AN INTRODUCTION TO WATER-FINDING

by Will Hazell

Part 1. USING MAP-DOWSING TO LOCATE AN UNDERGROUND STREAM

Introduction

'Could anyone be said to belong to mankind', asks Abbé Mermet, 'if having acquired a few scraps of knowledge, he were to shut himself up in an ivory tower, and refuse to enlighten his fellow men?' It is with this concept in mind that the writer has gathered the wisdom and experience of eminent water-finders such as: Cyril Wilson, Clive Beadon, W.H. Trinder, J. Scott Elliot, W.H. Lea-Wilson, and K.W. Merrylees.

Apart from a brief account of **Serial Numbers** used by Clive Beadon to ensure that he is dowsing over an underground stream, Part 1 of this paper is concerned only with methods used to locate water.

In Part 2, on Site Dowsing, we will consider other aspects such as estimating depth, quantity, and quality; we will also examine the problems associated with strata, and the need to know the direction of flow. Although all of these may be considered by the water-finder when dowsing over a map, it is essential that he (she) must confirm the results by visiting the site; some reference is also given regarding site-dowsing methods.

Perimeter method used by Cyril Wilson

'Have you a map of the property?' is the first question asked by Cyril Wilson when he meets a client. 'A map', he states, 'may save miles of unnecessary travelling only to find there is no water on the land.' After many years of successful dowsing, he concludes, 'I have never yet found water on a part of the ground where I had not found it on the map.' Another eminent dowser, the late Reverend H.W. Lea-Wilson repeats this observation. He stated, 'I have never yet found, when going to confirm a siting made from a map, that there is any difference when actually standing over a stream from that already shown on the map.'

Using a pendulum, Cyril Wilson starts by working around the map perimeter, and marking a large cross, as shown in Fig.1, where a dowsing response is noted. These marks show where a stream enters and leaves the map. He then starts 'quartering the land'. He states 'I go across the map carefully with a very small pendulum, and wherever I run into a reaction, I put my mark'. By using this grid method, he locates the course of the streams. He then estimates the depth by using either the Bishop's Rule, or the counting-down method, and estimates the flow in gallons per hour by the count-down method.

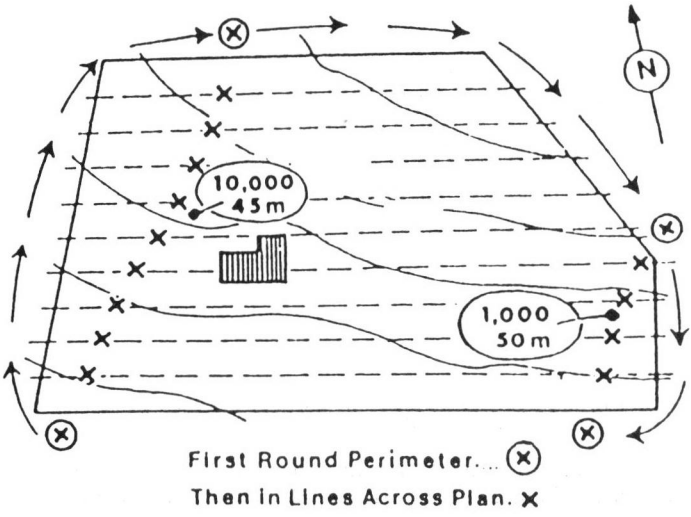


Fig. 1.
Using the perimeter method and grid method.
(Included by permission of Cyril Wilson).

Triangulation method

Cyril Wilson also uses the triangulation method; this consists of holding a pendulum over a point on the left-hand side of the map while asking, 'Where is the best supply of water on this land?' The direction of pendulum oscillation is noted; the pendulum is then held over a point on the right-hand side, and the operation is repeated. Where the lines cross as shown in fig. 2, this indicates not only the best supply for quantity, but also 'the best for ease in getting the water out.'

Together with many other dowsers, Cyril Wilson prefers to orientate the map to the North; but this is a subject on which there is no general agreement; some regard it as a shibboleth, an outdated practice.

Methods used by Clive Beadon

Another very successful dowser, Wing-Commander Clive Beadon, also asks for a map before starting to dowse. In his paper, 'A splinter of sound', he describes his work in the Algarve, the southern-most part of Portugal. He refers to it as 'an earthquake belt, where the ground is badly fractured, and where the water may be flowing at a depth of 300 to 450 feet.' Therefore, to save his clients the cost of drilling to such depths, he states, 'I therefore programme my mind that I don't wish to be involved with any flows below, say, 300 feet.'

'Starting at one corner', he says, 'I work my way down the first edge of the map. At each point where the pendulum starts to rotate, I mark the map. When the four boundaries have been traversed, each point is examined in detail.'

