

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,000

Very old passageway.

2

00:00:04,000 --> 00:00:05,000

Wow, this is amazing.

3

00:00:05,000 --> 00:00:10,000

Do you think that Robin Hood was a real man?

4

00:00:10,000 --> 00:00:15,000

So if the story's true, somewhere on this property,

5

00:00:15,000 --> 00:00:16,000

Robin Hood is buried.

6

00:00:16,000 --> 00:00:23,000

Actually, good lord.

7

00:00:23,000 --> 00:00:25,000

This is amazing.

8

00:00:25,000 --> 00:00:26,000

Robin Hood could be right here.

9

00:00:26,000 --> 00:00:29,000

Oh, look at that.

10

00:00:29,000 --> 00:00:42,000

Look at any movie theater, and you'll see screens filled with superheroes.

11

00:00:42,000 --> 00:00:45,000

They fight for the powerless, they have loyal sidekicks,

12

00:00:45,000 --> 00:00:48,000

they defeat their enemies, and they get the girl.

13

00:00:48,000 --> 00:00:54,000

And they all have a common ancestor, Robin Hood.

14

00:00:54,000 --> 00:00:56,000

Meet the world's first superhero.

15

00:00:56,000 --> 00:00:59,000

He's been a fixture of folklore since the 1300s,

16

00:00:59,000 --> 00:01:04,000

and his popularity shows no sign of waning.

17

00:01:04,000 --> 00:01:10,000

But with so many stories, one simple question has remained strangely elusive.

18

00:01:10,000 --> 00:01:14,000

Was Robin Hood a real person?

19

00:01:14,000 --> 00:01:17,000

Was there a vigilante in Sherwood Forest,

20

00:01:17,000 --> 00:01:20,000

who stole from the rich and gave to the poor?

21

00:01:20,000 --> 00:01:23,000

Recent archaeological discoveries in Nottingham

22

00:01:23,000 --> 00:01:26,000

have revealed miles of tunnels beneath the city

23

00:01:26,000 --> 00:01:29,000

that may provide clues about Robin Hood's identity.

24

00:01:29,000 --> 00:01:31,000

And researchers in two different locations

25

00:01:31,000 --> 00:01:34,000

may be on the verge of uncovering the final resting place

26

00:01:34,000 --> 00:01:37,000

of the world's most famous thief.

27

00:01:37,000 --> 00:01:39,000

New evidence is revealing a Robin Hood legend

28

00:01:39,000 --> 00:01:42,000

unlike any you've ever heard.

29

00:01:42,000 --> 00:01:45,000

And it may change who you root for.

30

00:01:45,000 --> 00:01:46,000

My mission?

31

00:01:46,000 --> 00:01:49,000

To dive into 800 years of legends,

32

00:01:49,000 --> 00:01:51,000

to investigate the tunnels beneath Nottingham,

33

00:01:51,000 --> 00:01:54,000

and join historians in search of Hood's grave.

34

00:01:54,000 --> 00:01:56,000

My hope is to learn once and for all,

35

00:01:56,000 --> 00:01:58,000

who was Robin Hood,

36

00:01:58,000 --> 00:02:05,000

and was he really the hero we've made him out to be?

37

00:02:05,000 --> 00:02:08,000

My name is Josh Gates.

38

00:02:08,000 --> 00:02:13,000

With a degree in archaeology and a passion for exploration,

39

00:02:13,000 --> 00:02:17,000

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

40

00:02:17,000 --> 00:02:20,000

God, Lord have mercy!

41

00:02:20,000 --> 00:02:23,000

My travels have taken me to the ends of the earth,

42

00:02:23,000 --> 00:02:26,000

as I investigate the greatest legends in history.

43

00:02:26,000 --> 00:02:28,000

We're going to fly, let's go!

44

00:02:28,000 --> 00:02:31,000

This is Expedition Unknown.

45

00:02:40,000 --> 00:02:43,000

A long flight across the Atlantic lands me in London, England.

46

00:02:43,000 --> 00:02:45,000

More than just a world capital,

47

00:02:45,000 --> 00:02:49,000

London sometimes feels like the capital of the world.

48

00:02:51,000 --> 00:02:55,000

The city of London,

49

00:02:55,000 --> 00:02:58,000

maybe more than any other major city in the world,

50

00:02:58,000 --> 00:03:00,000

defies a simple description.

51

00:03:00,000 --> 00:03:03,000

London isn't just a city, it's every city.

52

00:03:03,000 --> 00:03:07,000

A mecca of art, music, fashion, culture.

53

00:03:07,000 --> 00:03:09,000

And while it's dripping in history,

54

00:03:09,000 --> 00:03:12,000

somehow London manages to be totally modern,

55

00:03:12,000 --> 00:03:14,000

and all the pieces seem to fit together

56

00:03:14,000 --> 00:03:17,000

into something that is inherently British.

57

00:03:18,000 --> 00:03:21,000

It's here, in the center of the British Empire,

58

00:03:21,000 --> 00:03:24,000

that I'm about to start my quest to find Robin Hood.

59

00:03:26,000 --> 00:03:29,000

For a moment though, I just want to soak all of this in.

60

00:03:31,000 --> 00:03:33,000

In case you hadn't noticed the English drive

61

00:03:33,000 --> 00:03:35,000

on the left side of the road,

62

00:03:35,000 --> 00:03:37,000

that takes some getting used to.

63

00:03:37,000 --> 00:03:40,000

This is a very dangerous city to be in America.

64

00:03:41,000 --> 00:03:43,000

Welcome to London!

65

00:03:43,000 --> 00:03:45,000

Oh my God, you are London!

66

00:03:45,000 --> 00:03:47,000

Where do you recognize yourself from somewhere?

67

00:03:47,000 --> 00:03:48,000

I'm on TV.

68

00:03:48,000 --> 00:03:49,000

Really? Which one?

69

00:03:49,000 --> 00:03:51,000

It's called To Catch a Predator.

70

00:03:51,000 --> 00:03:53,000

Sir, why don't you have a seat?

71

00:03:54,000 --> 00:03:57,000

The stereotype of the repressed, uptight Englishman

72

00:03:57,000 --> 00:03:59,000

takes yet another hit.

73

00:04:00,000 --> 00:04:02,000

Sightseeing has been a blast,

74

00:04:02,000 --> 00:04:06,000

but I'll admit I was expecting a bit more from one London landmark.

75

00:04:06,000 --> 00:04:09,000

I gotta tell you, I don't know why they call this thing Big Ben.

76

00:04:09,000 --> 00:04:10,000

It's tiny.

77

00:04:12,000 --> 00:04:14,000

Total disappointment.

78

00:04:14,000 --> 00:04:17,000

I'm in London to check out the humble beginnings

79

00:04:17,000 --> 00:04:18,000

of the Robin Hood legend,

80

00:04:18,000 --> 00:04:20,000

here at the British Library,

81

00:04:20,000 --> 00:04:22,000

home to just about every important document

82

00:04:22,000 --> 00:04:24,000

in the history of the Empire.

83

00:04:24,000 --> 00:04:27,000

The original Robin Hood stories weren't in the movies.

84

00:04:27,000 --> 00:04:28,000

They were ballads,

85

00:04:28,000 --> 00:04:30,000

sung by medieval troubadours

86

00:04:30,000 --> 00:04:33,000

traveling from town to town as the entertainment of the day.

87

00:04:33,000 --> 00:04:36,000

Eventually the songs were written down as lyric poems,

88

00:04:36,000 --> 00:04:39,000

and some of the earliest versions still exist today.

89

00:04:39,000 --> 00:04:41,000

In a special viewing room,

90

00:04:41,000 --> 00:04:43,000

I've been granted extremely rare permission

91

00:04:43,000 --> 00:04:45,000

to see an original printing firsthand.

92

00:04:45,000 --> 00:04:46,000

And what year is this from?

93

00:04:46,000 --> 00:04:50,000

It was published in London around about 1560.

94

00:04:50,000 --> 00:04:52,000

450 years old.

95

00:04:52,000 --> 00:04:54,000

The overdue finds on this thing are brutal.

96

00:04:54,000 --> 00:04:56,000

That is absolutely amazing.

97

00:04:56,000 --> 00:05:00,000

He began as a little jest of Robin Hood and his merry men,

98

00:05:00,000 --> 00:05:02,000

and of the proud sheriff of Nottingham.

99

00:05:02,000 --> 00:05:04,000

That beginning is really what we think of

100

00:05:04,000 --> 00:05:07,000

when we think of the beginning of the story of Robin Hood.

101

00:05:07,000 --> 00:05:10,000

The jest of Robin Hood is a collection of the original ballads,

102

00:05:10,000 --> 00:05:12,000

which have many of the essential Robin Hood details

103

00:05:12,000 --> 00:05:15,000

that we still associate with him today.

104

00:05:15,000 --> 00:05:18,000

He's a proficient archer who lives in Sherwood Forest

105

00:05:18,000 --> 00:05:19,000

with his merry men,

106

00:05:19,000 --> 00:05:21,000

including his faithful right-hand man,

107

00:05:21,000 --> 00:05:23,000

the immense little John,

108

00:05:23,000 --> 00:05:26,000

and the perennially plastered friar Tuck.

109

00:05:26,000 --> 00:05:29,000

And of course, he does battle against the wicked sheriff of Nottingham.

110

00:05:29,000 --> 00:05:31,000

While the core elements of the story

111

00:05:31,000 --> 00:05:33,000

have remained unchanged for hundreds of years,

112

00:05:33,000 --> 00:05:36,000

it turns out there are also startling differences

113

00:05:36,000 --> 00:05:38,000

in the source material.

114

00:05:38,000 --> 00:05:40,000

Many of the tales are brutally violent,

115

00:05:40,000 --> 00:05:44,000

and Robin's love interest made Marion nowhere to be found.

