

Investigation Report



Investigation Site	British School Museum, Hitchin, Hertfordshire
Investigation Date	1 st February 2025
Report By	Luton Paranormal Society
Team Members	Andy F, Ben, Dee, Elaine, Jane, Jason, Jim, Lorraine, Maria, Paula, Rachel W.

Background



(Source: <https://www.hitchinhistoricals.org.uk/history-of-hitchin/blue-plaques-and-other-commemorative-wall-plaques/13-hitchin-british-schools/>)

Pre-school premises

Known formerly as Dead Street until the name changed to Queen Street in honour of Queen Victoria's Jubilee. It was initially the poorest part of Hitchin and suffered plague, pestilence and fire.

(Source: <https://happeningnext.com/event/dead-street-school-ghost-hunt-hitchin-eid4snwbgt2191>)

First school

The first school on the site was a schoolroom for 200 boys and 100 girls. It was founded in 1810 by local lawyer William Wilshere in a disused malt house. This schoolroom was the first monitorial school for the sons of the poor in Hertfordshire. It used the methods of Joseph Lancaster. He developed a system in which large numbers of younger scholars could be taught by older scholars under the supervision of the master (for boys) or mistress (for girls). After starting a school in London, Lancaster travelled to promote his system, including a visit to Hitchin.

The school grew to such an extent that in 1837 a new schoolroom was built that could hold 300 boys. This was completed in 1838, and the original school in the converted malthouse then included an infant's school as well as the girls'. A new Gallery classroom for 110 pupils was completed in February 1854.

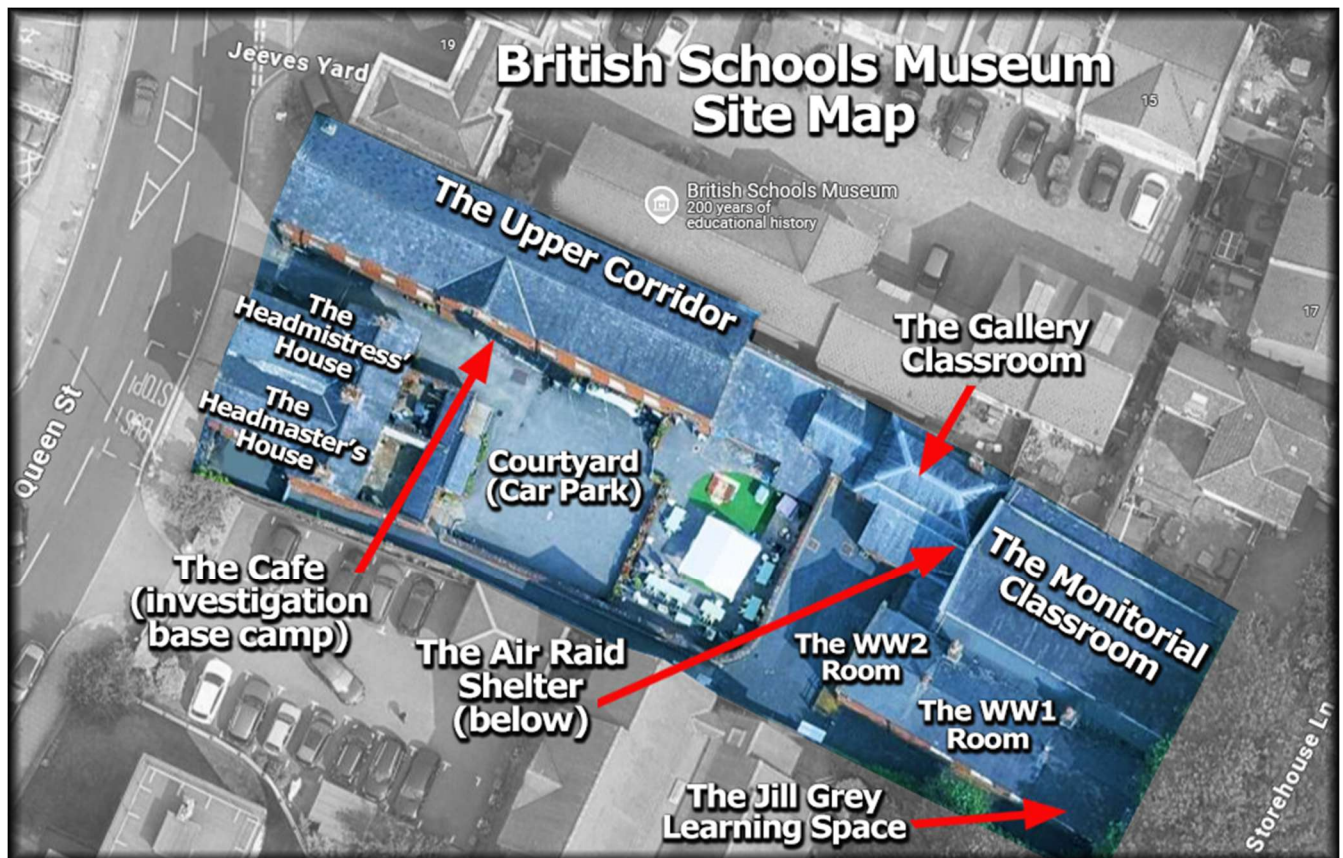
In 1857, it was decided by the school's Board of Trustees to completely rebuild the Girls' and Infants' School. The new building was completed in 1858 together with adjoining houses for the Master and Mistress.

By 1904, additional classrooms were needed because of the growing number of pupils. These were built in 1905, but by 1929 it was determined that the school was too small and worn out to continue; both the Boys' and Girls Schools transferred to the new Wilshere Dacre School in the town. The Infants School carried on in the original buildings, but because of the number of evacuees who were sent to Hitchin at the outbreak of World War II the school reverted to a Junior Mixed Infants School in 1940. This school continued on this site until 1969, when it closed, but the buildings were taken over by North Hertfordshire College as the Queen Street Activities Centre.

(Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Schools_Museum)

Pre-investigation:

The site:



(Source: Google Maps <https://shorturl.at/ks4oD> edited by LPS Dee)

On arrival the museum guide, Max, showed the team around the site, which is extensive (see the map above).

Pre-Investigation: Walkthrough 19:40 – 20:20

Ben's notes:

Saturday the 1st of February 2025 would see Luton Paranormal Society make the extremely short trip to the British Schools Museum in Hitchin, Herts for what would be the team's first investigation at this particular location and what is hoped to be the first of more over the coming years.

19:30 Arrive and are given a full tour of the buildings by our host Max. Areas of interest identified and decisions made about which rooms and areas we wish to prioritise.

Elaine's notes:

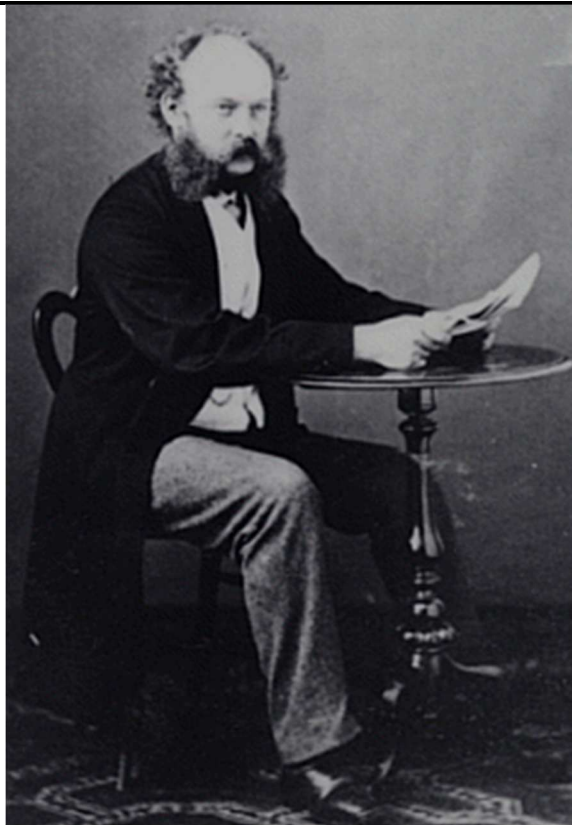
When the Host was conducting the tour Elaine was pulled towards the upstairs of the Headmaster's House.

Jason's notes:

Outside the Headmaster's House, Max tells us about the longest serving headmaster, William Fitch. Dee asks if he had curly hair and a bald head as she has been seeing such a man matching that description ever since her arrival. On entering the house, we found a photograph of William Fitch showing that he was indeed bald on top with curly hair around the sides of his head.