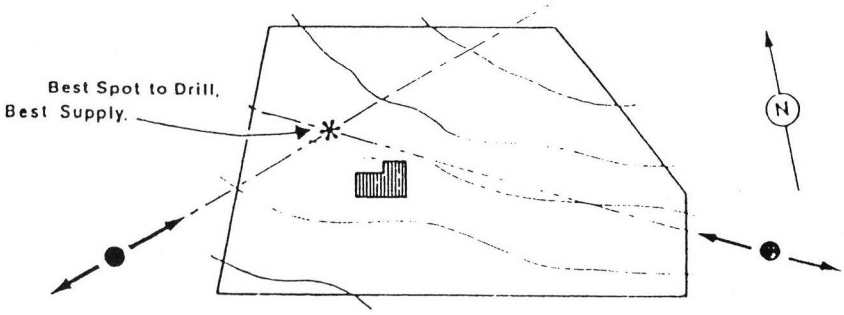


Fig.2.
Using the triangulation method to locate the best spot to drill, and the best supply.
(Included by permission of Cyril Wilson).

Of interest is his statement, 'Because of the number of dry holes that have been dug, drilling crews in Portugal pay scant attention to the dowser.' Therefore, he has developed a very thorough and unique technique regarding his work.

'Every mark I have made on the map boundary', he states, 'must first be made to reveal its serial number. (A definition of serial numbers is given later). 'When all those marks that don't answer to the correct (serial) number for water have been eliminated, the quantity left is usually drastically reduced.'

'When dowsing each mark that is left', he states, 'I look for points on either side of the original one, which together will make for a straight line.'

At this stage, he seeks to determine whether he has located what he defines as 'a true aquifer or its shadow.' (An aquifer is an underground stream; a shadow is a dowsing response that at first sight appears to indicate an aquifer, but on closer inspection, this is not so. Is it possible that 'a shadow' may be one of the parallel energy lines that are said to run alongside the stream?).

'To identify a shadow', he says, 'I stick a pin into the line I have made on the map. On one side of the pin, I can pick up the water; but on the other side, the pendulum is dead. From this I can deduce the direction of the flow. Of course, if I find the flow on both sides of the pin, I have a shadow, and not a flow at all.'

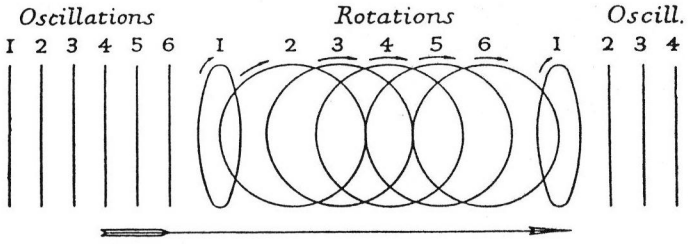
Clive Beadon also refers to 'a spook' i.e. a long since dead aquifer. He states that it is essential to determine whether a spook is indicated, as if it was running through the centre of the proposed drill hole, it could mean abandoning the whole project. He continues, 'If it (the spook) is above or between two flows, or nearer the lower one by a few feet, it could drain off all the water when the borehole is made.' (Is it possible that some of the 'dry' holes that occur are the result of boring into a spook i.e. a dry aquifer?).

When plotting the flows on the map, Clive states, 'Most important of all, a colour identification is given to the stream. When I plot a flow, I have now an easy way of making sure that the one I have labelled "Jack", which may be blue, green and violet, does not get joined up to "Jill" (on the other side of the map) whose colours are red, green and violet.'

He concludes, 'Every calculation made, and every bit of information gathered from a map dowse, must be challenged in the field.' Wg.-Cdr. Beadon became a professional dowser after moving to Portugal in 1970, and he has been successful in finding 60 deep wells there.

Serial Numbers

According to Henri de France, the concept of serial numbers was originated by Abbé Mermet. In **Principles and Practice of Radiesthesia,** the Abbé states, 'When held over silver, the pendulum will oscillate six times; then it will gyrate for six times; and finally it will oscillate again for six times.' It is possible by using this method, a dowser can identify a substance, a mineral, or a liquid. The Abbé included in his book a list of forty-eight serial numbers.



SERIAL NUMBER OF GOLD

To avoid the confusion of superimposed lines, it has been supposed that the right hand is moving in the direction of the arrow.

Fig.3.
From: 'Principles and Practice of Radiesthesia' by Abbé Mermet.
(Included by permission of Element Books).

Although in principle, other dowsers have agreed with the concept, they consider that each dowser is free to decide for himself/herself what is the appropriate number. 'In my own reaction', states W.H. Trinder, 'the serial number for silver is seven.'

