

As a matter of completeness I should mention that the verses either side of this significant statement are concerned with a completely different matter and have no relevance to the stone. Likewise, we tried several control readings selected by generating random numbers on my computer and none of them had any significance either.

DOWSING IS NOT JUST FOR WATER

*A talk given by Chris Hinsley at the Congress
held at Cirencester in October 1991*

As a dowser I get many requests for help which are 'not just for water'. I have selected three examples to indicate the range of requests, demonstrate the techniques used, the limitations of the results and, hopefully, to encourage others to use a little dowsing to resolve many of life's problems.

The three examples cover sheep, bean sprouts and a stone circle so an appropriate alternative title would be 'Animal, Vegetable and Mineral'.

Animal

My first example is to do with black sheep, in particular black Ryelands sheep. Some background will help in understanding the dowsing request.

I live in Leominster, a small town in Herefordshire on the borders with Wales. In the Middle Ages Leominster made its money from wool from a local breed of sheep called the Ryelands sheep — a small solid sheep and very woolly like 'Larry the Lamb'. The good quality of the wool from this sheep gave it a high value, hence its name of 'Lemster Ore'. However, today the sheep is not so popular with commercial farming because it is small but the breed is still strong with enthusiastic supporters. It has its own breed secretary and record book containing a list of all the registered Ryelands sheep. All would be fine if it wasn't for black sheep; Ryelands are normally white but sometimes white parents can produce a black lamb.

Although pretty to look at for the outsider (I suppose indoctrination from the nursery rhyme) the black wool is not what is wanted and the lamb has no value to the farmer and the black sheep cannot be used for breeding white sheep. Consequently, a Ryelands sheep farmer will pay a lot of money for a good ram on the

assumption that it will only produce white offspring. However, if a year later the farmer ends up with some black lambs, a considerable degree of ill-feeling can be generated between the buyer and seller of the ram.

This is where the dowsing request comes in because I was contacted by Ann Dewey of the Ryelands Sheep Society, who wondered if it was possible to determine if there was a 'recessive black gene' in white sheep using dowsing. It is possible to determine this by testing the cells from a sheep using advanced genetics but at £1,000 a time this is not practical. Could dowsing help?

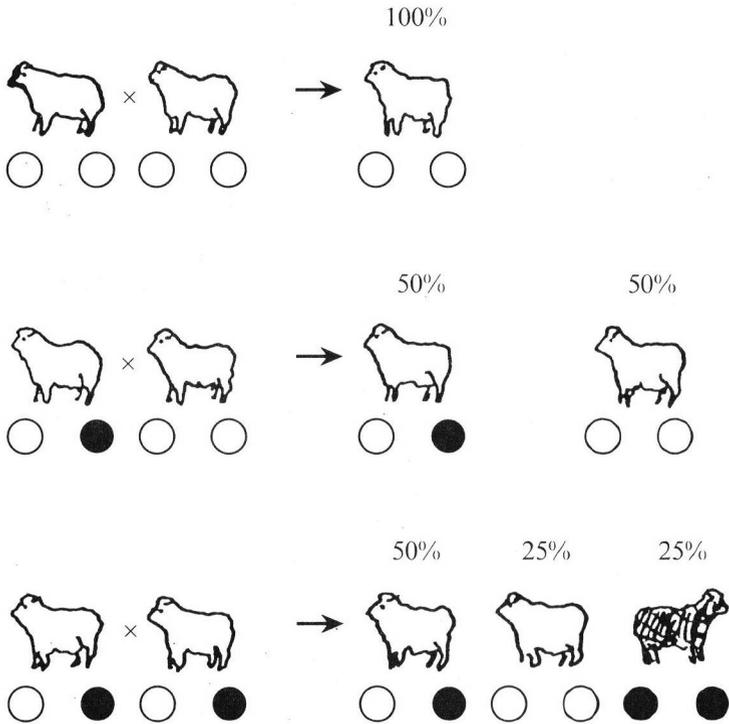


Figure 1. Effect of parents colour genes in determining the colour of their offspring.

Sheep Wool Samples	Black Gene Present Yes or No			
	Dowsing			Actual
Rams	1	2	3	
Peris Lancer 7394	No	Yes	No	No
Valley Dean D1/407	No	No	No	No
Cherwell Dazzle D	Yes	No	Yes	No
Cherwell Dazzle D24	No	Yes	No	Yes
Cherwell Hexagon H1/591	No	No	No	No
Ewes				
A1/546	No	No	Yes	No
C15/591	Yes	No	Yes	No
C22/591	No	Yes	No	No
D24/419	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
D15/419	No	No	No	Yes
C27/591	Yes	No	No	No
X1/456	No	No	No	Yes

Table 1. Results of sheeps wool samples dowsed for the black gene compared with known carriers.