Dee's first impressions before the investigation proper begins:

- While standing in The Courtyard, Dee is somewhat bewildered by the impressions she is getting psychically. She is instantly drawn to what she is told is The Headmaster's House. She feels like someone is watching from the upstairs window.
- Dee is also aware of a strong smell of smoke (fire, not cigarettes). Other members comment that there are many restaurants in the area and it might be coming from there. Dee accepts that, but is not convinced that is what she is detecting, as the smell persists even inside the building (comes and goes).
- Dee mentions to Max, the host, that she is very drawn to the upper part of the main building (which houses the Gift Shop, Café and other areas). She also mentions to him that there is a terrible smell like death or something all around, though she can't pinpoint exactly why.
- Dee also comments that she senses dead bodies 'out there' (waving with her hand towards somewhere by or beyond the wall of the courtyard and to the back).
- Dee is extremely uncomfortable in the Upper Corridor when Max takes the team there on the tour and feels this is a hotspot for activity.
- On the way across the courtyard near The Headmaster's House, Dee mentions the man she has been sensing since arrival who has curly hair at the sides and bald on top. Amazingly, as the team enters the house, Jason points out a portrait of William John Fitch [1826-1902], the first headmaster, hanging on the wall. Dee is shocked, as this is exactly what she saw in her mind while outside! [See photo below, found online while compiling this report]



Source: <https://www.camelotintl.com/heritage/hbsgal15/>

Vigil 1: The Headmaster's House

Downstairs: The Main Parlour

Team: Andy F, Dee, Elaine, Jason, Rachel W

Equipment Used: Digital Voice Recorder(s); KII meter(s); cat/motion balls; all mobile phones are either switched off or on 'Airplane Mode' to stop interference with other equipment;

Ambient Sounds: Noise from the team investigating upstairs; intermittent extraneous traffic noise; occasional passersby outside; equipment clicks, and shifting of the team members.

Time: 20:40 – 21:27

The Team sits around the large dining table, which dominates the entire room. Dee and Andy are at the door end with Rachel W and Elaine to their left, Jason to their right near an old harmonium (a 19th Century pump/reed organ). A large window is at the other end of the table. There is a large sideboard behind Dee and Andy (to the right as one enters the room).

Cat balls (set off only by motion, not radio waves/Bluetooth/EMF/mobile phones etc) are placed around the room: one on a book on the sideboard by the door (CB1), one on the radiator near the far-left corner of the room as viewed from the door (CB2), and one on top of the harmonium in the far-right corner as viewed from the door. An EMF meter is placed on the table in the middle of the room, around which the five team members sat and Andy listened for EVP voices through headphones.

The following account is comprised of members' written notes and partial transcripts from members' digital recordings.

20:43 The motion (cat) ball placed on a book (CB1) on the sideboard behind Andy lights up continuously almost straight away.

Dee tells the team that she feels “a chap” present in the location. She tells the team that he has been watching the whole time, even when everyone was outside on arrival during the walkthrough.

20:44 Dee goes to move the cat ball on the sideboard to see if it stops flashing. She turns it off then on again to reset it. She discovers that the book on which the ball is sitting is a photo album (Victorian/Edwardian).

20:45 The cat ball by Rachel W (CB2, on the other side of the room on the radiator) starts flashing. Dee states that there is “definitely somebody here...for sure”.
Dee re-sets the cat ball on the photo album; the radiator ball is still flashing.

20:46 ANDY: [Calling out] If there is somebody here with us could you make the cat ball go off, give us your name...

DEE: [Calling out] If you're the gentleman I sensed earlier would you like to say hello...knock on the table or the wall...or set the ball off on top of the album, just to let us know that you're actually here... I know you're here, but everybody else needs to see that you're here.

20:47 Temperature recorded at 15.8C.
CB1 is activated (sideboard).

DEE: [Calling out] Thank you for allowing us into your home. We're not going to destroy anything, we're not going to disturb you, but we would like to talk to you for a bit.

20:48 DEE: ...Could you tell us your name please? If you can, talk into this device with the little red light.
[To the team] What was his name? What did they say his name was?

JASON: Fitch.

DEE: [Calling out] Are you Mr Fitch? If you are Mr Fitch, can you light up one of the lights, one of the balls? Or speak into the device? There's a wooden bird on the table so that if you touch the top of it, it lights up... [Elaine demonstrates]

20:49 DEE: [Calling out] We're not doing anything evil, or anything like that, if you're concerned. We just would like to talk to you.
[To the team] Time check 20:49. I'm definitely sensing him.

ANDY: [Calling out] Can you give us your name?

20:50 Andy mentions hearing somebody in his heard saying “Get out!”

Dee thinks he [the gentleman presence] is concerned that we are doing something that we shouldn't be; like we are dabbling with things that we shouldn't be dabbling with.

20:51 The team reassures the person that we are simply interested in his life.
Dee mentions, for the record, that there is some noise contamination from the group investigating upstairs and that they are quite loud.

ANDY: [Calling out] See if you can go upstairs and touch one of them.

The team members introduce themselves.

DEE: [To the team] He's quite...stern.

ANDY: Are you sensing him in here?

DEE: Yes, I am. I've sensed him the whole time. But I do think he's a bit concerned that we're dabbling in things that we shouldn't be...we get this quite a lot with [spirit] people.

20:52 ANDY: [Calling out] Try and give us a sign that you're here with us...

DEE: [Calling out] It's very interesting what you did for all those years, trying to educate the children.

RACHEL W: [Calling out] Did you enjoy your job? [Pause] Were you happy here?

ANDY: [Calling out] Were you aware of abuse of the children?

20:53 ELAINE: Did somebody just say 'no'?

DEE: It didn't sound like a 'no' but it did sound like a strange little noise.

[NOTE: Nothing specific is detected on the recording]

ANDY: [To spirit] So, my role, for you, is that I work around safeguarding children and adults, so I would often come to school where children were being abused.

20:54 RACHEL W: It was different times then...What we would consider abuse, they would just consider discipline.

ANDY: Absolutely.

RACHEL W: So, we can't judge him by today's standards.

ANDY: I'm just trying to get him going...

RACHEL W: [To Spirit] Beating children in our day is frowned upon...

Dee notes that the cat balls haven't lit up at all [for a while].

20:55 JASON: [To Spirit] Are you proud of all that you have achieved here?

RACHEL W: [To Spirit] If you are, would you be able to touch one of the balls again?

20:55 JASON: It's funny how they've not gone off...

DEE: That's what I said...the balls haven't gone off at all.

ANDY: They haven't gone off for a while, have they?

Rachel W notices that the EMF meter on the table flashes briefly. Andy thinks it might be the radio (walkie talkie).

20:56 ANDY: [To Spirit] Can you knock on the walls?

DEE: All I can hear at the minute is them upstairs! [The other teams] It's very distracting.

JASON: Do you know what, it seems to have been quiet [activity in the lounge] since you [Andy] asked them to go upstairs! [See 20:51]

RACHEL W: [Calling out] Can you come back down, please!

JASON: It would be interesting to note if they [teams upstairs] do...

DEE: [Gasps] Somebody's touching the back of my hair! [A gentle pull rather than a stroke]

20:57 DEE: I felt it again! [Checks behind her] There's nothing there!
[Dee flattens her hair to make sure it is nice and 'still']

ANDY: [To Spirit] How do you feel about us sitting at your desk? [Dee and Andy are sitting near the writing slope on the table]

The KII meter [EMF] on the table flashes.

20:58 Andy places his KII meter on the writing slope in front of Dee. It flashes again. It seems like it might be pulsing, so the team is not convinced this is the result of paranormal interaction. Then it flashes again...and again. Rachel W notes that the KII is in the middle of the room, so away from any immediate electrical source.

20:59 Temperature check: 14.9C

The KII meter flashes again.

Jason notes: Each of the KII flashes has so far been a low pulse, lighting up the adjacent green LED bulb (i.e. not that strong).

Dee comments that it is not at regular intervals (such as a phone signal or radio).

ANDY: [Calls out] Can you make that [KII meter] light up all the way to the red?

Andy's watch beeps at that moment [not paranormal!]...but Rachel W comments that the KII lit up to the orange level.

21:00 Dee tests to see if the KII is picking up from anything immediately around it – it does not.

The KII suddenly flashes again.

Dee comments that LPS doesn't get that very often with the KII meters.