116

00:05:44,000 --> 00:05:47,000

Most shockingly, the original Robin Hood robs wealthy travelers,

117

00:05:47,000 --> 00:05:50,000

but doesn't seem too concerned about giving to the poor.

118

00:05:50,000 --> 00:05:54,000

That character trait doesn't appear for centuries.

119

00:05:54,000 --> 00:05:57,000

Do you think that these writings are based on a real man?

120

00:05:57,000 --> 00:06:00,000

Characters throughout the ages were called Robin Hood,

121

00:06:00,000 --> 00:06:03,000

and I would think probably a grain of truth in there.

122

00:06:03,000 --> 00:06:04,000

How much I don't know.

123

00:06:04,000 --> 00:06:06,000

Somebody starts telling the story,

124

00:06:06,000 --> 00:06:08,000

are they always based on something?

125

00:06:08,000 --> 00:06:10,000

That's the mystery.

126

00:06:12,000 --> 00:06:14,000

Now that I've seen one of the original ballads for myself,

127

00:06:14,000 --> 00:06:17,000

my first stop is one of the most famous locations

128

00:06:17,000 --> 00:06:20,000

in the Robin Hood legend, Nottingham.

129

00:06:20,000 --> 00:06:22,000

There we go.

130

00:06:22,000 --> 00:06:24,000

She's alive.

131

00:06:24,000 --> 00:06:26,000

Alright, Robin Hood.

132

00:06:26,000 --> 00:06:28,000

Let's do this.

133

00:06:28,000 --> 00:06:32,000

My sweet ride through the English countryside is older than I am,

134

00:06:32,000 --> 00:06:36,000

but it's still a triumph, one might say, of British engineering.

135

00:06:36,000 --> 00:06:41,000

This is a 1968 Triumph Bonneville 650cc.

136

00:06:41,000 --> 00:06:45,000

This is the bike that I dream about when I go to sleep at night.

137

00:06:45,000 --> 00:06:47,000

Although I am on the wrong side of the road,

138

00:06:47,000 --> 00:06:49,000

and my brake and my shifter are reversed,

139

00:06:49,000 --> 00:06:52,000

I can't imagine what could go wrong.

140

00:06:54,000 --> 00:06:57,000

Nottingham is just over 100 miles north of London,

141

00:06:57,000 --> 00:07:01,000

which means I can get there without missing tea time.

142

00:07:03,000 --> 00:07:08,000

This is the heart of where many of Robin Hood's adventures took place,

143

00:07:08,000 --> 00:07:12,000

and of course was home to his arch enemy, the Sheriff of Nottingham.

144

00:07:12,000 --> 00:07:16,000

And even today, Hood's influence is felt everywhere you look.

145

00:07:27,000 --> 00:07:31,000

When I think of Nottingham, I think of a legendary place,

146

00:07:31,000 --> 00:07:33,000

a medieval city with an infamous outlaw,

147

00:07:33,000 --> 00:07:36,000

which is why it is very surprising to find this.

148

00:07:41,000 --> 00:07:44,000

A modern, bustling town, including the suburbs,

149

00:07:44,000 --> 00:07:46,000

there's more than a million and a half people here.

150

00:07:46,000 --> 00:07:49,000

It's brimming with shops and pubs and students.

151

00:07:49,000 --> 00:07:52,000

It's a place that Robin Hood would hardly recognize.

152

00:07:53,000 --> 00:07:56,000

On the other side of town, I nervously make my way

153

00:07:56,000 --> 00:08:00,000

to meet someone who's made a career out of hunting down Robin Hood,

154

00:08:00,000 --> 00:08:04,000

the dreaded and very real Sheriff of Nottingham.

155

00:08:04,000 --> 00:08:06,000

Next to the Monarch of England,

156

00:08:06,000 --> 00:08:11,000

the Sheriff of Nottingham is the oldest continuously held office in the country.

157

00:08:11,000 --> 00:08:14,000

We know the Sheriff of the 12th century's stories

158

00:08:14,000 --> 00:08:17,000

as a treacherous villain who led a corrupt regime.

159

00:08:17,000 --> 00:08:20,000

As for the Sheriff of 2015,

160

00:08:20,000 --> 00:08:22,000

I'm about to find out.

161

00:08:22,000 --> 00:08:24,000

Hello?

162

00:08:31,000 --> 00:08:35,000

My search for the real Robin Hood has brought me, naturally, to Nottingham.

163

00:08:35,000 --> 00:08:39,000

Home jurisdiction of Hood's nemesis, the evil High Sheriff.

164

00:08:39,000 --> 00:08:41,000

I'm not going to be a good man.

165

00:08:41,000 --> 00:08:43,000

I'm going to be a good man.

166

00:08:43,000 --> 00:08:47,000

Home jurisdiction of Hood's nemesis, the evil High Sheriff.

167

00:08:51,000 --> 00:08:53,000

Hello?

168

00:08:53,000 --> 00:08:55,000

Hello.

169

00:08:55,000 --> 00:08:57,000

Very nice to meet you.

170

00:08:57,000 --> 00:08:59,000

Welcome to Nottingham.

171

00:08:59,000 --> 00:09:01,000

Thank you very much. You are the...

172

00:09:01,000 --> 00:09:03,000

Real Sheriff of Nottingham.

173

00:09:03,000 --> 00:09:05,000

I have to say that is so cool.

174

00:09:05,000 --> 00:09:08,000

For someone with the most notorious job title in the world,

175

00:09:08,000 --> 00:09:12,000

she's a lot less Alan Rickman and a lot more Maggie Smith.

176

00:09:12,000 --> 00:09:15,000

Actually, I'd actually felt nervous knocking on your door.

177

00:09:15,000 --> 00:09:17,000

Nobody's nervous of me.

178

00:09:17,000 --> 00:09:20,000

Are you out there busting crime?

179

00:09:20,000 --> 00:09:22,000

It's a ceremonial role these days.

180

00:09:22,000 --> 00:09:24,000

Your predecessor has kind of a bad reputation.

181

00:09:24,000 --> 00:09:27,000

Yes. They administered the land for the king,

182

00:09:27,000 --> 00:09:31,000

and they helped the powers to condemn people to death.

183

00:09:31,000 --> 00:09:33,000

Do you have the power to condemn me to death?

184

00:09:33,000 --> 00:09:36,000

Not now, not since 1972.

185

00:09:37,000 --> 00:09:41,000

Well, nobody was better at capturing Robin Hood than the Sheriff of Nottingham.

186

00:09:41,000 --> 00:09:43,000

Any tips for me?

187

00:09:43,000 --> 00:09:46,000

Well, we didn't hold on to him for very long, so it weren't much good.

188

00:09:46,000 --> 00:09:48,000

I think he died an old man, apparently.

189

00:09:48,000 --> 00:09:50,000

You were good at catching him, but not keeping him?

190

00:09:50,000 --> 00:09:52,000

Not keeping him, yeah.

191

00:09:52,000 --> 00:09:54,000

Jackie tells me that in the jest of Robin Hood,

192

00:09:54,000 --> 00:09:57,000

the Sheriff of Nottingham captures our hero and imprisons him

193

00:09:57,000 --> 00:10:00,000

in the infamous dungeons of Nottingham Castle.

194

00:10:00,000 --> 00:10:04,000

But he flees through a series of tunnels beneath the fortress.

195

00:10:04,000 --> 00:10:06,000

But is this even possible?

196

00:10:06,000 --> 00:10:08,000

The ability to verify the story could tell us

197

00:10:08,000 --> 00:10:11,000

whether or not Robin Hood was a real man.

198

00:10:11,000 --> 00:10:15,000

And lucky for me, the remains of the castle survived today.

199

00:10:15,000 --> 00:10:17,000

This is what's known as Castle Rock,

200

00:10:17,000 --> 00:10:20,000

a really commanding position that looks out more than 100 feet

201

00:10:20,000 --> 00:10:22,000

over the city and the river beyond.

202

00:10:22,000 --> 00:10:26,000

And there's been some sort of fortress here for at least a thousand years.

203

00:10:26,000 --> 00:10:28,000

Tim, please tell me how are you?

204

00:10:28,000 --> 00:10:31,000

Tim Pollard is a lifelong Nottingham resident and researcher

205

00:10:31,000 --> 00:10:34,000

who has spent decades studying the legend of Robin Hood.

206

00:10:34,000 --> 00:10:36,000

This does not look like Nottingham Castle,

207

00:10:36,000 --> 00:10:39,000

but it does look like a castle, so it's like a nice, stately home.

208

00:10:39,000 --> 00:10:40,000

It is.

209

00:10:40,000 --> 00:10:43,000

But at the time of Robin Hood, there would have been a stone castle here,

210

00:10:43,000 --> 00:10:45,000

and that would have been the seat of the Sheriff of Nottingham.

211

00:10:45,000 --> 00:10:47,000

But of course, you've heard of.

212

00:10:47,000 --> 00:10:49,000

OK, well, let's see where Robin Hood was locked up.

213

00:10:49,000 --> 00:10:51,000

Absolutely. This way.

214

00:10:51,000 --> 00:10:53,000

Let's head down into the darkness now.

215

00:10:53,000 --> 00:10:55,000

It is dark.

216

00:10:55,000 --> 00:10:57,000

And a poker and fashioned gate.

217

00:10:57,000 --> 00:10:59,000

Wow, this is amazing.

218

00:10:59,000 --> 00:11:02,000

Very old passageway.

219

00:11:02,000 --> 00:11:05,000

Going down underneath the sandstone that the castle's built on,

220

00:11:05,000 --> 00:11:07,000

it does go quite deep underground.

