

## WESSEX PARANORMAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION LOCATION REPORT

<b>Location:</b>	Beckington Castle, Beckington, Frome
<b>Date:</b>	06/10/2007
<b>Time:</b>	20:00 – 00:07
<b>Weather:</b>	Dry, Still, Overcast
<b>Lunar Phase</b>	Waning Crescent – 32% Full
<b>Investigation Team:</b>	David Hawes David Wicheard Tim Latcham
<b>Equipment Used:</b>	Sony Nightshot Digital Video Recorders (x3) Digital Stills Cameras (x2) FLUKE Thermal imaging camera (x1) Laptop Computer (x1) Motion Sensitive Nightvision Webcam (x1) Trigger Objects (Coins) Digital Voice Recorder (x1) Boundary microphone (x1) EMF meter (x2) Digital Thermometer/Hygrometer (x1) Laser Thermometer (x1)

## Location History

Beckington Castle is a difficult location to date due to a lack of deeds and historical documentation. Recent research leads to the existing building being built in the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century. However, evidence from within the building suggests that parts of it may date back to medieval times.

The first recorded occupants were the Long family who were wealthy clothiers. However, by 1616 ownership was in the hands of Sir James Ley.

Through the years it has changed hands many times with owners including, Christopher Brewer, Samuel Love and Nathaniel Mortimer all notable merchants from the surrounding area.

Through the late 18<sup>th</sup> century until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the house was owned by the Chislett family.

Through the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century the castle went through substantial building changes at the hands of George Esdaile and then Colonel Augustus Hill.

The most famous resident of Beckington Castle was E.M. Nelson author and president of the Mycrosopical Society.

Through the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Beckington Castle ceased being a private residence and had many varied uses including a hotel, an antiques showroom and was the site of Ravenscroft School from 1945 to 1970.

When the school left in 1970 the house fell into disrepair until it was refurbished through 1995 and 1996 by SEA.

SEA still occupies the site which is now their headquarters.

(Source: Michael McGarvine, FSA, Local Historian)

## Eye Witness and Second Hand Accounts

During a recent telephone conversation, a member of the current staff was told of one pupil's experience during her time as a pupil at Ravenscroft School.

In what is now the Board room, but at the time was the classroom, the pupil witnessed a dark shadow pass through a wall into an office behind the room.

At the time it scared her and the experience has remained with her to this day.

A customer's mother saw the figure of a woman several times when she was a child. Again this figure would pass through a wall associated with what is now the boardroom.

Staff have felt uneasy in an area by the basement door.

## Building Plan

No building plan is available.

## Areas Identified for Investigation

Area Label	Area Name	Description	Photo Taken
A	Attic Rooms	3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor storage area	Yes
B	Training Room	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor room	Yes
C	Board Room	1 <sup>st</sup> Floor room	Yes
D	Spiral Staircase	Old wooden staircase leading to 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor rooms. This staircase is not in its original position.	Yes
E	Small Conference Room	Ground floor room	Yes

## Investigation Timeline

Time	Area	Activity	Comments
20:00	N/A	Arrival on site	Set up base in large conference room.
20:05	A	Carry out baseline tests in main attic area	-
20:10	A	Set up lock off camera in main attic area	-
20:15	A	Carry out baseline tests in far attic room	-
20:20	A	Set up motion detection webcam in far attic room	-
20:30	B	Carry out baseline tests in training room	-
20:35	B	Set EVP recording equipment in training room	-
20:45	C	Carry out baseline tests in board room	Orb captured in digital stills image above investigator's head. Not visible in a second image.
20:50	D	Carry out baseline tests on spiral staircase	Orbs present in both stills and video footage.
21:00	E	Carry out baseline tests in small conference room	Lots of reflections from lighting trays on video and stills images.
21:10	N/A	Break and short meeting in large conference room to revise investigation plan	Decision made to investigate rooms in reverse order E through to A.
21:30	E	Vigil begins with video and stills image capture	Quiet atmosphere.
21:40	E	Asking out	No audible or visual response noted.

