= The Hounds of Baskerville =

" The Hounds of Baskerville " is the second episode of the second series of the BBC crime drama series Sherlock , which follows the modern @-@ day adventures of Sherlock Holmes , and was first broadcast by BBC One on 8 January 2012 . It was written by co @-@ creator Mark Gatiss , who also portrays Mycroft Holmes , Sherlock 's brother in the series , and was directed by Paul McGuigan . The episode is a contemporary adaptation of The Hound of the Baskervilles , one of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle 's most famous works .

In the episode , Holmes (Benedict Cumberbatch) and his crime @-@ solving partner John Watson (Martin Freeman) take on the case of Henry Knight (Russell Tovey) , who 20 years earlier witnessed the brutal killing of his father by a " gigantic hound " on Dartmoor . The investigation leads the pair to Baskerville , a military research base . In the conclusion it is revealed that the hounds were images induced by a mind @-@ altering drug , a chemical weapon whose creator was in fact the real murderer of Henry 's father .

Because of the popularity of the novel , Gatiss felt a greater responsibility to include familiar elements of the story than he did when adapting the lesser @-@ known stories . The script was intended to follow elements of the horror genre and make the episode scary . As opposed to traditional ghost stories , Gatiss 's plot focused on more contemporary horrors , conspiracy theories and genetic modification . Filming was done throughout May 2011 , with additional shots taking place as late as August . Location shooting took place mostly across South Wales , though parts were shot in Dartmoor . The hound was created using visual effects .

After its broadcast on BBC One , the episode received consolidated figures of 10 @.@ 266 million viewers in the United Kingdom . This rating , although a slight drop from the previous episode , still represented the second largest audience in British television the week it aired . Critical reaction toward the episode was largely positive , with reviewers praising both the modernisation and its tonal fidelity to the original . Critics praised Cumberbatch , Freeman , and Tovey , as well as Sherlock 's " mind palace " sequence .

= = Plot = =

Sherlock (Benedict Cumberbatch) and John (Martin Freeman) receive a visit from Henry Knight (Russell Tovey) , who witnessed his father 's death by a " gigantic hound " at Dartmoor 20 years ago . After years of therapy , Henry visited the site again , only to see the hound again , prompting his request for help . Though initially dismissive , Sherlock is soon interested by Henry 's use of " hound " instead of " dog " . Sherlock and John arrive in Dartmoor to find the hound is a local legend . They visit Baskerville , a nearby Ministry of Defence research base , using Mycroft 's (Mark Gatiss) security pass . After Mycroft 's credentials cause a security alert , Dr. Bob Frankland (Clive Mantle) vouches for Sherlock 's identity , despite knowing the truth . Frankland says he was a friend of Henry 's father and is concerned for Henry 's well @-@ being .

Henry tells John and Sherlock about the words " Liberty " and " In " in his dreams . Sherlock , John , and Henry then visit the hollow in the hope of finding the hound . On the way , John notices what seems to be Morse code signals (these were unrelated ; they were headlight flashes from a group of doggers) . When Sherlock and Henry arrive at the hollow , they both see the hound . At a local inn , Sherlock is visibly shaken and confesses he saw the hound . John tries calming him , suggesting he 's imagining things . Sherlock reacts with anger , denying there is anything wrong with him . John tries to interview Henry 's therapist , Louise Mortimer (Sasha Behar) . However , they are interrupted by Frankland , who blows his cover . Meanwhile , Henry hallucinates the hound is stalking his home .

The next morning Sherlock realises " hound " may be an acronym rather than a word . The pair run into DI Lestrade (Rupert Graves) who was sent by Mycroft to keep an eye on Sherlock . They interrogate the innkeepers about a past order for meat that John has spotted , which struck him as odd for a vegetarian restaurant . The innkeepers kept a dog on the moor to boost the tourist trade , but assure the investigators they had put it down . This explanation satisfies Lestrade but not

Sherlock , who insists the dog he saw was monstrous . Calling Mycroft , Sherlock gains access to Baskerville again . Searching the lower levels of the genetics labs , John finds himself trapped and then hears growling which he assumes is the hound . Locking himself in an empty cage , he calls Sherlock , who rescues him . Sherlock deduces a chemical weapon designed to trigger violent hallucinations was responsible . Retreating into his " mind palace " , a memory technique , Sherlock realises " Liberty " and " In " stands for Liberty , Indiana . After viewing confidential files , he sees " H.O.U.N.D. " was a secret C.I.A. project aimed at creating a hallucinatory anti @-@ personnel chemical weapon , but the project was abandoned several years before . Sherlock realises Frankland , who participated in the project , has continued it in secret .