21:00 ANDY: [Calling out] OK. Could you try to make that light go up a bit further to a red and stay on...

The KII goes up to orange.

21:01 DEE: [Calling out] Could we establish that if the answer to our questions is a 'yes' that you make the lights flash... So, is your name Mr Fitch?

RACHEL W: [Calling out] Are you Mrs Fitch?

ANDY: [Calling out] Are you his son?

DEE: [Calling out] Are you his youngest daughter?

The KII flashes.

DEE: [To Spirit] I do apologise; I don't know your name. So, if you'd like to tell us your name, you can speak into the red light on this machine here [digital recorder]...

The KII flashes again – quite strong, to orange.

21:02 DEE: [To Spirit] So, you're Mr Fitch's daughter? Did you used to work here? Did you look after him?

RACHEL W: [To Spirit] Did you like living here?

*****NOTE: There is a faint female voice captured on Dee's recording at this point.*****

ELAINE: [To Spirit] Is your name Clara?

*****NOTE: Another small voice is captured on Dee's recording, but the word is not distinct. followed by another short word. It should be noted that the two captures of this voice were not the same acoustic as previously heard from the team members upstairs, and they are not any of the team members in the parlour. Also, even though the 'voice' is clear on the recording, no one in the room reacted to it at the time. DEE CLIP 1*****

The KII meter flashes.

RACHEL W: I kept thinking Emily for some reason...

DEE: My head's gone really blank. I can't think of any questions.

21:03 RACHEL W: [To Spirit] Did you live here all your life?... Or, did you get married?

JASON: [To Spirit] Is your middle name Elizabeth?

The KII flashes twice.

RACHEL W: Say, one big flash for 'Yes' and two flashes for 'No'. Could be from now on.

21:04 RACHEL W: [To Spirit] Are you able to touch one of the little balls that we put around the room...there's one on the harmonium, one on the photo album and one on the little radiator cover...

The KII meter flashes twice.

DEE: That's 'No'!
[To Spirit] Did you touch my hair earlier on? Did you touch the top of my head?

ANDY: One flash for 'yes' and two for 'no'.

One big flash on the KII meter.

ANDY: Oh, that's a 'Yes'!

21:05 DEE: [To Spirit] Thank you for telling me. It startled me a bit at the time, but I'm not frightened. We don't always wear our hair up now, we do what we like. Did you used to wear your hair up? Did you pin it up?

KII flashes twice.

RACHEL W: [To Spirit] Do you see the little children that come here to visit?

JASON: [To Spirit] When you unpin your hair, is it very long?

KII flashes once.

ELAINE: [To Spirit] Do you interact with the children?

21:06 JASON: [To Spirit] Have any of the children seen you?

Andy moves the device from the writing slope to the table so that everyone can see.

DEE: [To Spirit] Were you happy here? ...[pause] Were you sad here? Unhappy here? ...[pause] Has your father gone upstairs to see the other group?

21:07 ANDY: It's going to be interesting, what Jason said (that I sent him upstairs)!

RACHEL W: [To Spirit] Are you annoyed that we've moved the device?

ANDY: [To Spirit] If you go near it, it will make different colours for you.
[pause]
[To the team] It's very quiet.

DEE: He's still around, but he's not as close. So...he's still in the house. He's in the house, definitely.

21:08 DEE: I don't think he wants to interact with us, though. I think he's very...I think he thinks we're dabbling and it's all nonsense and he doesn't want to talk to us.

21:10 Rachel W mentions that the KII meter hasn't lit up since Andy moved it [21:06]

ANDY: OK, I'll put it back [on the writing slope].

DEE: If it starts to go off again that suggests that there's something here that's making it do that.

RACHEL W: What's it sitting on?

21:11 The Team checks out the writing slope. There's nothing obvious on the wooden surface that would set off the KII meter... They can't open it up, because it's taped shut.

DEE: What is this? [Looking at the paper on the writing slope]

RACHEL W: Because it's flashing again.

DEE: [Dee reads the letter on the slope] Dear Sir. George the Cooper – George JH – Jeremiah Cooper... was admitted to this school in June 1975 and attended with great regularity for two years. He went to Mr Garrard's...

21:12 ... as clerk about midsummer last. William (?) Fitch. It looks like 'W Fitch'... [To the team] That's him! That's his writing... Mr Fitch's writing.

RACHEL W: Did somebody kick the table? It suddenly moved.

Everyone denies this.

21:13 ANDY: [To Spirit] Did you write a lot of letters? Did you write a lot of French letters?

RACHEL W: Always bringing the tone down... Mr Fitch is NOT going to like that!

Team members start discussing the use of condoms in 19th Century...

The KII meter starts flashing.

DEE: He's telling us off!

RACHEL W: Are you telling us off for being naughty?

21:14 ANDY: [To Spirit] We're going to put our hands on the table and if you can make the table vibrate in response to a question...

DEE: [To team] Everybody make sure your legs are not touching any of the [table] legs.

KII flashes.

DEE: So, why is it flashing on the writing slope and not on the books [where it was placed earlier]?

Rachel W suggests moving the KII to the other side of the writing slope to see if it makes a difference.

21:15 The Team asks for the spirit to vibrate/shake/move the table using their energy.

DEE: I feel him sort of scoffing...like "What?!"
[pause]
I thought I just saw something very dark and very quick go up the wall behind Rachel... like...from the floor to ceiling.

21:16 Dee asks Rachel W to move around a bit to see if it was a shadow. It was not, as the light is in the wrong place.

Andy switches off the torch that he had stood upright on the table, so that only the security light is on.

ANDY: [Calling out] Can you make yourself known to us? We're not here to harm you.

DEE: [Calling out] Is there somebody else here, who's not Mr Fitch and who's not his daughter?

21:17 The team continues to ask questions with no responses or table vibration/rocking.

RACHEL W: [To Spirit] Did people realise how hard you had to work?

DEE: I'm really surprised we're not getting the activity.

The EMF flashes.

RACHEL W: When we talk about his job and appreciate his efforts, it flashes.

DEE: [To Spirit] We hear you used to play the harmonium. Can you play it for us now?

21:18 JASON: [To Spirit] And you also played the organ at St Mary's Church, we were told?

21:19 DEE: [To Spirit] We were told that you were asthmatic. That you were quite severely asthmatic. Rachel and I suffer from asthma...it's not easy is it?

RACHEL W: Especially with all the fires and the smoke.

DEE: And the damp.

The KII meter flashes.

21:20 DEE: So...we moved it [the KII] to this side and it's still giving responses, but it's not as strong as the other side.

ANDY: Maybe he was right-handed?

DEE: Or maybe his energy is depleting a bit.

RACHEL W: [To Spirit] Are we tiring you out now?

21:20 DEE: [To Spirit] We're very appreciative of you communicating with us and we're sorry if we've offended you in any way.

RACHEL W: [To the team] I thought someone was touching my hair then!
[To Spirit] Were you touching my hair?

The KII meter flashes once.

DEE: Ooh...that was a yes!
[To Spirit] Is this the daughter? Or is this Mr Fitch?

21:21 ANDY: [To Spirit] Do you want us to show you respect?

DEE: [To Spirit] Why were the children frightened of you?

RACHEL W: [To Spirit] Is it because the children weren't doing what they were told?

DEE: [To Spirit] Did they need a lot of discipline?

The KII meter flashes once.

JASON: [To Spirit] So making sure that they were afraid of you would maintain that discipline? Yes?

21:22 DEE: [To Spirit] Did you enjoy teaching them?

RACHEL W: I'm still not 100% that this is Mr Fitch.

DEE: No...

RACHEL W: [To Spirit] Did you help out at the school? Or did you mainly stay at home looking after the house?

DEE: [To Spirit] Are you a woman? Are you female?

21:23 DEE: ...Are you a man?

RACHEL W: I think we've tired them out.
[To Spirit] Can you use our energy to help?

ANDY: [Calling out] Is there something about horses?

RACHEL W: ...Horses?!

ANDY: Sorry, it just popped into my head!

DEE: [Calling out] Was there ever a fire here?

KII meter flashes once.

DEE: [Calling out] Did you live here before this building was here?

21:23 KII meter flashes once.

DEE: This is perhaps somebody that doesn't have anything to do with the school.

ANDY: Yeah, you could be right.

21:24 RACHEL W: It might be someone who lived in the slums.

DEE: That's right. That's what I'm thinking... before this was a school.
[To Spirit] Did you live here before this building was here?
[Pause]
[To Spirit] Did you live here a LONG time before this building was here?

