



## **BLAIR ST VAULTS – EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND**

### **History**

The Edinburgh Vaults or South Bridge Vaults are a series of rooms under the South Bridge in Edinburgh, Scotland. The bridge opened in March 1788. Eighteen of the nineteen arches were enclosed behind tenement buildings built to allow the area to serve as a commercial district. The hidden arches of the bridge were then given extra floors to allow their use for industry. In total there are approximately 120 rooms or 'vaults' beneath the surface of the South Bridge, ranging in size from two metres squared to forty metres squared.

These Vault rooms, used as storage space and workshops for the South Bridge businesses, operated as intended for a relatively short space of time. Construction of the bridge had been rushed and the surface was never sealed against water. The vaults began to flood. Abandonment of the vaults began as early as 1795. Slum dwellers took over the vaults and they became a renowned red light district with countless brothels and pubs operating within the abandoned complex. The vaults also served as additional slum housing for the city's poor. Living conditions were appalling. The rooms were cramped, dark and damp. There was no sunlight, poorly circulated air, no running water, and no sanitation. Many rooms housed families of more than ten people. Crimes, including robbery and murder, soon plagued the Vaults. Burke and Hare, the infamous serial killers who sold corpses to medical schools, are rumoured to have hunted for victims in the Edinburgh Vaults.

### **Findings**

A very interesting place indeed but unfortunately no personal experience's occurred. It was very cold and wet that evening therefore audible's were mainly apportioned to drips.

Battery drain on equipment.

Possible EVP recording.