

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:07,800

From the Dark Ages comes one of the greatest stories in history.

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00:00:07,800 --> 00:00:10,600

Arthur was the leader of the Britons.

3

00:00:10,600 --> 00:00:14,080

His tale is the cornerstone of British mythology.

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00:00:14,080 --> 00:00:16,200

The question is, is he actually down there somewhere?

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00:00:16,200 --> 00:00:20,200

But was the legendary King Arthur a real man?

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00:00:20,200 --> 00:00:22,120

This is incredible.

7

00:00:22,120 --> 00:00:27,600

It almost looks like a structure beneath.

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00:00:27,600 --> 00:00:29,600

It's really slick in here.

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00:00:29,600 --> 00:00:33,600

This is where the actual event happened.

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00:00:33,600 --> 00:00:36,600

We're talking about a very different King Arthur.

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00:00:44,600 --> 00:00:48,600

King Arthur is the ultimate knight in shining armor.

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00:00:48,600 --> 00:00:55,600

Raised by the wizard Merlin, he lifted a magical sword from a stone to become king.

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00:00:55,600 --> 00:01:02,600

In his court at Camelot, he formed a society of noble soldiers known as the Knights of the Round Table.

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00:01:02,600 --> 00:01:10,600

Along with the brave Galahad and Lancelot, Arthur united the Britons to defeat an army of invaders.

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00:01:10,600 --> 00:01:14,600

His story is a fairy tale. Or is it?

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00:01:14,600 --> 00:01:19,600

What if everything you think you know about King Arthur is dead wrong?

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00:01:19,600 --> 00:01:28,600

Archaeologists and historians across Great Britain are making discoveries that could prove the existence of a flesh and blood king.

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00:01:28,600 --> 00:01:35,600

In a ruined castle on the coast of England, a mysterious inscription could verify Arthur's birthplace.

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00:01:35,600 --> 00:01:42,600

In pitch black caves in the country of Wales, explorers may be closing in on his long lost remains.

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00:01:42,600 --> 00:01:49,600

And to the north, one historian believes that Arthur wasn't a king at all, but something else entirely.

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00:01:49,600 --> 00:01:58,600

My mission is to examine the newest evidence across Great Britain and to lift the veil on one of the greatest mysteries of all time.

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00:01:58,600 --> 00:02:02,600

Was King Arthur real? And if so, who was he?

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00:02:06,600 --> 00:02:09,600

My name is Josh Gates.

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00:02:09,600 --> 00:02:14,600

To the degree in archaeology and a passion for exploration.

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00:02:14,600 --> 00:02:18,600

I have a tendency to end up in some very strange situations.

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00:02:18,600 --> 00:02:21,600

God, Lord!

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00:02:21,600 --> 00:02:27,600

My travels have taken me to the ends of the earth as I investigate the greatest legends in history.

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00:02:27,600 --> 00:02:29,600

We're good to try, let's go.

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00:02:29,600 --> 00:02:32,600

This is Expedition Unknown.

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00:02:40,600 --> 00:02:43,600

Welcome to England.

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00:02:43,600 --> 00:02:48,600

You might be wondering what I'm doing in the freezing waters of the North Atlantic.

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00:02:48,600 --> 00:02:52,600

Actually, right about now I'm wondering the same thing.

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00:02:52,600 --> 00:02:58,600

I'm here to begin my quest for the truth behind the legend of King Arthur.

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00:02:58,600 --> 00:03:03,600

Along these cliffs is a place known as Tintagel Castle.

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00:03:03,600 --> 00:03:08,600

This is the birthplace of the King Arthur legend.

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00:03:24,600 --> 00:03:28,600

So this is what's known as Merlin's Cave.

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00:03:28,600 --> 00:03:32,600

It's a sea cave and in the next few hours it'll be mostly underwater.

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00:03:32,600 --> 00:03:35,600

The ocean to Tintagel Castle above.

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00:03:35,600 --> 00:03:39,600

This is where the baby King Arthur first meets the wizard Merlin.

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00:03:39,600 --> 00:03:43,600

The question has always been is this story true or is it a fairy tale?

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00:03:43,600 --> 00:03:49,600

Well, there's been an archaeological discovery in the castle above that may settle the question once and for all.

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00:03:54,600 --> 00:03:56,600

The fortress is too new to be Arthur's.

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00:03:56,600 --> 00:03:59,600

It was built by the Earl of Cornwall in the 13th century.

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00:03:59,600 --> 00:04:03,600

But there may be evidence here that predates the castle.

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00:04:07,600 --> 00:04:11,600

Archaeologist Wynne Scud has been studying these ruins for years.

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00:04:11,600 --> 00:04:14,600

First of all, this is a dramatic place.

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00:04:14,600 --> 00:04:19,600

It is. It's just I think the most spectacular place in the whole of Britain actually to put a castle.

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00:04:19,600 --> 00:04:22,600

This site is strongly associated with the Arthur legend.

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00:04:22,600 --> 00:04:24,600

Yeah, this is where he was supposed to be conceived.

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00:04:24,600 --> 00:04:28,600

It's probably because of that that Richard Earl of Cornwall decides to build this castle.

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00:04:28,600 --> 00:04:31,600

So in a way, it's a commemoration of that legend.

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00:04:31,600 --> 00:04:34,600

But to understand that legend, we need to place it in history.

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00:04:34,600 --> 00:04:39,600

Today, the island of Great Britain is comprised of England, Scotland and Wales.

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00:04:39,600 --> 00:04:41,600

2000 years ago, however.

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00:04:43,600 --> 00:04:47,600

This was Britannia, the far flung edge of the Roman Empire.

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00:04:47,600 --> 00:04:51,600

But by the 5th century AD, the Romans abandoned the island.

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00:04:51,600 --> 00:04:56,600

Almost overnight, civilization crashes and the Dark Ages begin.

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00:04:56,600 --> 00:05:00,600

Invaders from all sides seize the opportunity to conquer.

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00:05:00,600 --> 00:05:07,600

Irish from the west, Picts from the north, and from the east, the most dangerous of all, the Saxons.

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00:05:07,600 --> 00:05:12,600

According to legend, a warrior king named Arthur emerges from amidst the chaos

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00:05:12,600 --> 00:05:15,600

to defend the Britons against the invading horde.

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00:05:15,600 --> 00:05:19,600

So the story of Arthur is really, Arthur was the leader of the Britons.

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00:05:19,600 --> 00:05:25,600

And so he galvanized all these people to fight these pesky Saxons coming in.

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00:05:25,600 --> 00:05:30,600

So if Arthur was a real man, we're talking about someone who would have been alive in the 6th century?

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00:05:30,600 --> 00:05:35,600

Well, in the 6th century. Yeah, yeah, somewhere 5th, 6th century, something like that.

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00:05:35,600 --> 00:05:39,600

If that's the case though, Arthur's home is in the Dark Ages.

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00:05:39,600 --> 00:05:44,600

Forget images of a stately king and an imposing stone castle, or knights in shining armor,

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00:05:44,600 --> 00:05:47,600

or the crusades or the quest for the holy grail.

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00:05:47,600 --> 00:05:51,600

None of that stuff shows up until hundreds of years later in the medieval era,

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00:05:51,600 --> 00:05:55,600

which is when romantic writers started spinning tales about Arthur.

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00:05:55,600 --> 00:05:59,600

In the 5th, 6th century, we're talking about a very different king, Arthur.

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00:05:59,600 --> 00:06:04,600

Very, very different. They aren't what we imagine to be medieval knights, unfortunately.

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00:06:04,600 --> 00:06:11,600

He wouldn't have all that age of chivalry, medieval armor, looking absolutely fantastic on his horse and everything.

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00:06:11,600 --> 00:06:14,600

I think he would have looked much more like a Roman soldier.

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00:06:14,600 --> 00:06:19,600

So the question is, if the castle is from the 13th century, but Arthur was back in the 5th, 6th century,

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00:06:19,600 --> 00:06:25,600

was there something here before this castle? Could there be anything to the legend that originally this was the place he was born?

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00:06:25,600 --> 00:06:29,600

Well, yes. Amazing things seem to have been happening here in the 6th century.

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00:06:31,600 --> 00:06:35,600

Beneath the 13th century ruins, there is evidence of older structures,

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00:06:35,600 --> 00:06:38,600

most of which still remain totally unexcavated.

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00:06:38,600 --> 00:06:43,600

In fact, there are tens, possibly hundreds of these covering the island.

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00:06:43,600 --> 00:06:47,600

So at some stage, there was some kind of major settlement here.

