

**DRAIG PARANORMAL
INVESTIGATION AT COSMESTON MEDIEVAL VILLAGE
20TH OCTOBER 2007**

Present:

Paula – Group Co-ordinator
Kevin – Technical/Footage Analyst
Mel – Researcher/Web Designer
Jodie – Events Co-ordinator
Martyn – Technical/Footage Analyst

Guests of Draig (7 intrepid volunteers at Cosmeston!)

Firstly a big thank you to Alan at Cosmeston Medieval Village for allowing us to investigate this fascinating aspect of Welsh history and for clarifying some dates etc for us – particularly those of us, like myself, who paid absolutely no attention in school history classes! And also a big thank you to the volunteers who joined us for the evening, for helping the whole event go smoothly.

Background Information about Cosmeston Medieval Village

Cosmeston Medieval Village is set in the year 1350, a troubled period in the history between the English and Welsh. Edward III ruled a land at war with France and Britain was recovering from the Black Death two years earlier.

The village grew out of a fortified manor constructed around the 12th century by the Costentin family, who were among the first Norman invaders of Wales. By 1320 the village was controlled by the De Caversham familer, and later the Despensers - Lords of Glamorgan and Earls of Gloucester.

In 1350, the chosen year of life we see today in Cosmeston, many of the small villages along this coast were multi-cultural with populations made up of Welsh, English, French and Flemings.

The poor unsuspecting inhabitants of Cosmeston had the terrible pestilence, known as the Black Death to look forward to. This plague came slowly and steadily from the East; in 1348 it reached Bristol. It probably swept away one half of the people of the towns of Wales.

Although the village survived the Black Death, its impact and the deteriorating climate of the era caused a slow decline in its fortunes. By the 17th century it amounted to just three farmsteads.

In 1978, during developments of Cosmeston Lakes Country Park, excavations began on a site known as Castle Field. They revealed the remains of a community 600 years old.

Since the 1980s archaeologists have worked with the local authority to reconstruct the remains of Cosmeston village. They have created an authentic portrayal of an Anglo-Welsh community in the 14th century.

The Investigation

The investigation kicked off proper at 8pm, with baseline tests being run in all of the proposed locations:

Reeves Barn – temperature of 10 degrees

Swineherder's Cottage – temperature of 9 degrees

Jake's Cottage – temperature of 7.5 degrees

Baker's Cottage – 7.5 degrees

Reeves Cottage – 6 degrees

No EMF readings were apparent in any location.

All batteries were tested at the correct voltages.

At 9pm, we split into two groups, one led by myself, comprising of Martyn, myself and 4 volunteers from Cosmeston and one led by Kevin, comprising of Mel, Jodie and 3 volunteers from Cosmeston. Each took a different location to conduct a vigil armed with a camcorder, temperature sensor, EMF meter and digital cameras.

For the most part, the investigation was a fairly quiet affair, with little or no activity, what activity there was is detailed below:

Reeves Cottage

Slight feeling of queasiness experienced by Kevin, approximately at same time as Martyn's digital camera failed.

Paula feels lightheaded and sick, no fluctuations in temperature, no readings on EMF meter and no equipment failure experienced.

Swineherders Cottage

A volunteer reported a cold draught appeared down her left hand side, whilst at the same time another volunteer reported a sudden shudder down her spine for no apparent reason. At the same time a temperature fluctuation was noted of 8 degrees to 16 degrees for a few seconds and then returned to normal of 8.3.

A second, less dramatic temperature fluctuation occurred 15 mins later of 5.4 degrees to 6.8 degrees.

Bakers Cottage

Unexplained "clicking" noise from around a table in the room. No small animals such as mice were noted and no other explanation was found for this.

Jakes Cottage

New Duracell batteries were put into Paula's digital camera at 11.10pm, at 11.40pm these failed, when tested were drained to approximately a quarter of their original voltage.

Main gates into the Village

This incident was noted by Mel:

One incident worth mentioning was when a volunteer from Cosmeston who joined us on the night drew our attention to the large main gate, which quickly and loudly closed behind him without his touching it. As I did not witness it closing, only heard the gate slam shut and turned to see the volunteer standing a fair distance away from it, I cannot verify that this was of paranormal consequence. However I returned to the gate, reopened it fully and attempted to close it myself, which took some effort due to it's size/weight. The gate also did not fully close on my first attempt and on my second when I used more force still did not close as quickly or loudly as had previously happened. Photography taken after the incident show some orb and unexplained anomalies - one anomaly looks almost face-like, but this cannot be discounted from being another dust-caused orb.

Tythe Barn

A trigger object was set up and a camcorder focused on it, but nothing resulted from this.

General Observations

Paula: For some of the group, this is the second time that they have investigated the village and it still remains the most fascinating of venues. Steeped in history, which is still being discovered to this day, it's hard to imagine a place more spooky, yet the overwhelming feeling within the village is one of calmness. There appeared nothing remotely threatening to the place and activity was considerably less than expected. The one remaining mystery to our time spent at the village is the failure of some of the equipment (something which has been reported on previous investigations) and is certainly something that we would like to investigate further.

Kev: I found this investigation to be extremely fascinating despite the lack of activity... This is the first location that some of the team have had the chance to go back and reinvestigate it and this has helped me to see just how far the team have come in terms of our approach and our thought processes. Since the first investigation we have become much more scientific in our investigations.

Although the investigation was extremely quiet in terms of activity... I do feel this has helped answer questions from the previous investigation of 3 years ago... but also raises new questions. I am amazed at the lack of "orbs"

caught on video tape this time round compared to the previous investigation. I have considered this very issue greatly since the recent investigation and I suspect the cold damp condition of the night is the key to this. The village itself has dusty footpaths leading to each cottage and the floors of the cottages are no different. In drier conditions the movement of the team will kick up this fine dust and will, inevitably, lead to more "dust orb" phenomena being caught on camera/camcorder. Colder conditions will induce much more moisture in the atmosphere and will help to keep this dust content down to a much lower level.

Mel: This was a very interesting site to investigate, however results that night were a little disappointing. Numerous orbs frequently appeared in pictures taken, however the outdoor/dirt floor nature of the reconstructed buildings was most likely the cause of these effects. I felt comfortable (despite the understandably cold temperatures) in each of the buildings and did not hear, see or experience anything of note during the vigils.

Martyn: This is a fascinating site to investigate. Although the investigation was relatively quiet, it's definitely a place that warrants further investigation, particularly in respect of the incident with the gate. Although this wasn't captured on camera, it proved difficult to replicate and has apparently happened before, to the same volunteer.

Jodie: Apart from the thatched roof's (way too many places for spiders to hide!), I thoroughly enjoyed the investigation at Cosmeston. When we walked into the various rooms, I noticed there was a lot of dust in the air and instruments on the table that could reflect the light from the camera flashes. Several photos were taken by the volunteers and there were many orbs in most of them, this could have been to do with the amount of dust. Throughout the vigil I could see dark shadows on my left side that disappeared out of sight when I tried to focus on them. During the vigil in Jake's cottage I had a strange feeling of anxiety, the darkness seemed to grow darker by several shades and I felt something was present. I felt cold air on my face as if I was being breathed on. Two other members of the group also felt very cold as if blasts of cold air had been blown at them.

We also took a walk up to the plague pit, where there had been some reports of paranormal activity in the past. Looking into the plague pit there wasn't a lot to report but I did get a feeling of uneasiness here. We did not enter the plague pit so were not able to carry out a vigil.