards and relax my hand it will start to move gently in a spiralling motion, much like a conventional pendulum, and come to rest over the appropriate place on the chart.



With map dowsing I use the same technique but find that once my finger has spiralled to the start point it will then move gently in a straight or meandering line tracing the path of the energy line that I am tuning into. This works on both conventional maps and Google Earth. I

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also do this using an iPad with a Bluetooth pencil. I use the pencil as a pendulum and draw the line directly onto an image of a map, Google Earth or a photograph.



The trick is to get out of your own way, get into a relaxed semi-meditative state just like you would if you were using tools and allow your finger or hand to just float in the air. Don't consciously will it to do anything. It's a bit like not holding your rods too tight so as they are inhibited from moving by themselves. You will find your hands move very slowly in a similar way to the flowing movements in Qi Gong.

USING MY HANDS AS DOWSING RODS – SEARCH AND FIND

Sometimes I will use my hands as if they were Dowsing Rods. I point the index finger of my right hand out in front of me and curl the rest of my hand into a fist. I then use the finger just as you would use a single rod in the find position and it will lead me to whatever I am seeking. It will also point towards something on the horizon, just as Rods will.

In a similar way to how many Dowzers use L Rods, I can get my hand to move sideways when I walk directly over whatever I am looking for, be it the edge of an energy line, a band within an energy line or the centre of the line. This is very useful when travelling as a passenger in a vehicle and wanting to get an idea of where an energy line crosses a road. The angle of my hand indicates the angle at which the energy line crosses the road.

Similarly, I can use both arms together as if I had a rod in each hand. If I hold them out in front of me and walk forward asking for them to show me the centre of an energy line, they will start coming together as I approach the required spot and then cross, just like L Rods do, when I am directly above it, and then open out again as I start walking away.

DOWSING IN 3D – FEELING THE ENERGIES

Whilst using your hands exactly like conventional L Rods or your finger as a pendulum, is a viable alternative if you are unable to use tools or do not have any available, it doesn't allow you to actually feel the energies or to dowse them three-dimensionally, it just gives you an indication of where they are which can be followed up by Yes/No questions to establish more about the nature of these energies.

Dowsing with your hands allows you to actually touch the energies and feel their temperature, resistance to the surrounding air and the ways in which they are moving and flowing.

DOWSING AURAS BY HAND

In 2006 I attended a crystals course in Derbyshire. The tutor taught us how to dowse each other's aura by hand. The point of the exercise was to show us how holding different types of

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crystals caused our auras to contract or expand. However, what I took away from it was the knowledge that if I could dowse the aura of a human being by hand then I could dowse the aura of a tree or standing stone by hand.

We were instructed to stand as far away from the person as the size of the room would allow and then walk very slowly towards them with an outstretched palm facing them. When I reached the outer edge of the person's aura I would feel a slight resistance against my palm. Other people would feel an electromagnetic tingling in their hand. I found if I carried on walking forward my palm would move faster and more freely once inside the aura.

Back home, I practised this with trees. However, I realised that I was chasing a moving target since as my own aura interacted with that of the tree, both our auras expanded. I also realised that tree auras often have several layers, so it was easier to start at the trunk of the tree and work outwards asking to be shown each layer of its aura, again by feeling the resistance between the layers.

When I had the opportunity to visit standing stones, I found the same technique as I used with trees worked well. As with dosing the human aura, I came up on a resistance that I had to push through at the outer edge of the aura and a slightly lesser resistance between the individual layers of the aura. Most other people who dowse them this way seem to get the electromagnetic tingling though. That doesn't seem to matter. The result is the same.

I liken the resistance that I feel to the skin on top of water. If you fill a bath with water and don't add anything like soap or bubble bath to it, you will notice a transparent skin on top of the water. Hold your hand some distance above the water, palm facing down, and move your hand slowly towards the water. Get used to the feeling of the surrounding air and how easily your hand moves through it. When your hand touches the skin of the water you will feel the resistance. If you push through this resistance and keep moving your hand under the water, you will notice that it moves at a different speed and the feeling around it is different. This is very similar to the differing feelings encountered when moving through the different layers of an aura around a human being, tree or standing stone and, as we shall see, the different layers surrounding an Earth Energy Line.

If you have ever practiced Qi Gong or attended a workshop where you have been asked to create Chi balls between your hands, you may recall feeling a resistance or tingling between your hands. This is the same technique as I use when dowsing Earth Energies by hand.

DOWSING BY EYE – THE VISUAL TECHNIQUE

Dowsing by Eye is a very useful technique allowing me to view the bigger picture from a distance before deciding where to home in and dowse in more detail on the ground.

Many people think that dowsing by eye involves seeing the energies clairvoyantly or as a coloured mist. For me, it doesn't. I'm not a clairvoyant and, as far as I know, neither is Billy Gawn. It's difficult to describe, but it's more like I am perceiving a form that has no colour. I

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just sort of know where it is but I don't 'see' it like you would see a physical object in 3D and colour, in fact any colour it has appears as a separate vision in my mind's eye.

On page 34 of "Beyond the Far Horizon" Billy Gawn explains this far better than I can:

"This brings me to the central question of what I actually see – and the answer is absolutely nothing in the normal sense of the word! That is very difficult to get across. I don't see what is, but I can see where it is and I can follow the course it takes, whether it be water or energy. I know what it is because of the Dowsing Question that I have formed in my mind ... I can see the direction of the location of the energy just as well with my eyes closed as I can with my eyes open ... My head will turn in the correct direction - and when I open my eyes what I am searching for will be before me – exactly on the target."

Personally, I find it easier to do this with my eyes open. By standing as far back as I can from a site and tuning in, I can perceive where the energy lines are, what course they take, whether they split into more energy lines, where they come together and where they form spirals.

I can tell what colours are in an energy line by seeing a vision in my mind's eye that is separate from the form that I perceive on the ground. I don't see the dense colours that you would find on a conventional colour dowsing chart though. Usually, I perceive the energy line as mostly translucent with a slightly blueish hue, a bit like clear water or plasma. The colours are more like frequencies weaved within this translucence and they are constantly in motion, forming and re-forming themselves. There are usually at least two colour frequencies weaved into an energy line, occasionally more. If an energy line is part of a pair, it will have one dominant colour within it and a small amount of the colour of its partner. So, for example, if the Yang line dowses as predominantly red and the Yin line as predominantly blue, I will perceive the Yang line as translucent with a lot of red weaved through it and a little blue whereas the Yin line will be translucent with a lot of blue weaved through it and a little red.