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00:06:47,600 --> 00:06:52,600

And recently, we've made a really special find, really rare, an inscription.

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00:06:52,600 --> 00:06:53,600

Really?

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00:06:56,600 --> 00:06:59,600

Well, that's incredible, but here is the most important bit.

85

00:06:59,600 --> 00:07:07,600

A-R-T-O-G-N-O-V-O-U.

86

00:07:07,600 --> 00:07:11,600

So, Artognu, this is known as the Artognu inscription.

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00:07:11,600 --> 00:07:15,600

And that got everybody really excited when they saw the art.

88

00:07:15,600 --> 00:07:18,600

Is this Arthur? So this is a personal name.

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00:07:18,600 --> 00:07:21,600

It may well refer to him. And it's at the right period.

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00:07:21,600 --> 00:07:24,600

And to potentially be linked to Arthur himself.

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00:07:24,600 --> 00:07:26,600

I mean, everybody was really excited.

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00:07:26,600 --> 00:07:29,600

Now we've got writing actually connecting us to that period.

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00:07:29,600 --> 00:07:32,600

So the dark-aided aren't quite so dark as they were.

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00:07:32,600 --> 00:07:33,600

Right.

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00:07:34,600 --> 00:07:41,600

The discovery is far from conclusive, but it does show that a historical King Arthur could have been born here in Tintagel.

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00:07:42,600 --> 00:07:47,600

And today, the tiny village isn't exactly shy about making the connection.

97

00:07:51,600 --> 00:07:55,600

In the legend, Arthur becomes King by pulling the famous sword from the stone.

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00:07:55,600 --> 00:07:58,600

Here's my chance to finally get the respect I deserve.

99

00:08:01,600 --> 00:08:03,600

It was meant to be King.

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00:08:03,600 --> 00:08:06,600

I got it. Just gotta get under it, I think.

101

00:08:06,600 --> 00:08:09,600

Come on. Please, please.

102

00:08:09,600 --> 00:08:12,600

Come on, you son of a... Please, I want to be King.

103

00:08:14,600 --> 00:08:16,600

Okay, somebody give me a saw.

104

00:08:17,600 --> 00:08:21,600

And of course, the locals are happy to make a pound or two off their hometown hero.

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00:08:29,600 --> 00:08:33,600

I haven't yet found King Arthur, but I did find another medieval ruler.

106

00:08:33,600 --> 00:08:35,600

Come on.

107

00:08:35,600 --> 00:08:37,600

It's his medieval and it's a ruler.

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00:08:37,600 --> 00:08:39,600

That's... nobody?

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00:08:41,600 --> 00:08:45,600

Here it is, the legendary sword Excalibur, and its ancient inscription,

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00:08:45,600 --> 00:08:50,600

made in China, potential choking hazard not for children under three.

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00:08:51,600 --> 00:08:53,600

What does it mean?

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00:08:53,600 --> 00:08:56,600

It's clear Arthur is alive and well in the retail sector,

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00:08:56,600 --> 00:09:01,600

but in order to get to the bottom of whether he was a flesh-and-blood hero, I need to hit the road.

114

00:09:02,600 --> 00:09:05,600

I'm very proud of the fact that I'm half-English.

115

00:09:05,600 --> 00:09:10,600

My mother was born here, my parents met here, my grandmother still lives here.

116

00:09:10,600 --> 00:09:13,600

This is a place that I have a real attachment to.

117

00:09:13,600 --> 00:09:16,600

My mom would read me the Arthur stories when I was a kid, and I always loved that story,

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00:09:16,600 --> 00:09:19,600

and I always saw Arthur in the way I guess we all do,

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00:09:19,600 --> 00:09:23,600

which is that kind of medieval, chivalrous knight in shining armor.

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00:09:23,600 --> 00:09:28,600

But quickly realizing that all of that, there's little resemblance to Arthur.

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00:09:28,600 --> 00:09:33,600

From Cornwall in southwest England, I'm driving 120 miles to Glastonbury Abbey,

122

00:09:33,600 --> 00:09:35,600

or what's left of it.

123

00:09:46,600 --> 00:09:48,600

This is Glastonbury Abbey.

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00:09:48,600 --> 00:09:55,600

Today it's really just a skeleton of what was one of the richest and most powerful monasteries in all of England.

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00:09:55,600 --> 00:10:00,600

And in the very late 12th century, the monks here claimed to make an incredible discovery.

126

00:10:00,600 --> 00:10:05,600

They claimed to find the bones of King Arthur and his wife, one of you.

127

00:10:07,600 --> 00:10:10,600

In the 12th century, King Arthur was already a celebrity,

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00:10:10,600 --> 00:10:15,600

so the discovery of his grave turned Glastonbury into a medieval tourist attraction.

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00:10:15,600 --> 00:10:18,600

The monks claimed to discover two skeletons in a coffin,

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00:10:18,600 --> 00:10:21,600

and a cross identifying them as Arthur and Gwyneth.

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00:10:21,600 --> 00:10:23,600

There's just one problem.

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00:10:23,600 --> 00:10:25,600

It's almost certainly a hoax.

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00:10:26,600 --> 00:10:31,600

After all, the monastery had just suffered a major fire and was on hard times.

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00:10:31,600 --> 00:10:34,600

The monks suspiciously well timed discovery of Arthur's bones

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00:10:34,600 --> 00:10:38,600

ensured they'd have all the donations they needed to rebuild.

136

00:10:38,600 --> 00:10:42,600

And as for the so-called Glastonbury Cross, it was lost to history.

137

00:10:45,600 --> 00:10:48,600

Okay, so the monastery was a very important place to be.

138

00:10:49,600 --> 00:10:52,600

Okay, so the grave might be a bust,

139

00:10:52,600 --> 00:10:57,600

but I've got a recent lead on a place where the real King Arthur might actually be buried.

140

00:11:00,600 --> 00:11:02,600

It almost looks like a structure beneath him.

141

00:11:02,600 --> 00:11:04,600

Oh, what is that right there?

142

00:11:04,600 --> 00:11:05,600

Oh my God, look at this.

143

00:11:05,600 --> 00:11:06,600

That's amazing!

144

00:11:06,600 --> 00:11:13,600

In England, my search for a flesh and blood King Arthur has taken me from his legendary birthplace in Tintagel

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00:11:13,600 --> 00:11:17,600

to a historic dead end at his supposed grave in Glastonbury.

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00:11:17,600 --> 00:11:21,600

However, to the west, there's a group of explorers who might be on the verge of discovering

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00:11:21,600 --> 00:11:24,600

where the real King Arthur was laid to rest.

148

00:11:24,600 --> 00:11:28,600

To join them, I'm back in the car and driving across the border

149

00:11:28,600 --> 00:11:31,600

into the cemetery of the King Arthur.

150

00:11:31,600 --> 00:11:33,600

Welcome to Wales.

151

00:11:33,600 --> 00:11:36,600

The wild, untamed edge of Britain.

152

00:11:36,600 --> 00:11:38,600

This is Wales.

153

00:11:38,600 --> 00:11:42,600

It looks a lot like England except everything is spelled really funny.

154

00:11:42,600 --> 00:11:47,600

Mrr, mrr, mrr.

155

00:11:47,600 --> 00:11:50,600

This is the place where the King Arthur was laid to rest.

156

00:11:50,600 --> 00:11:54,600

I'm back in the car and driving across the border into the country of Wales

157

00:11:54,600 --> 00:11:56,600

to a spot known as Denus Rock.

158

00:11:56,600 --> 00:11:58,600

One, two, three, four.

159

00:11:58,600 --> 00:12:03,600

Mrr, mrr, mrr, mrr.

160

00:12:03,600 --> 00:12:05,600

Mrr, tiff, tiff, tiff.

161

00:12:05,600 --> 00:12:08,600

Headed over to Mrr, tiff, tiff, tiff.

162

00:12:08,600 --> 00:12:10,600

Sure, that's where I'm supposed to be headed.

163

00:12:10,600 --> 00:12:14,600

The Welsh people have always had an uneasy relationship with their English neighbors

164

00:12:14,600 --> 00:12:17,600

since being conquered by them in the 11th century.

165

00:12:17,600 --> 00:12:19,600

But in Arthur's time, there was no England.

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00:12:19,600 --> 00:12:21,600

This was all part of Britannia.

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00:12:21,600 --> 00:12:27,600

Today, the Welsh people are the closest genetic link to the original settlers of Britain.

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00:12:28,600 --> 00:12:33,600

A Welsh monk named Neneus also provided the earliest written account of Arthur's story

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00:12:33,600 --> 00:12:37,600

and many of the names from those tales are Welsh in origin.