221

00:11:07,000 --> 00:11:09,000

Absolutely. From the top of the castle rock,

222

00:11:09,000 --> 00:11:11,000

40 meters all the way down to ground level,

223

00:11:11,000 --> 00:11:14,000

and then it continues to go further underground than that.

224

00:11:14,000 --> 00:11:16,000

Eight centuries fall away,

225

00:11:16,000 --> 00:11:18,000

just going down the stairs from the surface

226

00:11:18,000 --> 00:11:20,000

to the dungeon of Nottingham Castle.

227

00:11:20,000 --> 00:11:24,000

Here we are coming into a genuine medieval dungeon.

228

00:11:24,000 --> 00:11:27,000

This would have been here from 1068.

229

00:11:27,000 --> 00:11:29,000

This is original stonework from the dungeon.

230

00:11:29,000 --> 00:11:31,000

Yeah, absolutely. I mean, you know, feel the history.

231

00:11:31,000 --> 00:11:34,000

Imagine you're Robin Hood.

232

00:11:35,000 --> 00:11:37,000

You've been captured by the Sheriff of Nottingham.

233

00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:40,000

You're trapped in here. There's really no way out.

234

00:11:41,000 --> 00:11:44,000

If you're going to get out of this, you need to be good.

235

00:11:44,000 --> 00:11:47,000

One of the rooms that's attached to this cave system

236

00:11:47,000 --> 00:11:49,000

is the Sheriff of Nottingham's wine cellar,

237

00:11:49,000 --> 00:11:51,000

where he kept all of the good stuff for himself.

238

00:11:51,000 --> 00:11:55,000

One of the legends tells that Robin engages the Sheriff in conversation,

239

00:11:55,000 --> 00:11:59,000

gets the Sheriff and his guards very, very drunk.

240

00:11:59,000 --> 00:12:03,000

He manages then to escape through some of the other exit lines.

241

00:12:05,000 --> 00:12:09,000

Now, we just came down a single staircase,

242

00:12:09,000 --> 00:12:11,000

a single tunnel into this one room.

243

00:12:11,000 --> 00:12:13,000

That seems pretty hard to escape from.

244

00:12:13,000 --> 00:12:16,000

Is that everything that's down here? Or is there more?

245

00:12:16,000 --> 00:12:19,000

No, underneath the castle is riddles or caves.

246

00:12:21,000 --> 00:12:24,000

We're actually coming down further underground.

247

00:12:28,000 --> 00:12:30,000

Whoa!

248

00:12:30,000 --> 00:12:32,000

This is wild.

249

00:12:32,000 --> 00:12:34,000

This is the entrance to some of the caves.

250

00:12:34,000 --> 00:12:35,000

Oh, wow.

251

00:12:35,000 --> 00:12:38,000

Underneath the castle is riddled with natural caves,

252

00:12:38,000 --> 00:12:40,000

as well as the man-made ones.

253

00:12:40,000 --> 00:12:42,000

And there's areas of caves underneath and tunnels underneath the rock

254

00:12:42,000 --> 00:12:44,000

that we still haven't explored fully, either.

255

00:12:44,000 --> 00:12:47,000

And if Robin can find his way into one of those passageways,

256

00:12:47,000 --> 00:12:50,000

he's going to be able to make his way out through the castle rock

257

00:12:50,000 --> 00:12:52,000

and escape to freedom.

258

00:12:52,000 --> 00:12:55,000

A lot of these passages haven't been explored even today.

259

00:12:55,000 --> 00:12:57,000

Not even today. No, there's a project going on to map

260

00:12:57,000 --> 00:13:00,000

a lot of the tunnels and caves under Nottingham Castle

261

00:13:00,000 --> 00:13:03,000

and around the city centre on the building of 3D map

262

00:13:03,000 --> 00:13:05,000

of all the tunnels and caves that defined...

263

00:13:05,000 --> 00:13:07,000

That's amazing.

264

00:13:07,000 --> 00:13:09,000

Do you think there was a Robin Hood?

265

00:13:09,000 --> 00:13:11,000

Yes. There's lots of things that tie this together,

266

00:13:11,000 --> 00:13:13,000

and there's every reason to believe that there was a real man

267

00:13:13,000 --> 00:13:15,000

at the basis of that.

268

00:13:16,000 --> 00:13:20,000

So if a labyrinth of caves under Nottingham is being mapped,

269

00:13:20,000 --> 00:13:24,000

perhaps one of those caves contains a clue to Robin's true identity.

270

00:13:24,000 --> 00:13:27,000

Tim directs me to meet with archaeologist Peter Hammond,

271

00:13:27,000 --> 00:13:30,000

part of a team that's been making incredible new findings

272

00:13:30,000 --> 00:13:32,000

underneath Nottingham.

273

00:13:32,000 --> 00:13:34,000

But instead of a dig site, the address he's given me

274

00:13:34,000 --> 00:13:37,000

appears to be a high-end men's clothing store.

275

00:13:38,000 --> 00:13:40,000

Oh, Josh. Yes, are you Peter?

276

00:13:40,000 --> 00:13:43,000

I'm Peter Hammond. Welcome to the Paul Smith shop here in Nottingham.

277

00:13:43,000 --> 00:13:46,000

I'm happy to be here, but I'm very confused to be here.

278

00:13:46,000 --> 00:13:49,000

So this is a lovely store, but I was told that you are a man

279

00:13:49,000 --> 00:13:52,000

to see about caves and dungeons and things like that.

280

00:13:52,000 --> 00:13:54,000

Correct.

281

00:13:54,000 --> 00:13:57,000

Many Nottingham buildings are secrets beneath.

282

00:13:57,000 --> 00:13:59,000

Come this way.

283

00:13:59,000 --> 00:14:02,000

I do need some pants, too, while I'm here.

284

00:14:02,000 --> 00:14:04,000

Just this way?

285

00:14:04,000 --> 00:14:06,000

Like most stores, there's a basement.

286

00:14:06,000 --> 00:14:09,000

Unlike most stores, there is a secret sub-basement.

287

00:14:10,000 --> 00:14:12,000

This way, Josh.

288

00:14:12,000 --> 00:14:14,000

Look at that.

289

00:14:14,000 --> 00:14:16,000

And this goes way down.

290

00:14:18,000 --> 00:14:20,000

Whoa!

291

00:14:24,000 --> 00:14:27,000

Deep underneath the city of Nottingham, archaeologist Peter Hammond

292

00:14:27,000 --> 00:14:31,000

is excavating a network of caves that could verify aspects

293

00:14:31,000 --> 00:14:34,000

of the Robin Hood legends of the 13th century.

294

00:14:35,000 --> 00:14:39,000

This is not what I expected to find under a posh men's clothing store.

295

00:14:39,000 --> 00:14:41,000

Certainly not.

296

00:14:41,000 --> 00:14:43,000

This is incredible. What is this?

297

00:14:43,000 --> 00:14:45,000

It's basically a wine cellar.

298

00:14:45,000 --> 00:14:47,000

All hand dug, all handmade. You see the pick marks.

299

00:14:47,000 --> 00:14:49,000

This is amazing.

300

00:14:49,000 --> 00:14:51,000

Are there many of these caves under Nottingham?

301

00:14:51,000 --> 00:14:53,000

There's hundreds. There's over 500 caves discovered so far.

302

00:14:53,000 --> 00:14:55,000

500. And there's still things being found down here.

303

00:14:55,000 --> 00:14:58,000

In fact, we're doing this work down these caves at the moment.

304

00:14:58,000 --> 00:15:00,000

Just down here.

305

00:15:00,000 --> 00:15:04,000

Dr. Hammond leads me deeper into the caves where I make another discovery.

306

00:15:05,000 --> 00:15:07,000

This guy. Hello.

307

00:15:07,000 --> 00:15:11,000

This is Dr. Lucas Bonnenberg from the University of Nottingham.

308

00:15:11,000 --> 00:15:16,000

He's been using cutting-edge laser mapping to make 3D renderings of the Nottingham caves.

309

00:15:17,000 --> 00:15:19,000

It's quite noisy. There's a laser there.

310

00:15:19,000 --> 00:15:21,000

We should do a tail-eye on the access.

311

00:15:21,000 --> 00:15:26,000

Beams of light pour over every inch of surface area, creating a detailed map of the cave,

312

00:15:26,000 --> 00:15:29,000

far more accurate than any hand measurement could ever be.

313

00:15:29,000 --> 00:15:31,000

Here we go.

314

00:15:31,000 --> 00:15:33,000

Look at that. That is so cool.

315

00:15:33,000 --> 00:15:37,000

So it's a full 3D laser scan of the entire room.

316

00:15:37,000 --> 00:15:43,000

Yes. So the concept is to have a recording of all the caves underneath the city of Nottingham.

317

00:15:43,000 --> 00:15:46,000

The 3D images this thing creates are amazing.

318

00:15:46,000 --> 00:15:50,000

There's nothing that can hide from the lasers, including us.

319

00:15:50,000 --> 00:15:53,000

And in terms of archaeological evidence, can you show me a bit of what you're finding down here?

320

00:15:53,000 --> 00:15:55,000

Sure. Yeah, if you come over this way.

321

00:15:55,000 --> 00:15:56,000

Sure. Yeah.

322

00:15:57,000 --> 00:16:00,000

Wow, this is something else. Look at all of this glass.

323

00:16:00,000 --> 00:16:05,000

Are you finding things down here from the era that Robin Hood is supposed to have lived in?

324

00:16:05,000 --> 00:16:10,000

Yes, 12, 13, 1400s. Lost material, particularly pottery from that time.

325

00:16:10,000 --> 00:16:13,000

Here's an old clay pipe. Just before the Civil War, I'd say.

326

00:16:13,000 --> 00:16:14,000

That's incredible.