After John receives a call from Mortimer that Henry has run off with a gun , John , Sherlock and Lestrade run to the hollow to find Henry about to commit suicide . Sherlock explains the hound was an hallucination ; his father was actually killed by Frankland , who was wearing a gas mask and a sweater with " H.O.U.N.D. Liberty , In " on it ; a child couldn 't cope with this , so his mind tricked him . Every time Henry came back , Frankland gassed him with the hallucinogen ; the chemical agent is the fog they encountered at the hollow , triggered by pressure pads in the area . As Henry calms down , they all see the innkeepers ' dog ; John shoots it . Sherlock finds and catches Frankland at the scene . Henry realises that Frankland murdered Henry 's father , because he found him testing the drug . Frankland flees into the base 's minefield and gets blown up . As Sherlock and John prepare to leave the next morning , John wonders why he saw the hound in the lab despite not having inhaled the gas from the hollow . He realises that he was poisoned by leaking pipes in the laboratory earlier . He later realises Sherlock locked him in the labs in order to test his theory . He also points out Sherlock was wrong for once ; he believed the drug was in Henry 's sugar and put it in John 's coffee .

In the closing scenes , Mycroft oversees the release of Jim Moriarty (Andrew Scott) from a holding cell in which he has written Sherlock 's name all over the walls .

= = Production = =

= = = Casting = = =

In June 2011 , it was announced that Russell Tovey would appear in Sherlock series two in its second episode . Tovey , who liked Sherlock for staying true to the style of the novels despite its modern twist , said of the experience : " It 's amazing to be a part of it " , adding , " I got to act with Benedict and Martin which was awesome " . The actor also explained that during his scenes , " We did about two and a half weeks of night shoots in Cardiff and I felt like I had jetlag . " In terms of Henry 's character , Tovey did not want him to be a " jibbering wreck " , but rather mature and truthful as well as damaged and haunted . Gatiss also made Henry display signs of survivor guilt . Tovey 's nephew auditioned for the part of a younger Henry , but another child actor was cast for the role as the nephew was considered too young .

= = = Background and writing = = =

The episode was based on The Hound of the Baskervilles , first serialised in 1901 @-@ 1902 ; it is considered one of Arthur Conan Doyle 's most famous Holmes stories , as it was written after Doyle killed off Sherlock and , consequently , sold well . It was also one of the most adapted novels in the Sherlock Holmes series . Because of its popularity , writer Mark Gatiss felt a greater responsibility to include familiar elements of the story than he did when adapting the lesser @-@ known stories . Conan Doyle had killed off his famous character in the 1893 story " The Final Problem " , but bowed to popular pressure to write another Holmes adventure . Gatiss observed that Conan Doyle 's weariness with the character is demonstrated by Holmes ' absence for half of The Hound of the Baskervilles , in which Doctor Watson 's role is foregrounded .

In contrast to the original , however , the producers decided to centre Sherlock in their adaptation ,

so Sherlock only threatens to stay behind in London . In addition , the three episodes of the second series show Sherlock dealing , respectively , with love , fear , and death . Here , the producers wanted Sherlock , an arch @-@ rationalist , to confront something that seemed impossible , especially since their Sherlock is still a young character who has not experienced fear yet . Freeman stated that when he sees the hound , Sherlock becomes " really terrified " and for some time , stops trusting the evidence he has seen .

The producers also considered how to make the dog believable because , according to Gatiss , audiences always find the dog disappointing in the adaptations . Therefore , Gatiss wanted the solution to be more than a " dog with luminous paint " . In one scene , Henry has an hallucination in his home , wherein the hound sets off the bright security lights in his back garden . That scene is apparently based on the experience of co @-@ creator Steven Moffat and his executive producer and wife Sue Vertue , who also have bright security lights and are frequently startled whenever the lights turn on at night .

There were other differences from the novel . Henry Knight was based on Sir Henry Baskerville , but the character Barrymore , a butler in the book , became an Army major . Another character , Fletcher , was original to the episode ; the character was based on Bertram Fletcher Robinson , the journalist who assisted Doyle with the novel . In another scene , John notices what appears to be Morse code , but it is unrelated to the case . Moffat named it the funniest instance where the producers take an element from Doyle 's works and " do something cheeky with it " . The Baskerville base was based on Porton Down military science research centre . While conducting research for the episode , Gatiss learned that artists and scientists made a luminous rabbit , using the green fluorescent protein of a jellyfish , which formed the basis for a side story involving a " glow @-@ in @-@ the @-@ dark " rabbit created at Baskerville by Dr. Stapleton , the mother of the child who wrote to Sherlock at the beginning of the episode requesting that he help her find her missing rabbit . In the episode , it is specified that the spliced @-@ in " GFP gene " that had allowed the rabbit to glow had come from a jellyfish of the species Aequorea victoria . Also , Gatiss suggested the concept of a " mind palace " , a memory technique originating in Ancient Greece ; the idea came from a book by illusionist Derren Brown . This technique would lead Sherlock to the revelation of the secret H.O.U.N.D. project .