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00:12:37,600 --> 00:12:40,600

All versions of the Arthur legend have him mortally wounded in battle

171

00:12:40,600 --> 00:12:43,600

at the hands of the villainous mortuary.

172

00:12:43,600 --> 00:12:45,600

But then things get murky.

173

00:12:45,600 --> 00:12:49,600

In English lore, Arthur goes to the mysterious island of Avalon.

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00:12:49,600 --> 00:12:53,600

But in Wales, it's believed the wizard Merlin preserved the knights of the round table

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00:12:53,600 --> 00:12:55,600

in a cave under a mountain,

176

00:12:55,600 --> 00:12:58,600

and those caves may well have been found.

177

00:12:58,600 --> 00:13:02,600

I pull off the road to meet with cavers Gary Evans and Andy Freem,

178

00:13:02,600 --> 00:13:05,600

who spend more time underground than anyone you'd want to meet.

179

00:13:05,600 --> 00:13:08,600

You guys look like you mean business.

180

00:13:08,600 --> 00:13:09,600

We're ready.

181

00:13:09,600 --> 00:13:10,600

We're ready to go.

182

00:13:10,600 --> 00:13:14,600

Gary and Andy have been exploring the underside of Wales for years,

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00:13:14,600 --> 00:13:18,600

and they may be closing in on the legendary location of Arthur's remains.

184

00:13:18,600 --> 00:13:21,600

It says that Arthur and his knights are still sleeping underground

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00:13:21,600 --> 00:13:24,600

below a place called Cragadinos, Dinos Rock,

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00:13:24,600 --> 00:13:26,600

and Arthur remains there waiting to be called...

187

00:13:26,600 --> 00:13:27,600

In theory.

188

00:13:27,600 --> 00:13:28,600

In theory.

189

00:13:28,600 --> 00:13:30,600

The question is, is he actually down there somewhere?

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00:13:30,600 --> 00:13:34,600

There is an enormous amount of hidden world underneath us.

191

00:13:34,600 --> 00:13:35,600

I can't wait to see it.

192

00:13:35,600 --> 00:13:36,600

Let's get suited up.

193

00:13:36,600 --> 00:13:37,600

Okay, good. Let's do it.

194

00:13:37,600 --> 00:13:38,600

Let's do that.

195

00:13:38,600 --> 00:13:39,600

I'm going to go this way.

196

00:13:39,600 --> 00:13:42,600

My companions and I get ready for the adventure ahead.

197

00:13:42,600 --> 00:13:43,600

That's cave.

198

00:13:43,600 --> 00:13:44,600

That's cave.

199

00:13:45,600 --> 00:13:47,600

We trek to the cave entrance near Dinos Rock,

200

00:13:47,600 --> 00:13:50,600

where the knights are said to lie sleeping.

201

00:13:50,600 --> 00:13:53,600

In realistic terms, what we're looking for is a tomb.

202

00:13:55,600 --> 00:13:56,600

So this is the entrance to the cave.

203

00:13:56,600 --> 00:13:57,600

And another caver.

204

00:13:57,600 --> 00:13:59,600

And another caver, which is Antonia, my wife.

205

00:13:59,600 --> 00:14:00,600

Very nice to meet you.

206

00:14:00,600 --> 00:14:01,600

She's going to join us today.

207

00:14:01,600 --> 00:14:02,600

So this is the entrance to the cave.

208

00:14:02,600 --> 00:14:03,600

Very discreet entrance.

209

00:14:03,600 --> 00:14:04,600

Yes, it is.

210

00:14:04,600 --> 00:14:05,600

It's a man-made entrance.

211

00:14:05,600 --> 00:14:07,600

It was frowned from the inside.

212

00:14:07,600 --> 00:14:11,600

Originally, it took about eight hours to get to the cave passage,

213

00:14:11,600 --> 00:14:13,600

which is behind the entrance.

214

00:14:13,600 --> 00:14:15,600

This doorway was dug out by cavers.

215

00:14:15,600 --> 00:14:18,600

It's a massive shortcut that bypasses miles of tunnels

216

00:14:18,600 --> 00:14:21,600

and gets us closer to unexplored sections of the cave.

217

00:14:21,600 --> 00:14:22,600

Enter the dark.

218

00:14:22,600 --> 00:14:24,600

So what is down there?

219

00:14:24,600 --> 00:14:26,600

That's what we're going to find out, if you like.

220

00:14:26,600 --> 00:14:28,600

Andy, is this a bad time to tell you that I'm claustrophobic?

221

00:14:28,600 --> 00:14:30,600

Yeah, slightly.

222

00:14:30,600 --> 00:14:31,600

I guess I'm committed now.

223

00:14:31,600 --> 00:14:32,600

Yeah, I think you could be.

224

00:14:32,600 --> 00:14:33,600

OK, here we go.

225

00:14:36,600 --> 00:14:39,600

The caves are pitch black and to the untrained eye

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00:14:39,600 --> 00:14:41,600

look like a subterranean temple.

227

00:14:41,600 --> 00:14:44,600

This is absolutely amazing.

228

00:14:44,600 --> 00:14:46,600

It's a fantastic passage.

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00:14:46,600 --> 00:14:49,600

Loads and loads of beautiful formations.

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00:14:49,600 --> 00:14:52,600

In terms of the legend of Arthur's resting place,

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00:14:52,600 --> 00:14:56,600

does it tell us specifically what the cave looks like

232

00:14:56,600 --> 00:14:57,600

or what the conditions are?

233

00:14:57,600 --> 00:14:58,600

Are there any clues?

234

00:14:58,600 --> 00:15:01,600

Well, it's interesting, because this is where Merlin comes back

235

00:15:01,600 --> 00:15:04,600

into the legend, and the legend says that he put the knight's

236

00:15:04,600 --> 00:15:07,600

and Arthur to sleep, and then he obscured the entrance

237

00:15:07,600 --> 00:15:08,600

and no one would find it.

238

00:15:08,600 --> 00:15:11,600

So that means that we really know nothing about where exactly

239

00:15:11,600 --> 00:15:13,600

it is, what it looks like.

240

00:15:13,600 --> 00:15:16,600

Archaeologically, what's been discovered down here so far?

241

00:15:16,600 --> 00:15:20,600

Near the entrances, there are some enticing finds

242

00:15:20,600 --> 00:15:23,600

with the body of a man curled up in the corner.

243

00:15:23,600 --> 00:15:28,600

We don't know its age, and it was certainly

244

00:15:28,600 --> 00:15:30,600

probably something in the region that led to evil.

245

00:15:30,600 --> 00:15:33,600

At another entrance was the skull of a horse.

246

00:15:36,600 --> 00:15:38,600

Now, it's very unusual to see that.

247

00:15:38,600 --> 00:15:40,600

No indication it was Arthur down here.

248

00:15:40,600 --> 00:15:41,600

None at all.

249

00:15:41,600 --> 00:15:42,600

Still looking for that?

250

00:15:42,600 --> 00:15:43,600

It would be nice if we could.

251

00:15:43,600 --> 00:15:45,600

All right, well, on we go.

252

00:15:45,600 --> 00:15:46,600

Indeed.

253

00:15:51,600 --> 00:15:54,600

We carry on into the darkness.

254

00:15:54,600 --> 00:15:56,600

It's like this.

255

00:15:56,600 --> 00:15:57,600

That's it.

256

00:15:59,600 --> 00:16:05,600

One hour turns to two, and two turns to four.

257

00:16:05,600 --> 00:16:07,600

I'm totally unsure how deep we are,

258

00:16:07,600 --> 00:16:10,600

but the really unnerving part is that there's more than 50 miles

259

00:16:10,600 --> 00:16:12,600

of tunnels down here.

260

00:16:12,600 --> 00:16:14,600

You all right there, Josh?

261

00:16:14,600 --> 00:16:16,600

Yeah, doing great.

262

00:16:25,600 --> 00:16:26,600

Whoa, hang on there.

263

00:16:26,600 --> 00:16:27,600

Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa.

264

00:16:27,600 --> 00:16:28,600

What do you say to that?

265

00:16:30,600 --> 00:16:31,600

Holy shit.

266

00:16:31,600 --> 00:16:34,600

That just drops straight down.

267

00:16:36,600 --> 00:16:38,600

How deep is that?

268

00:16:38,600 --> 00:16:39,600

I don't know.

269

00:16:39,600 --> 00:16:41,600

I really don't know how far down that is.