327

00:16:14,000 --> 00:16:16,000

And a lot of bottles.

328

00:16:16,000 --> 00:16:18,000

Someone had a real blowout down here.

329

00:16:18,000 --> 00:16:19,000

It was a smashing time.

330

00:16:19,000 --> 00:16:20,000

What a neat window into the past.

331

00:16:20,000 --> 00:16:21,000

It is amazing.

332

00:16:21,000 --> 00:16:24,000

It is amazing. And to say they're still being excavated all the time.

333

00:16:24,000 --> 00:16:26,000

And just never know what we're going to find next.

334

00:16:26,000 --> 00:16:27,000

That's what makes it so exciting.

335

00:16:27,000 --> 00:16:31,000

When I find artifacts like these in the caves, and I think who lost healthies was Robin Hood.

336

00:16:31,000 --> 00:16:32,000

You never know.

337

00:16:32,000 --> 00:16:35,000

Amazing. Well, thank you so much for the tour, Achre. I appreciate it.

338

00:16:35,000 --> 00:16:36,000

Thank you.

339

00:16:36,000 --> 00:16:37,000

You're all the best. Thanks, Doctor.

340

00:16:37,000 --> 00:16:42,000

The final scans reveal not just this cave, but a spider web of passages beneath the castle,

341

00:16:42,000 --> 00:16:45,000

along with materials from Robin Hood's era.

342

00:16:46,000 --> 00:16:49,000

We now know that his legendary escapes were possible,

343

00:16:49,000 --> 00:16:52,000

and hold up to the scrutiny of modern archaeology.

344

00:16:52,000 --> 00:16:55,000

Satisfied that new evidence could emerge here in time,

345

00:16:55,000 --> 00:16:58,000

I leave nodding him to get back on the case.

346

00:16:58,000 --> 00:17:02,000

But like everywhere else in the world, you exit through the gift shop.

347

00:17:06,000 --> 00:17:11,000

Hard to believe they have this very, very rare, original Robin Hood mouse pad.

348

00:17:12,000 --> 00:17:16,000

Hi, I'm Robin Hood. Hi, I'm Fryer Tuck.

349

00:17:16,000 --> 00:17:19,000

We've scaled way back this season in our budget.

350

00:17:19,000 --> 00:17:24,000

We've got Robin Hood, we've got Fryer Tuck in the course, made barian.

351

00:17:25,000 --> 00:17:27,000

It's a softball, but I'm taking it.

352

00:17:29,000 --> 00:17:34,000

Back on the trail, my trusty bike and I head out to the most famous location in Robin Hood lore.

353

00:17:34,000 --> 00:17:37,000

It's 20 short miles north to, where else?

354

00:17:38,000 --> 00:17:40,000

Sherwood Forest.

355

00:17:41,000 --> 00:17:44,000

Sherwood Forest isn't just where Robin Hood robbed the rich.

356

00:17:44,000 --> 00:17:47,000

It was said to be his home, and that of his merry men.

357

00:17:47,000 --> 00:17:51,000

So in medieval times, Sherwood was a royal forest, and it was huge.

358

00:17:51,000 --> 00:17:53,000

Stretched on for more than 30 miles.

359

00:17:53,000 --> 00:17:56,000

It's much smaller today, but you can still imagine what...

360

00:17:56,000 --> 00:17:58,000

My good lord!

361

00:18:02,000 --> 00:18:03,000

Oh boy.

362

00:18:03,000 --> 00:18:05,000

Who are you to walk through my forest?

363

00:18:06,000 --> 00:18:08,000

Uh, I'm Josh. Are you...

364

00:18:08,000 --> 00:18:09,000

Robin Hood?

365

00:18:09,000 --> 00:18:10,000

Yes.

366

00:18:10,000 --> 00:18:15,000

I stand before you, hero of Sherwood Forest, champion of England.

367

00:18:15,000 --> 00:18:18,000

Definitely having an acid trip right now.

368

00:18:18,000 --> 00:18:20,000

I'm sorry to intrude, I appreciate you not killing me.

369

00:18:20,000 --> 00:18:23,000

You are welcome, you are granted safe passage.

370

00:18:23,000 --> 00:18:26,000

Ate Andrews is the Robin Hood of Sherwood.

371

00:18:26,000 --> 00:18:29,000

Of course he is. What else is he going to do dressed like that?

372

00:18:29,000 --> 00:18:34,000

He's dedicated his life to studying and recreating the persona of the world's most famous thief.

373

00:18:34,000 --> 00:18:37,000

There's this huge legend and it's changed so much over time.

374

00:18:37,000 --> 00:18:40,000

But what I want to know is, is there a man underneath it all?

375

00:18:40,000 --> 00:18:43,000

If you want to understand the truth of the legend of Robin Hood,

376

00:18:43,000 --> 00:18:45,000

you need to know what it was like to live in those times.

377

00:18:45,000 --> 00:18:48,000

You need to feel it in your bones, my friend.

378

00:18:48,000 --> 00:18:51,000

I've got a funny feeling this is going to be very embarrassing for me.

379

00:18:53,000 --> 00:18:54,000

How's it going, man?

380

00:18:54,000 --> 00:18:56,000

I'm pretty sure I look ridiculous.

381

00:18:56,000 --> 00:19:00,000

It'll do, my friend. The forest is waiting.

382

00:19:07,000 --> 00:19:10,000

I feel like you look like a badass warrior.

383

00:19:10,000 --> 00:19:13,000

I look like an extra in a Monty Python sketch.

384

00:19:13,000 --> 00:19:14,000

Like a peasant.

385

00:19:14,000 --> 00:19:15,000

Yes, I look like a peasant.

386

00:19:15,000 --> 00:19:16,000

Well, Robin, it was a peasant.

387

00:19:16,000 --> 00:19:17,000

So I'm in good company.

388

00:19:17,000 --> 00:19:18,000

You are indeed.

389

00:19:18,000 --> 00:19:22,000

Let's step into the Greenwood path and show you what it was like to be an outlaw in medieval England.

390

00:19:22,000 --> 00:19:23,000

Let's do it.

391

00:19:23,000 --> 00:19:27,000

Now appropriately attired, I follow aid into Sherwood,

392

00:19:27,000 --> 00:19:32,000

trying to connect the stories of 800 years with the woods that surround us today.

393

00:19:32,000 --> 00:19:35,000

What are the elements and the legends that we know are true?

394

00:19:35,000 --> 00:19:40,000

The locations, the geography passing right through Sherwood Forest was the Great North Road,

395

00:19:40,000 --> 00:19:43,000

which is a main road linking London with York.

396

00:19:43,000 --> 00:19:48,000

So of course, there were many travellers on this, whether it was the Fat Bishops or the Norman Lords.

397

00:19:48,000 --> 00:19:51,000

These would have been easy prey, those that have outside the law.

398

00:19:51,000 --> 00:19:56,000

And of course, this tree here is the major oak, the world's most famous tree, surely.

399

00:19:59,000 --> 00:20:02,000

Legend tells us Robin Hood and his merry men met here.

400

00:20:02,000 --> 00:20:06,000

The heartwood of the oak tree dies away and it becomes hollow.

401

00:20:06,000 --> 00:20:09,000

So there's a natural cave in there, 14 people.

402

00:20:09,000 --> 00:20:10,000

Wow.

403

00:20:10,000 --> 00:20:11,000

How old is the tree?

404

00:20:11,000 --> 00:20:13,000

It's around a thousand years old.

405

00:20:14,000 --> 00:20:15,000

That's insane.

406

00:20:15,000 --> 00:20:19,000

So if Robin Hood were real, this tree may have been alive when he was alive.

407

00:20:19,000 --> 00:20:20,000

Indeed.

408

00:20:20,000 --> 00:20:21,000

Who knows what this tree saw?

409

00:20:21,000 --> 00:20:25,000

We go deeper into the forest and as the trees close in around us,

410

00:20:25,000 --> 00:20:30,000

I begin to consider what it might have been like to actually live here in medieval England.

411

00:20:30,000 --> 00:20:35,000

We see Robin Hood through a kind of Disney lens today, this sort of sanitized noble outlaw.

412

00:20:35,000 --> 00:20:36,000

That is far from the truth.

413

00:20:36,000 --> 00:20:39,000

Can you imagine living in this forest in the deepest midwinter?

414

00:20:39,000 --> 00:20:44,000

Mud, sleet, rain, ice, no food, darkness.

415

00:20:44,000 --> 00:20:46,000

It would have been an absolute nightmare.

416

00:20:46,000 --> 00:20:50,000

And of course, these real outlaws, they were desperate and dangerous people.

417

00:20:50,000 --> 00:20:54,000

The Robin Hood legends were born of a time when a king ruled over nobles

418

00:20:54,000 --> 00:20:57,000

who heavily taxed the people of their districts.

419

00:20:57,000 --> 00:21:02,000

Outlaws like Robin Hood rose up to strike out against the only class in England with money

420

00:21:02,000 --> 00:21:05,000

and became heroes for the poor and the disenfranchised.

421

00:21:05,000 --> 00:21:08,000

They would have robbed and killed anyone who crossed their path.

422

00:21:08,000 --> 00:21:10,000

Stop it, you're breaking my heart.

423

00:21:11,000 --> 00:21:14,000

In a clearing, Aide introduces me to a couple of his merry men.

424

00:21:14,000 --> 00:21:16,000

Robin Hood had little John.

425

00:21:16,000 --> 00:21:18,000

He's got these two guys.

426

00:21:18,000 --> 00:21:19,000

My outlaws, Wolf.

427

00:21:19,000 --> 00:21:20,000

Friar Tuck.

428

00:21:20,000 --> 00:21:21,000

Nice to meet you.

429

00:21:21,000 --> 00:21:22,000

Bless you, my son.

