

# **Beachy Head Investigation Report**

**Location:** (Beachy Head, East Sussex, England)

**Date:** 4th July 2009

**Time:** 7:00pm - 2.00am

**Duration of Investigation:** 7 hours – Overnight

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## **Investigation Team:**

Barri Ghai (Lead Investigator)

Bongo (Spiritualist Medium)

Rob Powell (Investigator)

Phil Measey (Investigator)

Matt Watkins (Investigator)

Toni Searle (Trainee)

Sheena Prew (Trainee)

Steve Sweet (Trainee)

Debbie Sweet (Trainee)

Mac & Wendy (Guests)

Report by: Barri Ghai - Co-Founder & Lead Investigator

## Initial Base Readings:

Table 1

|             | Cliff Edge | Cliff Edge | Cliff Edge |
|-------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Time        | 19.30      | 21.00      | 01.30      |
| EMF Reading | 1 mG       | 1 mG       | 1 mG       |
| Temp        | 15 C       | 13 C       | 11C        |

## Case History

Beachy Head is a beautiful series of high chalk cliffs (575 ft/175 m), on the south coast of East Sussex, S England. Since the 1600s Beachy Head has been notorious as a location for people to attempt suicide, estimated at 20 each year.



Eastbourne Parish Register contains entries of deaths at Beachy Head dating back to 1600 and by the middle of the 20th Century there were an average of 6-7 deaths per year. At the tail-end of the 1990's it had crept up to an average of 17.

Between the years 1965-1989, an in-depth study of deaths at Beachy Head was made by Dr. John Surtees – a cumulative total of 250. His research looked into the causes of death, injuries sustained, factors relating to the circumstances of the deaths and the resultant verdicts.

After a steady increase in deaths between 2002 and 2005, in 2006 there were only seven fatalities, a marked decrease. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency attributed the reduction to the work of the Chaplaincy Team and good coverage of services by local media.

The Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team patrols the notorious suicide spot of Beachy Head reaching out to the depressed and suicidal. As well as the Frontline Team which operates many hours of patrols at Beachy Head every week of the year.

The BHCT also run an On-call Team which responds to emergencies on Beachy Head 24 hours a day 365 days a year. The team consists of 15 volunteer Frontline team members, 4 of which also operate the On-call Team.

The Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team also has a dedicated Aftercare team of 4 backed up by members of the Frontline Team, where members come from a wide variety of local Churches.



The teams operate closely with the Emergency services of Sussex, often working with Sussex Police and HM Coastguard on many of the incidents at Beachy Head.

The team is funded by voluntary contributions alone and is supported by local churches, ministries, businesses and individuals. The Chaplaincy Team is run by the Christian charity More Fire Revival Minis.



### **Ghosts of Beachy Head**

Many apparitions have been seen including that of a mother and baby near the cliffs edge and a black monk who is said to beckon people to their death.

Also many people report having the sudden overwhelming feeling of hopelessness and depression.

It's sinister reputation is well known and Witches were said to have held rituals to deter French invaders here in medieval times, and the term Beachy Head is said to be from the French word "beauchef" the old word for beautiful headland, and before his death Aleister Crowley who lived nearby was to hold strange demonic rituals as part of Winston Churchill's wartime "Black team" of occultists, at a part called the Devils Chimney.

## Location Images

A cliff edge warning



The remains of a car that its owner drove over the cliff edge still located in the cliff face.



Rob Powell & Barri Ghai taking photographs at the cliff edge.



The beautiful sunset and onlookers Toni & Phil



## **Investigation Outline**

The team arrived at the location at 19.00 and assessed the surroundings. A risk assessment was carried out and I briefed the team on expectations, hazards and responsibility.

The view was amazing; unlike any place I had been to before. The thought that kept running through my mind was, 'How can somewhere so beautiful, harbour such a sad and tragic legacy'.

The weather was very settled, and dry. The sun was bright and there were quite a few visitors to the area. It was unfeasible to attempt to begin any investigation whilst the public were still admiring the vista.

We began to take photographs and record pieces to camera to aid us in producing a feature length episode of ghostfinder investigations for Antix productions. As the weather and visibility was good we did venture up to the cliff edge and take a look.

Initial feelings by the team were quite apprehensive, and I also had a mixture of emotions as we all walked the cliff edge towards the Beachy Head Lighthouse.



Our spiritualist medium, Bongo took a walk around to try and make contact with any spiritual energy that was present. I kept my distance, and watched intently as she focused and seemed to become overwhelmed with her surroundings.