270

00:16:41,600 --> 00:16:43,600

OK, so what's the move now?

271

00:16:43,600 --> 00:16:47,600

So we have a choice, and we could descend this by rope.

272

00:16:47,600 --> 00:16:48,600

Or we can go to the pub.

273

00:16:48,600 --> 00:16:49,600

We can go to the surface and get a drink.

274

00:16:49,600 --> 00:16:50,600

Or we can go back, exactly.

275

00:16:50,600 --> 00:16:51,600

Tough choice.

276

00:16:51,600 --> 00:16:52,600

OK.

277

00:16:52,600 --> 00:16:53,600

Let's do it.

278

00:16:54,600 --> 00:16:56,600

We prepare to repel down the cliff,

279

00:16:56,600 --> 00:16:58,600

which means lots of clips and harnesses

280

00:16:58,600 --> 00:17:02,600

to make sure that I don't make the trip at terminal velocity.

281

00:17:02,600 --> 00:17:03,600

All right, Andy, you ready?

282

00:17:03,600 --> 00:17:04,600

Yeah, I'm going to go.

283

00:17:04,600 --> 00:17:07,600

Let me know if you find King Arthur down there.

284

00:17:08,600 --> 00:17:17,600

OK, Josh, ready for you to come down.

285

00:17:22,600 --> 00:17:26,600

OK, so it's turning around here.

286

00:17:26,600 --> 00:17:28,600

OK, I'm headed down.

287

00:17:28,600 --> 00:17:29,600

OK.

288

00:17:35,600 --> 00:17:37,600

Whoo, slippery.

289

00:17:37,600 --> 00:17:39,600

Very slippery.

290

00:17:39,600 --> 00:17:42,600

Looks like kind of a free hang under here, Andy.

291

00:17:42,600 --> 00:17:44,600

Yeah, very slippery.

292

00:17:44,600 --> 00:17:45,600

That's it.

293

00:17:45,600 --> 00:17:46,600

Keep coming down.

294

00:17:46,600 --> 00:17:47,600

Down, down, down.

295

00:17:47,600 --> 00:17:48,600

Whoa.

296

00:17:48,600 --> 00:17:50,600

Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa.

297

00:17:51,600 --> 00:17:54,600

In a cavern deep beneath Wales, I'm on the hunt

298

00:17:54,600 --> 00:17:57,600

for the real-life resting place of the legendary King Arthur.

299

00:17:57,600 --> 00:17:58,600

Whoo-hoo.

300

00:17:58,600 --> 00:17:59,600

Hang on there, sir.

301

00:17:59,600 --> 00:18:00,600

Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa.

302

00:18:00,600 --> 00:18:01,600

Do you see it there?

303

00:18:01,600 --> 00:18:04,600

And from the looks of it, it might be a one-way trip.

304

00:18:04,600 --> 00:18:06,600

Down, down, down, down.

305

00:18:06,600 --> 00:18:08,600

Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa.

306

00:18:08,600 --> 00:18:10,600

Really slick in here.

307

00:18:10,600 --> 00:18:11,600

Got it.

308

00:18:11,600 --> 00:18:13,600

Very slippery.

309

00:18:13,600 --> 00:18:14,600

That's it.

310

00:18:14,600 --> 00:18:15,600

Get going as I.

311

00:18:15,600 --> 00:18:16,600

There you are.

312

00:18:21,600 --> 00:18:23,600

OK, I'm down.

313

00:18:23,600 --> 00:18:25,600

OK, slack now.

314

00:18:25,600 --> 00:18:28,600

Back on solid footing, we resume our search for the burial site.

315

00:18:28,600 --> 00:18:30,600

Six of us have been killed.

316

00:18:30,600 --> 00:18:31,600

We're going to go down.

317

00:18:31,600 --> 00:18:32,600

OK, I'm down.

318

00:18:32,600 --> 00:18:33,600

OK, I'm down.

319

00:18:33,600 --> 00:18:34,600

OK, slack now.

320

00:18:34,600 --> 00:18:37,600

Back on solid footing, we resume our search for the burial site.

321

00:18:37,600 --> 00:18:39,600

See what's down here.

322

00:18:39,600 --> 00:18:45,600

We climb and crawl through chamber after chamber, hoping for any sign of human presence.

323

00:18:45,600 --> 00:18:46,600

Look at this place.

324

00:18:46,600 --> 00:18:47,600

This is crazy.

325

00:18:47,600 --> 00:18:48,600

Oops.

326

00:18:48,600 --> 00:18:49,600

Oh, it's wet.

327

00:18:49,600 --> 00:18:51,600

I'm sure this water is going to be warm.

328

00:18:51,600 --> 00:18:53,600

Oh, come on.

329

00:18:53,600 --> 00:18:55,600

I'm going to get some water.

330

00:18:55,600 --> 00:18:57,600

I'm going to get some water.

331

00:18:57,600 --> 00:18:59,600

I'm going to get some water.

332

00:18:59,600 --> 00:19:01,600

I'm going to get some water.

333

00:19:01,600 --> 00:19:03,600

I'm going to get some water.

334

00:19:03,600 --> 00:19:05,600

I'm going to get some water.

335

00:19:05,600 --> 00:19:07,600

Oh, come on.

336

00:19:07,600 --> 00:19:09,600

Good lord.

337

00:19:09,600 --> 00:19:11,600

Oh, there it is.

338

00:19:15,600 --> 00:19:16,600

This is terrible.

339

00:19:19,600 --> 00:19:21,600

OK, this is a crawl through.

340

00:19:24,600 --> 00:19:25,600

This is crazy.

341

00:19:25,600 --> 00:19:26,600

This is crazy.

342

00:19:32,600 --> 00:19:34,600

A long way up, Josh.

343

00:19:34,600 --> 00:19:36,600

Oh, you're not kidding.

344

00:19:38,600 --> 00:19:43,600

Finally, the tight passages open up and we push into a cavern so massive,

345

00:19:43,600 --> 00:19:46,600

our lights are unable to illuminate the other side.

346

00:19:46,600 --> 00:19:48,600

This is incredible.

347

00:19:48,600 --> 00:19:50,600

Look at the size of this room.

348

00:19:50,600 --> 00:19:52,600

How cool is this?

349

00:19:52,600 --> 00:19:53,600

This is big, isn't it?

350

00:19:53,600 --> 00:19:54,600

Woo.

351

00:19:55,600 --> 00:19:58,600

And it's just a chaos of boulders on the floor.

352

00:19:58,600 --> 00:20:01,600

It's just an incredible hallway.

353

00:20:01,600 --> 00:20:03,600

Passages going off in that direction.

354

00:20:03,600 --> 00:20:06,600

That way, that way, and behind us as well.

355

00:20:06,600 --> 00:20:08,600

Yeah, there's one down here.

356

00:20:08,600 --> 00:20:11,600

All told, there's how many miles of tunnels down here?

357

00:20:11,600 --> 00:20:12,600

50 miles.

358

00:20:12,600 --> 00:20:14,600

50 miles, that's been mapped.

359

00:20:14,600 --> 00:20:17,600

Yeah, that's all been mapped, and that's, you know, at least that's been.

360

00:20:17,600 --> 00:20:18,600

Surrounding.

361

00:20:18,600 --> 00:20:25,600

Imagine in the UK finding and walking into a passage where it is absolutely certain

362

00:20:25,600 --> 00:20:29,600

that nobody knew it was there and you find places like this.

363

00:20:29,600 --> 00:20:34,600

It's possible that a chamber which has got important archaeological deposits

364

00:20:34,600 --> 00:20:38,600

could be found, we know that there are undiscovered caves.

365

00:20:38,600 --> 00:20:41,600

We can tell that they're there from where the water goes and where it reappears.

366

00:20:41,600 --> 00:20:44,600

And that's why the myth can be there.

367

00:20:44,600 --> 00:20:45,600

That's amazing stuff.

368

00:20:45,600 --> 00:20:47,600

So no sign of King Arthur down here yet.

369

00:20:47,600 --> 00:20:49,600

We had a good look though, but we had a good look.

370

00:20:49,600 --> 00:20:53,600

We've done a lot today, and I think we can't go any further than we've been today.

371

00:20:53,600 --> 00:20:55,600

We've got a long journey back now.

372

00:20:55,600 --> 00:20:56,600

Here we go.

373

00:20:56,600 --> 00:20:57,600

This way.

374

00:20:57,600 --> 00:21:02,600

After seven hours underground, I've come face to face with a seldom seen world,

375

00:21:02,600 --> 00:21:04,600

but there's been no sign of Arthur.