21:25 Ben from the team then upstairs pops his head in. He mentions that it is unusual, because the motion balls upstairs have not lit up – it has been KII meters lighting up in all the rooms. This team agreed saying we experienced the same.

21:27 End of session and recording.

Upstairs: Master Bedroom and Landing

Paula's notes:

Jane & Paula both have mobile phones using spirit apps [which show/say words allegedly chosen by Spirit as a form of communication].

Jane has cameras plus an infra-red camera, a KII meter on the bed in front of where Paula is sitting, and sensors by the doorway; three motion [cat] balls are placed around the bedroom, including 1 in the little chair beside a fir cone.

Very few time marks are noted.

Jane and Paula are in the Master Bedroom; Maria is on the Landing; Ben is in one of the single bedrooms and Jim and Lorraine are in the other single bedroom.

Someone calls out, asking if Mr Fitch, the Headmaster, is present.

APP: TEMPORARY

MARIA: Did you give out punishment for bad behaviour?

PAULA: Come close to the bed and make this device light up [the KII meter].

MARIA: Do you miss being here or do you think you're still alive?

PAULA APP: ALIVE [said at the precise moment Maria said 'alive']

KII flickered in the other room.

MARIA: Is this the Victorian era? Is Queen Victoria on the throne?
[Thinking this is a lady] Was your husband in World War 2?

KII lights up in other room

Maria hears humming

APP: ATTACHMENT

MARIA: I do not give you permission to attach yourself to me.

Jane turns on the KII meter in front of Paula, who is on the bed.

Jane's KII flashes to red when the other team asks a question in their bedroom.

APP: MASS
DISPLAY
PEOPLE HEAR MY VOICE
OLIVIA

Jane's K11 flickers and again on demand to the orange level [quite high]

Jane, sitting on the right-hand side of the bed, feels cold.

JANE: [Calling out] Are you next to me? Flash the meter please.

PAULA: [Calling out] Are you a child?

BEN: [Calling out in the other room] Are you a head mistress?

The KII meters in both rooms react. Jane's goes up to the red [highest level].

APP: CONCERN

QUESTION: Do you know what year it is?
Are you concerned that we're here?

APP: AIR

QUESTION: Are there any other spirits here?

Jane's KII lights up to red and orange.

QUESTION: Who else is here?

MARIA: Are they your children?

APP: SHOW

MARIA: Show yourself to us.

APP: RING

Ben says his KII is flashing and Jane's also flashes in sync.

APP: SHAREHOLDER

PAULA: Can you touch the ball on the chair to make it light up?

Jane's KII flashes instead

PAULA: Are you sitting with us?

Jane's KII flashes

APP: I DON'T MEAN HARM
HONEST

MARIA: Were you happy here?

Jane's KII flashes.

JANE: Can you walk towards the door to make the other device light up?

PAULA: Did you know Mr Fitch?

JANE: Were you happy here?

Jane's KII flashes

PAULA: Did you enjoy teaching?

Jane's KII flashes

APP: SLAM
DID I SCARE YOU?

JANE: You haven't scared us; we just want to communicate with you.

MARIA: Are you putting the children to bed?

APP: JOSEPH

Jane's KII flashes

APP: PREGNANT

PAULA: Who is Joseph? Was Joseph your husband? Were you happy?

Jane's KII flashes

APP: FACE

PAULA: What do you mean by face?

APP: SEVEN

JANE: Are there seven spirits here?

Jane's KII goes to orange and red.

JANE: Are they your children?
[This is relayed to the other team members upstairs]

Jane's KII goes to orange and red.

JANE: Is Joseph in this room?

APP: QUIET

MARIA: Are we waking your children up? Are you humming?

WORD: FILE

PAULA: Do you have Joseph? Do we have Olivia?

There is no response.

APP: I'M IN THE TREES

PAULA: Can you tell us the names of the children?

BEN: [from another room] Do you have five children?

Jane's KII goes to the red.

APP: CHILDREN PLAY

JANE: Are they playing now?

The KIIs in both rooms flash.

It is also mentioned that none of the motion balls have activated so far.
Jane's KII flashes red again.

APP: INVESTIGATOR
SCREAMING
CHILDREN SPIRITS

Jane's KII flashes, confirming 'yes'.

Someone from one of the other rooms asks if the spirit has got a dog.

Both KIIs flash.

JANE: Two dogs or one dog?

MARIA: Do you have a cat as well?

PAULA: It must have been quite crowded here.

Paula notes that Rachel W is heard coughing from the Parlour downstairs.

Jane's KII goes to the red.

APP: ANN

JANE: Are you one of the children?

PAULA: Are you affecting Rachel downstairs?

JANE: Are you a housekeeper?

Jane's KII flashes

QUESTION: So you're one of the children?

APP: MY NAME IS FRANK

JANE: Is Frank here? So, we have Ann, Frank, Olivia, Joseph...

Jane's KII flashes.

APP: SHOE

MARIA: Did you leave a shoe in the wall?

The KII meters in both rooms flash red.

We [the team] discussed how people used to brick up shoes and KII flashes again.

APP: SEVENTEEN

JANE: Were you seventeen when you passed away?

Maria asks something [unclear] but Jane's KII goes red and then amber.

APP: HANG

QUESTION: Is there something hanging?

JANE: [to Paula] I get the smell of roses.

APP: ARRANGEMENT
SARA

Jane's KII flashes.

APP: We're moving around.

PAULA: If you're near our door –

21: 21 The cat ball lights up on the chair.

21:21 JANE: Can you follow me towards the door? I'm standing by the door where the crib is.
Can you make the cat balls light up?

Jane's KII flashes red.

APP: RESIDUAL ENERGY
BE CAUTIOUS

JANE: Who do you we need to be cautious about?

APP: TRACK

JANE: Thank you for speaking to us.

21:23 Master bedroom session ends.

Upstairs: The Small Bedroom (first room on the left at the top of the stairs)

Jim & Lorraine's notes:

Team: Jim and Lorraine

Equipment Used: Audio recorder; EMF meter.

Time: 20:40 – 21:24

Other members of the group are present in the other bedrooms and on the landing.

Nothing is picked up by either Jim or Lorraine in this room. No changes in temperature, very mild and pleasant atmosphere. Nothing picked up by the EMF meter or audio recorder.

21:24 End of session.

Upstairs: The Other Single Bedroom

Ben's notes:

Team: Ben

Equipment Used: Motion detector [cat] balls, KII meter, and voice recorder

Time: 20:40 – 21:24

NOTE: Jane and Paula are in the Master Bedroom and Maria is on the top landing.

- Temperature is recorded as 15.9C at the commencement of the experiment.
- Doors to bedrooms open so team members can notify others of activity.
- All lights in the house turned off and in complete darkness.
- Multiple activations on the KII meter that cannot be explained or debunked.
- Names of Olivia, Joseph, Anne, Frank and Sara all come from Ghost box device in Jane and Paula's room.
- KII reacts positively to various questions asked by Ben potentially indicating that Olivia was a headmistress and that the other spirits present are her children.

21:28 End of session – temperature recorded at 13.9C.

Vigil 2: The Monitorial Classroom

Team: Andy F, Ben, Dee, Elaine, Jane, Jason, Jim, Lorraine, Maria, Paula, Rachel W

Equipment Used: Digital Voice Recorder(s); KII meter(s); cat/motion balls; video cameras; HexCom; mobile phone app; all mobile phones are either switched off or on 'Airplane Mode' to stop interference with other equipment;

Ambient Sounds: This location is extremely large with wooden flooring and very high ceiling with high windows, so the acoustics are dominated by echoes; equipment clicks, shifting of the team members on the wooden floor and benches; faint extraneous noises from outside.

Time: 21:39 – 22:13

The following account is comprised of members' written notes and partial transcripts from members' digital recordings.

The Monitorial Classroom is a large hall, capable of accommodating 300 pupils. Rows of benches are set out facing a lectern on a raised podium.

To try and drum up some pre-vigil energy through humour, Ben parades around the room in feigned punishment, the UNWASHED HANDS sign around his neck proclaiming his misdemeanour. This naturally amuses the rest of the members!

The Team spreads out around the large room: Andy at the front near the podium, most on the benches, some along the side of the room, and Elaine right at the back of the room.

21:41 Jim sees a shadow across the bottom right corner of Jane's laser dots, which are hitting the wall. Jim asks Ben to walk in front of the cameras, but he takes a couple of steps before his shadow is cast, so this does not explain what Jim had seen.