430

00:21:22,000 --> 00:21:23,000

Wolf is it?

431

00:21:23,000 --> 00:21:24,000

Pleasure.

432

00:21:24,000 --> 00:21:25,000

So, merry men.

433

00:21:25,000 --> 00:21:28,000

But if you really want to know what it's like to be Romford,

434

00:21:28,000 --> 00:21:29,000

you've got to be able to fight like Romford.

435

00:21:29,000 --> 00:21:30,000

OK, so what are the options?

436

00:21:30,000 --> 00:21:33,000

Well, you can either fight me with a sword or we can show you the bow and arrow.

437

00:21:33,000 --> 00:21:35,000

Well, let's do the sword.

438

00:21:35,000 --> 00:21:36,000

OK.

439

00:21:51,000 --> 00:21:52,000

Let's do the arrows.

440

00:21:56,000 --> 00:22:03,000

Aide Andrews and his merry men are helping me on my quest to uncover the real Robin Hood

441

00:22:03,000 --> 00:22:06,000

by showing me how medieval bandits actually fought.

442

00:22:06,000 --> 00:22:11,000

For his hands-on lesson in Sherwood combat, I've been given a choice.

443

00:22:11,000 --> 00:22:13,000

Archery or sword fight?

444

00:22:15,000 --> 00:22:16,000

Let's do the arrows.

445

00:22:17,000 --> 00:22:21,000

Despite having spent his life as Robin Hood, Aide isn't the best shot in this bunch.

446

00:22:21,000 --> 00:22:24,000

His friend Wolf is going to teach me the art of the longbow.

447

00:22:24,000 --> 00:22:27,000

This is the type of bow generally that would have been used in that period?

448

00:22:27,000 --> 00:22:28,000

Very similar.

449

00:22:28,000 --> 00:22:30,000

This looks quite a bit bigger than a modern bow.

450

00:22:30,000 --> 00:22:31,000

The lens has its purpose.

451

00:22:31,000 --> 00:22:33,000

It doesn't have to draw back as far.

452

00:22:33,000 --> 00:22:36,000

You can't hold them at full draw for very long at all because they will snap.

453

00:22:36,000 --> 00:22:38,000

But that's sort of in the movies what we see, right?

454

00:22:38,000 --> 00:22:40,000

The whole army draws back.

455

00:22:40,000 --> 00:22:41,000

Yes.

456

00:22:41,000 --> 00:22:42,000

Hold.

457

00:22:42,000 --> 00:22:43,000

Yes.

458

00:22:43,000 --> 00:22:44,000

Hold.

459

00:22:44,000 --> 00:22:45,000

Yes, and that's wrong.

460

00:22:45,000 --> 00:22:46,000

My dreams are getting crushed today.

461

00:22:46,000 --> 00:22:48,000

Ryer, do you have any booze on you?

462

00:22:48,000 --> 00:22:50,000

Come back later tonight.

463

00:22:50,000 --> 00:22:51,000

We'll sort something out for you.

464

00:22:51,000 --> 00:22:52,000

OK, perfect.

465

00:22:52,000 --> 00:22:53,000

Archery, very simple.

466

00:22:53,000 --> 00:22:54,000

You focus on your target.

467

00:22:54,000 --> 00:22:57,000

You draw to a point of anchor on your face.

468

00:23:01,000 --> 00:23:02,000

Come on.

469

00:23:04,000 --> 00:23:07,000

Have we alerted everybody in this area of the forest?

470

00:23:07,000 --> 00:23:10,000

Children, families, squirrels, anybody?

471

00:23:10,000 --> 00:23:12,000

When you ready, release arrow.

472

00:23:17,000 --> 00:23:18,000

That was a nice clean shot.

473

00:23:18,000 --> 00:23:19,000

OK.

474

00:23:19,000 --> 00:23:20,000

I came out of the bow nice and quiet.

475

00:23:20,000 --> 00:23:21,000

Thank you, thank you.

476

00:23:22,000 --> 00:23:24,000

You're a very polite band of outlaws.

477

00:23:25,000 --> 00:23:26,000

You're on the board.

478

00:23:26,000 --> 00:23:27,000

I'm on the board.

479

00:23:29,000 --> 00:23:30,000

Come on.

480

00:23:31,000 --> 00:23:32,000

A little high.

481

00:23:32,000 --> 00:23:34,000

Brian, how you feeling standing right there?

482

00:23:34,000 --> 00:23:35,000

Relatively safe.

483

00:23:35,000 --> 00:23:36,000

I got this.

484

00:23:36,000 --> 00:23:37,000

I got this.

485

00:23:40,000 --> 00:23:41,000

Oh, sorry, Friar.

486

00:23:41,000 --> 00:23:43,000

You're forgiven, myself.

487

00:23:43,000 --> 00:23:44,000

Love this guy.

488

00:23:44,000 --> 00:23:45,000

It's not easy.

489

00:23:45,000 --> 00:23:48,000

No, it's a simple process, but not necessarily easy.

490

00:23:48,000 --> 00:23:52,000

And so I certainly have a feel for how difficult it would have been to be an outlaw out in these woods.

491

00:23:52,000 --> 00:23:55,000

But do you think that Robin Hood was a real man?

492

00:23:55,000 --> 00:23:57,000

The background to this story is all true.

493

00:23:58,000 --> 00:24:06,000

By apprenticing with aid, I've been able to verify that the geography of Robin Hood's stomping grounds and the weapons of the day both align closely with the legends.

494

00:24:08,000 --> 00:24:16,000

Having gained a better understanding of the realities of outlaw life, I see now that it isn't nearly as romantic as the Hollywood version of the legend.

495

00:24:16,000 --> 00:24:21,000

But in terms of identifying an actual man, I have no names and no body.

496

00:24:21,000 --> 00:24:23,000

But all that may be about to change.

497

00:24:26,000 --> 00:24:30,000

I'm driving north into Yorkshire to investigate one of the most compelling leads in the case.

498

00:24:35,000 --> 00:24:39,000

Kirkley's Priory may have something that no other place in England claims to have.

499

00:24:39,000 --> 00:24:41,000

Robin Hood's grave.

500

00:24:41,000 --> 00:24:46,000

This is private land, and I'm lucky to have been given access by historian David Hepworth.

501

00:24:46,000 --> 00:24:50,000

Kirkley's is mentioned by name in the very last Robin Hood story.

502

00:24:50,000 --> 00:24:54,000

According to the legend, this is where Robin Hood died.

503

00:24:54,000 --> 00:24:56,000

Robin Hood comes here, why?

504

00:24:56,000 --> 00:25:01,000

He's got a relative who's the prioress of the millerate.

505

00:25:01,000 --> 00:25:02,000

She's the head of the millerate.

506

00:25:02,000 --> 00:25:03,000

She's the head of the millerate.

507

00:25:03,000 --> 00:25:10,000

What he doesn't know is that she didn't like a lot of what he'd done in his time, and has done this path to do him in.

508

00:25:10,000 --> 00:25:14,000

The ballads say a wounded Robin Hood is brought to the priory for medical care.

509

00:25:14,000 --> 00:25:19,000

His cousin, the prioress, treats him by bleeding him, a common medical practice at the time.

510

00:25:19,000 --> 00:25:23,000

But she goes too far, and soon Robin Hood is dying.

511

00:25:23,000 --> 00:25:25,000

And so what's the final end of all this?

512

00:25:25,000 --> 00:25:33,000

Well, in one version, little John is there to see him, and John helps him throw his bow,

513

00:25:33,000 --> 00:25:37,000

shoots an arrow, and says wherever this lands, that's where I want to be buried.

514

00:25:37,000 --> 00:25:41,000

And so if the story's true, somewhere on this property Robin Hood is buried?

515

00:25:41,000 --> 00:25:42,000

Yeah.

516

00:25:42,000 --> 00:25:44,000

Okay, so where?

517

00:25:44,000 --> 00:25:47,000

There is a grave on the site way away from here.

518

00:25:47,000 --> 00:25:49,000

Whether it is or not, it's another matter.

519

00:25:49,000 --> 00:25:54,000

There's lots of controversy surrounding it.

520

00:25:54,000 --> 00:26:02,000

As rain begins to fall over Kirkleys, David and I make our way up a tree-lined path to a clearing that seems like it's from a children's book.

521

00:26:02,000 --> 00:26:07,000

There, under the oak trees, stands the crumbling grave of Robin Hood.

522

00:26:07,000 --> 00:26:10,000

Welcome to Robin Hood's grave.

523

00:26:10,000 --> 00:26:12,000

This is amazing.

524

00:26:12,000 --> 00:26:17,000

Here underneath this little stone lays Robert Earl of Huntingdon.

525

00:26:17,000 --> 00:26:24,000

Near Archer were as he's a good, and people called him Robin Hood December 1247.

526

00:26:24,000 --> 00:26:26,000

So how long has this been here?

527

00:26:26,000 --> 00:26:30,000

There's been this grave slab here since at least 1669.

528

00:26:30,000 --> 00:26:33,000

So this was built for 500 years after Robin Hood's death, right?

529

00:26:33,000 --> 00:26:35,000

And has the grave ever been fully excavated?

530

00:26:35,000 --> 00:26:36,000

No.

531

00:26:36,000 --> 00:26:37,000

Never?

532

00:26:37,000 --> 00:26:38,000

Never.

533

00:26:38,000 --> 00:26:42,000

Despite this being a hotly contested and totally possible final resting place for Robin Hood,

534

00:26:42,000 --> 00:26:46,000

the previous estate owners never consented to an investigation,

535

00:26:46,000 --> 00:26:50,000

but new owners now want the question settled.