DOWSING PHOTOGRAPHS

I usually take a lot of photographs of sites since I am able to dowse them by eye when back home. Most people who dowse photographs tend to view the energy as it was when the photograph was taken, however I tend to view the energy as it is now, in real time, as if the photograph were a window or portal to the physical location. If I want to view the energy as it was when the photograph was taken or at some other point in time, I have to deliberately set the intention to do that. I find that quite a few Dowsters are able to view energy in photographs which is the same concept as dowsing on site by eye. Some are able to use intent to view the photograph a bit like a video by gradually winding the time forward and hence being able to watch the energy in motion, forming and re-forming itself.

DOWSING IN GOOGLE EARTH STREET VIEW

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At the BSD Conference in 2015 I was in a workshop where Andrew Edgar was talking about dowsing using Google Earth. I already did this on the aerial views but hadn't considered using Google Earth Street View for dowsing at that point. It is a very useful technique that you can use to either check out an area prior to a site visit or to double check your dowsing results and some areas that you may have missed, afterwards.

I find that if I drop into Google Earth Street View I can dowse the energies using my hands as if I were driving or walking down the road in person. I have the image on the screen in front of me. I hold my hand out in front of me and it reacts exactly the same as if I were there in person. I prefer to use a laptop for this as the screen is bigger and I can move down the road by operating the arrow keys with one hand whilst using my other hand to dowse. Conventional dowsers can do exactly the same, but with a Dowsing Rod in one hand.

If you download the full desktop version of Google Earth Pro to your desktop computer or laptop you will be able to drop pins to mark and save places where you find energies within Street View in a similar way to planting a dowsing flag on the ground. At the time of writing, this facility isn't available in mobile/tablet mode or if you are just using the internet version of Google Earth though, you need to install Google Earth Pro.

SENSING ENERGY

Part of my Deviceless Dowsing 'toolkit' is being able to sense energy. This is not Clairvoyance, Clairaudience or some sort of 'gift'. It is simply becoming more aware of the higher vibrational energy around you and less aware of lower vibrational distractions. It is something everyone can do to some extent and something that can be improved with practice. My motivation to learn to become more sensitive was desperately wanting to be able to learn more about Earth Energies but not being able to use conventional Dowsing tools.

As with anything, it is about putting in the time and effort to become attuned and practicing regularly. Most people are already sensitive to energy on some level, be it the atmosphere in a room or the emotional state of a loved one, so it is a case of becoming aware of this and expanding on that awareness.

I found that practicing Reiki and Qi Gong was very helpful in teaching myself to become sensitive to subtle energies. They both encourage you to move slowly and instinctively and to become aware of the energy around yourself and other people. You start to feel how that energy moves and changes and to feel the tingling buzzing sensation of the electrified Chi and a resistance in the surrounding air as you move through different levels or layers of energy.

To become more sensitive to energy it helps to regularly find a space where you can be alone, become still and quiet and slow your breathing to become at one with the world around you. Effectively, you need to switch from the thinking head-mind to the knowing heart-mind which can be learned through meditation techniques. Listening to different types of music

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being played through speakers with your eyes closed is another good way to become sensitive to the vibrations of the sound in the room and how the different types of sound affect you.

I find it difficult to sense energy if I am walking fast, I need to be either wandering at a slow pace or to be stopped altogether. I also need to have my energies centred in the now and not be thinking about something that will happen later in the day, or checking my phone.

I often stand on an Energy Line or in an Earth Energy Vortex to see how it makes me feel. Standing in an Earth Energy Vortex and relaxing, I tend to sway around gently, often in a circular motion, and find it almost impossible to keep still. If the energies are too strong, I will be thrown off the vortex. With an Energy Line I will be able to feel different sensations depending on whether I am standing on the centre of the line, at the edge, on a Yin band or on a Yang band.

I tend to feel Yin energies in my upper body above heart level. If they are strong, I feel a bit dizzy, spaced out and disoriented. I feel Yang energies in my lower body below heart level. If they are particularly strong, they have a grounding effect on me and can evoke irrational fear-based emotions such as frustration or anger. If the energy is balanced between Yin and Yang, I feel it is centred at my heart level and I feel at peace. Other people are affected differently. What matters is becoming aware of those sensations so you can equate them to the particular energies that you are tuning into.

Over time I was able to easily sense the Earth Energy Vortices around my home and the Earth Energy Line that passed through the house and garden. Even if I was not consciously paying attention to them, I could sense that the Energy Line had tightened up or expanded as the energies, or atmosphere, in the room would change, akin to being able to sense what mood a person close to you is in. Sometimes the tightening up of the energies would give me a pressure headache. This would be my cue to go and dowse to see what had changed. Similarly, I could sense when the Earth Energy Vortices were active and when they were at rest. I found that playing beautiful music, such as Tim Wheater's Gayatri Mantra, to them would cause an instant expansion whereas something like Motorhead would cause an instant contraction. This sensitivity, and my naturally curious mind, allowed me to dowse the energies often enough to detect various patterns and come up with experiments to see what affected them and what didn't.

DEVICELESS DOWSING IN ACTION AT BOLSOVER CHURCH

On the 'Dowsing Sherwood' page of my Sherwood Dowser website <https://www.dowsingsherwood.com/> there is an article about Bolsover Church that I wrote after reading an article by David Gardiner in the August 2022 edition of the BSD's journal 'Dowsing Today'. The article was about how and why all historic churches are sited as they are. David talked about man-made Energy Lines and Power Sources in churches which very much interested me. Just after reading the article, I was afforded the opportunity to have a look inside Bolsover church on a guided tour.

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Only about 15 minutes' drive from my home, Bolsover Church is somewhere I had been wanting to get inside for some time. It is rarely open and when it is there are usually community groups meeting there, so getting the time and privacy to dowse inside in detail is virtually impossible. This was a situation where deviceless dowsing had distinct advantages.

I arrived in Bolsover a couple of hours before the tour and spent some time in the churchyard standing as far away from the church as I could to observe the energies using the Dowsing by Eye (visual) technique. I detected a large spiral under the church tower from which two straight Energy Leys emerged. One went from the tower along the length of the church from west to east and then crossing the road into a housing estate. Another went diagonally from the tower through the church and into the same housing estate further along. A third went through the church at right angles to the first.