Jim observes the movement of shadows in the rest of the room, but these shadows are transparent in nature on the wall where they are hitting the area of the laser dots.

Jim describes the shadow he had seen as like an arc. On reflection, he believes it looked like something bending down in front of the laser device then bending back up again; potentially something taking an interest in the laser?

21:43 Dee's recording commences.

Andy sets up his Ovilus III device on the podium next to a cat [motion] ball. [NOTE: The Ovilus III is a device which spirits are purported to be able to use by manipulating electromagnetic energy to generate words from the pre-programmed database.]

ANDY: [Calling out] Can you give us a name?

Ovilus III: SHOULD

BEN: [Calling out] Have Olivia and Joseph followed us from the Headmaster's House into this room?

MARIA: Can you let us know you're here?

Ovilus III: TRAVEL

21:44 Elaine thinks she sees someone on the roof peering through the window [NOTE: There are windows high up near the ceiling in the Monitorial Classroom].

The team introduce themselves to any potential spirits who may be present.

ANDY: [Calling out] ...And we're here to make contact with you.

21:45 Ovilus III: ENOUGH
The cat ball on the podium lights up.

BEN: [Calling out] Do you want me to go and stand at the front of the class to set an example?

Dee asks the team if maybe the cat ball is being set off by vibration [floor].

ANDY: [Calling out] Try talking into this little box [device] or one of us?

DEE: Yeah...cat ball's going off [activating, not switching off]...hang on a minute.

21:46 To see if it is possible that members moving had set it off via vibration through the wooden floor, Dee gets everyone to stamp their feet at the same time to vibrate the floor, but this does NOT set off the ball. The conclusion is that something else on or around the podium did – or the ball might be faulty, of course.

Jane's HexCom gives the name HARRY.

Jim suggests that maybe the security devices in the hall are maybe setting off the podium cat ball, as he noticed the green light on the security device was flashing at the same time as the cat ball.

Andy switches off the Ovilus III and suggests we concentrate on using the app instead, as it gave a name.

Rachel notes that Jane's device says I MISS MY FAMILY.

[It should be noted that both Paula and Jane have apps on their phones, and Jane uses a Hexcom; these devices use similar principles to the Ovilus III whereby words are allegedly generated by spirits present.]

21:47 DEE: [To the team] Can you hear lots of voices? I can hear lots of faint voices. I don't know where they're coming from. [NOTE: They are not picked up on the recording, but Dee is clairaudient, so tends to hear things that others perhaps do not.]

The Team continues to call out questions.

21:48 DEE: [To Team] Is that Elaine's shadow up there [looking at the back wall]?

Dee then asks if someone is moving, because she sees a shadow move. Others also see it. Dee asks Elaine if she just moved and she denies that she did. It seems that it may have been Elaine's shadow, so Dee says that everyone needs to sit really still.

21:49 MARIA: [Calling out] How old are you, Harry? Are you hungry? [To the team] I got 'hungry' ...

DEE: [Calling out] Were you naughty? Did you get in trouble?

HEXCOM: SHADOWS [or SHUDDERS]

21:50 JANE: [Calling out] Is your family at the workhouse, Harry?

ANDY: [Calling out] Is there a teacher present?

JIM: [Calling out] If there is a teacher present are you able to stand and make that cat ball go off again? It's at the front of the room.

PAULA: [To the team] I hear a footstep behind me.

DEE: [To Paula] I thought I heard something...but it's hard, because we all keep shuffling, we keep moving [the room is very echoey]. We need to keep really still.

MARIA: [Calling out] Anybody else here other than Harry?

APP: RYAN

21:51 MARIA: [Calling out] Hello Ryan. How old are you?

BEN: [Calling out] Do you have any other friends?

JIM: [Calling out] Are you sitting with us here? At the tables with us?

DEE: [To the team] Do you know...I'm sensing lots and lots and lots of burials. That's weird...

RACHEL W: You just don't know who might've been here before...

DEE: I know. But I'm sensing lots and lots of burials.

PAULA: They said there was a church next door at one point.

RACHEL W: Yes, there was a chapel wasn't there?

DEE: Would they have had a graveyard out there? [Indicating with her hands the direction beyond the WW1/Edwardian Classroom side of the building]

RACHEL W: Maybe.

DEE: I'm seeing lots of burials...

21:52 BEN: [Calling out] How many teachers do we have with us?

RACHEL W: [Calling out] Is Mr Fitch with us?

21:52 ANDY: [Calling out] Is there a Robert here?

21:53 Several team members mention that the KII meters dotted around the room have not activated at all.

DEE: I heard a low breath then.

Jim confirms that he also heard it.

[NOTE: The quick breath/gasp can be heard very faintly on both Dee and Jim's recordings – DEE CLIP 2, JIM CLIP 1].

MARIA: [Calling out] Did you like being here or was it too strict?

A low noise like a male voice is heard – a short groan or mumble. It is heard by Dee, Jim, Lorraine and others and was not one of the team members.

At the same time, Rachel W mentions that a nearby KII meter flickers.

[NOTE: The sound is picked up on both Dee's and Jim's recordings – JIM CLIP 1; DEE CLIP 2]

ANDY: [Calling out] Try and make contact with us; we're only here a short time.

21:54 RACHEL W: [Calling out] Can you make the green light flicker again?

21:55 PAULA: [Calling out] Are you able to come close and sit on the bench with us?

21:56 The EMF meter in the centre of the group flashes.

A long hiss is heard by several members that seemed to be emanating from the back of the room in a corner behind Jane.

[NOTE: This is captured on both Jim's and Dee's recordings, but is very faint. It is clearer on Jim's recording – JIM CLIP 2.]

Elaine sits at the back of the classroom facing the side classrooms (Edwardian/WW1 and Jill Grey room). She thinks she keeps seeing someone walking past the door [to the Jill Grey Room]. This is none of the team members as most are sitting down. [NOTE: At the end of the session, Elaine notices that the door is closed, but she thought it was open during the session.]

Jane mentions that she hears the 'shushing' noise again.

RACHEL W: [Calling out] Are you telling us to be quiet?

DEE: [To the team] That's not a heater or something is it? Or a humidifier?

JIM: No, that was a 'shhh'.

Rachel notes that Jane and Jim hear shushing twice.

21:58 Elaine hears a little girl giggle when Maria asks “Are you a boy or a girl?”

The Team continues to call out with questions...

MARIA: [Calling out] Do you want us to leave? If you want us to leave, make a noise.

Several members notice the KII meter near Ben and Rachel W flicker [very low].

21:59 The cat ball on the podium lights up and one of the nearby KII meters flickers.

Dee hears a shuffle.

BEN: [Calling out] What would be really impressive is if you could knock something onto the floor.

Just at this moment, Elaine jumps/shifts suddenly – she is seated at the far end of the room and is wearing headphones so is not hearing what the team at this end is saying. Ben addresses Elaine to test for a response and gets nothing.

APP: IT WAS ME

22.00 RACHEL W: [Calling out] Did somebody just touch my hair?

APP: ALBERT

DEE: [To the team] Something just flashed...[the nearby KII meter]

22:01 Maria mentions feeling a cold breeze even though she is sitting by the heater at the side of the room.

DEE: Actually, I can feel the breeze now.

BEN: Yeah, me too.

DEE: Around my knees. Really cold here [indicating in front of her to the right low to the ground] – there’s a cold spot.

[Calling out] Is there somebody sitting next to me?

[To the team] There’s a cold spot here.

22:02 BEN: [Calling out] Can you move something near to Elaine... something that will make her flinch or be startled.

RACHEL W: [Calling out] Have you sat next to Dee?

DEE: [Calling out] Are you sitting next to me?

BEN: [Calling out] Are you touching my back?

MARIA: [Calling out] Is that you, Albert?

BEN: [Calling out] Do you want me to stand up?

22:02 APP: JEREMIAH

Someone comments about the 'old names' that are coming out and Dee mentions that it is very Quaker!

22:03 DEE: Oh my goodness! This is so cold here [next to her and low down on the floor]...but the hands are not a good judge of temperature.

JIM: Now I'm starting to feel cold on this bench in between my legs.

DEE: Yeah. It's down here [indicates]

JIM: On bench level.

DEE: Yes. Exactly. It's almost like they're sitting down on the benches.

MARIA: [Calling out] Is there a lot of children in here now?

The KII meter flashes.

22:04 DEE: My God, I can feel how cold that is down there [next to her] and it seems to have got colder really suddenly.