Bongo, eventually came to me and offered to share her experiences on camera, and imparted information to me about a spirit that had made his presence very real to her during her walkaround. She explained that a man aged around 40 called Mark had committed suicide here after being investigated by Police. She did not know what interest the Police had had in Mark, only that he was sorry and had no alternative but to end his life here.

Bongo also explained some interesting detail. She identified that he was from the other side of the world, possibly Australia, and that he had worked and lived locally in Eastbourne. Later she tried to give me a little more information, and divulged that he had either lived or worked somewhere with 'Marine' in the title. After his body was rescued from the cliffs, it was also returned back homeland.

### [Bongo's Walkaround](#)

This information was very detailed and had us all thinking about the many lives that have been lost here over the years. This was compounded by the several wooden crosses that protruded from the cliff edge, that were marked with names, dates, and kisses. The remains of flowers still wrapped in plastic were also visible at times, and I admit that emotion overcame me and I said a prayer for the many families that have lost loved ones to this tragic end.

Bongo also gave me more information about separate energies that she had identified. The first was female and seemed to be reliving her suicide attempt over and over again. Bongo explained it as being like a residual echo of a woman in white leaping over the edge in a continuous loop.

During her initial walk around, Bongo was accompanied by Trainee Investigator Sheena Prew, and they both had recalled a very overwhelming feeling to jump over

the wire guard and walk up and over the cliff edge. Although they both restrained themselves from this action, Bongo mentioned how strong this desire was. Sheena also agreed that it was an irrational feeling and really frightened her.

At around 20.30 the sun was setting, and the most amazing views stopped us in our tracks. We took several minutes to look at our surroundings and take in the beauty of this place again.

I regrouped the team following a refreshment break at the car park situated around 100 feet from the cliff edge. We spent half an hour checking kit, replacing batteries, and awaiting further team members to arrive.

As dusk approached, the team made their way back up to the cliff edge to assess the best spot to start the first EVP recording and possible communication with any spirits. This walk back up the cliff top became a hysterical frenzy after we were swarmed by hundreds of flying beetles.

We were convinced that these winged creatures were bees or stinging insects and ran around screaming for what seemed like ages. We later found out that they are nothing more than harmless 'May bugs' or Cockchafer beetles.

Try not to laugh as our intrepid team tackle their greatest challenge yet!

### [Beachy Head May Bug Attack](#)

Once the sun had completely set, the bugs settled and disappeared as quickly as they had arrived. We were relieved and little exhausted from all the ridiculous running around and yelling that had taken place.

### **The First EVP Session**

I identified a very beautiful and more stable location near the edge of the cliff to conduct the first EVP session of the night. The public had moved on and left us in peace, and the only sounds were that of the waves below and a few sea birds in the distance.

The group all took their places on the ground and I introduced the EVP recording before placing the recorder on the ground in front of me and Bongo.

Investigator Phil Measey was sitting 20 feet away to my left watching the LCD display on the Fluke Thermal Imaging camera, and Matt Watkins was recording the images from over his left shoulder. Here is that video recording which took place for the duration of the EVP session.

### [Fluke Thermal image](#)

Investigator Rob Powell was sat next to me with his back to the group looking out to sea and holding a voice recorder on his lap. He also had a K2 meter next to him to watch for any changes in the electromagnetic field.

The EVP session only lasted 5 minutes, and no strange readings were recorded at the time. However upon analysis of the audio recordings, I have identified what we consider to be the voice of male spirit that was present with us during the experiment.

After introducing the session to the team and placing the voice recorder on the ground, a sigh and a loud whispered name 'Barri' is clearly identified on the recording. Hearing this voice sent shivers down my spine, as it is me that the disembodied voice was talking to.

### [EVP 1 - Beachy Head](#)

The video clip below briefly shows the EVP session in progress, and clearly identifies where most of the male members of the group were sitting in relation to the digital voice recorders.

### [Beachy Head EVP Session](#)

G.P.S tried extremely hard to debunk this EVP and prove it was a member of the team that had whispered my name. However, after looking at all the photographs, video footage, and listening to another recording captured on a second device, I have concluded that this very clear whisper is in fact a disembodied voice and a Class A EVP.

## **The Rescue**

At around 22.00 the team were walking along the cliff edge and recording data, when we all saw a dark silhouette of a person standing on the edge of the cliffs looking out to sea. The figure was some distance away and immediately I thought that we were about to witness a suicide attempt. My reasoning was that at this time of the evening the only people that would be present were our team, and possibly the Chaplaincy unit that patrols the beach and cliffs.

Trainee Investigator Steve Sweet, is also a police constable and he and I decided to pick up the pace and walk towards the figure to make sure they were okay.