21:41	E	Thermal imaging	Nothing noted.
21:43	E	Video and stills image capture	Possible orb noted on video close to investigator.
21:47	E	Baseline comparison readings taken	No unexpected readings recorded.
21:50	E	Asking out	No audible or visual response noted. Investigator senses a presence behind them.
21:55	E	Asking out	No audible or visual response noted. Investigator feels colder and an orb is possibly seen on video next to them.
21:57	E	Baseline comparison readings taken	No unexpected readings recorded.
21:57	E	End vigil	
22:00	D	Vigil begins with video and stills image capture	
22:00	D	Temperature readings taken	Large temperature fluctuations at first floor level - temperature drops from 21.4 to 14.2 °C
22:06	D	Video capture and EMF readings	Orbs noted on video at 1 <sup>st</sup> floor accompanied by some minor EMF fluctuations.
22:12	D	Baseline comparison readings taken	Distinct temperature drop noted at the first floor level.
22:14	D	Asking out and stills images	Black orb witnessed visually by an investigator. Stills images taken at the same spot show a shadow over a window area. Shadow persists for 3 or 4 photographs.
22:24	D	Asking out	Faint knocks heard in response
22:27	D	EMF readings taken in area of shadow photographs	Raised level of 0.6 – 0.7 mG but reasonably constant. No obvious natural source noted.
22:30	D	End vigil	
22:36	C	Vigil begins with video and stills image capture	Delayed due to a camera fault.
22:40	C	Loud bang heard elsewhere in building	Heard by two investigators.
22:45	C	Asking out	Knocking heard elsewhere in building (upstairs).
22:47	C	Pause in vigil	Video camera tape change.
22:50	C	Asking out	No audible or visual response noted.
23:00	C	Stills photography	Possible orb captured on stills photograph.
23:00	C	Asking out	Dull thuds heard again outside of room.

23:05	C	Baseline comparison readings taken	No unexpected readings recorded.
23:05	C	End vigil	
23:10	B	Vigil begins with video and stills image capture	Nothing detected at time EVP recording has already finished.
23:15	B	Asking out	Some knocking noises heard possibly from movement of an investigator in a chair.
23:20	B	Asking out	No audible or visual response noted.
23:24	B	Asking out	Some noise from outside of room elsewhere in building.
23:26	B	Baseline comparison readings taken	No unexpected readings recorded.
23:35	B	End vigil	Very quiet room.
23:39	A	Vigil begins with video and stills image capture	Nothing detected at time.
23:45	A	Asking out	No audible or visual response noted.
23:50	A	Repeat asking out	No audible or visual response noted.
23:55	A	Baseline comparison readings taken	No unexpected readings recorded.
00:05	A	Lock off video and motion detection webcam stopped	
00:07	A	Investigation ended	

### Baseline Tests Start

Area	Time	Ambient Temp (°C)	Spot Temp (°C)	Humidity (%)	EMF (mG)
A (main)	20:05	20.5	20.2	50	0.0
A (far)	20:15	20.6	20.2	51	0.0
B	20:30	20.3	19.8	48	0.0
C	20:45	20.6	19.6	49	0.0
D (2nd floor)	20:50	-	18.6	-	-
D (1st floor)	20:50	18.6	17.8	51	0.0 – 0.1
D (G floor)	20:50	-	16.6	-	-
E	21:00	19.0	18.6	50	0.0

### Area Comments

Area	Comments
A	Attic rooms – EMF interference from light switches
B	Training room – EMF interference from emergency lighting
C	Board Room – EMF interference from water cooler, emergency lighting, cordless mouse and telephone
D	Spiral staircase - EMF interference from emergency lighting
E	Small conference room - EMF interference from water cooler, emergency lighting, cordless mouse and telephone