22:05 DEE: This is moving [meaning the cold air by her legs]

22:06 Andy's cat ball starts flashing on the lectern.

APP: ARCHIBALD [another 'old name']

22:07 DEE: I almost feel that there is a lesson going on... we are just sitting here right in the middle of it – it's almost like... residual maybe? But this cold...

APP: BEWARE OF THE DARK

22:08 DEE: It's almost like they're not really aware of us...just getting on with it.

RACHEL W: What, like stone tape theory? *[NOTE: A pseudo-scientific theory that suggests that some objects and the fabric of the environment can absorb/record energy which are replayed under certain circumstances or detected by those sensitive to it, also sometimes linked to the idea of 'place memory']*

DEE: Yeah.

BEN: I'm sensing a lot of fear in the room.

DEE: Yes... a sad... it's sad.

BEN: Yeah, sadness.

DEE: Yes. Definitely.

22:08 JIM: [To Ben] Have you got your temperature gauge.
BEN: I have, but it's down there...
JIM: ...it feels like a breeze coming across.
DEE: This definitely feels a breeze...across here somewhere [indicating].
My hands are absolutely frozen.
JIM: My face is...my nose is really cold.
DEE: But it seemed to happen really suddenly.
22:09 DEE: I've just got the word "HUNGRY" in my mind.

The team continues to chat and call out. During the conversation, Rachel W mentions that Max, the host, had said that before the benches were brought in the children used to sit on the floor and that maybe that's why the cold area that some team members are experiencing is so low down.

21:13 End of Session and of Dee's recording.

Additional Session Notes:

Ben:

Ben does not pick up anything of particular relevance in this area.

Vigil 3: The Gallery Classroom (Victorian)

Estes Method Experiment

Team: Andy F, Ben, Dee, Elaine, Jane, Jason, Jim, Lorraine, Maria, Rachel W, Paula

Equipment Used: Cameras; Digital Voice Recorder(s); KII meter(s); cat/motion balls; SB7 Spirit Box; all mobile phones are either switched off or on 'Airplane Mode' to stop interference with other equipment;

Ambient Sounds: This is an extremely echoey environment; equipment clicks; shifting of the team members causing creaks and thumps from the wooden desks and flooring.

Time: 22:44 – 23:46

At the front of the classroom next to the teacher's lectern is a board showing the denomination of old currency coins with a couple of arithmetic problems to solve using that information.

The Question Team (QT) are situated in Gallery Classroom asking questions and awaiting any responses via walkie talkie radio from the Receiving Team (RT), who are situated in the Air Raid shelter adjacent and below. The Receiver wears headphones connected to the SB7 Ghost Box, which is rapidly cycling through radio wavebands. The theory is that spirits can manipulate the radio waves to produce coherent sounds, words and phrases.

Andy, Dee, Elaine, Jason, Lorraine, Maria and Rachel W are the initial Question Team with Jason operating the walkie talkie. The Receiving Team in the Air Raid Shelter are initially Ben, Jane, Jim and Paula. Ben is relaying anything The Receiver says to the Question Team upstairs via the walkie talkie.

The following account is comprised of members' written notes and partial transcripts from members' digital recordings.

Note: Receiving Team responses are in CAPITALS

22:47 QT: What is your name?
 Are there any spirits here who would like to talk to us?

KII meter flashes on the teacher's lectern.

QT: Are you the teacher?

22:48 QT: Did you like school?
 Are you one of the boys?
 Were you any good at Maths?
 Did you like your teachers?
 Were your teachers strict?
 Can you tell us your name?

22:49 QT: What was your teacher's name?
 How many farthings make a [indistinct]?
 What was your favourite subject?
 Did you get the cane?
 How old are you?
 Did you go into the shelter to avoid the bombs?

22:50 QT: Did you have to wear a paddle to make you sit up straight?
 Did you have to wear the dunce's cap?
 Did your punishment make you feel humiliated?

Dee suggests that the team is firing too many questions too quickly! Then the team looks at the currency questions on the board, because Andy thinks one of the answers is wrong! This starts a discussion about old currency.

22:51 The KII meter flashes (on the front desk) – Rachel W thinks it is “very active about money”!

QT: Did you get the cane?

The team wonders if the radio [SB7] is working downstairs, as there has been no word at all from the Receiving Team. Jason asks and Ben replies [indistinct on Dee's recording].

22:52 QT: What food did they give you? Was it soup? Or bread? Or cheese?

22:53 QT: Is there anything you would like to ask us? Or tell us?

22:54 Andy is still convinced that the answer on the board to the currency question is wrong...
Dee studies it and decides the answer on the board is correct. The debate continues...in the
end the board is deemed correct!

22:55 The Receiving Team requests that Maria goes to the Air Raid Shelter to try being the Receiver,
as the other members of the Receiving Team have not had any luck. Maria leaves the Gallery
Classroom.

22:58 The team discusses 'farthings'. Jason explains the origin of the name.

RT/MARIA: YES

22:59 The Team continues to discuss farthings and shillings. Dee mentions that the word 'shilling' is
a Saxon word.

RT/MARIA: CRY

QT: Is there somebody crying here?

The cat ball activates.

23:00 QT: Did you ever get the cane?

RT/MARIA: SCARED

QT: Were you scared of being caned?
Were you scared of your teacher?
What was your favourite subject?
Did you like school?

ANDY: Wonder who that woman is up there [indicating the portrait on the wall].

RACHEL W: What, Queen Victoria?

23:01 Team giggles.

RT/MARIA: GIGGLING

Dee mentions that the KII meter on the front desk flashed.

RT/MARIA: BYE-BYE

RACHEL W: I bet this is quite a young person...how old are you?

23:02 QT: When you said scared, you're not scared of us are you? We're not scary.

23:03 QT: Can you make the green light [on the KII meter] flash for us?

RT/MARIA: BYE-BYE

QT: Did you wear a uniform?

23:03 KII meter flashes.

QT: Did you wear a mortar board?
What about the teachers?
Did you ever get one of those labels [in the Monitorial Classroom] put around your neck?

RT/MARIA: GIGGLING

QT: Did you get that around your neck because you were giggling a lot?

23:04 JASON: I think this might be a young child.

QT: Were you a little bit naughty?

RT/MARIA: LEAVE
[Ben explains via walkie that Maria is uncomfortable and requests that Dee come down to replace her on the headphones.]

Ben's notes re Maria's shift as Receiver:

- Maria is requested to come down to the shelter and she takes over for a short while.
- She comes out with the following words :- YES, CRY, SCARED, GIGGLING, BYE-BYE, BYE-BYE, and GIGGLING before she hears what she describes as a horrible voice say LEAVE.
- Maria states that she is feeling uncomfortable, takes the headphones off and starts walking towards the shelter door as she wishes to leave.
- Dee is requested to come to the shelter and takes over the headphones at 23:08.

The following is comprised of members' written notes and the transcript of Dee's digital recording.

[* NOTE: At some point during the following session with Ben, Jim and Dee (the Receiving Team) in the Air Raid Shelter, the Question Team upstairs in the Gallery Classroom note that the cat ball at the front of the room flashes and the team questions if it's the radio setting it off somehow. Jason recalls: "We had a cat ball being activated at the front of the classroom and the conversation was about whether it could be set off by an electrical device, such as the radio. They're motion activated, and I think we all knew the answer was 'no' but I think we were trying to think of a rational reason why the cat ball might have been activated."]**

HOWEVER, when Andy reviewed his voice recording after the investigation – the recorder was left by itself on a desk at the front of the room with no one sitting nearby – a clear male voice is heard saying "THAT'S ME!" No one heard or reacted to that comment at the time. The EVP (electronic voice phenomenon) was analysed (and Jim even created a 'cleaned up' version) and all members present were consulted post-investigation.

The conclusion: the voice was acoustically very close to the recorder by itself on a desk at the front of the room at which no one was sitting... and the voice did NOT belong to any of the members present in the room at the time. The Verdict: Class A EVP – ANDY CLIP1 *]**

Meanwhile, in the Air Raid Shelter:

23:08 Dee starts recording in the Air Raid Shelter wearing the headphones attached to the SB7

23:09 DEE: Like a "shhhh" noise. Shush!

23:10 DEE: I'm not hearing any voices. I'm not hearing any ANYTHING – [just the white noise pulses of the SB7].