The dark silhouette was around 800 meters away and we quickly marched uphill to identify it. As we got closer the figure turned and walked further along the cliff edge and away from us until they were on our horizon. We watched intently, trying not losing view of them when suddenly we both saw the figure drop and disappear from our line of sight.

My heart immediately raced and both Steve and I began to sprint towards the spot. With all our equipment in hand it was difficult work and we just ran as if our lives depended on it. I recall being absolutely terrified at what we may find and all I could think about was getting to them as quickly as possible.

As we approached the brow of the hill that the figure had disappeared from, we were preparing to find nobody there. However to our absolute relief and surprise there was a man laying flat on the cliff edge with a telescopic camera in hand. He was taking photographs of the Beachy Head Lighthouse in the moonlight.

Steve immediately asked him if he was okay and assessed the man's intentions and state of mind before concluding that everything was okay. We both then nervously smiled and turned to walk back to rejoin the team.

Here are our immediate responses following this incident.

### [The Rescue at Beach Head](#)

#### **The Second EVP Session**

Following this incident, the group made their way back to the cliff edge at a spot where Bongo had earlier identified a female energy that seemed to be reliving her last seconds and continuously replaying her leap off the 500ft cliff top.

This area was fenced off by a feeble wire and wooden posts, and the grass on the verge of the cliff edge was overgrown. There were a few crosses still situated in the ground and it was obvious that several people had used this area as a jumping point.

The team placed two digital voice recorders at the fence point. Mine was perched on top of the wooden fence pole and Rob Powell placed his directly below on the grass. We had the K2 meter to hand to check for any EMF fluctuations and began our next EVP session.



During this session, we all heard what sounded like a thud, and stopped to assess the situation. Although I was worried that it was made by something or someone falling onto the cliffs, I did not have any real evidence to suggest that a member of the public had possibly jumped close to where we were located. We would have seen

them in the vicinity, and put the sound down to rabbits or a hare thumping its feet to present a warning to the rest of them. The cliff was scattered with rabbit warrens and we did see several during the evening.

The session that ensued did not give us any results in terms of EMF readings or psychic perspectives; however upon analysis of the audio recordings, Rob Powell did capture a strange and eerie sound on his digital voice recorder.

The voice that he heard sounded female and is followed by a cry or wail of some sort.

We feel that the voice is saying something similar to, *'He wants me to come closer'*.

[EVP 2 - Beachy Head](#)

[EVP 2 - Beachy Head Amplified](#)

## **The Attack**

The time was now around 12.00 a.m. and we moved back to our starting point nearer the Beachy Head Pub footpath. This area of the cliff was very open and there were no barriers or fences to protect the team from the cliff edge.

We felt that we should try and carry out a final EVP session before the next break. This experiment was located at the point where Bongo and Phil Measey had earlier picked up on several energies. Phil was sure that a multiple or mass suicide had taken place at this very location and was adamant that we had to carry out our next session there.



We all settled down again and placed a K2 Meter, Modified Tri-Field Meter, EMF Cell Sensor and two digital voice recorders on the ground at the cliff edge. The whole session was also recorded on two Sony Camcorders.

The session seemed tense as if we were expecting something to happen. The Tri-Field Meter and K2 meter showed some activity at times by flashing the green and amber LED's. This indicated that there was a change in the Electromagnetic Field and a possible spiritual presence.

As the session drew to a close all EMF and temperature readings seemed within normal parameters. Suddenly Phil Measey yelled out and seemed to fall back to the ground. We all rushed towards him to check he was okay.

Phil looked visibly shaken, and was terrified. He explained that he had been grabbed around the head and then pushed to the ground, as if someone had tried to stop him getting closer to the edge of the cliff.

The attack on Phil had only lasted seconds, but it was enough to end the session and prompt us to begin to decipher what had just taken place.

This video shows the incident in question and some of Phil's initial response.

#### [Phil attacked at Beachy Head](#)

Phil had been attacked by what he considered to be a female spirit. Both Bongo and Phil spent some time discussing what had happened to try and identify the energy responsible. Phil had suggested energy by the name of Rachel was responsible, and Bongo felt that it was associated with an Irene. The rest of the team

seemed to be very perturbed by the incident, and we decided to walk back to the car park to assess the situation and gather our thoughts.



On our way back to the car park, the clear sky had now become cloudy and it had started to rain. The weather forecast had earlier stated that heavy rain and thunderstorms were due from around 01.00 until 05.00, and unfortunately we had to end our investigation and take shelter from the summer storm.

Most of the team felt able to drive home, but myself, Rob Powell, Bongo, and Phil Measey set up camp in our cars and spent the night.