### Baseline Tests Finish

Area	Time	Ambient Temp (°C)	Spot Temp (°C)	Humidity (%)	EMF (mG)
A	-	-	-	-	-
B	-	-	-	-	-
C	-	-	-	-	-
D	-	-	-	-	-
E	-	-	-	-	-

### Area Comments

Area	Comments
A	-
B	-
C	-
D	-
E	-

**Area A Investigation – Attic Rooms**

**Methods Used**

• Infra Red Digital Video	Yes/No
• Digital Photography	Yes/No
• Trigger Object	Yes/No
• Motion Detection	Yes/No
• Video Camera Lock Off	Yes/No
• Motion Detection Webcam	Yes/No
• EVP	Yes/No
• Calling Out	Yes/No

**Baseline Test Comparisons Area A**

Time	Ambient Temp (°C)	Spot Temp (°C)	Humidity (%)	EMF (mG)
23:55	19.9	20.2	56	0.0

**Area A Investigation Timeline**

Time	Activity	Comments
23:39	Vigil begins with video and stills image capture	Nothing detected at time.
23:45	Asking out	No audible or visual response noted.
23:50	Repeat asking out	No audible or visual response noted.
23:55	Baseline comparison readings taken	No unexpected readings recorded.
00:05	Lock off video and motion detection webcam stopped	-
00:07	Investigation ended	-

**Area B Investigation – Training Room**

**Methods Used**

• Infra Red Digital Video	Yes/No
• Digital Photography	Yes/No
• Trigger Object	Yes/No
• Motion Detection	Yes/No
• Video Camera Lock Off	Yes/No
• Motion Detection Webcam	Yes/No
• EVP	Yes/No
• Calling Out	Yes/No

**Baseline Test Comparisons Area B**

Time	Ambient Temp (°C)	Spot Temp (°C)	Humidity (%)	EMF (mG)
23:26	20.4	19.6	50	0 - 0.1

**Area B Investigation Timeline**

Time	Activity	Comments
23:10	Vigil begins with video and stills image capture	Nothing detected at time EVP recording has already finished.
23:15	Asking out	Some knocking noises heard possibly from movement of an investigator in a chair.
23:20	Asking out	No audible or visual response noted.
23:24	Asking out	Some noise from outside of room elsewhere in building.
23:26	Baseline comparison readings taken	No unexpected readings recorded.
23:35	End vigil	Very quiet room.



## Area C Investigation – Board Room

### Methods Used

• Infra Red Digital Video	Yes/No
• Digital Photography	Yes/No
• Trigger Object	Yes/No
• Motion Detection	Yes/No
• Video Camera Lock Off	Yes/No
• Motion Detection Webcam	Yes/No
• EVP	Yes/No
• Calling Out	Yes/No

### Baseline Test Comparisons Area C

Time	Ambient Temp (°C)	Spot Temp (°C)	Humidity (%)	EMF (mG)
23:05	20.4	20.8	51%	0.0

### Area C Investigation Timeline

Time	Activity	Comments
22:36	Vigil begins with video and stills image capture	Delayed due to a camera fault.
22:40	Loud bang heard elsewhere in building	Heard by two investigators.
22:45	Asking out	Knocking heard elsewhere in building (upstairs).
22:47	Pause in vigil	Video camera tape change.
22:50	Asking out	No audible or visual response noted.
23:00	Stills photography	Possible orb captured on stills photograph.
23:00	Asking out	Dull thuds heard again outside of room.
23:05	Baseline comparison readings taken	No unexpected readings recorded.
23:05	End vigil	

## Area D Investigation – Spiral staircase

### Methods Used

• Infra Red Digital Video	Yes/No
• Digital Photography	Yes/No
• Trigger Object	Yes/No
• Motion Detection	Yes/No
• Video Camera Lock Off	Yes/No
• Motion Detection Webcam	Yes/No
• EVP	Yes/No
• Calling Out	Yes/No

### Baseline Test Comparisons Area D

Time	Ambient Temp (°C)	Spot Temp (°C)	Humidity (%)	EMF (mG)
22:12 (1 <sup>st</sup> floor)	19.1	14.2	60	0 – 0.3