BEN: [Via walkie to the other team] Dee's saying she's hearing very little, if anything. Give it a couple more minutes and I propose that we maybe move to a different area... I'm thinking possibly if your team stays where they are and then I move a slightly smaller team to maybe one of the little rooms off the main hall.

JASON: [Via walkie] Yeah. We were thinking that too.

DEE: I've never heard this [SB7] have NO voices.

23:11 BEN: We'll give it another minute.

DEE: It wouldn't be anything to do with us being underground -

BEN: That's what I'm thinking.

DEE: That it's not picking up any proper radio signals?

BEN: All three of these guys [previous sitters], nothing at all. And in fairness, Maria didn't pick up on much.

DEE: I've not heard it be so quiet, as normally you get a burst of SOMETHING.

BEN: [via walkie] OK, guys, take a five-minute break where you are. I'm going to send two back to you to join your team and then I'm probably going to take Dee and one of the others and we're going to go to probably the WW2 or the WW1 Room.

DEE: Where's that?!

BEN: I will show you...

23:12 DEE: It'll be interesting if the voices start coming in as we go up the stairs... I don't feel anything down here, particularly.

JIM: The cat ball went off on the table two or three times. We gave it a good old nudge [to try and set it off] but nothing.

23:13 End of recording

The Receiving Team moves to the WW1 Room (Edwardian Classroom) off the Monitorial Classroom to continue the Estes Method experiment while the rest of the group remain in the Gallery Classroom. The Receiving Team cannot hear the questions being asked and the Question Team (still in the Gallery Classroom) cannot hear Dee's responses except when relayed by Ben via the walkie talkie.

Dee is seated near the piano in the far-left corner of the room (as viewed from the main doorway) and is wearing the headphones attached to the SB7 Spirit Box. She is facing the WW2 classroom. Andy is seated opposite Dee facing the main doorway. Ben is seated with his back to the WW2 classroom between Andy and the main doorway.

The following is comprised of members' written notes and the transcript of Dee's digital recording.

23:16 Session is re-commenced and Dee also begins her recording.

Ben goes into the Monitorial Classroom to turn off the main lights and on his return notes that this room is noticeably colder than any of the others they have been in so far.

It should be noted that Dee cannot hear the other team members while wearing the headphones, as she has them pressed hard to her ears to reduce distraction. The contrast between the SB7 silence of the Air Raid Shelter and the sounds coming through in the WW1 Room is immediately noticeable to Dee.

23:18 RT/DEE: PEOPLE

QT: How many people are here?

RT/DEE: HATE

QT: Who do you hate?

RT/DEE: SOME/SUM

QT: Would you like to talk to us?

23:21 RT/DEE: WASTE/WAIST

23:22 RT/DEE: PRAY/PREY
[To the team] These are all said in the same male voice.

[The QT in the Gallery Classroom recite *The Lord's Prayer* in response]

23:23 RT/DEE: TICKET/TICK IT

QT: Are we meeting the Head Master?

RT/DEE: MEETING

23:24 Jim mentions that he hears shuffling coming from behind Dee, but Dee is not aware of this and is not moving. [Remember, Dee is wearing the headphones connected to the SB7]
[Note: the shuffling is not caught on any of the digital recordings]

RT/DEE: Whistle [the sound, not the word] – a two-part sound like “yoo-hoo”.

23:25 QT Elaine hears drumming.

23:26 RT/DEE: SORRY

QT: About the whistling?

QT Jason talks to the others about his granddad.

RT/DEE: DEAD

23:27 [***DEE SOUND CLIP 3: There is a small noise captured on Dee's recording at this point, followed by another shortly afterwards – it sounds like a voice but the what is said is indistinct. ***]

JIM: [To Ben] Were you moving?

BEN: What's happening?

JIM: I heard a noise.

BEN: Not that I know of...

QT: There wasn't much space or equipment to play with.

23:27 RT/DEE: TELL

QT: What did you play?

23:28 RT/DEE: SCARED

23:29 RT/DEE: GOOD-BYE – deep male voice
END

At the same time, Jason's voice from the QT comes over the walkie talkie asking for the QT to return to the Gallery Classroom!

23:31 The Estes Method Experiment ends and Dee's recording in the WW1 Room also ends.

Everyone gathers in the Gallery Classroom for a short silent vigil to finish this session.

23:34 Silent vigil commences.

In the Gallery Classroom the KII meter on the front desk flashes, then Rachel's flashes. This happens several times, so Rachel W begins to time the intervals. The intervals seem to be regular, around one minute apart, so the team thinks the KII might be detecting a pulse from the security alarm system, wi-fi or something of that nature. However, some of the Question Team from the earlier Estes Method experiment mention that not all of the KII flashes were regular and seemed more random in response to questions. Ben suggests switching off the radios in case they are sending out any kind of pulse, but the KII flashes again, so it is not the radios. Dee notes that she is not sensing anything in particular at all.

23:46 End of session.

[NOTE: No EVPs were captured on Dee's recording].

Vigil 4: (split into three teams in three separate locations)

World War 2 (WW2) Room

Team: Lorraine, Maria, Rachel W

Equipment Used: Digital Voice Recorder; cat (motion) balls;

Ambient Sounds: Echoes; shifting of the team members on the wooden floor and seating; faint extraneous noises from outside, such as occasional traffic and passersby.

Time: 23:56 – 00:24

The following account is comprised of members' written notes:

23:59 Cat ball activates on the weighing scales.

00:10 Cat ball flashes.

World War 1 (WW1) Room (Edwardian Classroom)

Team: Andy, Ben, Dee, Jason

Equipment Used: Digital Voice Recorders; cat (motion) balls;

Ambient Sounds: Echoes; shifting of the team members on the wooden floor and seating; faint extraneous noises from outside, such as occasional traffic and passersby; muffled voices of other teams in both the adjoining WW2 classroom and the Jill Grey Learning Space on the other side.

Time: 23:55 – 00:30

Dee is seated, as before in this room, by the piano in the far-right corner as seen from the main doorway; she is facing the WW2 Room. Andy is seated in front of Dee. Ben is seated near the door to the WW2 Room (with his back to it) and Jason is in the far-left corner as seen from the main doorway, by "the heater that is not on"!

The following account is comprised of members' written notes and excerpts from Dee's digital recording:

23:56 Andy mentions seeing a shadow moving behind Dee – he thinks it is Dee lifting her arm up, but Dee is actually very still, not moving at all and has her hands in her coat pockets, because it is very cold in the room.

Dee does comment that it feels different in this room than any of the other rooms and that is why she wanted to come back here.

00:00 Dee mentions that she has "a little bit of an eerie feeling in this room".

00:01 Dee plays a couple of notes on the piano.
Andy's KII meter flickers.

- 00:02** The KII lights up. However, the team does think that there is something electrical causing a regular pulse that is partly responsible for KII blips throughout the whole investigation so far.
- 00:04** DEE: Is there anybody out there in the big room (the Monitorial Classroom)?
- BEN: There shouldn't be...
- DEE: I'm sure I saw movement over by the door [to the WW1 Room that leads to the Monitorial Classroom [can see through the glass, as there is low light out in the large room].
- 00:05** ANDY: [Andy's KII meter blips] There goes the pulse!
The temperature is just below 10°C.
- 00:06** Ben mentions seeing a strange glow coming and going in the top corner above Jason. There is a dolls' house on top of the cupboard near Jason and the intermittent light seems to come from there.
- [NOTE: The strange light is later debunked by Dee and Jason as being a movement-sensitive security light outside the building casting light through the window every time it lights up that happens to fall on that part of the room.]*
- 00:10** Maria exits the adjoining WW2 Room saying she needs some sugar [not feeling well] then exits the WW1 Room. She is escorted outside by Ben and advised to return to the refreshment area (our 'base camp') and to await the end of the investigation.
- 00:13** Ben returns to the WW1 Room saying Maria is in the refreshment area.
- 00:15** Jason reports a flash of light but isn't sure if it is Andy's torch gloves or the KII meter.
- 00:16** There is another blip on Andy's KII meter. Dee comments that her KII meter has not lit up at all and then determines that her battery is probably low.
- 00:17** Both Ben and Dee hear a faint sighing noise within the room – BEN: Did anybody hear that?
DEE: What was that?
- [***NOTE: This noise is caught on Dee's recording. DEE CLIP 4 ***]
- 00:20** Dee mentions a buzzing noise between herself and Jason. It is not caught on Dee's recording and not heard by Jason. *[NOTE: It is later debunked as a motorbike in the distance, as it happened again shortly after.]*
- 00:21** Jason and Dee notice that the pulse flashes on Andy's KII meter seem to be getting brighter.
- 00:22** DEE: I swear I see somebody walking past that door [the main door]...I'm going to go have a look. [Dee gets up but can't get to the door easily, because of the darkness and too many obstacles]
- 00:23** Everyone hears a loud bang from the Monitorial Classroom.
- BEN: Was that out in the hall?