536

00:26:50,000 --> 00:26:54,000

Determined to solve the mystery and with unprecedented access to the grave,

537

00:26:54,000 --> 00:26:57,000

we call in Thomas Grout-Javis.

538

00:26:57,000 --> 00:26:58,000

Tom.

539

00:26:58,000 --> 00:26:59,000

Hello.

540

00:26:59,000 --> 00:27:00,000

Hey, I'm Josh.

541

00:27:00,000 --> 00:27:02,000

And his miraculous ground penetrating radar.

542

00:27:02,000 --> 00:27:10,000

GPR uses pulses of sound to look underground without the trouble and potential damage of excavation.

543

00:27:10,000 --> 00:27:13,000

So Tom, walk me through what we're seeing up here.

544

00:27:13,000 --> 00:27:16,000

Okay, so the smaller spikes you can see are tree roots.

545

00:27:16,000 --> 00:27:19,000

If you were looking for something like a grave, you'd be looking big as disturbance.

546

00:27:19,000 --> 00:27:21,000

It'd be a lot more clear.

547

00:27:21,000 --> 00:27:24,000

We begin by scanning the perimeter of the grave,

548

00:27:24,000 --> 00:27:29,000

and then we find other ground disturbances that might indicate a larger graveyard on the site.

549

00:27:29,000 --> 00:27:31,000

Tom, where are we at?

550

00:27:31,000 --> 00:27:33,000

There's nothing really.

551

00:27:33,000 --> 00:27:35,000

It is clean as can be down there, it looks like.

552

00:27:35,000 --> 00:27:37,000

Yeah, just tree roots, nothing substantial at all.

553

00:27:37,000 --> 00:27:43,000

The scanning is tedious, but the prospect of confirming the location of Robin Hood's body is beyond exciting.

554

00:27:43,000 --> 00:27:47,000

I literally can't wait to scan this grave.

555

00:27:47,000 --> 00:27:49,000

Are we okay to go inside?

556

00:27:49,000 --> 00:27:51,000

Yeah.

557

00:27:51,000 --> 00:27:55,000

I'll bag the GPR unit over the wall, and I get to work.

558

00:27:59,000 --> 00:28:01,000

Oh, got something.

559

00:28:01,000 --> 00:28:02,000

Got something.

560

00:28:02,000 --> 00:28:04,000

We got something here.

561

00:28:11,000 --> 00:28:17,000

At Kirkley's Priory in England, historian David Hepworth and I are using ground penetrating radar

562

00:28:17,000 --> 00:28:22,000

to determine if the grave here that bears the name of Robin Hood actually contains his body.

563

00:28:22,000 --> 00:28:29,000

This monument has been here for over 300 years, but only now, for the first time, has anyone scanned the grave.

564

00:28:29,000 --> 00:28:33,000

We're about to finally know, is Robin Hood buried here?

565

00:28:33,000 --> 00:28:35,000

Oh, got something.

566

00:28:35,000 --> 00:28:36,000

Got something.

567

00:28:36,000 --> 00:28:37,000

Yeah?

568

00:28:37,000 --> 00:28:39,000

Yeah, there's definitely a layer down here.

569

00:28:39,000 --> 00:28:40,000

It's really distinct.

570

00:28:40,000 --> 00:28:42,000

Here, Tom, David, look at this.

571

00:28:42,000 --> 00:28:44,000

What is that?

572

00:28:45,000 --> 00:28:49,000

There's a clear disturbance in the ground there, and there's definitely something down there.

573

00:28:49,000 --> 00:28:50,000

What am I looking at there?

574

00:28:50,000 --> 00:28:52,000

We've got kind of a black layer here.

575

00:28:52,000 --> 00:28:53,000

It's not particularly large.

576

00:28:53,000 --> 00:28:55,000

Could be a rock under the ground, or...

577

00:28:55,000 --> 00:28:56,000

Robin Hood?

578

00:28:56,000 --> 00:28:58,000

Or, well...

579

00:28:58,000 --> 00:29:00,000

Tom, be hopeful, Tom.

580

00:29:00,000 --> 00:29:04,000

I would describe it as an anomaly.

581

00:29:04,000 --> 00:29:06,000

The ground above it is undisturbed.

582

00:29:06,000 --> 00:29:10,000

If it were to be a grave, the top would have been disturbed.

583

00:29:10,000 --> 00:29:13,000

Are you saying that you don't think that the soil's been turned over?

584

00:29:13,000 --> 00:29:14,000

No, it hasn't, not much.

585

00:29:14,000 --> 00:29:18,000

So I guess the real question is, is anybody buried here?

586

00:29:18,000 --> 00:29:19,000

No.

587

00:29:19,000 --> 00:29:21,000

It would be clear.

588

00:29:21,000 --> 00:29:22,000

Wow.

589

00:29:22,000 --> 00:29:24,000

You can amend the history books.

590

00:29:24,000 --> 00:29:27,000

The monument, his gravestone, all false leads.

591

00:29:27,000 --> 00:29:28,000

This is a big deal.

592

00:29:28,000 --> 00:29:30,000

I mean, it does settle this grave site.

593

00:29:30,000 --> 00:29:34,000

There has always been this question, did this grave contain bodies?

594

00:29:34,000 --> 00:29:36,000

Now we've got firm evidence.

595

00:29:36,000 --> 00:29:37,000

Nothing here.

596

00:29:37,000 --> 00:29:39,000

So that means the hunt continued.

597

00:29:39,000 --> 00:29:41,000

It continued.

598

00:29:41,000 --> 00:29:43,000

With no body in the grave with his name on it,

599

00:29:43,000 --> 00:29:46,000

could Robin Hood be buried somewhere else at Kirkleys?

600

00:29:46,000 --> 00:29:50,000

David and I returned to the priory to continue our investigation.

601

00:29:50,000 --> 00:29:53,000

David has an incomplete estate map from the 15th century

602

00:29:53,000 --> 00:29:55,000

that may help us locate the building,

603

00:29:55,000 --> 00:29:59,000

where Robin Hood fired an arrow to choose his final resting place.

604

00:29:59,000 --> 00:30:01,000

How many buildings would have been in here, do you think?

605

00:30:01,000 --> 00:30:02,000

About 20.

606

00:30:02,000 --> 00:30:03,000

And today, how many are there?

607

00:30:03,000 --> 00:30:05,000

There's three to four.

608

00:30:05,000 --> 00:30:07,000

For your money, where do you think that arrow shot could have happened from?

609

00:30:07,000 --> 00:30:11,000

I think it had to have happened in the enclosure of the nunnery itself.

610

00:30:11,000 --> 00:30:13,000

Because that's where a sick person would have been taken.

611

00:30:13,000 --> 00:30:14,000

Yeah.

612

00:30:14,000 --> 00:30:16,000

What would be helpful is to be able to get an aerial

613

00:30:16,000 --> 00:30:19,000

so that you could look at the buildings that exist now,

614

00:30:19,000 --> 00:30:22,000

look at the buildings on the oldest maps,

615

00:30:22,000 --> 00:30:24,000

and collate the data together.

616

00:30:24,000 --> 00:30:26,000

Okay, well, now we just need a plane.

617

00:30:26,000 --> 00:30:28,000

Well, there are a few people that have got plates around here,

618

00:30:28,000 --> 00:30:31,000

but you're going to have to accept it's a bone shaker.

619

00:30:31,000 --> 00:30:32,000

A bone shaker?

620

00:30:32,000 --> 00:30:33,000

Yeah.

621

00:30:33,000 --> 00:30:34,000

A bone shaker.

622

00:30:38,000 --> 00:30:40,000

This is a bone shaker.

623

00:30:40,000 --> 00:30:45,000

A World War II-era Tiger Moth that was once part of the most valiant fleet in the air,

624

00:30:45,000 --> 00:30:47,000

the Royal Air Force.

625

00:30:47,000 --> 00:30:51,000

The plane comes with a pilot who also appears to be World War II Vintage.

626

00:30:51,000 --> 00:30:52,000

This is amazing.

627

00:30:52,000 --> 00:30:53,000

She's an absolute beauty, isn't she?

628

00:30:53,000 --> 00:30:54,000

Yeah, I'm talking about the mustache.

629

00:30:54,000 --> 00:30:56,000

Oh, well, thank you very much.

630

00:30:56,000 --> 00:30:58,000

Ben, I have some amazing news for you.

631

00:30:58,000 --> 00:30:59,000

The war is over.

632

00:30:59,000 --> 00:31:00,000

We've won.

633

00:31:00,000 --> 00:31:02,000

With the open cockpit, I can scout Kirkley's priority,

634

00:31:02,000 --> 00:31:05,000

and I can see that the plane is going to be a little bit more powerful.

635

00:31:05,000 --> 00:31:07,000

With the open cockpit, I can scout Kirkley's priority,

636

00:31:07,000 --> 00:31:10,000

and photograph and tag the buildings with GPS

637

00:31:10,000 --> 00:31:13,000

to create a precise map of the site.

638

00:31:21,000 --> 00:31:24,000

This aircraft is living history.

639

00:31:24,000 --> 00:31:29,000

And to soar over Britain in one of the planes that helped to win World War II

640

00:31:29,000 --> 00:31:33,000

is just about the most thrilling thing I have ever experienced.

641

00:31:33,000 --> 00:31:37,000

Here again, in this open cockpit, we can see the whole world.

642

00:31:37,000 --> 00:31:39,000

Absolutely incredible.

643

00:31:39,000 --> 00:31:42,000

It puts in the eggs together again.

644

00:31:42,000 --> 00:31:44,000

We like to take the piss out of each other,

645

00:31:44,000 --> 00:31:47,000

but, uh, we can save the whole world once.

646

00:31:47,000 --> 00:31:49,000

Yeah, absolutely.