### Area D Investigation Timeline

Time	Activity	Comments
22:00	Vigil begins with video and stills image capture	
22:00	Temperature readings taken	Large temperature fluctuations at first floor level temperature drops from 21.4 to 14.2 °C
22:06	Video capture and EMF readings	Orbs noted on video at 1 <sup>st</sup> floor accompanied by some minor EMF fluctuations.
22:12	Baseline comparison readings taken	Distinct temperature drop noted at the first floor level.
22:14	Asking out and stills images	Black orb witnessed visually by an investigator. Stills images taken at the same spot show a shadow over a window area.
22:24	Asking out	Faint knocks heard in response
22:27	EMF readings taken in area of shadow photographs	Raised level of 0.6 – 0.7 mG but reasonably constant. No obvious natural source noted.
22:30	End vigil	

**Area E Investigation – Small conference room**

**Methods Used**

• Infra Red Digital Video	Yes/No
• Digital Photography	Yes/No
• Trigger Object	Yes/No
• Motion Detection	Yes/No
• Video Camera Lock Off	Yes/No
• Motion Detection Webcam	Yes/No
• EVP	Yes/No
• Calling Out	Yes/No

**Baseline Test Comparisons Area E**

Time	Ambient Temp (°C)	Spot Temp (°C)	Humidity (%)	EMF (mG)
21:45	19.6	20.6	59	0.00
21:57	19.4	21.0	60	0.00

**Area E Investigation Timeline**

Time	Activity	Comments
21:30	Vigil begins with video and stills image capture	Quiet atmosphere.
21:40	Asking out	No audible or visual response noted.
21:41	Thermal imaging	Nothing noted.
21:43	Video and stills image capture	Possible orb noted on video close to investigator.
21:47	Baseline comparison readings taken	No unexpected readings recorded.
21:50	Asking out	No audible or visual response noted. Investigator senses a presence behind them.
21:55	Asking Out	No audible or visual response noted. Investigator feels colder and an orb is possibly seen on video next to them.
21:57	Baseline comparison readings taken	No unexpected readings recorded.
21:57	End vigil	

## Additional Comments

### Digital Photographs

One set of images from the night stand out from the rest. A series of pictures taken on the spiral staircase (area D) seem to show a shadow present. Following extensive review, we cannot find a physical cause for the shadow. The shadow was noticed at the same time a black orb was witnessed by an investigator with the naked eye. The pictures are reproduced below in chronological order; they were taken over a 4 minute period and have not been altered.



*Window area before 22:12*



*Window area during 22:14*



*Window area after 22:16*

Other than these images a number of pictures featuring very distinct orbs were captured. They are not included in this report.

### Video Footage

The video footage has revealed some possible activity. Asking out carried out in both the Board room (area C) and Spiral staircase (area D) appears on playback to have resulted in an audible response. In both areas a series of faint knocks can be heard in response to questions asked.

In addition to this observation, a number of orbs were captured on video camera.

The locked off video camera which was situated in the attic (area A) provided very little. A series of knocks were recorded at 21:10 but these have been attributed to the team closing doors elsewhere in the building. The camera recorded no visual phenomena.

## **EVP**

The EVP equipment set up in the Training room (area B) failed to operate correctly. For the short time it did record there was too much interference from the investigation team who were situated in the Spiral staircase (area D) which links to the training room.

## **Trigger Object**

The motion detection webcam triggered on three separate occasions immediately after we left the attic rooms (area A), in a very short space of time from 20:26 to 20:28. The trigger objects which were three coins did not move. We feel the presence of an insect within the room may well have triggered the camera.

## **Baseline Tests Comparisons**

Most baseline comparisons were normal with the exception of a large spot temperature drop on the Spiral staircase (area D). The temperature fell from 21.4 to 14.2 °C within the space of a few minutes. This coincides with the black orb being seen and the shadow image being captured.