I then walked around the outer perimeter of the church using my hands as dowsing rods to check to positions of these three energy lines. As I had suspected, the first two started at the tower and could not be found entering it. The third started at a small mound in the churchyard, passed through the church from south to north and then across a road and through some shops.

Having established the position of these Energy Leys, I could then dowse them three dimensionally by using my hands to feel for their height, width temperature, resistances between layers and how the energy moved within them.

To dowse the spiral in the tower I had to use a distance dowsing technique which works for both tool dowsers and deviceless dowsers alike. This is simply setting the intent to dowse the energies of the tower as though you were standing inside it even though you are physically some distance away. This isn't about getting the energies to come to you. It is as if part of your energy body has moved inside the tower and is operating your tools or hands as if you were actually there. As I stood outside the church and asked to be shown what was inside the tower, my hands moved in the usual spiralling motion (see section on Dowsing Earth Energy Vortices without tools on page 17) to indicate an Earth Energy Vortex or spiral. When I asked for my energy to be returned to my current physical position, my hands stopped moving.

Having managed to detect the positions of the three Energy Lines and the Energy Vortex in the tower from outside, I then went inside the church. After divesting myself of the well-meaning but over attentive churchwardens who were keen to show me around, I walked around dowsing discreetly with my hands and observing the energies from a distance. I used a combination of the Dowsing by Eye technique and my hands to check the positions of the Energy Lines that I had detected from the outside and to locate Earth Energy Vortices (Power Sources) at the position of the current font and the of the previous font, as David Gardiner had suggested there would be in his article. There was no access to the tower, so the distance dowsing technique had been the only option.

As I left, one of the churchwardens who must have spotted me dowsing by eye (which involves staring intently into the distance) commented that I seemed to have been taking a very keen

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interest in the place. She handed me a history leaflet that included a floor plan of the church and back in the peace of the churchyard I was able to double-check a few things and annotate the plan with my findings

I then joined the history tour that started at a local tearoom and ended up at the church. Much of what the guide said gave context to my dowsing and I took lots of photographs. As I was unaccompanied, I was able to write up my notes and ponder my findings whilst being served tea and cake back at the tearoom - an essential post dowsing ritual in my case since it both restores the energy used up by dowsing and grounds me. I had of course chosen my cake using dowsing by eye!

Back home I dowsed the photographs that I had taken both inside and outside the church to follow up on certain things the guide had told us and other ideas I had come up with subsequently. I also used map dowsing and Google Earth to establish how far beyond the church the three Energy Lines extended and Google Earth Street View to check where they crossed various roads

Without deviceless dowsing I would not have been able to find nearly as much detail in so short a time and put the bigger picture together.

See my article "Adventures of a Sherwood Dowser Part 7 - Tea and Energy Lines with Baroness Bolsover":

<https://www.dowsingsherwood.com/dowsing-sherwood-1/part-07.-bolsover-church>

DOWSING EARTH ENERGIES WITHOUT TOOLS

THE PROS AND CONS OF DOWSING WITHOUT TOOLS

My biggest inspiration by far has been the book that I purchased at the BSD Spring Symposium in 2015 “Beyond the Far Horizon, Why Energy Dowsing Works: The Life and Work of Billy Gawn” (Compiled and narrated by Nigel Twinn, 2012). I would highly recommend that book to anyone interested in Earth Energies and/or how to dowse devicelessly. It is available online from Penwith Press <https://penwithpress.co.uk/product/beyond-the-far-horizon/>

As Billy Gawn says, the biggest advantage of deviceless dowsing is being able to see the bigger picture by looking over a wider area and being able to quickly detect energy forms that conventional Dowsters may not otherwise find. Once I have surveyed a site from a distance, I can then decide which areas to home in on and dowse in more detail thus more productively using my time on site. When I tell other Dowsters about energy forms that I have found they can then often detect these forms themselves using their tool dowsing. It seems that once you can picture something in your mind’s eye you can dowse it. Indeed, many of the energies I have detected were found because of the ideas I got from reading about Billy’s work beyond the far horizon.

Using your hands and/or eyes as dowsing tools has the advantage that you always have them with you and if you are careful, you can dowse surreptitiously without drawing attention to yourself in a situation where it might not be appropriate to use conventional tools. These days most members of the public understand what dowsing rods are, albeit not realising that they can be used for anything other than divining water. If they spot you using Rods they may just think you are a bit eccentric and avoid you, or they may take an interest and ask about it. However, if they see someone wandering around waving their arms wildly and muttering, they are more likely to think you are completely nuts and usher you in the direction of the nearest Asylum!

The disadvantage of not using dowsing tools is that when you are with a group of other Dowsters who aren’t all aware that you dowse devicelessly, they don’t always realise that you are tuned in and dowsing so they may come up and start chatting to you and break your concentration. This happens a lot when dowsing by eye since that involves sitting or standing quietly some distance away from the target area to tune in and observe it, so you actually look like you are taking a break. I therefore find that if I want to dowse somewhere such as Bolsover church in detail it is better for me to do so alone. In larger groups I will often content myself with simply standing back and using the Dowsing by Eye method to watch how the energies change and interact when other people are dowsing them, which can be quite revealing in itself.

DOWSING EARTH ENERGIES WITHOUT TOOLS

PART TWO - DOWSING EARTH ENERGIES DEVICELESSLY

To explain how I dowse the particular Earth Energies that I work with devicelessly, I first need to explain what I perceive their nature and structure to be. The ones I am going to focus on are what I call Earth Energy Vortices that spiral vertically upwards from the ground and Earth Energy Lines that flow horizontally along the ground. These include both the meandering Energy Lines often termed 'dragon' or 'serpent' lines and the straight ones often termed 'Energy Leys'. All of these bear similarities to a caduceus (right) which comprises two energies spiralling around a straight shaft and is often said to represent the Yin and Yang Kundalini energy rising up the human spine.



There are, of course, many different forms of Earth Energy. The ones I refer to here just are the particular ones that I have been guided to work with over the years.