376

00:21:04,600 --> 00:21:08,600

However, with hundreds of miles of unexplored caves in Wales,

377

00:21:08,600 --> 00:21:11,600

I leave knowing there's much more to discover here.

378

00:21:13,600 --> 00:21:17,600

Fortunately, this isn't my last stop on the hunt for King Arthur.

379

00:21:19,600 --> 00:21:22,600

I cross back into England where the countryside is vast,

380

00:21:22,600 --> 00:21:24,600

yet the roads are never straight.

381

00:21:27,600 --> 00:21:29,600

If you ever want to know what it's like to drive in England,

382

00:21:29,600 --> 00:21:32,600

just pull your car into the street and then drive it in circles.

383

00:21:32,600 --> 00:21:34,600

They love roundabouts here.

384

00:21:34,600 --> 00:21:36,600

They'll put a roundabout in a roundabout.

385

00:21:36,600 --> 00:21:40,600

They're just, that's just f***ing with you.

386

00:21:40,600 --> 00:21:41,600

They love it.

387

00:21:41,600 --> 00:21:43,600

They love to have you drive in circles.

388

00:21:45,600 --> 00:21:47,600

Oh look, another roundabout.

389

00:21:49,600 --> 00:21:52,600

Dizzy but determined, I spin off the roundabouts into the city of Leicester

390

00:21:52,600 --> 00:21:56,600

to get a glimpse of another inspiring archaeological find.

391

00:21:58,600 --> 00:22:03,600

Just recently, another of England's most illustrious kings was laid to rest.

392

00:22:03,600 --> 00:22:07,600

This is Richard III's new crypt in Leicester Cathedral.

393

00:22:08,600 --> 00:22:13,600

After being missing for 400 years, the body of this real life Shakespearean villain

394

00:22:13,600 --> 00:22:17,600

was discovered under a parking lot about 50 yards from here.

395

00:22:17,600 --> 00:22:21,600

Richard III, a legendary English king who doubled as a literary figure

396

00:22:21,600 --> 00:22:23,600

and was thought to be lost forever.

397

00:22:24,600 --> 00:22:26,600

Sound familiar?

398

00:22:27,600 --> 00:22:31,600

If Richard could be found after hundreds of years, then why not King Arthur?

399

00:22:31,600 --> 00:22:35,600

And as it turns out, there's a hot new lead in the case.

400

00:22:35,600 --> 00:22:39,600

The first thing almost anyone thinks about when they think about King Arthur

401

00:22:39,600 --> 00:22:41,600

is the story of the sword and the stone.

402

00:22:41,600 --> 00:22:44,600

This is where the actual event happened.

403

00:22:51,600 --> 00:22:55,600

My hunt for a flesh and blood King Arthur has taken me through English ruins

404

00:22:55,600 --> 00:22:57,600

and deep beneath the surface of Wales.

405

00:22:57,600 --> 00:23:02,600

But there's a third place where evidence of the world's most celebrated king might be hiding.

406

00:23:04,600 --> 00:23:09,600

I hop a train north to explore a radical new theory in the most unlikely of places.

407

00:23:11,600 --> 00:23:14,600

My train rumbles across the Great Plains of England.

408

00:23:14,600 --> 00:23:19,600

Along the way, we pass Hadrian's Wall, the former northern frontier of the Roman Empire.

409

00:23:20,600 --> 00:23:25,600

Beyond this point is a land that was once thought to be too wild to be tamed by civilization.

410

00:23:27,600 --> 00:23:31,600

Scotland, the most fiercely independent region of Great Britain.

411

00:23:31,600 --> 00:23:34,600

A rugged landscape for a rugged people.

412

00:23:34,600 --> 00:23:40,600

Having made the long trip across England, I cross the border and pull into the Scottish capital of Edinburgh.

413

00:23:40,600 --> 00:23:44,600

I'm here to explore new findings that may completely change how we think of King Arthur.

414

00:23:44,600 --> 00:23:48,600

And lucky for me, I get to do it in one of my absolute favorite places.

415

00:23:52,600 --> 00:23:56,600

I am unabashedly head over heels in love with Edinburgh.

416

00:23:56,600 --> 00:23:57,600

Why wouldn't you be?

417

00:23:57,600 --> 00:24:03,600

From its maze of cobblestone streets to its soaring castle, this city has a mythic quality.

418

00:24:03,600 --> 00:24:08,600

This is the place that gave birth to the authors of Harry Potter and Peter Pan.

419

00:24:08,600 --> 00:24:12,600

So perhaps it is no surprise that the legendary King Arthur is also alive and well in Scotland.

420

00:24:14,600 --> 00:24:18,600

This city is the perfect combination of smart and boozy.

421

00:24:18,600 --> 00:24:23,600

Based on the real estate, I'd swear that every citizen is required by law to run their own pub.

422

00:24:23,600 --> 00:24:25,600

And where there's pubs, there's grub.

423

00:24:25,600 --> 00:24:26,600

How are ya?

424

00:24:26,600 --> 00:24:27,600

Hiya.

425

00:24:27,600 --> 00:24:28,600

From out of town, you might have guessed.

426

00:24:28,600 --> 00:24:30,600

You're probably looking for a haggis.

427

00:24:30,600 --> 00:24:31,600

Haggis mate, let's do it.

428

00:24:34,600 --> 00:24:36,600

And walk me through the ingredients here.

429

00:24:36,600 --> 00:24:37,600

And what are the ingredients?

430

00:24:37,600 --> 00:24:41,600

We are looking at nine times out of ten haggis we've been made through sheepskin.

431

00:24:41,600 --> 00:24:43,600

So it's sheepskirts, it's blood.

432

00:24:44,600 --> 00:24:47,600

There's wheat and oats, all sort of mixed in it.

433

00:24:47,600 --> 00:24:49,600

You are selling it now, it is.

434

00:24:49,600 --> 00:24:50,600

You're selling it.

435

00:24:50,600 --> 00:24:51,600

And do I hit it with a gravy?

436

00:24:51,600 --> 00:24:53,600

It's awaski sauce.

437

00:24:54,600 --> 00:24:55,600

Here we go.

438

00:24:58,600 --> 00:24:59,600

It's actually really good.

439

00:24:59,600 --> 00:25:00,600

Yeah.

440

00:25:00,600 --> 00:25:01,600

It's great.

441

00:25:01,600 --> 00:25:02,600

This is now my home.

442

00:25:02,600 --> 00:25:04,600

I'm gonna have my mail delivered here.

443

00:25:04,600 --> 00:25:06,600

And I'm never leaving this bar.

444

00:25:08,600 --> 00:25:09,600

I love this country.

445

00:25:14,600 --> 00:25:15,600

It's good.

446

00:25:16,600 --> 00:25:17,600

It's really good.

447

00:25:18,600 --> 00:25:22,600

Now that I've had my fill of sheep lung, I'm starting to feel like a local.

448

00:25:22,600 --> 00:25:26,600

But there's one thing left to do if I truly want to understand the Scottish experience.

449

00:25:26,600 --> 00:25:29,600

And I've got just enough whiskey in me to try it.

450

00:25:32,600 --> 00:25:33,600

Looks good.

451

00:25:33,600 --> 00:25:34,600

What do you think?

452

00:25:34,600 --> 00:25:35,600

Yeah, it looks fantastic.

453

00:25:35,600 --> 00:25:36,600

And what am I supposed to be wearing under the kilt?

454

00:25:36,600 --> 00:25:37,600

Nothing.

455

00:25:37,600 --> 00:25:38,600

Oh, well then I'm doing it right.

456

00:25:38,600 --> 00:25:41,600

Time to take this thing for a test drive and see how she handles.

457

00:25:41,600 --> 00:25:43,600

That's a dangerous angle.

458

00:25:55,600 --> 00:25:56,600

This is very weird.

459

00:25:59,600 --> 00:26:03,600

I gotta tell you, the whole of the waste right now, I feel liberated.

460

00:26:03,600 --> 00:26:05,600

Things are breathing and moving.

461

00:26:06,600 --> 00:26:07,600

This is incredible.

462

00:26:07,600 --> 00:26:09,600

I'm never wearing underwear again.

463

00:26:11,600 --> 00:26:13,600

I'm never wearing underwear again.

464

00:26:18,600 --> 00:26:21,600

Okay, time to put my skirt away and get back to work.

465

00:26:21,600 --> 00:26:24,600

Scotland and King Arthur don't seem like they go together.

466

00:26:24,600 --> 00:26:26,600

But this legend is everywhere here.