Early script drafts had Henry accidentally kill Louise Mortimer , but producers were never satisfied with this development , thinking Henry would have failed if she died . Writers also posited that Henry 's father 's murder involved revenge after he had an affair , but the producers and Gatiss found it easier to mention he died because he learned of Franklin 's experiments with the hallucinogenic gas . The ending also changed ; the final scene had originally involved Moriarty entering the Tower of London but that was held back for the following episode .

= = = Filming and effects = = =

" The Hounds of Baskerville " took around four weeks to film , with shooting mostly taking place throughout May 2011 . Additional scenes were shot later in July and August . Filming on location mostly took place across South Wales , with parts of the episode being shot on location in Dartmoor , even though the producers did not originally intend to do so . The first day took place at a cemetery . The producers were looking for a village in South Wales that was " very English @-@ looking . " Scenes of the fictional " Cross Keys " pub were filmed at the Bush Inn in St Hilary , Vale of Glamorgan . The production team donated £ 500 to the village after filming had finished . In one scene , after Sherlock first witnesses the hound , Sherlock makes deductions about a mother and son from a nearby table . In filming the scene , Cumberbatch has to recall multiple pages of monologue in front of camera , and had to talk faster than he was used to .

The scenes at Baskerville were filmed at a number of locations . The exterior was filmed at the gas works by Baverstocks near Llwydcoed in Mid Glamorgan . The labs meanwhile were filmed in two separate locations , one of which was a microchip processing facility . The switch between two locations meant that the crew had to transport a lift set . The scenes in Dewer 's Hollow , where the hound was sighted , was filmed near Castell Coch . The reveal scenes in the hollow took two nights

to film . At some point filming the scenes were delayed due to rain . The scenes shot in Dartmoor took place in areas such as Haytor and Hound Tor , the latter of which was said to be where the original story was set .

Throughout his scenes , Rupert Graves was tanned because before filming the episode , the actor was in Guadeloupe , an island on the Caribbean , appearing in Death in Paradise . As a result , Gatiss added mention that Lestrade went on holiday in the script . In the original episode , John was to hallucinate the hound at a meat storage locker . However , after visiting such a locker in Bristol , the producers came to realise that it would be too expensive , and cold for Freeman , forcing them to change the setting to the Baskerville labs . In one scene , Sherlock is driving a Land Rover with John as a passenger after their arrival at Dartmoor ; John was originally going to be the one driving the car , however Freeman cannot drive . In the client scenes , Tovey had to smoke a herbal cigarette as it was illegal to smoke real cigarettes on set . Throughout the episode , the production crew used split dioptres in certain scenes , a camera technique where two separate camera angles are at the same focus on screen . The episode also includes shots of the hound , which was produced by visual effects . Although the series used computer @-@ generated imagery (CGI) in the past , it was the first time a visual effect was made on a large scale . However , there was no guide for the cast to interact with .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" The Hounds of Baskerville " was first broadcast on BBC One on Sunday , 8 January 2012 between 8 : 30 p.m. and 10 : 00 p.m. It received preliminary overnight figures of 8 @.@ 16 million viewers with a 29 per cent audience share . It was down by almost 400 @,@ 000 from the previous week , but it was still the most seen broadcast in its timeslot , beating ITV1 drama Wild at Heart . When final ratings are factored , the episode saw an increase of more than two million viewers , totalling 10 @.@ 266 million viewers , making it the second most viewed programme for the week . The episode was later repeated on the digital channel BBC Three on Saturday , 14 January 2012 from 7pm , and was seen by 710 @,@ 000 viewers . It also became the most @-@ watched programme of 2012 on the online BBC iPlayer as of May , with over 1 @.@ 6 million views .

The British Board of Film Classification awarded the episode a 12 certificate for " moderate threat and violence . " The episode , which is accompanied by an audio commentary by Moffat , Gatiss , Tovey and Vertue , was released with the remainder of the second series in the UK on DVD and Blu @-@ ray disc on 23 January 2012 .