These types of Earth Energies and how I think they may be connected to underground water, are discussed in further detail in my "Earth Energies Simplified, it's a Question of Balance" article which is the transcript of a PowerPoint presentation that I gave to the Earth Energies Zoom group in March 2021:

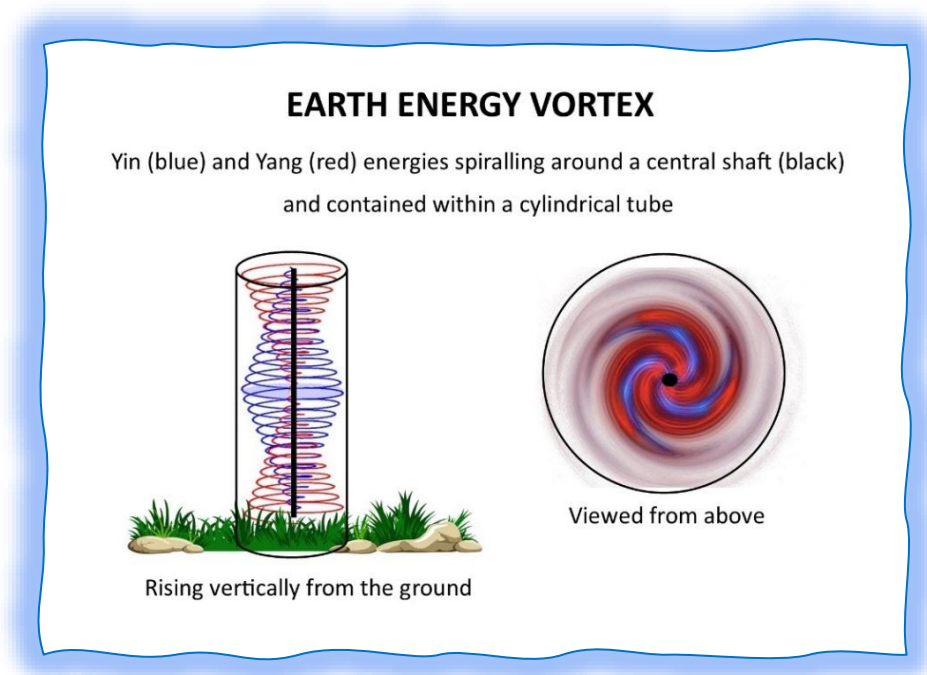
<https://www.dowsingsherwood.com/items/11.-a-question-of-balance>

A video of part of my talk to the Earth Energies Zoom group about Dowsing Earth Energies without tools in May 2024 can be viewed via the 'Videos' section of my website: [Videos \(List\) | The Sherwood Dowser](#)

DOWSING EARTH ENERGIES WITHOUT TOOLS

DOWSING EARTH ENERGY VORTICES WITHOUT TOOLS

The Earth Energy Vortices that I was guided to work with back in 2006 are spirals rising vertically from the ground, extending to around a metre in diameter. They consist of a central shaft of energy (thick black line on the diagram below) around 2cm to 5cm in diameter from which spiral two energies of opposing polarity (negative/feminine/Yin and positive/masculine/yang) that I will henceforth refer to as Yin (blue) and Yang (red). The whole thing is contained within a vertical cylindrical plasma tube (thin black lines).



I dowse these Vortices by first locating the outer cylinder in the same way as I would dowse the aura of a human being or tree by hand. I then move inwards to find the place in the centre of the cylinder where the shaft of vertical energy is located. I place my hands around 30cm apart, at the same height as you would hold Dowsing Rods, palms facing each other. I slowly bring my palms together until I feel the resistance of the central shaft between them. This is usually around 2cm-5cm in diameter and feels hotter and more resistant than the surrounding air. I can then cup my hands around that shaft and move them up and down along it.

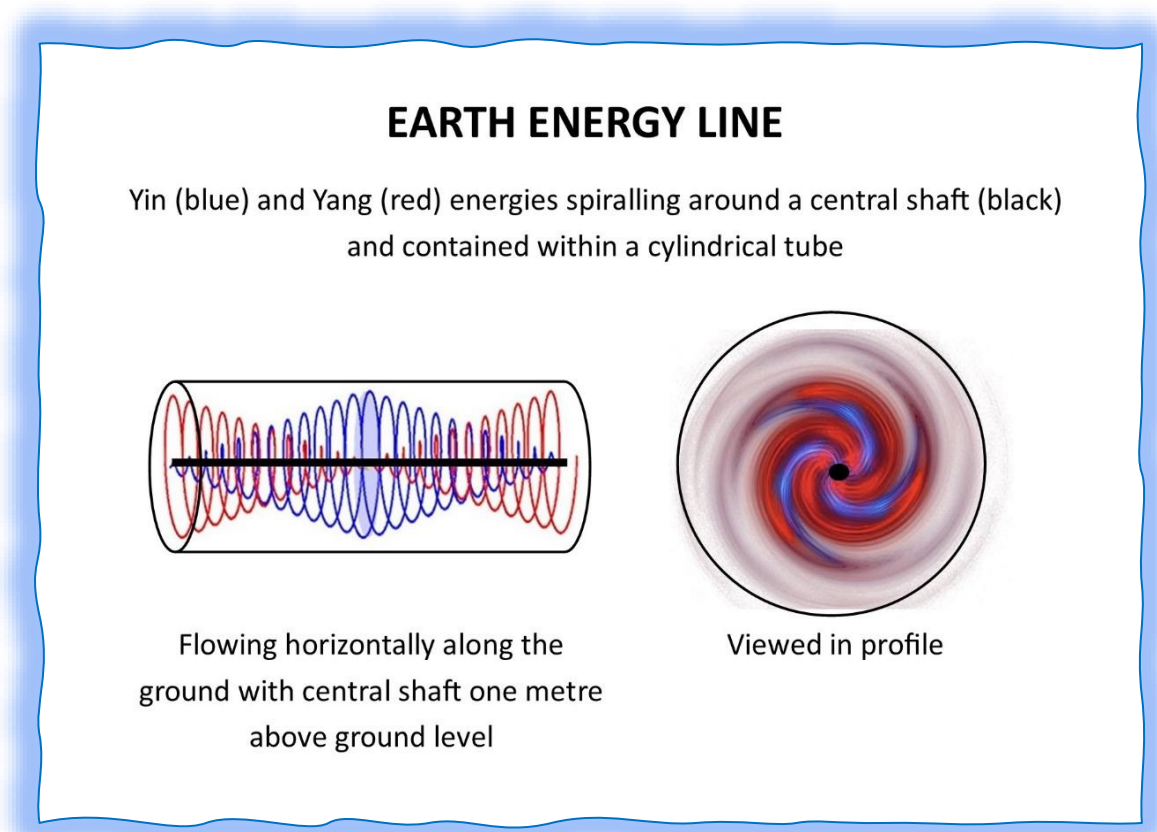
I then ask to be shown each of the spirals in turn. To do this I hold my hand above the Vortex at the same height as you would hold dowsing rods, palm facing the ground. I relax my hand so it is just floating in the air and I do not consciously move it. My palm will then start to move as if propelled by the energies of the spiral that I have set the intent to dowse.