467

00:26:26,600 --> 00:26:30,600

Above Edinburgh, there's even a craggy rock known as Arthur's Seat.

468

00:26:30,600 --> 00:26:34,600

A commanding vantage point that looks down over the sprawling capital.

469

00:26:34,600 --> 00:26:38,600

But the newest developments in the search for Arthur are unfolding to the west.

470

00:26:38,600 --> 00:26:40,600

New country, new car.

471

00:26:40,600 --> 00:26:44,600

I'm driving west, bound for one of Scotland's mightiest castles.

472

00:26:46,600 --> 00:26:49,600

So this is Stirling Castle, a pretty dramatic spot.

473

00:26:51,600 --> 00:26:55,600

You've got this fortress that's perched hundreds of feet up off the ground here in Scotland.

474

00:26:55,600 --> 00:26:58,600

And it might seem like a strange place to look for King Arthur.

475

00:26:58,600 --> 00:27:02,600

But a recent discovery here might actually prove his existence.

476

00:27:03,600 --> 00:27:06,600

This valley has a long history that's soaked with blood.

477

00:27:06,600 --> 00:27:10,600

Nearby, Braveheart William Wallace made his heroic stand for independence.

478

00:27:10,600 --> 00:27:14,600

And Stirling was once the most powerful fortress in the country.

479

00:27:14,600 --> 00:27:17,600

It was said that whoever controlled Stirling, controlled Scotland.

480

00:27:18,600 --> 00:27:22,600

As the steward of this castle, Brian Gibson has a unique grasp of the history here.

481

00:27:23,600 --> 00:27:26,600

The structure that's here right now is from what year?

482

00:27:26,600 --> 00:27:29,600

Well, most of the buildings are 15th, 16th century.

483

00:27:29,600 --> 00:27:33,600

But there's been a castle here on the rock for sure for thousands of years.

484

00:27:33,600 --> 00:27:36,600

To me, it seems amazing to be up here in Scotland and be talking about King Arthur.

485

00:27:36,600 --> 00:27:39,600

But there is some connection to King Arthur at this castle, right?

486

00:27:39,600 --> 00:27:43,600

Yes, directly below us here, we have the King's Knot as it's known.

487

00:27:43,600 --> 00:27:45,600

It almost looks like a structure beneath it.

488

00:27:45,600 --> 00:27:46,600

Yes, ah.

489

00:27:46,600 --> 00:27:49,600

And so what exactly is it? I mean, what makes up that structure?

490

00:27:49,600 --> 00:27:51,600

But it was laid out as this very ordinate garden,

491

00:27:51,600 --> 00:27:54,600

but around something was already existing on the site.

492

00:27:54,600 --> 00:28:01,600

The centrepiece of the King's Knot is regarded in legend as being the Table Round.

493

00:28:01,600 --> 00:28:04,600

The round table of King Arthur is nice.

494

00:28:04,600 --> 00:28:09,600

Something here is clearly round, but whether it's a table or not, we don't know.

495

00:28:09,600 --> 00:28:14,600

Scientists Stephen Digny and Richard Jones have been trying to get a look under the grass here for years,

496

00:28:14,600 --> 00:28:19,600

and Colin Tickle and his partner Jill have brought along the key to making that happen.

497

00:28:19,600 --> 00:28:21,600

So you're going along?

498

00:28:21,600 --> 00:28:23,600

Yeah, and expensively.

499

00:28:23,600 --> 00:28:25,600

Expensively? What is this thing?

500

00:28:25,600 --> 00:28:27,600

It's a ground penetrating radar.

501

00:28:27,600 --> 00:28:32,600

Ground penetrating radar is a cutting-edge way of peering beneath the earth without ever picking up a shovel.

502

00:28:32,600 --> 00:28:39,600

Using radar pulses, the machine detects if the soil below has been disturbed at any point in the last 10,000 years,

503

00:28:39,600 --> 00:28:43,600

which in turn can lead to hidden archaeological relics.

504

00:28:43,600 --> 00:28:45,600

Can we see the device in action?

505

00:28:45,600 --> 00:28:47,600

You can push it by all means.

506

00:28:47,600 --> 00:28:48,600

Oh really? Absolutely.

507

00:28:48,600 --> 00:28:51,600

You've made a terrible mistake, sir. I promise you I'll break this.

508

00:28:51,600 --> 00:28:54,600

I've been pushing it all day, sir. It's your turn.

509

00:28:57,600 --> 00:28:59,600

About this speed?

510

00:28:59,600 --> 00:29:01,600

Perfect.

511

00:29:01,600 --> 00:29:03,600

That's nice and straight.

512

00:29:07,600 --> 00:29:11,600

It really is giving us a cross-section view?

513

00:29:11,600 --> 00:29:13,600

Correct, yes.

514

00:29:13,600 --> 00:29:16,600

The transmissive signals are going down into the ground.

515

00:29:20,600 --> 00:29:25,600

With each pass over the King's Knot, the radar begins to paint a subterranean picture.

516

00:29:25,600 --> 00:29:27,600

But what will it show?

517

00:29:27,600 --> 00:29:29,600

What is that, right there?

518

00:29:29,600 --> 00:29:33,600

Look at this. That's amazing.

519

00:29:38,600 --> 00:29:46,600

My quest to uncover the historical King Arthur has taken a surprising turn north to Scotland in the Royal Gardens of Sterling Castle.

520

00:29:46,600 --> 00:29:52,600

Here, a team of scientists is hoping to use ground penetrating radar to uncover King Arthur's round table.

521

00:29:53,600 --> 00:29:56,600

What is that, right there?

522

00:29:56,600 --> 00:30:00,600

Look at that! That's amazing.

523

00:30:00,600 --> 00:30:02,600

That's very cool.

524

00:30:02,600 --> 00:30:05,600

That's really good. It's very clear. Very strong.

525

00:30:05,600 --> 00:30:12,600

This machine is sort of a tease though, right? Because you find these amazing things on it and now you want to know how deep down is that?

526

00:30:12,600 --> 00:30:14,600

That's about 1.2 metres.

527

00:30:14,600 --> 00:30:18,600

Four feet down. But it is possible that it is an object or something?

528

00:30:18,600 --> 00:30:23,600

Yes, no it is an object or something. It's an object or a ground disturbance.

529

00:30:23,600 --> 00:30:26,600

There's been something laid there at some position.

530

00:30:26,600 --> 00:30:31,600

The GPR display tells us there's a clear ground disturbance right below our feet.

531

00:30:31,600 --> 00:30:36,600

But this site is protected by Scottish heritage. Could it be evidence of Arthur?

532

00:30:36,600 --> 00:30:43,600

The current thinking is that the grounds were used for jousting tournaments designed to honour King Arthur in medieval times.

533

00:30:43,600 --> 00:30:47,600

But why were they built here? Was this a place where a real Arthur once sat?

534

00:30:48,600 --> 00:30:52,600

It'll take time to get answers, but something is here.

535

00:30:52,600 --> 00:30:59,600

It's just so amazing to know that there is history and there's archaeology four feet underneath us.

536

00:30:59,600 --> 00:31:00,600

That's right.

537

00:31:00,600 --> 00:31:03,600

I mean, it's exciting stuff really. Thank you guys so much for your help.

538

00:31:03,600 --> 00:31:06,600

Richard, we appreciate it. Thank you guys so much.

539

00:31:06,600 --> 00:31:07,600

Good luck on your travel.

540

00:31:07,600 --> 00:31:08,600

Cheers, thank you.

541

00:31:09,600 --> 00:31:20,600

With the GPR image from Sterling fresh in my mind, the once laughable idea that King Arthur could have been Scottish is suddenly very tangible.

542

00:31:20,600 --> 00:31:40,600

I steer west into the Highlands. As the ground rises, the cities I pass become villages and the villages come farther and farther apart.

543

00:31:40,600 --> 00:31:49,600

It's up here in one of the more remote areas of Scotland at the ruins of a pre-medieval fort called Denad that I'm meeting Adam Ardrey.

544

00:31:49,600 --> 00:31:58,600

Adam is a Scottish lawyer, judge and author devoted to studying the King Arthur legend.

545

00:31:58,600 --> 00:32:03,600

He has a new theory that is turning the prevailing scholarship about the King on its ear.

546

00:32:03,600 --> 00:32:04,600

Oh my Lord.

547

00:32:04,600 --> 00:32:12,600

No matter how many times I come up here, I never cease to be amazed at just how beautiful the view from almost the top of Denad is.

548

00:32:12,600 --> 00:32:15,600

Orient me a little bit. What are we standing on here?