00:23 DEE: [startled] Sh*t! It's Maria!

Maria bursts into the room startling everyone and states that the radiator is making a funny noise and she fears it will burst into flames. Ben escorts her back down to the refreshment area where it is ascertained that the radiator is not even hot to touch, let alone about to burst into flames! But out of respect for investigation rules, Ben does not return to the vigil as not to disrupt it.

00:24 End of recording.

00:30 End of vigil.

Jill Grey Learning Space

Team: Elaine, Jane, Jim, Paula

Equipment Used: Mobile phone apps (Jane and Paula);

Ambient Sounds: Echoes; shifting of the team members on the wooden floor and seating; faint extraneous noises from outside, such as occasional traffic and passersby; muffled voices of the team in the WW1 classroom next door.

Time: 23:56 – 00:24

Jim, Jane, Paula and Elaine are in the other classroom [The Jill Grey Learning Space] at the far end of the right side of the big hall [i.e. the Monitorial Classroom].

Jim notes that prior to entering this room, he stood half in and half out of the doorway. He felt two taps on his left shoulder, which was the side of his body in the classroom.

Elaine comments that she saw a figure move back and forth across the doorway to this room earlier in the night [see Vigil 1: The Monitorial Classroom at 21:56].

Multiple names are pulled up on Jane and Paula's mobile phone apps where it was identified that some of these names were listed on the wall in the WW1 room.

Vigil 5: (split into two teams in two separate locations)

World War 1 (WW1) Room

Team: Jim, Jane, Elaine, Paula

Equipment Used: Digital recording device; KII meter;

Ambient Sounds: Echoes; shifting of the team members on the wooden floor and seating; faint extraneous noises from outside, such as occasional traffic and passersby; muffled voices of the team in the Jill Grey Learning Space next door

Time: 00:30 – 00:45

00:40 EMF meter flickers when asked to flash a light.

Nothing further captured.

Jill Grey Learning Space

Team: Andy, Dee, Jason and Rachel W

Equipment Used: KII meter; recording device; video camera; cat balls; Ovilus III;

Ambient Sounds: Echoes; shifting of the team members on the wooden floor and seating; faint extraneous noises from outside, such as occasional traffic and passersby; muffled voices of the team in the WW2 classroom next door.

Time: 00:30 – 00:54

The following account is comprised of members' written notes and excerpts from Dee's recording:

00:30 Start of vigil.

Dee mentions that she feels like her chair is sliding forward despite her not moving at all.

00:31 Dee starts recording.

00:32 ANDY: [Calling out] If there are any spirits present try to move the rocking horse...try to give us a sign that you're here.

00:33 ANDY: [Calling out] Is there anyone present with us?

DEE: [Calling out] Is there anyone who would like to step forward and communicate with us? Do you have a message for somebody?

00:36 Rachel W experiences something pushing her arm back – a physical sensation.

00:39 Andy switches on the Ovilus III device to Dictionary Mode – the Ovilus responses are in CAPITALS.

ANDY: [Calling out] Can you try and give us a word using this, or give us one of our names?

OVILUS: STORY
LIGHT

DEE: [Calling out] What's your name?

ANDY: [Calling out] Can you tell us your name?

OVILUS: MURPHY

DEE: Aha. That's a name!

00:40 OVILUS: RECORDS

DEE: [Calling out] Do we need to check the records?

RACHEL W: [To team] There are lots of records upstairs in the back corridor [these were noticed on the initial tour of the building].

ANDY: [Calling out] Did you come to school here? Can you try and make the [rocking] horse move?

00:41 OVILUS: DOOR

ANDY: [Calling out] Can you make the door move?

DEE: [Calling out] Can you knock on the door?

OVILUS: AWARD

RACHEL W: [Calling out] Did you win an award when you were here?... Were you a good pupil?

ANDY: [Calling out] Did you teach here?

00:42 OVILUS: SHORT

RACHEL W: [Calling out] Was you Head Master short? Or did you work here for a short period of time?

OVILUS: D

RACHEL W: [Calling out] Oh! Did you know one of our names is Dee?

OVILUS: ALTHOUGH

DEE: [Calling out] Although what? [To the team] Does it normally give out letters?

00:43 OVILUS: SHOULD

RACHEL W: What should you do, Dee?

DEE: I don't know!

OVILUS: PLUTO

00:44 OVILUS: CARRIER
UNDER

00:45 OVILUS: GET

00:46 OVILUS: ZOO

00:47 OVILUS: COUNTRY

00:48 Jason queries how the Ovilus II works and wonders if he says a word, if spirit can repeat it. Jason says the word 'Circus'.

OVILUS: JIM
PLACEBO

00:49 OVILUS: POSSIBLE

00:50 Andy switches the Ovilus III to Touch Mode, where Spirit is supposed to touch the lights on the device. None of the team are convinced by this....

00:54 End of session and recording.

Vigil 6: The 1st Floor Corridor (the old Girls' School)

Team: Andy F, Ben, Dee, Elaine, Jane, Jason, Jim, Lorraine, Maria, Paula, Rachel W

Equipment Used: Recording device; KII meter(s); cat/motion balls; all mobile phones are either switched off or on 'Airplane Mode' to stop interference with other equipment;

Ambient Sounds: Equipment clicks and tones, shifting of the team members on the floor and against the walls; faint extraneous noises from outside.

Time: 01:07 – 01:26

The team members space out along the corridor, which is very cold. Several cat balls are laid on the floor at intervals.

01:07 Start of session.

During this vigil, Jim's KII meter is very active yet the cat ball next to it is not as active (but does activate once or twice).

Rachel places her EMF meter next to Jim's, but this doesn't indicate anything.

Jim is sat next to the first cupboard on the left of the corridor, Dee stands to his left.

01:21 Maria knocks on a wall. A few seconds later, knocks are heard coming from down the end of the corridor. This is caught on Jim's audio device.

Jane hears a high-pitched voice of a little girl through this vigil.

Ben notes that he does not detect anything of relevance in this area.

Dee does not make a recording of this session, but does note that the distinct knocking that is heard at the far end of the corridor (01:21); she notes that none of the members are that far down the corridor.

Dee is not comfortable in the corridor generally, sensing something but is unable to specify – as though it is 'hiding'.

01:26 End of vigil and of the investigation.

Post Investigation

Jim:

Jim had his motion detector camera in the corridor of the old girls' school all night. This was supported by Dee's cat balls. Nothing activated the motion sensing camera.

Jason's thoughts:

I had intended to keep written notes throughout this investigation but failed to do so, in part because I found the location to be so very cold, especially for my feet. In retrospect, I think that drained my concentration and sapped my energy. Any form of note taking from me stopped after the Monitorial School Hall session. I will revert to keeping a recorder running for future investigations.

As the LPS resident on-the-fence sceptic, there was nothing that happened during our visit that would prompt me to confirm the location was haunted. However, I am aware of an EVP voice that was picked up in the Victorian classroom that none of us heard at the time and at the time of writing this report, efforts are still underway to provide a rational explanation for it. That is potentially very exciting. I am also aware of various credible testimonies from people who have experienced supernatural phenomena at the museum, none of which was experienced by LPS on the evening of our investigation. But that's the way it goes.

As is often the case Dee sensed various pieces of information that she (and the rest of us) didn't know were correct until later in the evening. 'Seeing' a man whose description matched that of Mr Fitch before any of us had laid eyes on his photograph was particularly impressive.

The location is fascinating and I hope it won't be too long before LPS return. I would especially like to return to the Headmaster's House and the Victorian classroom - but on a less cold night!

We were told at the start of the evening that the school had been the only school for the poor in Hitchin during the 19th century. My great-great-grandfather was born in Hitchin in 1853 as was his mother in 1820. They both grew up in a slum area called The Folly, which I believe was where St Mary's carpark now stands, and so must have attended the school that is now The British Schools Museum.

Dee:

There are clearly areas of this location that would benefit from further investigation, as several things have been recorded by LPS during this investigation. Dee concludes that there is much 'residual' energy at play, but there is an active intelligent presence in the Head Master's House. A really interesting investigation.

*** E N D ***