My hand spirals in an anti-clockwise direction from the centre outwards to dowse the Yin spiral and in a clockwise direction from the centre outwards to dowse the Yang spiral. Since these energies are in constant motion, one spiral will be moving upwards whilst the other is moving downwards and one will be getting wider as the other is becoming narrower. Thus, one of the spirals will be at its widest at the point where the other is narrowest and there will also be a point where both are equal in diameter. My hand movements will reflect this.

DOWSING EARTH ENERGIES WITHOUT TOOLS

DOWSING EARTH ENERGY LINES WITHOUT TOOLS

The Earth Energy Lines that I dowse are spirals that flow horizontally, often partly above and partly below ground. They consist of a central shaft of energy (thick black line on the diagram below) between 2cm to 100cm in diameter, the centre of which can be found at one metre above ground level. From this spiral two energies of opposing polarity that I will refer to as Yin (blue) and Yang (red). The whole thing is contained within a horizontal cylindrical plasma tube (thin black lines).



To dowse an Energy Line, I always ask to be taken to the centre and work outwards from there. At the centre I first locate the central shaft. I hold my hands as far apart as I can, palms facing each other, at one metre above ground level. I then slowly bring my palms together until I feel the resistance of the central shaft. This can be anything from 2cm to 100cm in diameter. When my hands come up against it, I feel a resistance, some people feel tingling in their palms. I then find it difficult to bring my hands any further together due to the resistance. Often the air within the shaft will feel hotter than the surrounding air. I then can move my hands around in a circular motion to feel the outer edges of the shaft.

I will then work outwards by slowly walking away at right angles to the central shaft with my palm held out in front of me. Each time I reach the edge of one of the coils of a spiral I will feel a resistance. I keep on doing this until I reach the outer edge of the Energy Line.

DOWSING EARTH ENERGIES WITHOUT TOOLS

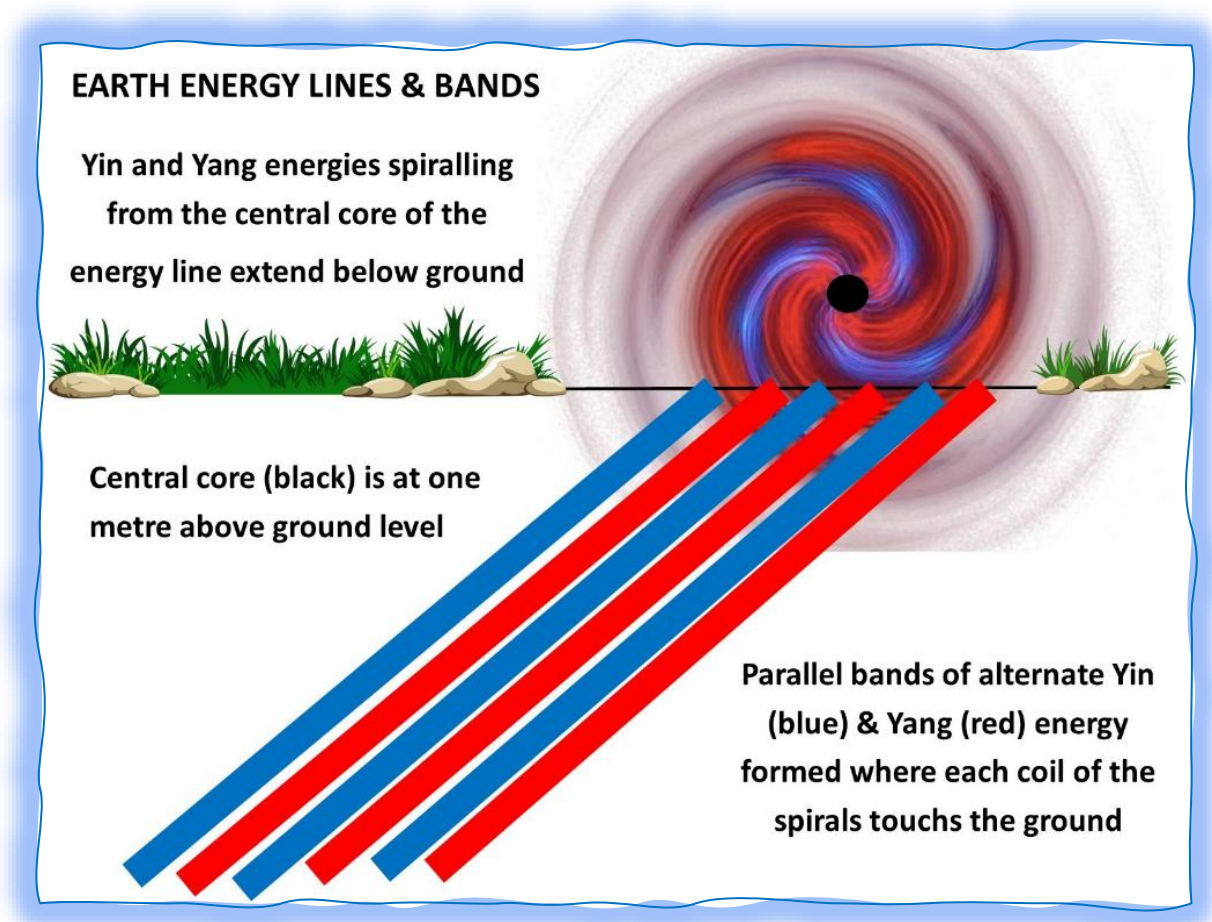
If I just want to follow the path of an Energy Line rather than dowse its structure, I locate the centre of the line then hold my arm out in front of me at heart level. My arm will then start to move in spirals as I slowly walk along following the centre line. It spirals anti-clockwise to show me the Yin energy spiral and clockwise for the Yang energy spiral. If I stand still, I will get one complete circle for each coil within the spiral (also called 'bands' by Dowsters – see 'Earth Energy Lines and Bands' below). As with dowsing Earth Energy Vortices my hand starts in the centre tracing a small circle and the circles gradually become wider as my hand moves outwards from the centre. So, if my hand traces 3 anti-clockwise spirals then 7 clockwise spirals I know that the Energy Line contains around 30% Yin energy and 70% Yang energy.