549

00:32:15,600 --> 00:32:23,600

We are standing on the hillfort of Denad. It's been the capital of the Scots kingdom for 1500 years.

550

00:32:23,600 --> 00:32:26,600

So how do we link this site to the legend of King Arthur?

551

00:32:26,600 --> 00:32:30,600

The one thing that this area has, that no other place has, is an Arthur.

552

00:32:30,600 --> 00:32:35,600

There was a Scots man, an historical character called Arthur MacAden.

553

00:32:35,600 --> 00:32:40,600

And so you think that he is the basis for what we've come to know as the legend of King Arthur?

554

00:32:40,600 --> 00:32:41,600

Yes.

555

00:32:41,600 --> 00:32:45,600

I think he's the historical foundation upon which the legend was built.

556

00:32:45,600 --> 00:32:47,600

So we're talking about the 6th century?

557

00:32:47,600 --> 00:32:48,600

Late 6th century, yes.

558

00:32:48,600 --> 00:32:53,600

Late 6th century. And this fortress that's here, was this a Christian fortress?

559

00:32:53,600 --> 00:32:55,600

No, this was most certainly not a Christian fortress.

560

00:32:55,600 --> 00:33:00,600

This would be what you would call, what, pre-Christian or I would call it the Old Way of the Druids.

561

00:33:00,600 --> 00:33:02,600

Are you saying that Arthur was Celtic?

562

00:33:02,600 --> 00:33:04,600

Oh yes, Arthur was most certainly Celtic.

563

00:33:04,600 --> 00:33:05,600

And not Christian?

564

00:33:05,600 --> 00:33:09,600

He was not a Christian man. He was a follower of the Old Way of the Druids.

565

00:33:09,600 --> 00:33:12,600

To me, this is mind-melting.

566

00:33:12,600 --> 00:33:18,600

This king, virtually synonymous with the Holy Grail and the Crusades, was a pagan warrior.

567

00:33:18,600 --> 00:33:23,600

Since Christianity wasn't widespread in Arthur's time, it actually makes a lot of sense.

568

00:33:23,600 --> 00:33:26,600

And he did have a very un-Christian wizard as an advisor.

569

00:33:26,600 --> 00:33:29,600

But Adam has even more of Arthur's myth to deconstruct.

570

00:33:29,600 --> 00:33:35,600

The first thing almost anyone thinks about when they think about King Arthur is the story of the sword and the stone.

571

00:33:36,600 --> 00:33:43,600

In Arthurian legend, the magical sword placed in the stone could not be removed by any man save the true king,

572

00:33:43,600 --> 00:33:47,600

until a teenage Arthur drew the sword and claimed his destiny.

573

00:33:54,600 --> 00:33:57,600

This is where the actual event happened.

574

00:33:57,600 --> 00:34:03,600

No magic sword, no magic stone, no legend, no myth, just the history.

575

00:34:03,600 --> 00:34:04,600

Where are you?

576

00:34:07,600 --> 00:34:10,600

This is the inauguration stone.

577

00:34:10,600 --> 00:34:15,600

And what happened here was a man would put his foot into the footprint,

578

00:34:15,600 --> 00:34:21,600

he would be given a sword to hold, and when he stepped out of the footprint holding the sword,

579

00:34:21,600 --> 00:34:24,600

he literally took a sword from a stone.

580

00:34:24,600 --> 00:34:28,600

I brought a sword up and you might want to just do that for yourself.

581

00:34:28,600 --> 00:34:29,600

To put my foot in it?

582

00:34:29,600 --> 00:34:30,600

Put your foot in it.

583

00:34:30,600 --> 00:34:31,600

Okay.

584

00:34:31,600 --> 00:34:32,600

And you brought a sword here?

585

00:34:32,600 --> 00:34:33,600

Yes.

586

00:34:33,600 --> 00:34:35,600

I like that you're travelling with a sword.

587

00:34:35,600 --> 00:34:37,600

Very rarely go anywhere without one, Josh.

588

00:34:37,600 --> 00:34:39,600

That's what Scottish people for you.

589

00:34:39,600 --> 00:34:40,600

Okay, here we go. Ready?

590

00:34:40,600 --> 00:34:43,600

So I just put my right foot into the footprint.

591

00:34:43,600 --> 00:34:46,600

You put your right foot into the footprint, you take the sword.

592

00:34:49,600 --> 00:34:51,600

So this is what Arthur would have done.

593

00:34:51,600 --> 00:34:55,600

And the very fact that you're able to put your foot into this footprint

594

00:34:55,600 --> 00:34:59,600

means that you have de facto control of this area.

595

00:35:02,600 --> 00:35:06,600

So wait, are you saying that I now control all of this?

596

00:35:06,600 --> 00:35:07,600

No, Josh, I'm afraid not.

597

00:35:07,600 --> 00:35:08,600

It doesn't quite work like that.

598

00:35:08,600 --> 00:35:09,600

That's how I heard it.

599

00:35:09,600 --> 00:35:10,600

That's how I heard it.

600

00:35:10,600 --> 00:35:12,600

You told me that I was the king of this area now.

601

00:35:12,600 --> 00:35:15,600

Remember what I was saying to you was that you're carrying a small part of the ceremony.

602

00:35:15,600 --> 00:35:17,600

Listen, who's the one holding the sword here, Adam?

603

00:35:17,600 --> 00:35:20,600

Josh, you're the real king of this area.

604

00:35:20,600 --> 00:35:21,600

Good, there we go.

605

00:35:21,600 --> 00:35:22,600

I like that.

606

00:35:22,600 --> 00:35:24,600

You changed your tune very quickly.

607

00:35:32,600 --> 00:35:35,600

You've just taken a sword from a stone.

608

00:35:37,600 --> 00:35:38,600

How do you feel of this?

609

00:35:38,600 --> 00:35:39,600

Yeah.

610

00:35:39,600 --> 00:35:40,600

I can get used to this.

611

00:35:40,600 --> 00:35:41,600

This is one fortress.

612

00:35:41,600 --> 00:35:43,600

This is the ceremonial capital.

613

00:35:43,600 --> 00:35:45,600

There was another fortress not very far from here.

614

00:35:45,600 --> 00:35:48,600

And I believe there is evidence for that just over there.

615

00:35:51,600 --> 00:35:52,600

The peak over there.

616

00:35:52,600 --> 00:35:54,600

About a mile and a half in that direction, yes.

617

00:35:54,600 --> 00:35:57,600

And you think that Arthur's fortress was there?

618

00:35:57,600 --> 00:35:58,600

Yes, I do.

619

00:35:58,600 --> 00:36:00,600

All right, well, let's go check it out.

620

00:36:00,600 --> 00:36:02,600

It does look like it's quite a ways away.

621

00:36:04,600 --> 00:36:05,600

So how are we getting over there?

622

00:36:05,600 --> 00:36:07,600

Same way Arthur did.

623

00:36:13,600 --> 00:36:16,600

Now that I've been unofficially crowned the king of the Britons,

624

00:36:16,600 --> 00:36:21,600

we ride toward what Adam hopes was once the headquarters of King Arthur himself.

625

00:36:21,600 --> 00:36:27,600

Our journey across the Scottish Highlands allows Adam to acquaint me with other Arthurian landmarks.

626

00:36:27,600 --> 00:36:30,600

For example, the Royal Court of Camelot.

627

00:36:31,600 --> 00:36:32,600

Adam, this is the River Ad?

628

00:36:32,600 --> 00:36:33,600

Yes.

629

00:36:33,600 --> 00:36:35,600

And so how does that fit into Camelot?

630

00:36:35,600 --> 00:36:37,600

Cam means twisted and gallic.

631

00:36:37,600 --> 00:36:39,600

Loth means a marsh.

632

00:36:39,600 --> 00:36:40,600

So Camelot is a marsh?

633

00:36:40,600 --> 00:36:44,600

Camelot was a description of where Arthur lived.

634

00:36:44,600 --> 00:36:47,600

It's funny when we think of Camelot, we think of...

635

00:36:47,600 --> 00:36:48,600

You think of turrets, you think of castles.

636

00:36:48,600 --> 00:36:49,600

Absolutely.

637

00:36:49,600 --> 00:36:52,600

You think of women with pointy hats and chiffon and men in the bait armor.

638

00:36:52,600 --> 00:36:53,600

Yes.

639

00:36:53,600 --> 00:36:56,600

All anachronisms, all things made up later, Josh.

640

00:36:56,600 --> 00:36:58,600

Simply for commercial reasons.