647

00:31:49,000 --> 00:31:54,000

Okay, so, headed up to the old Kirkley's priory.

648

00:31:54,000 --> 00:31:57,000

As we approach the airspace over Kirkleys,

649

00:31:57,000 --> 00:32:00,000

we begin to photograph and scan the site from above.

650

00:32:00,000 --> 00:32:04,000

With exact readings, we should be able to overlay the ruins detected today

651

00:32:04,000 --> 00:32:08,000

with David's old site plan to make an accurate picture of the priory

652

00:32:08,000 --> 00:32:10,000

as it appeared in Robin Hood's time.

653

00:32:10,000 --> 00:32:12,000

Okay, we're up to the priory now.

654

00:32:12,000 --> 00:32:15,000

Now I'm left in terms of original buildings.

655

00:32:15,000 --> 00:32:17,000

You can see the remains of the, uh, the house,

656

00:32:17,000 --> 00:32:19,000

and the old barn down there,

657

00:32:19,000 --> 00:32:21,000

tagging down on GPS.

658

00:32:24,000 --> 00:32:27,000

It's the pretty biggest site. It's about 2,000 acres.

659

00:32:27,000 --> 00:32:30,000

Okay, let's circle back and down from the home.

660

00:32:41,000 --> 00:32:43,000

See the silk.

661

00:32:43,000 --> 00:32:45,000

Hello, pilot Ben. Thank you for a great flight.

662

00:32:45,000 --> 00:32:47,000

Thank you very much.

663

00:32:47,000 --> 00:32:51,000

I'm never getting out of this plane. I'm literally sewn into this plane.

664

00:32:51,000 --> 00:32:53,000

With my bones thoroughly shaken,

665

00:32:53,000 --> 00:32:55,000

I return to Kirkleys with a new chart.

666

00:32:55,000 --> 00:32:58,000

Based on the GPS coordinates that I took from the air.

667

00:32:58,000 --> 00:33:01,000

David has brought in an expert archer to help us recreate

668

00:33:01,000 --> 00:33:04,000

one of the most famous arrow shots in history.

669

00:33:04,000 --> 00:33:06,000

I'm Josh. Rob. Robin.

670

00:33:06,000 --> 00:33:08,000

Robert. Damn.

671

00:33:08,000 --> 00:33:09,000

So close.

672

00:33:09,000 --> 00:33:12,000

So we've gone up in the plane, we've got some better data now,

673

00:33:12,000 --> 00:33:15,000

and we have GPS markers so that we can get our distances a bit more exact.

674

00:33:15,000 --> 00:33:18,000

Where do you think that arrow could have been fired from?

675

00:33:18,000 --> 00:33:19,000

The most likely place?

676

00:33:19,000 --> 00:33:22,000

The most likely place is down in that area there,

677

00:33:22,000 --> 00:33:24,000

because you've got water inlet.

678

00:33:24,000 --> 00:33:26,000

So for a guy receiving medical treatment?

679

00:33:26,000 --> 00:33:28,000

Fairly essential.

680

00:33:28,000 --> 00:33:31,000

Our scans are able to recreate the layout of Kirkleys

681

00:33:31,000 --> 00:33:33,000

as it would have appeared to Robin Hood.

682

00:33:33,000 --> 00:33:36,000

Based on the layout and proximity to fresh water,

683

00:33:36,000 --> 00:33:39,000

David believes this structure is the most likely spot for the hospital

684

00:33:39,000 --> 00:33:41,000

where Robin lay dying.

685

00:33:41,000 --> 00:33:43,000

Here's the plan.

686

00:33:43,000 --> 00:33:46,000

Rob, our longbow archer, will shoot from the exact spot

687

00:33:46,000 --> 00:33:48,000

we think Robin would have fired.

688

00:33:48,000 --> 00:33:50,000

We'll use his arrows to establish a radius

689

00:33:50,000 --> 00:33:52,000

for where Robin's arrow might have fallen.

690

00:33:52,000 --> 00:33:55,000

Then we'll scan the radius with our ground penetrating radar,

691

00:33:55,000 --> 00:34:00,000

hopefully giving us a chance at finding the long lost grave of Robin Hood.

692

00:34:00,000 --> 00:34:12,000

All right, last one. Here we go.

693

00:34:12,000 --> 00:34:15,000

You're getting high marks from us.

694

00:34:15,000 --> 00:34:18,000

All right, great. So let's go. Let's go find some arrows.

695

00:34:19,000 --> 00:34:23,000

Handheld GPS gives us precise distances on all of Rob's arrows.

696

00:34:23,000 --> 00:34:27,000

Arrow one, two, 83. Pretty good.

697

00:34:27,000 --> 00:34:28,000

All right.

698

00:34:28,000 --> 00:34:32,000

310 feet, 462. You're getting better.

699

00:34:32,000 --> 00:34:36,000

Last one, 671. That's lethal.

700

00:34:36,000 --> 00:34:39,000

With the farthest arrow reaching 600 feet

701

00:34:39,000 --> 00:34:42,000

and the shortest arrow at only 200 feet,

702

00:34:42,000 --> 00:34:45,000

we have a 400 foot diameter to search around the firing site.

703

00:34:46,000 --> 00:34:48,000

We link back up with Tom and once again

704

00:34:48,000 --> 00:34:51,000

unleash the ground penetrating radar to begin to scan.

705

00:34:51,000 --> 00:34:55,000

We've identified this kind of donut shape of space that we need to scan.

706

00:34:55,000 --> 00:34:57,000

We'll be relying on you to interpret the screen, of course.

707

00:34:57,000 --> 00:34:58,000

Sound good?

708

00:34:58,000 --> 00:34:59,000

Yeah, brilliant.

709

00:34:59,000 --> 00:35:00,000

All right, let's get cracking.

710

00:35:00,000 --> 00:35:01,000

Okay.

711

00:35:05,000 --> 00:35:07,000

So what will one of these set me back, Tom?

712

00:35:07,000 --> 00:35:10,000

You'd be looking at around \$25,000.

713

00:35:10,000 --> 00:35:13,000

Okay, I'm going to let you run the machine.

714

00:35:14,000 --> 00:35:17,000

Covering this amount of territory is an arduous process.

715

00:35:17,000 --> 00:35:19,000

I'm learning that this is about patience.

716

00:35:19,000 --> 00:35:23,000

You can't do it too quickly because it's not going to pick everything up

717

00:35:23,000 --> 00:35:24,000

that you potentially want to see.

718

00:35:24,000 --> 00:35:25,000

Slow and steady wins the race.

719

00:35:25,000 --> 00:35:28,000

That's right. Slow and steady finds the grave.

720

00:35:28,000 --> 00:35:30,000

After hours of scanning,

721

00:35:30,000 --> 00:35:33,000

we find no evidence of a ground disturbance in this area.

722

00:35:33,000 --> 00:35:36,000

But the absence of evidence here is significant.

723

00:35:36,000 --> 00:35:39,000

With the marked grave turning out to be no grave at all

724

00:35:39,000 --> 00:35:42,000

and with no other burials in the search diameter,

725

00:35:42,000 --> 00:35:46,000

Kirkley's has faded as the site of a real Robin Hood burial.

726

00:35:46,000 --> 00:35:50,000

But what if Robin Hood was buried somewhere else under a different name?

727

00:35:51,000 --> 00:35:55,000

A monumental new theory suggests that the man behind the legends

728

00:35:55,000 --> 00:35:57,000

might not be the man we've assumed,

729

00:35:57,000 --> 00:36:00,000

and he might not be the hero we've always hoped for.

730

00:36:02,000 --> 00:36:05,000

In a lonely churchyard near Loxley, I find Robert White,

731

00:36:05,000 --> 00:36:07,000

another Robin Hood aficionado,

732

00:36:07,000 --> 00:36:10,000

but one with a theory about his true identity

733

00:36:10,000 --> 00:36:13,000

could completely upend the Robin Hood legend.

734

00:36:13,000 --> 00:36:15,000

This is Loxley.

735

00:36:15,000 --> 00:36:16,000

It is. That's right.

736

00:36:16,000 --> 00:36:20,000

You're a member of the World Wide Robin Hood Society.

737

00:36:20,000 --> 00:36:23,000

As you know, I'm trying to separate the legend of Robin Hood

738

00:36:23,000 --> 00:36:25,000

from the history of Robin Hood.

739

00:36:25,000 --> 00:36:26,000

Yes.

740

00:36:26,000 --> 00:36:27,000

So how does that bring us here?

741

00:36:27,000 --> 00:36:33,000

Because one of the contenders is reputedly buried here under this stone.

742

00:36:34,000 --> 00:36:36,000

So Robin Hood could be right here.

743

00:36:36,000 --> 00:36:37,000

He could be right there.

744

00:36:41,000 --> 00:36:43,000

In a quiet English churchyard,

745

00:36:43,000 --> 00:36:46,000

historian Robert White and I are standing above the grave

746

00:36:46,000 --> 00:36:49,000

of a man who could be the real-life inspiration

747

00:36:49,000 --> 00:36:50,000

for the Robin Hood legend.

748

00:36:52,000 --> 00:36:53,000

Right here.

749

00:36:53,000 --> 00:36:54,000

Right there.

750

00:36:54,000 --> 00:36:55,000

Who's that?

751

00:36:55,000 --> 00:36:56,000

Roger Godbird.

752

00:36:56,000 --> 00:36:57,000

Roger Godbird.

753

00:36:59,000 --> 00:37:01,000

And Godbird, he was a real man.

754

00:37:01,000 --> 00:37:03,000

He was a real man, yes.

755

00:37:03,000 --> 00:37:06,000

Roger Godbird was a character from the film,

756

00:37:06,000 --> 00:37:08,000

and he was a real man.