My hands essentially move in the same way when devicelessly dowsing an Earth Energy Line as they do when devicelessly dowsing an Earth Energy Vortex. In both cases they are tracing the spirals, the difference is the angle at which I hold my hand due to one set of spirals moving horizontally and the others vertically.

DOWSING EARTH ENERGIES WITHOUT TOOLS

EARTH ENERGY LINES AND BANDS

I find that the Energy Lines often referred to as 'serpents' or 'dragons' tend to be roughly circular in profile with about two-thirds of the line above ground and a third below ground. As each of the coils in the Yin and Yang spirals intersect the ground, they form parallel bands of alternate Yin and Yang energy that resemble a striped carpet rolled out on the ground. See diagram below where the Yin spirals (blue) become Yin bands and the Yang spirals (red) become Yang bands.



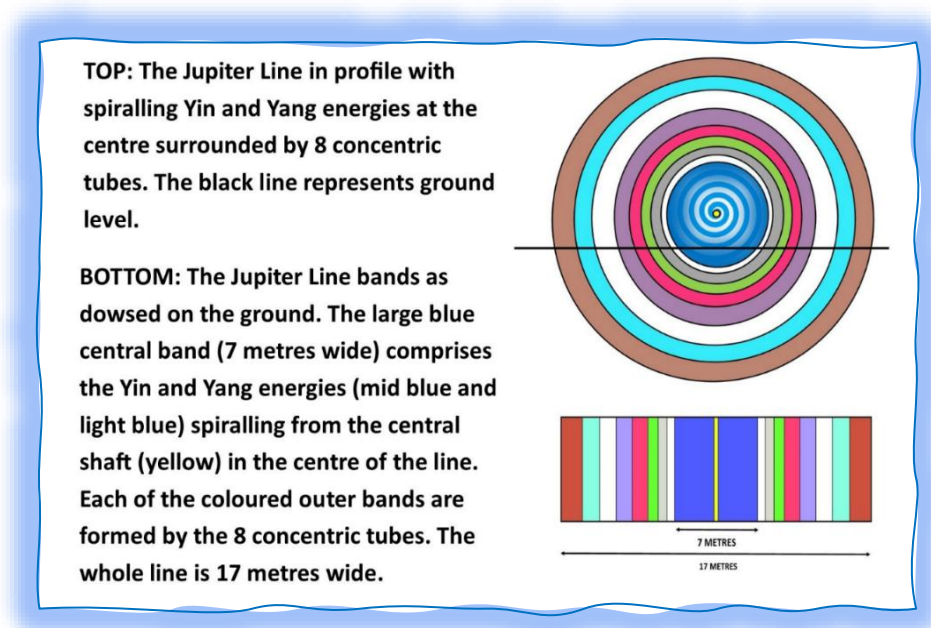
To dowse these 'bands' or coils, I first locate the edge of one band by holding my hand at ground level, palm at right angles to the ground, and moving it to the left or right to feel for the resistance or tingling sensation. When I have located the edge, I then move my hand slowly upwards. Rather than moving upwards vertically, my hand will move as if tracing a large curve. It will always curve away from the centre of the Energy Line until it reaches around one metre above the ground level, at which point it will start to curve back in towards the centre again as it follows that particular spiral.

Sometimes, if the Energy Line is very narrow (less than a metre radius), the coils of the spirals won't actually touch the ground. In this case I can only feel the outer edges of the line at ground level and no 'bands'. However, if I move my hand upwards between the ground and the central shaft that is always one metre above the ground, I will usually still be able to feel the curving energy of a couple of spirals.

DOWSING EARTH ENERGIES WITHOUT TOOLS

TUBES WITHIN TUBES

With some Earth Energy Lines there are several concentric tubes surrounding the spiralling Yin and Yang energies. The following example is of an Energy Line known as The Jupiter Line which was brought to my attention by the German researcher, Rainer Hoing who used Radiesthesia to detect it. See Rainer Hoing's website <https://gompa.de/> for more details. Since Rainer's research showed that it flows close to my home, I was able to investigate it in detail.



In this case I started with the plan of the 'bands' in the energy line that I was given by Rainer Hoing (bottom figure on the diagram above) and dowsed it devicelessly coming up with its 3D profile (top figure on the diagram above).

The inner 7 metres just dowsed as one blue band surrounding a very narrow yellow band at ground level. When I moved my hand to one metre above ground level, I felt a 3cm diameter central shaft directly above Hoing's narrow yellow band. Surrounding the shaft were the spiralling Yin and Yang energies that I always find. These spirals were contained within a 7-metre-wide horizontal plasma tube.

I located each of the outer bands that all matched Hoing's plan. I followed each of them up from ground level with my hand and traced curving arcs that formed a series of plasma tubes within larger plasma tubes adding an extra 5 metres width to the line either side of centre giving a 17 metre width in total.