641

00:36:58,600 --> 00:37:02,600

People who were living 700 years after Arthur existed.

642

00:37:02,600 --> 00:37:03,600

Amazing.

643

00:37:04,600 --> 00:37:10,600

What has Adam all worked up is an old Royal Air Force survey of this area from the 1940s.

644

00:37:10,600 --> 00:37:12,600

While reviewing the photos for his research,

645

00:37:12,600 --> 00:37:17,600

Adam found a small fragment of stonework peeking out from the foliage.

646

00:37:17,600 --> 00:37:21,600

To his knowledge, no one has excavated or explained these ruins,

647

00:37:21,600 --> 00:37:26,600

and he thinks they could be of major significance in the search for the historic King Arthur.

648

00:37:26,600 --> 00:37:29,600

Well, I don't think the horses are going up that.

649

00:37:31,600 --> 00:37:32,600

Okay.

650

00:37:33,600 --> 00:37:35,600

All right, on foot from here. Here we go.

651

00:37:44,600 --> 00:37:46,600

Looks like it opens up here.

652

00:37:46,600 --> 00:37:47,600

Yes.

653

00:37:47,600 --> 00:37:50,600

And I think that's the summit up there.

654

00:37:51,600 --> 00:37:54,600

So we've got this sort of stacked stone here.

655

00:37:54,600 --> 00:37:55,600

See this, Adam?

656

00:37:55,600 --> 00:37:56,600

Yeah.

657

00:37:56,600 --> 00:37:59,600

It's an unusual place to have field stones high up in a hill.

658

00:37:59,600 --> 00:38:01,600

It does look sort of stacked, doesn't it?

659

00:38:01,600 --> 00:38:02,600

Yes, indeed.

660

00:38:02,600 --> 00:38:03,600

Look at that.

661

00:38:03,600 --> 00:38:07,600

It's all grown over, but it looks like all under here.

662

00:38:07,600 --> 00:38:08,600

It might be a piece of a wall.

663

00:38:08,600 --> 00:38:09,600

Let's follow it up, see where it goes.

664

00:38:09,600 --> 00:38:10,600

Let's see where it goes.

665

00:38:10,600 --> 00:38:11,600

That is so cool.

666

00:38:16,600 --> 00:38:17,600

Looks like it runs under here.

667

00:38:17,600 --> 00:38:21,600

You can see the shape of it still right there.

668

00:38:21,600 --> 00:38:22,600

Yeah.

669

00:38:22,600 --> 00:38:23,600

It might run right up here, too.

670

00:38:23,600 --> 00:38:24,600

More of it.

671

00:38:24,600 --> 00:38:25,600

More of it.

672

00:38:25,600 --> 00:38:26,600

More of it.

673

00:38:26,600 --> 00:38:31,600

Every piece of moss underneath it seems to be a wide feature running uphill.

674

00:38:31,600 --> 00:38:32,600

This whole thing, yeah.

675

00:38:32,600 --> 00:38:34,600

Yes, for some reason.

676

00:38:34,600 --> 00:38:35,600

The question is, what is it?

677

00:38:35,600 --> 00:38:38,600

Let's walk on, see what else we can find.

678

00:38:38,600 --> 00:38:39,600

It's exciting, Adam.

679

00:38:39,600 --> 00:38:40,600

It's always exciting.

680

00:38:42,600 --> 00:38:43,600

Just around here.

681

00:38:44,600 --> 00:38:45,600

Oh, my God.

682

00:38:45,600 --> 00:38:46,600

Huge stones.

683

00:38:52,600 --> 00:38:53,600

Running uphill.

684

00:38:53,600 --> 00:38:54,600

This whole thing, yeah.

685

00:38:54,600 --> 00:38:55,600

Yes, for some reason.

686

00:38:55,600 --> 00:38:56,600

The question is, what is it?

687

00:38:56,600 --> 00:38:59,600

Let's walk on, see what else we can find.

688

00:39:04,600 --> 00:39:05,600

Oh, my God.

689

00:39:05,600 --> 00:39:07,600

Huge stones.

690

00:39:07,600 --> 00:39:08,600

Oh, my God.

691

00:39:08,600 --> 00:39:09,600

Huge stones.

692

00:39:14,600 --> 00:39:16,600

Look at that.

693

00:39:16,600 --> 00:39:17,600

Perfectly flat.

694

00:39:17,600 --> 00:39:20,600

The very peak here.

695

00:39:20,600 --> 00:39:21,600

These look totally worked.

696

00:39:21,600 --> 00:39:23,600

They're squared off on the edges.

697

00:39:23,600 --> 00:39:24,600

Totally flat.

698

00:39:24,600 --> 00:39:28,600

It might be a foundation stone or something up here at the top.

699

00:39:28,600 --> 00:39:30,600

Looking out over the whole marsh.

700

00:39:30,600 --> 00:39:32,600

That is so cool.

701

00:39:32,600 --> 00:39:36,600

So anything that would have been really built up here in that era would probably have been

702

00:39:36,600 --> 00:39:37,600

wooden, right?

703

00:39:37,600 --> 00:39:40,600

Most likely on the top it would have been wooden probably with a stone foundation.

704

00:39:40,600 --> 00:39:41,600

That's right.

705

00:39:41,600 --> 00:39:43,600

So what we're maybe seeing here is just the underside of something.

706

00:39:43,600 --> 00:39:47,600

It certainly looks like someone's made an awful lot of effort to make something of

707

00:39:47,600 --> 00:39:50,600

real substance up on the top of this hill.

708

00:39:50,600 --> 00:39:51,600

You know, it's funny.

709

00:39:51,600 --> 00:39:54,600

Everywhere that I've looked, so many people have said to me, oh, it's just a legend.

710

00:39:54,600 --> 00:39:59,600

But what's really amazing to me is the more that we investigated, the more that there seems

711

00:39:59,600 --> 00:40:00,600

to be real history here.

712

00:40:00,600 --> 00:40:02,600

Well, I think there was real history here, Josh.

713

00:40:02,600 --> 00:40:06,600

I think what happened was that Arthur moved from history into legend.

714

00:40:06,600 --> 00:40:11,600

And if one looks at the evidence, you can see that he can move from legend back into history.

715

00:40:11,600 --> 00:40:15,600

Someone once said, if you know the truth and you know the legend, print the legend.

716

00:40:15,600 --> 00:40:16,600

Why do that?

717

00:40:16,600 --> 00:40:22,600

Especially when the history is even more wonderful than perhaps the most wonderful story ever told.

718

00:40:22,600 --> 00:40:23,600

That's amazing.

719

00:40:23,600 --> 00:40:24,600

It really is.

720

00:40:24,600 --> 00:40:27,600

To be able to come up here and see this is just so incredible.

721

00:40:27,600 --> 00:40:28,600

Now we've got to get home in the dark, though.

722

00:40:28,600 --> 00:40:30,600

Now we have to get home in the dark, yes.

723

00:40:33,600 --> 00:40:38,600

I've searched every corner of Great Britain, from ruined castles in England, to the deep

724

00:40:38,600 --> 00:40:42,600

caves of Wales, and the vast wilderness of Scotland.

725

00:40:42,600 --> 00:40:45,600

And I think I finally understand King Arthur.

726

00:40:45,600 --> 00:40:48,600

He isn't elusive as much as omnipresent.

727

00:40:48,600 --> 00:40:52,600

It turns out that finding King Arthur is ridiculously easy.

728

00:40:52,600 --> 00:40:53,600

He's everywhere.

729

00:40:53,600 --> 00:40:55,600

Finding the King Arthur?

730

00:40:55,600 --> 00:40:57,600

Good luck.

731

00:40:57,600 --> 00:41:03,600

It's likely that the story is based on a real man, but time has all but swallowed his true identity.

732

00:41:03,600 --> 00:41:10,600

There is evidence hailing from Arthur's time period and excavations that may reveal more clues in the future.

733

00:41:10,600 --> 00:41:17,600

The real Arthur may have even hailed from what is now Scotland or Wales, and he may not have been a Christian king,

734

00:41:17,600 --> 00:41:18,600

but a druid warrior.

735

00:41:18,600 --> 00:41:24,600

The legend of the once and future king is so potent because it's so pure.

736

00:41:24,600 --> 00:41:27,600

The most important thing about Arthur isn't where he's from.

737

00:41:27,600 --> 00:41:29,600

It's what he stands for.

738

00:41:29,600 --> 00:41:34,600

Loyalty, honesty, mercy and valor.

739

00:41:34,600 --> 00:41:40,600

Values that have endured for over 1500 years and to which we all aspire.