As with all dowsing requests, I have learned that it is necessary to understand the background to ensure that the dowsing is going to provide meaningful results. Since sheep breeding was something quite new to me, I had to discover the basic rules of colour genetics in Ryelands sheep.

Sheep have one pair of genes that determine the fleece colour. Most white sheep have two white genes but some have one white and one black gene. These sheep are called 'carriers' because they contain the 'recessive' black gene; they are usually indistinguishable from ordinary white sheep because the white gene is 'dominant'. A problem arises when both white parents contain the recessive black gene because the rules of genetics state that 50% of their lambs would contain one black and one white gene (and so be white), 25% would have two white genes (white), but 25% would have two black genes and would be black. This is shown in diagram form in Figure 1 to make it clearer.

It is now easier to understand the request for dowsing — could I dowse a white sheep which carried the recessive black gene?

I was sent twelve samples of wool from twelve white sheep, five rams and seven ewes. These are listed in Table 1. Using my pendulum to give a simple yes/no answer, I dowsed over each sample in turn asking the question 'was there a black gene in this sample?' and recorded the results. I then changed the identity numbers that I had

given to each sample to prevent any recognition and I repeated the dowsing and, again, recorded the results. I carried this procedure out a third time — all the results are shown in Table 1 along with the known carriers of the recessive gene. As can be seen, there was no significant correlation between my results from dowsing and the actual results. My reaction to bad dowsing results is always ‘why’? What have I done wrong? Have I made an incorrect assumption? With hindsight two factors became apparent. First, I was being too clever in trying to visualise a black gene with little idea of what it was. Far better to have used a witness of white wool known to contain the recessive black gene. Second, I did not practise what I preach; dowsing is accessing the intuitive mind and the first reaction is the one most likely to be correct. There was no need to repeat the exercise three times.

I am afraid that the conclusions of this exercise, so far, have been to advise that it is not a good idea to rely on dowsing in the auction ring when trying to buy a new ram with no recessive black gene hidden away.

Vegetable

My second example is from a request to help with solving the source of infection causing neck rot in four day old sprouting beans.

As before, some background is necessary to understand the problem before using dowsing to look for a solution.

My client had started a business sprouting beans for sale in Hereford. The beans were mung, aduki, chick pea and alfalfa. He had started at home in a shed and greenhouse. Everything was all right initially but after two years he had a problem of virus infection in the bean sprouts. The neck withers, goes black and the bean sprouts become smelly and most unpleasant.

New, larger premises were found in a factory unit on a rural English Estates site. There were no problems for the first year but then back came the virus infection. My client had done all the conventional things to isolate the source of infection. This included getting the expert in from ADAS, the agricultural advisory service. They had no experience with bean sprouts and all they could do was confirm that he had a virus infection with no idea of its source. No solution meant no business, no work, no money and a desperate client. At this stage, I was called in — when all else fails use a dowser!

The first stage was to meet my client at his home where he showed me healthy and unhealthy bean sprouts. I dowsed over these with my pendulum and was able to create a clear mental witness of healthy/unhealthy bean sprouts. I then started to ask questions looking for the response from the pendulum in a yes/no answer. I recorded the questions and answers and this is how they appeared:—

1. Do I understand the problem? Yes
2. Is there a real infection? Yes

3. Is the source of infection at home or in the factory? Yes/No
(Strange pendulum reactions)

The next step was to go to the factory and assess the situation there. Outside the factory were the waste bins — check 'yes' they contained infected bean sprouts. Inside the factory were bins with the beans as brought in, two feet square deep vats in which the beans were sprouted and large flat trays where the germination process was completed. Basically the production sequence was as follows:—

1. Beans arrive from all over the world and are stored in bins.
2. Beans are soaked in a vat in tap water for 12-24 hours.
3. The beans in the vat are rinsed in tap water three times a day by immersing both hands in the vat and stirring the beans round by hand.
4. When the beans have started to sprout they are put on trays before packing for sale.

