

Investigation Report



Investigation Site	Someries Castle
Investigation Date	03.02.2023
Report By	Andrew Fazekas
Team Members	Andy and Ben

Background

The name of “Someries Castle” was derived from William de Someries, who had a residence on this site, but the title “castle” is contentious since it hardly describes the structure to which it is applied. The site was acquired by Wenlock in 1430 and building the mansion commenced.

The house is unique in that it is regarded as one of the first brick buildings in England. The house was never completed by Wenlock and was partly demolished in the 18th century. The brickwork can still be seen in the remains of the gatehouse, incorporating the chapel and lodge, which still stand today. The building is important in the history of medieval English brickwork, not least because the gatehouse shows elaborate and unusual brick detailing which links it with a group of other fifteenth-century brick buildings in the same general area:

The remains of the original manor house and/or the earlier Norman Castle are now visible only as earthworks that outline the plot where the house originally stood, although remains of the gatehouse to the actual manor house and the chapel that was connected to it, are still partially standing. Even though it was never completed, it holds record as being one of the first brick-built buildings in England.

Some bricks from the manor house were used to build the nearby farmhouses in the 17th century. King James I., in his progress in 1605, spent a night in this house. It is the property of Madame de Falbe. (*Castles Of England, Sir James D. Mackenzie, 1896*)

Paranormal History

Sir John Wenlock, whose ghost is alleged to haunt the castle which is not really a castle at all but more of a fortified mansion. For years there had been stories of a duke who had failed to support his ally in the Cousins’ War and paid for it with his life in the grounds of Someries Castle. There were signs that his ghost had been reawakened.

There were rumours aplenty of sightings of dragons, dead animals found in the grounds of the castle and strange noises in the middle of the night. Soon local people started to avoid the area, especially at night. It was one of John’s great joys in life to ask locals about the strange drumming heard from Someries, knowing that his men would simultaneously be moving barrels of whiskey from wagons and drumming in the ruins to keep away locals.

The castle was abandoned a couple of decades ago and partially demolished. The crumbling pockmarked walls offered little protection against the elements, but some rooms remained complete. Together with the warren of underground tunnels and basements, John had plenty of space to store the whiskey, tea and silk that the townspeople of Luton craved. There were even arrow-slits, originally built for dramatic effect, which his men used to survey the surroundings.
Bedfordshire Folk Tales By Jen Foley

Investigation Background.

LPS members have been visiting and researching this site since the 1970's. The first LPS investigation at Someries took place on 18th July 2005 and the report can be found on the LPS Website.

Investigation Begins

For the first Investigation of 2023 ever present members Andy and Ben made the extremely short trip to Someries Castle which is situated in a very small hamlet known as Copt Hall, East Hyde and a short distance from the ever-expanding London Luton Airport of which the Runway can clearly be seen from the Castle ruin grounds.

It was a perfectly clear, relatively warm night for the time of year and a full moon overhead lit up the castle grounds magnificently. Both Andy and Ben made their way into the castle at approximately 20:40 hours setting up various equipment in the way of camera's, motion detector balls and K2 meters at the back end of the Church whereby it had been decided that they would conduct their first vigil of the evening.

Approximately six motion detector balls were placed at various locations within the Castle ruin and Ben made note that at least two appeared to be going off simultaneously at the same time with this activity being recorded on his mobile phone and lasting for a full six to eight minutes before the investigation was commenced.

20:53 - Investigation is commenced. Both Andy and Ben place their chairs near to the main gates facing into the church by one of the arches Temperature is recorded at 10.2 degrees as both Ben and Andy start to take notes. Ben commences a sketch drawing of the Castle layout and has his face pointing towards his notepad as he attempts to sketch accurately.

20:55 - Ben looks up and witnesses what he can only describe as being a cream in colour shadow moving from left to right at about four feet in front of him. The shadow is torso size and levitates at waist level. Nothing above shoulder level can be seen. The shadow evaporates into the nearby wall as Ben gives out a gasp to Andy of 'What was that'!!!!!!

Andy looks up from his notepad, but the shadow has disappeared. Ben reports to Andy that he has that prickly feeling down the back of his neck as he tries to comprehend what he had just possibly witnessed. Andy points out that activity often happens when he is not ready which gets a laugh.

Hexcom experiment begins with the word.

“Wardrobe”

Andy speaks about the vandalism to the staircase and how did spirits feel about this?

The Hexcom responds to the question with the word “within”.

Andy, can you tell us your name and the hexcom responds with “Nancy” and Shop

“Stunt” Andy is moving a rempod at the time.

Andy and Ben are discussing Bens's apparition when the hexcom comes out with “Saw it”

Afterlife

Began

Folklore

Deal

Tree – Trees outside location

Chair – team are sitting on chairs.

Gauze

Equal

Length

Human

Mommy (American spelling).

Paper

Second

Rage

Tickle

Stalk

Week

Obama

You have

Axe

Andy asks if John wenlock here and a ball lights up and the work Henataus (Name of a Demon comes put).

Ben is holding his torch and the hexom comes out with the word candle

21:35 - Motion detector ball goes off

AXE

21:38 - Andy asks 'Is Sir John Wenlock here' to which a motion detector ball goes off

21:44 - Temperature recorded as 6.7 degrees

21:45 end of hexcom experiment.

21:45 - conclusion of first vigil and Both Andy and Ben move into the Chapel area of the Castle ruin to conduct a further HEXCOM experiment.

21:55 Main chapel area

Hexcom Experiment part 2

Listen

Covered

Ear

21:56 - Experiment commenced producing the following words:- SUBTRACT, LISTEN, COVERED, EAR, FORREST, KNOW, MELINE, PRODUCE, SACRIFICE, VERONICA, OFTEN

22:15 - Faint tapping noise heard to the right of the entrance.

Hexcom - SOIL, TESLA, KILLING and BAAL

22:35 - Experiment and investigation concluded.

Ben Analysis -

Absolutely incredible evening. Cannot believe what I potentially witnessed neither can I explain. I have always kept an open mind when out on investigation and have been on upwards of 60-80 investigations over the last five years that i have been a member. I have now had two incredible experiences in the last six months that I can just not explain with my first being at Stockwood museum back in September. I am really looking forward to coming back in the not-too-distant future.

Andy Analysis

Missed the apparition while looking for a pen just my luck as I have been investigating this site for 50 years.

However, a camcorder camera set up behind the team in the first vigil and a second camera set up in the chapel both recorded a ghostly whistler that has also been reported at the site possibly during the same time as the apparition appearance. This could be the sound of nearby aircraft preparing for taking off but the sound is heard loudly and is not mechanical and was not hear by the team at the time and only discovered after the investigation. Is this paranormal? you decide but it is unexplained.