For more details about Rainer Hoing's research and The Jupiter Line see my article "Adventures of a Sherwood Dowser Part 6 – On another planet at Clumber Park"

<https://www.dowsingsherwood.com/dowsing-sherwood-1/part-06.-clumber-park>

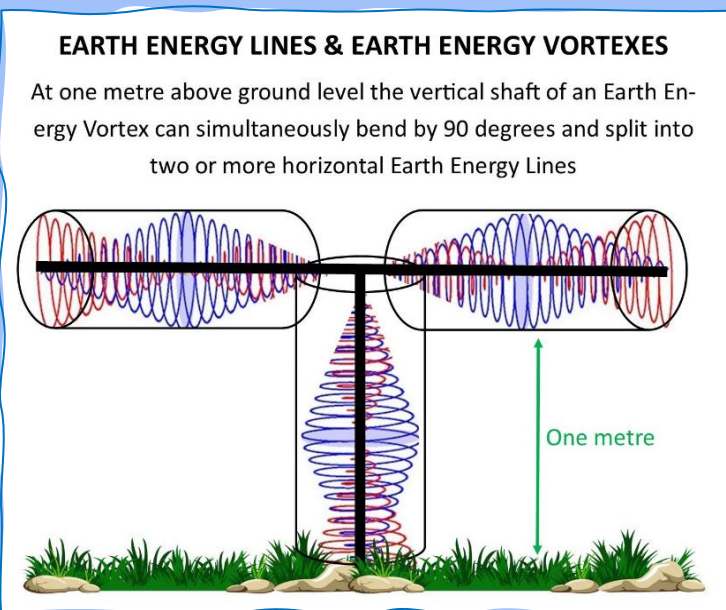
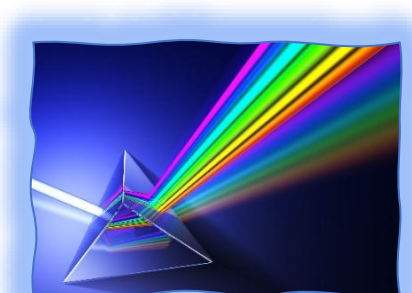
DOWSING EARTH ENERGIES WITHOUT TOOLS

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN EARTH ENERGY VORTICES AND EARTH ENERGY LINES

Being able to dowse Earth Energy Vortices and Earth Energy Lines devicelessly means that I have been able to literally get a feel for the energies within them and therefore notice similarities, especially with the way my hands react in similar ways to both phenomena. It seems to me that the structure of both is essentially the same, the main difference being that one is vertical and the other a horizontal. I have also found instances where the vertical shaft of an Earth Energy Vortex bends by 90 degrees and effectively becomes an Earth Energy Line.

When cupping my palms around the vertical shaft of an Earth Energy Vortex and moving them up and down I can feel a sensation of heat, tingling and resistance coming from shaft which reminds me of an electricity cable. The cylindrical feature that the vortex is contained within reminds me of a plasma tube. Plasma is an excellent conductor of electricity and it feels to me that the electrified shaft, or 'cable', in the centre is generating the two spirals of

oppositely polarised energy, and the plasma tube is containing them, causing the outwardly folding spiral to start to re-fold inwards again once it touches the inner edge of the plasma tube. Cupping my hands around the horizontal shaft of an Energy Line gives me the exact same sensation. Again, it reminds me of an invisible electricity cable and the heat that I feel suggests that some sort of electrical energy is being generated. The difference is that the cylindrical plasma tube that surrounds the Energy Line is often much wider than that which surrounds the Vortex, so the spirals extend farther, and the line is therefore wider.



In some cases, the vertical shaft, or 'cable', at the centre of a Vortex only extends upwards until it reaches a height of one metre above ground level at which point it simultaneously bends by 90 degrees and divides into two or more horizontal 'cables' effectively forming Energy Lines heading in different directions (see diagram above). This reminds me of refraction where white light is bent into colours through a prism (left). Perhaps the cylindrical plasma tube somehow acts as a prism?

DOWSING EARTH ENERGIES WITHOUT TOOLS

When I follow the horizontal 'cables' at the centre of an Energy Line I sometimes find that they suddenly dip into the ground. These points always turn out to be Earth Energy Vortices. I realised that this is exactly the same principle as the vertical 'cable' of the Vortex coming of the ground and bending by 90 degrees, but in reverse.

I found that when approaching an Earth Energy Vortex the whole Energy Line will start to become narrower. The plasma tube containing the spirals narrows and so do the spirals within it. Conversely, when the vertical shaft, or 'cable', of an Earth Energy Vortex splits into several Energy Lines at one metre above ground, those Energy Lines become wider as they move away from the Vortex with the plasma cylinder increasing in diameter so the spirals within it also become wider.

In some cases, I have noticed that the vertical shaft, or 'cable', of a Vortex can split into multiple Energy Lines. I found this whilst investigating whether there is dowseable energy within some of the landscape pentagrams that I have come across. This image shows a Chestnut Tree standing in an Earth Energy Vortex in the grounds of Southwell Minster which is at the south-east tip of the Sherwood Forest pentagram. Five energy lines radiate from the tree, all at a height of one metre above ground level. The green ones go in the directions of the other four tips of the landscape pentagram and could be tracked crossing surrounding streets by dowsing in Google Earth Street View. The yellow line connects to another tree in the churchyard. More about this can be found in my article "Adventures of a Sherwood Dowser Part 4: Southwell Minster".



<https://www.dowsingsherwood.com/dowsing-sherwood-1/part-04.-southwell-minster>

More details about the Sherwood Forest landscape pentagram can be found in my article "The Sherwood Pentagram":

[https://www.dowsingsherwood.com/landscape-geometry-1/01.-the-sherwood-pentagram-\(2023\)](https://www.dowsingsherwood.com/landscape-geometry-1/01.-the-sherwood-pentagram-(2023))

I also visited the five tips of a landscape pentagram that I found in Malta and again found an Earth Energy Vortex spawning at least four Earth Energy Lines that appeared to be heading in the direction of the other four tips of the landscape pentagram. See my article "The Maltese Pentagram" for further details:

[https://www.dowsingsherwood.com/landscape-geometry-1/04.-the-maltese-pentagram-\(2023\)](https://www.dowsingsherwood.com/landscape-geometry-1/04.-the-maltese-pentagram-(2023))

DOWSING EARTH ENERGIES WITHOUT TOOLS

EARTH ENERGY LINES MOVING BETWEEN REST AND ACTIVE STATES

I often find that trees are connected to each other by horizontal Energy Lines that emerge from the trunks at one metre above ground level. These energy lines are usually very narrow, often consisting only of the central shaft or 'cable' around 2cm to 5cm in diameter. However, when they are energised, I can feel the two spirals start to emerge from the 'cable'.

I first noticed this when trying to locate a Ley that I had found on a map passing through a church at Hucknall in Nottinghamshire. I found an Energy Line one metre above the ground that came from the church to a tree and then connected to another tree, through the diagonal corners of a square based monument (blue inset on image), and to yet another tree, all forming a straight line. I could detect the horizontal shaft or 'cable' in the Energy Line that was about 2cm in diameter but it didn't feel hot and there were no spiralling energies emitting from it. It seemed to be in a 'rest' state, and I was reminded of an electric cable that wasn't plugged in (see image on the left below).