In **Dowsing: One Man's Way,** J. Scott Elliot states that he too uses counting as a means of identifying minerals. He observed that the pendulum gyrates at the start; then it oscillates at the end of the count. In his book, he includes a short list of rates.

According to W.H. Trinder in **Dowsing,** 'The serial number for water for most people is two.' Abbé Mermet stated the number is seven. J. Scott Elliot gives a rate of 4·5.

Direct dowsing over a map

'In map-dowsing', states J. Scott Elliot, 'I use a small plastic pendulum and move it over the map or sketch, keeping clearly in my mind what I am looking for.'

W.H. Trinder includes similar advice in **Dowsing.** After spreading the map with the North pointing to the North, hold the pendulum over the map; then move it (the pendulum) so that the whole area is covered. If you are looking for water, the pendulum will gyrate at a certain point; if you are working on a 1 inch scale Ordnance map, by the time the pendulum has reached its maximum gyration, it will be covering several acres; therefore it is necessary to pin-point the position.

Fig.4.
W.H. Trinder dowsing on a map.

Take a pointer in your left-hand, then, while holding the pendulum at the side of the map, place the pointer at the edge of the space previously indicated by the pendulum. Move the pointer slowly across the map, and observe that the pendulum will start gyrating. Keep moving the pointer until the pendulum has reached its maximum gyration; press the pointer into this spot on the map, and finally, use a pencil to mark this spot.

Move the pendulum a distance of one inch from the original starting point, and repeat the operations. Continue with this procedure, and you will now have a series of points marked on the map; when these are joined, they will indicate the course of the stream.

The Abbé Mermet also refers to this direct method. He holds the pendulum in his right-hand while using either a pencil held in his left-hand or a finger of this hand as an antenna that he moves slowly across the map. The pendulum gyrates over a point indicating a stream, and will give 'the series of water; the direction of oscillations will actually be the direction of the stream'.

The Abbé writes, 'The pendulum must be left to the play of the radiesthetic forces, and no attempt should be made to direct the pendulum by a mental effort, which is nothing but suggestion. The dowser should give the pendulum free play. He should have the conviction that the pendulum is always right.'

Method used by the Rev. H.W. Lea-Wilson

'In order to find water from a map', states the late Rev. H.W. Lea-Wilson, 'the pencil is held in the usual way for writing, but with a slight pressure. As the pencil passes over the place where there is underground water, the fingers tighten up on the pencil; then all that is necessary is to let the hand move where it wants to. The hand seems to be just pulled along. The entire course of the underground water can be traced in this way. All the methods I generally use for estimating depth, volume, and quality, can be used with equal success on a map.'

When describing his success as a water finder, he concludes, 'We still could not understand map dowsing; but the fact was that **it worked.**'

Opinions of K.W. Merrylees on map-dowsing

'I can sit in my room here, and tell somebody who has a property, say in Greece or Spain, if he has got any water under his land that is worth going for, and approximately where it is. Not a drilling diagram, but enough for it to be inspected for water.' This statement was made by the late Colonel Merrylees in an interview on **The Art of Dowsing.**

K.W. Merrylees emphasised the need for the dowser to visit the site and mark the centre of the flow accurately. He stated, 'You locate the place on the ground and mark it most carefully. If you are not specific, drillers do peculiar things.' He quoted the example of the driller who 'thought it would be much better for his drill to be 25 metres further away one side' from the point indicated; consequently, 'the well was a complete failure.' 'That is why', he stated, 'you must go and insist that a certain point is used, and nothing else.'

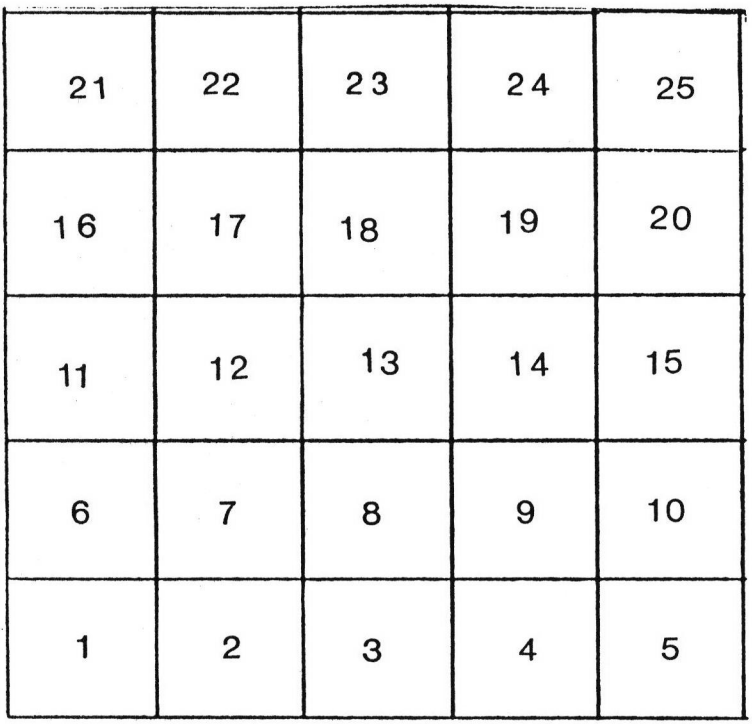


Fig. 5.
Grid Square method.