757

00:37:08,000 --> 00:37:13,000

Roger Godbird was a convicted arsonist, burglar, and murderer.

758

00:37:13,000 --> 00:37:17,000

There aren't many stories where I could imagine him being the good guy.

759

00:37:17,000 --> 00:37:23,000

His story and elements of the Robin Hood story fit quite nicely.

760

00:37:23,000 --> 00:37:27,000

He was in Sherwood Forest in the right period of history.

761

00:37:27,000 --> 00:37:31,000

He also was an outlaw from this particular village of Loxley.

762

00:37:31,000 --> 00:37:35,000

He was even captured by the sheriff of Nottingham at one point

763

00:37:35,000 --> 00:37:37,000

and taken to Nottingham Castle.

764

00:37:38,000 --> 00:37:41,000

To tie the thing even more closely with the Robin Hood legend,

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00:37:41,000 --> 00:37:46,000

the records from this church show that this gravestone may well have been moved

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00:37:46,000 --> 00:37:49,000

from a place called Kirk Lee's Priory.

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00:37:52,000 --> 00:37:55,000

It's the place where Robin Hood actually died.

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00:37:55,000 --> 00:37:57,000

Right, yeah, we were just there.

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00:37:57,000 --> 00:38:01,000

Where he fired his last arrow, and consequently,

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00:38:01,000 --> 00:38:03,000

there is a grave site there,

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00:38:03,000 --> 00:38:07,000

and this stone was reputedly moved from there.

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00:38:07,000 --> 00:38:13,000

And in the 16th century, someone drew what the gravestone was like,

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00:38:13,000 --> 00:38:17,000

and it bears a remarkable resemblance to the one we've got here.

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00:38:17,000 --> 00:38:19,000

And so Robin Hood could be right here.

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00:38:19,000 --> 00:38:20,000

It could be.

776

00:38:20,000 --> 00:38:21,000

Wow.

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00:38:23,000 --> 00:38:27,000

So if Robin did die at Kirk Lee's, he may have been buried there,

778

00:38:27,000 --> 00:38:29,000

but then they moved the grave here.

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00:38:29,000 --> 00:38:32,000

Now, did they move the stone or the stone and the body?

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00:38:32,000 --> 00:38:34,000

Well, we don't know at the moment.

781

00:38:34,000 --> 00:38:35,000

So that's the mystery then?

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00:38:35,000 --> 00:38:36,000

Yes, that's the mystery.

783

00:38:36,000 --> 00:38:39,000

And I take it that excavating here is probably not an option.

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00:38:39,000 --> 00:38:40,000

No, it's not.

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00:38:40,000 --> 00:38:41,000

No, it's sacred ground.

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00:38:41,000 --> 00:38:43,000

We'd be wrong to disturb it.

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00:38:43,000 --> 00:38:49,000

So what we're really going to do is scan this area and find out once and for all,

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00:38:49,000 --> 00:38:52,000

is there something in this grave?

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00:38:53,000 --> 00:38:56,000

Once again, I'm bearing witness to a world first.

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00:38:56,000 --> 00:39:00,000

This is the first time that Robert and the society have been granted permission

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00:39:00,000 --> 00:39:01,000

to scan the grave,

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00:39:01,000 --> 00:39:04,000

and we're using a device known as a ferro scanner to do it.

793

00:39:04,000 --> 00:39:06,000

Am I safe to be holding this?

794

00:39:06,000 --> 00:39:07,000

Oh, yes.

795

00:39:07,000 --> 00:39:08,000

I'm OK to have children.

796

00:39:08,000 --> 00:39:09,000

You are.

797

00:39:09,000 --> 00:39:10,000

OK, here we go.

798

00:39:10,000 --> 00:39:12,000

Scanning starting now.

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00:39:12,000 --> 00:39:16,000

A ferro scanner detects iron-based materials underground.

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00:39:16,000 --> 00:39:20,000

If Robin was indeed buried with his spear, bow, and arrows, as the legend says,

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00:39:20,000 --> 00:39:22,000

this scanner will detect it.

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00:39:22,000 --> 00:39:24,000

It should also tell us if there's a burial here

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00:39:24,000 --> 00:39:27,000

or just a stone moved from Kirk Lee's prior.

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00:39:27,000 --> 00:39:31,000

All right, well, that's a lot of it.

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00:39:31,000 --> 00:39:32,000

I think you had the better deal up here.

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00:39:32,000 --> 00:39:33,000

Oh, definitely.

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00:39:33,000 --> 00:39:34,000

Without doubt.

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00:39:34,000 --> 00:39:37,000

Now I'll import the data onto here,

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00:39:37,000 --> 00:39:40,000

and we'll have a look and see what we've got.

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00:39:40,000 --> 00:39:41,000

So what am I looking for here?

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00:39:41,000 --> 00:39:42,000

A guy holding a bow?

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00:39:42,000 --> 00:39:45,000

What we're now looking for is any indications underneath

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00:39:45,000 --> 00:39:47,000

as we move across from left to right.

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00:39:47,000 --> 00:39:49,000

This up here is just kind of the stone on top.

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00:39:49,000 --> 00:39:50,000

Is that what I'm saying there?

816

00:39:50,000 --> 00:39:51,000

Yeah.

817

00:39:51,000 --> 00:39:52,000

So I'm looking at a profile of you.

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00:39:52,000 --> 00:39:53,000

That's right.

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00:39:53,000 --> 00:39:54,000

OK, got it.

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00:39:54,000 --> 00:39:55,000

Nothing yet down there.

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00:39:55,000 --> 00:39:56,000

No, nothing.

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00:39:56,000 --> 00:39:58,000

Only just, oh, look at that.

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00:39:58,000 --> 00:40:00,000

Look at that right there.

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00:40:00,000 --> 00:40:01,000

There's something down there.

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00:40:01,000 --> 00:40:02,000

That's really significant.

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00:40:02,000 --> 00:40:04,000

Bob, there's something down there.

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00:40:04,000 --> 00:40:05,000

There is?

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00:40:05,000 --> 00:40:06,000

Absolutely.

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00:40:06,000 --> 00:40:07,000

That's amazing.

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00:40:07,000 --> 00:40:09,000

I mean, that is as clear as the stone above.

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00:40:09,000 --> 00:40:10,000

It's a clear solid object.

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00:40:10,000 --> 00:40:11,000

Could be a burial.

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00:40:11,000 --> 00:40:12,000

It could be a burial.

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00:40:12,000 --> 00:40:13,000

That's right.

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00:40:13,000 --> 00:40:16,000

How cool is it to be the first people to look under this grave

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00:40:16,000 --> 00:40:17,000

in hundreds of years?

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00:40:17,000 --> 00:40:18,000

That's quite something, isn't it?

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00:40:18,000 --> 00:40:19,000

Absolutely.

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00:40:19,000 --> 00:40:21,000

We've hit, Paydirt.

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00:40:21,000 --> 00:40:25,000

This is an occupied grave, confirming that this is Godbird

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00:40:25,000 --> 00:40:27,000

will take future DNA analysis,

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00:40:27,000 --> 00:40:30,000

but there is a distinct possibility that we are standing

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00:40:30,000 --> 00:40:33,000

on the grave of Robin Hood.

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00:40:33,000 --> 00:40:36,000

So it could be that the legend leads right here.

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00:40:36,000 --> 00:40:37,000

Yeah.

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00:40:37,000 --> 00:40:40,000

We may well be looking at Robin Hood himself.

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00:40:40,000 --> 00:40:42,000

That's amazing.

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00:40:44,000 --> 00:40:47,000

My travels have carried me across England, chasing down

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00:40:47,000 --> 00:40:50,000

the many sites and stories associated with the Robin Hood

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00:40:50,000 --> 00:40:51,000

legend.

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00:40:51,000 --> 00:40:54,000

I've languished in the dungeons of Nottingham Castle,

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00:40:54,000 --> 00:40:57,000

soared over the British countryside, and fired arrows

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00:40:57,000 --> 00:41:00,000

with the merry men of Sherwood Forest.

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00:41:00,000 --> 00:41:03,000

I've recreated Robin's final moments and searched underground

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00:41:03,000 --> 00:41:05,000

for his remains.

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00:41:05,000 --> 00:41:08,000

I've even explored the possibility that the greatest hero

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00:41:08,000 --> 00:41:11,000

of the English language may in fact be the villain of his

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00:41:11,000 --> 00:41:12,000

own story.

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00:41:12,000 --> 00:41:15,000

I've been able to confirm that many of the important elements

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00:41:15,000 --> 00:41:18,000

of the Robin Hood ballads are not only possible,

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00:41:18,000 --> 00:41:20,000

but almost certainly true.

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00:41:20,000 --> 00:41:23,000

But was Robin Hood a flesh and blood man?

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00:41:23,000 --> 00:41:26,000

The events of his day seem too clearly reflected in the ballad

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00:41:26,000 --> 00:41:28,000

to be pure fiction.

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00:41:28,000 --> 00:41:31,000

Perhaps there was a little of God-bird in him, along with

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00:41:31,000 --> 00:41:34,000

dozens of other bandits that roamed the forests.

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00:41:34,000 --> 00:41:36,000

And though they were important in forming the Robin Hood

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00:41:36,000 --> 00:41:39,000

legend, the most important authors of his story have been

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00:41:39,000 --> 00:41:41,000

you and me.

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00:41:42,000 --> 00:41:46,000

His story may have begun in the 12th century, but it continues

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00:41:46,000 --> 00:41:50,000

to grow today, with Robin always becoming what we need him

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00:41:50,000 --> 00:41:51,000

to be.

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00:41:51,000 --> 00:41:54,000

And no matter what lies ahead, we can rest assured that

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00:41:54,000 --> 00:41:57,000

Robin Hood will be there to save us.