The following morning, I awoke to dozens of rabbits running around the car park, as the sun broke through the rain clouds. The rain had finally stopped, and it looked set to be another beautiful day. The time was 5.10 a.m. and Rob and I decided to have a walk back up to the cliff top and take some more photographs.





Phil and Bongo joined us a short while later, and together we finished off recording further video for the report and television production, before heading off back home.

### **Bongo's Final Thoughts**

From distant replayed echoes of a repeating act to actual presence of spirit communication, all life in death wanders the cliff top at Beachy Head.

Our investigation was the most inspiring, at times consuming us with saddest tears but also bringing laughter and insight. The awesome beauty and sheer exhilaration of this place is both terrifying and beautiful to perceive.

On parts of the cliff edge the echoes of raw emotions appear to have almost ripped the fabric of the canvas on which this incredible landscape is painted. Surely no coward has ever plunged from this precipice?

Within the overwhelming sensation of helplessness and despair hides a thread of hope for the future, a personal empowerment and a positive decision to find freedom and true peace. Our team was permitted for a short while to step into the shadowed world of this place, and have become richer for the opportunity.

### **Is Beachy Head Haunted?**

Difficult question to answer, but based upon the limited evidence captured by the team, I am inclined to say yes! There are trapped souls there and many of them are re-living their final moments over and over again.

The information that Bongo had psychically received from a spirit called Mark seems to have been correct. She had identified that a 40 year old man called Mark had committed suicide here recently. She said that he was from the other side of the world, possibly Australia, and had worked or lived locally in a street similar to 'Marine Road or Lane'. Bongo mentioned that Mark was in trouble with the Police and after being investigated over something, he felt he had no choice but to end it all.

According to Bongo, Mark's body was flown home after his autopsy and she felt that Mark was sorry for what he had done.

G.P.S Trainee investigator and Researcher Sheena Prew, conducted some research into the names provided by our spiritualist medium and investigator Phil Measey.

### **Sheena found the following information:**

*New Zealand born Mark Baxendine, of Millgrove House, Marine Road, was found at cliffs at Beachy Head on December 3 2008. An inquest at Eastbourne Magistrates Court heard the 40-year-old had texted a friend saying, 'I will just say goodbye, I'm sorry I let you down' the same day he was arrested and questioned by Police.*

*A post mortem on Mr Baxendine, who worked at Seaside Dental Practice, gave his cause of death as multiple injuries and a toxicology report showed there was cannabis in his system.*

Information provided by [Eastbourne Today](#)

I would love to go back to Beachy Head again someday, and perhaps try different investigative techniques. I would recommend to any other group of paranormal

investigators to conduct EVP's there and account for wind direction and speed to reduce background noise and hiss.

## **Conclusion**

This investigation has made me think more about life than death. The beauty that surrounded us coupled with the feelings and emotions that captured our minds and hearts, has left a very lasting impression with us all.

The difficulties associated with outdoor paranormal investigations had all presented themselves throughout the night, and my team acted professionally and continued without raising an eyebrow.

The EVP sessions were all very good. The team asked the right questions and made every effort to maintain control, and logical reasoning. It was difficult for us all to pose questions into the wind with such powerful meaning without emotional consequence, and yet not be faced with anything tangible at the time to prove to us that we had in fact made contact with the spiritual energy of somebody that may have committed suicide here at Beachy Head.

After analysing all the video data and voice recorders used, we isolated two distinct audible anomalies. The first EVP where my name was clearly spoken by a male voice has caused me to be more aware of my presence whilst on investigation, and consider our impact and the possible influences we have.

The second EVP captured where a woman can be clearly heard speaking, followed by what sounds like a whimper, really gives significance to the claims that Beachy Head harbours lost souls. The spirits of those that have plummeted to their death by choice or not, may still remain here tormented in death as they were in life.

What did we encounter there? Was it residual energy or echoes of the past?, Or did we actually make contact with the spirit of a dead woman and a man?

Based upon the EVP recordings captured that night, I feel sure that we did record two distinct voices from beyond the grave!

In all the investigations that I have done, or witnessed, I have never captured such clear and interesting EVP responses.

Normally investigators receive very straightforward answers to their questions during the experiment, such as yes or no. But in our case we captured these disembodied voices before starting our string of questions.

Why do scores of people still throw themselves off these beautiful chalk cliffs? Why don't the local authority put six foot high fences around the cliff edge or block access to the cliff entirely to prevent further loss of life?

It is almost like a morbid social experiment. Is the media attention so lucrative to local businesses? Or is it just a plan that has not been agreed correctly and been caught up in the red tape?

I came away from this place with hundreds of thoughts flying around in my head. It just doesn't seem right, how one of the most beautiful and awe inspiring landscapes in England can be home to such tragic ruin and death.