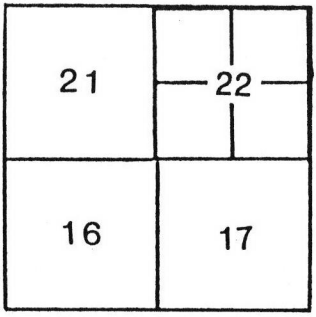


Fig.6.
Precise location of object of search.

When explaining the importance of the dowser's visit, he pointed out that the dowser would probably be dowsing over a 25 inch map, which would be a sheet of the ordinary English survey. He continued, 'If you draw an ordinary pencil across this map, the line is probably representing a distance of about ten foot width, and that may be double the width of the movement of water that you are trying to find.'

In reply to further questions regarding why it was essential for the dowser to visit a site, K.W. Merrylees stated that 'it was important to discourage a client from building his house over a flow, because it is often very unhealthy; and secondly, it was necessary to consider from an engineering point of view, whether it was possible to get the drilling rig on to the site.'

Although Colonel Merrylees emphasised that he regarded his work as an engineering proposition, he was also prepared to discuss theory. He stated, 'I feel the whole time that it (map-dowsing and site-dowsing) is so much a mental process. The whole thing is yourself asking for information, and getting an answer; and if you have the sensitivity and the experience, and the confidence, you will get the right answer. It is only when you think that you know the answer beforehand, that it is apt to go terribly wrong.'

When the interviewer asked whether the dowser was himself 'a kind of instrument', Colonel Merrylees replied, 'He (the dowser) **is the instrument;** but I regards his process as being an entirely mental one.'

Grid square method

Place a grid square (fig.5) over the map; then while asking, 'Is the object of my search in this square', dowse with the pendulum over square No.1. If there is no positive dowsing response, repeat the operation over square No.2; if there is no response, continue over No.3 and so on. Start again over square No.6, and continue until, hopefully, the pendulum gyrates to indicate 'yes'.

To ensure precision, quarter the square into four, and dowse over each one; you may decide to quarter the one indicated as positive, and thus achieve even greater precision.

Co-ordinate method

Place tracing paper over the map; hold the pendulum over a point at the bottom left-hand edge of the map, then ask the question, 'Is the object of my search on a line drawn **horizontally** from this point across the map?' If there is no positive movement of the pendulum, dowse over a slightly higher point on the edge, and repeat the question.

Continue moving the pendulum up the vertical edge, and repeat the procedure, until a positive response is noted; draw a horizontal line from this point across the map.

The next stage is similar to that described with the exception that the search is on lines drawn **vertically** from the bottom edge. When a positive dowsing response is obtained, draw a vertical line across the map from this point.

Where the horizontal line and the vertical line cross indicates the position of the object.

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ASTRONOMER DIVINES THE SECRET OF DOWSING

by John Hancox

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A mysterious radiation field and a particle called the "dowson" may lie behind the strange centuries-old art of dowsing, says an eminent physicist.

Despite dowsing's accuracy and widespread use, little research has gone into the phenomenon, which has often been passed off as being of psychic origin.

But a recent meeting of the Institute of Physics in Edinburgh has revealed that experiments carried out over the past six years by Professor Vincent Reddish, former Regius Professor of Astronomy at Edinburgh and Astronomer Royal for Scotland, may have shed some light on how dowsing works.

Dowsers use shaped dowsing rods which can twitch violently when they are moved over buried sources of water or certain minerals. They have been so accurate that they are commonly used by the water and electricity utilities, and even oil companies searching for pipelines, although none of these advertise the fact. For, until now, dowsing has not come into the "respectable" science category.

Prof Reddish, 68, was introduced to the dowsing phenomenon while builders were looking for a drain on his property in the Highlands.

"When I first saw it done," he says, "I was very sceptical, and watching like a hawk. The thing that impressed me was that the effect was strong, and it looked like a physical one. The workman made a mark with his boot, got a pick and found the pipe exactly where he said it would be. I tried it too, and got a similar response."