

Intersection 52N 3W – Guy Robertson

Image title: *Intersecting the Intersection*

Location Details

The high voltage power line pole in the foreground of the picture was at location 51.998781N 2.997707W, 206 metres away from the grid intersection. The second pole behind it, which is closest to the actual grid intersection is at location 51.999968N 2.998092W, giving a distance of 135 meters between it and 52N 3W. The 52N 3W intersection is just beyond the line of trees as they meet the left hand edge of the photograph.

Image Explanation

The title – “*Intersecting the Intersection*” has been chosen to convey how the image illustrates the intrusion of one physical and practical line (an electricity cable – part of the national electricity grid) with that of the imaginary ‘grid line’ intersection created in the minds of early cartographers when they mapped the lines of longitude and latitude to form the geographic coordinate system. As indicated above, the modern day high voltage power grid line nearly goes right through the heart of grid line intersection, i.e. it virtually intersects the intersection itself.

A further intersection is highlighted in the image. The power line generates another intersection by virtue of its own function, i.e. the crossed wires generated by the electricity feed to a nearby house and the counterbalancing wire stay secured into the landscape in order to stabilise the whole line and its poles.

The landscape is therefore awash with intersections, especially when one factors in the multitude of ‘spiritual’ ley lines proposed rather fancifully in 1925 by local Hereford resident (20km away) and photography enthusiast, Alfred Watkins, who described the ley lines in Herefordshire as “*grid-like markings of glowing wires all over the surface of the county*”. Although ley lines have no scientific evidence base, the idea of them is an interesting adjunct to the notion of *intersecting the intersections* underpinning this image. Of additional relevance to the ‘By Degrees’ photography project is the fact that Watkins’ love of photography led him to invent several photography-related apparatuses, including a pin-hole camera and one of the first light meters, the highly successful Watkins Bee Meter!

Guy Robertson

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