After a while I sensed a sudden increase in energy in the churchyard so returned to the Energy Line. The central shaft or 'cable' had expanded from 2cm diameter to 5cm and now felt hot to the touch. I could now feel two spirals flowing around it and the whole thing was contained within a horizontal plasma tube around 50cm in diameter (see image on the right above).

A church service was in progress and this energy surge seemed to have occurred during the hymn singing. When things went quiet again, I could no longer detect the spirals and the energy line contracted from 50cm wide to only 2cm wide again. This expansion was repeated again later in the service. It felt to me that the hymn singing and/or group prayer had effectively plugged in the electric cable and temporarily activated the electricity in the line.

Further investigation showed that the trees and the square-based monument were all standing in Earth Energy Vortices.

More about my investigations in Hucknall churchyard can be found in my article "Adventures of a Sherwood Dowser Part 3: Hucknall".

<https://www.dowsingsherwood.com/dowsing-sherwood-1/part-03-hucknall>

DOWSING EARTH ENERGIES WITHOUT TOOLS

More about my research into how trees in churchyards are connected by energy lines and what happens when these lines are energised can be found in my article “Adventures of a Sherwood Dowser Part 4: Southwell Minster”.

<https://www.dowsingsherwood.com/dowsing-sherwood-1/part-04.-southwell-minster>

Through being able to sense Earth Energy Lines and Earth Energy Vortices, I also realised that both these features become highly energised during the 20-minute periods leading up to Sunrise, Solar Noon, Sunset, New Moon, Half Moon and Full Moon. More about this can be found in my article “Earth Energies Simplified: It’s a Question of Balance” which is the transcript of a PowerPoint presentation that I gave to the Earth Energies Group Zoom in March 2021:

<https://www.dowsingsherwood.com/items/11.-a-question-of-balance>

In the first half of 2025 I made a series of three videos entitled “The Landscape Speaks” which were released on the British Society of Dowsters YouTube channel in June 2025. These include information about the various landscape geometries that I have found over the years and also talk about some of the things mentioned here including earth energy vortices and the energy lines that connect trees. These can be accessed via the videos section of my website:

[Videos \(List\) | The Sherwood Dowser](#)

DOWSING EARTH ENERGIES WITHOUT TOOLS

CONCLUSION

If it wasn't for the fact that I couldn't get conventional dowsing tools to work, I would probably have never even attempted to dowse devicelessly. If it wasn't for the fact that I do dowse devicelessly, I would probably never have realised that Earth Energy Vortices and Earth Energy Lines were connected, or that Energy Lines all have a basic underlying structure. If it wasn't for the fact that I had sensitised myself to Earth Energies I would probably never have noticed that Energy Lines sometimes quickly expand then contract again which led me to investigate what was causing these changes. If I hadn't read the book about Billy Gawn's work, I would probably never have come up with ideas for many experiments that I could do to help me further my understanding of Earth Energies and their fascinating subtle behaviour. And if I hadn't connected with so many open-minded Dowsters through the Earth Energies Zoom group, I would probably never have been able to share my ideas and expand them through our fascinating group discussions.

Some of you reading this may be thinking that you might like to try your hands at deviceless dowsing. Learning to Dowse in a different way takes you out of your comfort zone and asks you to do something that you are not even sure you can do, but if you stick with it the benefits are well worth the effort and you will have added a new string to your Dowsing bow.

Hopefully, even if you are not convinced about trying Deviceless Dowsing for yourself, you will now at least have an awareness that some people do Dowse without tools so when you see a lone Dowser standing away from the rest of the group you will be aware that they may not simply be tired, bored or taking a break, but they may be tuning in in a different way.

We are all diverse and work in our uniquely different ways. There is no right or wrong way, only different ways. Our collective strength as Dowsters, as well as our huge respect for one another's differing methods and abilities, is that we can all work together in our differing ways and then pool our findings to help see the bigger picture and move forward collaboratively in our quest to learn more about a world that may be unseen to our physical eyes but is second nature to our more subtle senses.

If you would like to attend the monthly Earth Energies Group Zoom and connect with other like-minded researchers, please email **eezoom22@gmail.com**

You can find more articles about my research on my Sherwood Dowser website. All of them can be downloaded in PDF format and are free of charge.

www.dowsingsherwood.com



Mave Calvert, aka Mave Marian, The Sherwood Dowser 🏹 🌳

Email: dowsingsherwood@gmail.com

DOWSING EARTH ENERGIES WITHOUT TOOLS

APPENDIX ONE: OBITUARY OF MRS MARY ELIZABETH POGSON

From the British Society of Dowsters Journal Volume IV, No 28 June 1940 available on the website dowsing-research.net created by the BSD historian, Nick Haywood.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Pogson, who died on February 17th at Hove, Sussex, at the age of 83, was one of the pioneers of scientific dowsing. She was an original member of the British Society of Dowsters and the author of "The Art of Water Finding."

About thirty-five years ago this active lady first became interested in water finding when she and her husband, the late Mr. W. N. Pogson, F.R.I.B.A., discovered that they possessed the latent power of dowsing. Together they worked many experiments, and discovered the attraction of the right hand towards the positive pole, and the left hand towards the negative pole of a bar magnet; on this they based the reactions of all substances. They discovered in 1905 that it is these movements of the hands which cause the dowser's twig to turn, and that the human hands themselves are the actual detectors of emanations or radiations given off by all substances, while the twig or rod used in dowsing is merely an indicator. Mr. Pogson located several hundred wells in different parts of India with great success before his death in Simla in 1918, after which Mrs. Pogson actively continued the study of radiesthesia and worked many interesting experiments.

About 1916 Mr. and Mrs. Pogson initiated their son-in-law, Major C. A. Pogson, who was also a distant relative, in the practice of dowsing, as the result of which he is now actively engaged in water finding. He has adopted the use of the motorscope, a small instrument invented by his father-in-law, as a more accurate indicator than the twig, of the movements of the hands in detecting the presence of water, oil, &c.

It was Mrs. Pogson's last wish that all her notes and data should be in the possession of her daughter, Mrs. F. A. Nuttall. If any members are desirous of obtaining information regarding these will they please communicate with Mrs. Nuttall, Little Garth, Ting Tong, Budleigh Salterton, Devon.