= = = Critical reception = = =

Reviews of the episode were mostly positive . In a pre @-@ broadcast review , Terry Ramsey of The Daily Telegraph labelled the story 's shift from a Gothic house to a military research base " an inspired piece of modernisation " . He praised the two lead actors , and say that " the script is sharp and witty and the updating is clever , while remaining true to the original . A modern classic . " Serena Davies , also of The Daily Telegraph praised the episode for being " pacy , sharp and witty , as we 've come to expect from the Moffat and Gatiss crack creative duo , and rather less inscrutable than the New Year episode . " Davies rated the episode four out of five stars . Chris Harvey , again from The Daily Telegraph identified a range of clues , cultural references and possible inspirations . He suggests that the scene in which " Sherlock Holmes clambered alone to the top of a Dartmoor mound and surveyed the landscape below , it appeared to be a direct visual reference to ... Wanderer above the Sea of Fog " by 19th century German Romantic landscape painter Caspar David Friedrich . Harvey also identified several references to Thomas Harris ' character Hannibal Lecter , plot similarities to the 2005 film Batman Begins , and jokes similar to Scooby @-@ Doo .

Sam Wollaston , for The Guardian , favourably compared " The Hounds of Baskerville " to " A Scandal in Belgravia " , writing that the episode " has a 21st @-@ century pace to it , and fizzes with the wit we 've come to expect from Sherlock ... [recapturing] the essence of The Hound of the Baskervilles ... like the original , it 's properly creepy " . The Radio Times 's David Butcher compared

the episode to Steven Moffat 's series opener , " A Scandal in Belgravia " , saying this " is more of a creepy affair , all jittery camerawork , paranoia and suspense . " Christopher Hootan of Metro thought the episode was " the perfect marriage of misty , moor @-@ based foreboding and modern , fast @-@ paced thriller , " adding that " with a breakneck script and captivating acting from Benedict Cumberbatch , Sherlock offers about the fastest hour and a half of television going at the moment . "

Louisa Mellor of Den of Geek believed the episode was " well @-@ schooled " in the horror genre , " with plenty of freaking out and jumping at shadows . Arnold and Price 's elegant music came to the fore wonderfully in the largely wordless scenes of Watson and Henry 's fearful hallucinations . " Mellor was also appreciative of McGuigan 's " stylish hand " as director , particularly highlighting the " mind palace " sequence , as well as Tovey 's performance as Henry Knight and for " once again " seeing Watson 's role for being " more than just sigh exasperatedly at his flatmate and apologise to others on Sherlock 's behalf . " In summary , the reviewer stated " I can only echo Sherlock 's own closing words to Henry : " This case , thank you , it 's been brilliant " . " Chris Tilly of IGN rated the episode a " good " 7 out of 10 , but stated that although the it was " full of mystery and intrigue , " the central story " wasn 't strong enough to fill the 90 @-@ minute run @-@ time , running out of steam at the mid @-@ way point and padded out with irrelevant and at times exasperating efforts to throw the audience off the scent . " Tilly praised Cumberbatch 's performance as a mentally broke down Holmes , and Freeman for being " let off the leash this week , with Watson investigating solo on a couple of occasions , " and also thought Tovey was a " fine addition to the ensemble . "
David Lewis of CultBox called it " a pretty straightforward thriller about chemical warfare , cover @-@ ups and a colossal canine . It 's also suspenseful , spooky and superb . " The reviewer also commented on the hound 's appearance : " It isn 't [mutant] , of course ? just an evil @-@ looking mutt hired by Gary and Billy to drum up business for their boozer ? and happily , like all the previous hounds that have haunted Holmes in film and TV for nearly a hundred years , it looks gloriously rubbish when it finally appears . " Lewis rated the episode four out of five stars . Morgan Jeffery of Digital Spy thought the " The Hounds of Baskerville " was " an excellent installment of Sherlock ? fun , moody and , at times , genuinely scary . " Jeffery felt that the final realisation of the hound was impressive , and praised the CGI work , as well as the performance of Cumberbatch and Freeman .
However , some critics gave the episode mixed to negative reviews . Tom Ryan of WhatCulture rated the episode two and a half out of five stars , summing up the review with ; " Given the popularity of the original book and the success thus far of the current TV series , it is safe to assume that last nights episode was perhaps the most eagerly anticipated installment of the show since its inception . Too bad then that it was so underwhelming . " The Guardian writer Stuart Heritage stated ; " Last night 's Hounds of Baskervilles wasn 't quite as rapturously received as other adventures , perhaps because of the amount of time that Cumberbatch and Freeman spent apart . The whole middle section , where Watson stormed off in a huff after being subjected to another one of Sherlock 's baroque " that man is left @-@ handed and also has dog hair on one of his socks " monologues , felt slow and flat precisely because there was none of the chemistry between the two leads that we 've come to expect from Sherlock . " Jim Shelley of the Daily Mirror stated that the episode was " a disappointment , " adding that the contrasting reveal of the hound from the original book was " a tedious treatise against vivisection . " However , Shelley stated that he enjoyed the " mind palace " scene .