These, then, are the questions that I asked and the answers from dowsing:—

1. Are the beans coming in infected? No
2. At which stage in the process does the infection originate? Sprouting
Vat 1.
3. Is there anything in the vat? No
in the water? Yes/No
4. Does the water contribute to the infection? Yes
 - is there something in the water? Yes
 - is the nitrate level high? Yes
 - does this cause the problem? Yes/No
 - does this make the beans susceptible to the infection? Yes
 - would a clean water supply help? Yes
 (This was not practical, however, because of the large quantities of water used.)
5. Where was the source of the infection?
 - partner's dog? No
 - partner? No
 - from home? Yes/No
 - home to work? Yes
 - car? Yes
 - Where in the car?
 - seat? Yes
 - trousers? Yes
 - Where in particular?
 - pocket? Yes
 - handkerchief? Yes

At this stage I was able to propose a connection and suggest a cause for the infection. The infection was associated with handkerchief/nose/pocket/hand. Day one for the sprouting beans in vat 1 the

infected hands were immersed in the water, stirring the beans and transferring the infection into the water. The beans are left in the water for up to 24 hours and the high nitrogen content in the water persuades them to sprout vigorously but are prone to infection. The infection put into the sprouting beans takes 3-4 days to develop so it becomes apparent just at the time the beans are ready for packing.

My client was well satisfied with this explanation and promised to wear long gloves when handling the bean sprouts and wear clean overalls in the factory.

Mineral

My third and last example is mineral or to be more precise the use of dowsing in suggesting the position of a stone circle.

The request came from Sian Meredudd. 'Could I locate the position of a former stone circle in the centre of Llandrindod Wells?' It transpired that the Temple Gardens in Llandrindod Wells had just been opened as a public garden after a certain amount of work by the council. In the hedge by the gardens were six large stones which, many years previously, had been moved from a circular arrangement. The map of the town centre of 1902 clearly shows a stone circle in the gardens. How the stones got there and how they were destroyed was very vague. Llandrindod Wells was a Victorian spa town with relatively few pre-Victorian features. One suggestion is that a former official of the county of Radnorshire put them there not more than a hundred years ago. On the other hand, the site was referred to as 'The Temple' before 1816 so the stones may have been in existence before then.

Either way I was faced with a gently sloping, grassy site with several interesting stones about 2 feet high by about 1½ feet diameter scattered around. To make my task more exciting Sian, a former mayor of the town, recorded all my actions at the site on video. It was November and cold so I worked as quickly as I could and mostly forgot the camera until I started talking to myself and became quite embarrassed.

I approached the problem of locating the positions of the stones as follows:—

1. I made sure that I had no preconceived ideas about the stones or their positions as this would cloud any dowsing. (The details of the history of the stones I found out afterwards.)
2. I sat down at the site, made a sketch of the area and **map dowsed** with a pendulum marking on the map where I got a reaction indicating the former position of a stone. When I had finished, I had marked nine stones in the rough form of a circle. I gave each stone position a reference number for the next stage.
3. I used the map as a guide for walking across the site with angle rods to determine the exact position for each stone marked on the map, locating these positions with a cane pushed into the ground.

When completed, the shape of the circle could clearly be seen and was about 75 feet in diameter.

4. The final stage was to go round the site testing each stone with a pendulum using a yes/no answer to determine if that stone had been in the circle. If the indication was that it had been there, its previous location was determined making use of the reference number given to each location. The stones for locations 2, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 9 were found; 1, 5 and 7 were not found.

Having located the appropriate stones, I then marked on them in white paint their correct orientation with respect to the entrance of the Hotel Metropole, which was a suitable large reference point. I also marked which way up for each stone so that it would be possible for the council to move and locate each stone in its correct position. The canes were replaced with stout wooden pegs to mark the centre of each stone.

Sian was quite happy with the results; she had a record on video of how I had selected each stone by dowsing and determined its position in a circle.

But what of the sequel to this story?

The next week the council erected a marquee over the site for some festival and in so doing the workmen removed the pegs marking the positions for the stones! By this time the director of the Llandrindod Wells Victorian Experience project had got to hear of my work with the stones. He was most enthusiastic and keen to get them in position — until he came in contact with the county archaeological unit. They claimed that if the stones were repositioned they might be in the wrong place and seriously affect any archaeological work that might be carried out if a dig was done on the site in the future! (They ignored the major excavations by the council in rebuilding the gardens!) As a compromise, it was proposed to place a plaque at the site to say that the stones had been repositioned in 1991 in the presumed position of an earlier circle.

I have heard no more.

I hope that I have demonstrated in these three examples that conventional dowsing techniques with angle rods and pendulum can be used in quite unexpected situations. However, the better the understanding of the request the better and more accurate the dowsing results. The conclusions of this work, despite the setbacks, must be that 'dowsing is not just for water'.