

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:14,160

Welcome to medieval England, somewhere in the northeast part of the country.

2

00:00:14,160 --> 00:00:16,440

And these are not happy days.

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00:00:16,440 --> 00:00:22,160

The kingdom is embroiled in turmoil, facing brutal fighting with the French and a civil

4

00:00:22,160 --> 00:00:23,920

war here at home.

5

00:00:23,920 --> 00:00:30,040

Healthy barons all over England are rising up against the reign of a greedy and tax-obsessed

6

00:00:30,040 --> 00:00:36,760

tyrant by the name of King John.

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00:00:36,760 --> 00:00:41,280

John's reign has been nothing short of disastrous, and he's traveling the country with a large

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00:00:41,280 --> 00:00:46,960

force, putting down revolts and collecting riches to fund his military campaigns.

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00:00:46,960 --> 00:00:52,960

But little do his enemies suspect that King John is about to lose everything.

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00:00:52,960 --> 00:00:57,920

The massive convoy is traveling with the king's most prized possessions, including

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00:00:57,920 --> 00:01:00,960

his crown jewels.

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00:01:00,960 --> 00:01:09,160

But right about now, John makes the decision to part ways with the carriages, sending them

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00:01:09,160 --> 00:01:17,280

through a dangerous marsh known as the Wash, while he rides around the other side.

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00:01:17,280 --> 00:01:22,640

The caravan and its drivers roll on into the muddy fields, unaware that in a few hours

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00:01:23,320 --> 00:01:28,120

scores of people will be dead and the entire treasure will be swept away by a freak force

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00:01:28,120 --> 00:01:29,120

of nature.

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00:01:29,120 --> 00:01:35,000

A priceless fortune will be lost right here, buried deep in the pages of history and waiting

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00:01:35,000 --> 00:01:50,880

patiently for the future.

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00:01:51,120 --> 00:01:55,160

The treasure has no shortage of unpopular monarchs, but when it comes to being a rotten

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00:01:55,160 --> 00:01:58,640

royal, one infamous Brit takes the crown.

21

00:01:58,640 --> 00:02:01,240

King John

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00:02:01,240 --> 00:02:05,960

My mom being from England, I've been hearing about the bad king since I was a kid.

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00:02:05,960 --> 00:02:11,160

After all, he was so notorious that writers cast him as the legendary villain in the Robinhood

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00:02:11,160 --> 00:02:12,160

Tales.

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00:02:12,160 --> 00:02:19,000

In the 13th century, King John's convoy was transporting a massive horde of royal treasure,

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00:02:19,000 --> 00:02:22,160

worth an estimated \$70 million.

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00:02:22,160 --> 00:02:31,640

But somewhere along the journey, the caravan took a wrong turn and was never seen again.

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00:02:31,640 --> 00:02:37,480

But this medieval cold case just got red hot thanks to some groundbreaking new discoveries.

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00:02:37,480 --> 00:02:42,640

Deep in the British archives, dusty scrolls are revealing a roadmap to the last known

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00:02:42,640 --> 00:02:45,960

location of King John's treasure.

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00:02:45,960 --> 00:02:51,560

The state-of-the-art aerial scans are peeling back the modern landscape to take archaeologists

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00:02:51,560 --> 00:02:56,040

and treasure hunters back in time to the scene of the accident.

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00:02:56,040 --> 00:03:02,640

So get ready to hop across the pond on a quest for 800-year-old crown jewels so valuable

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00:03:02,640 --> 00:03:12,520

that whoever finds them can live like a king.

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00:03:12,520 --> 00:03:13,520

My name is Josh Gates.

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00:03:14,080 --> 00:03:15,580

Look at that!

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00:03:15,580 --> 00:03:21,400

With a degree in archaeology and a passion for exploration, I have a tendency to end

38

00:03:21,400 --> 00:03:24,360

up in some very strange situations.

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00:03:24,360 --> 00:03:25,360

This is horrible.

40

00:03:25,360 --> 00:03:26,680

This is officially horrible.

41

00:03:26,680 --> 00:03:32,520

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

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00:03:32,520 --> 00:03:35,040

in history.

43

00:03:35,040 --> 00:03:36,880

This is Expedition Unknown.

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00:03:44,520 --> 00:03:47,520

Hi there.

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00:03:47,520 --> 00:03:54,000

Well, our journey begins here in the windswept marshlands of East Anglia.

46

00:03:54,000 --> 00:04:00,080

And everything around me, all of this is known as the Wash, which is, as best I can tell,

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00:04:00,080 --> 00:04:07,120

a very muddy shallow bay that connects the eastern side of England with the churning

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00:04:07,120 --> 00:04:09,840

waters of the North Sea.

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00:04:09,840 --> 00:04:15,040

Situated on the eastern edge of England, the Wash is a more than 900 square mile wetland

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00:04:15,040 --> 00:04:23,080

that in medieval times doubled as a kind of shortcut for those traveling along the coast.

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00:04:23,080 --> 00:04:27,320

Somewhere around here, King John's caravan, which would have been made up of thousands

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00:04:27,320 --> 00:04:31,840

of people, a countless number of carriages, met with a very violent disaster.

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00:04:31,840 --> 00:04:33,440

The question is how?

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00:04:33,440 --> 00:04:36,720

Well, it turns out that the Wash is a lot more dangerous than it looks.

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00:04:40,840 --> 00:04:47,320

To understand what makes the Wash so deadly, I've enlisted the help of title expert, John

56

00:04:47,320 --> 00:04:48,320

Bacon.

57

00:04:48,320 --> 00:04:49,320

John.

58

00:04:49,320 --> 00:04:50,320

Josh.

59

00:04:50,320 --> 00:04:51,320

Pleasure to meet you.

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00:04:51,320 --> 00:04:52,320

Yeah, nice to meet you as well.

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00:04:52,320 --> 00:04:53,320

Thanks for taking the time.

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00:04:53,320 --> 00:04:54,320

I appreciate it.

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00:04:54,320 --> 00:04:55,320

Yeah, no, you're welcome.

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00:04:55,320 --> 00:04:56,920

Let me make sure I understand this.

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00:04:56,920 --> 00:04:59,840

All of this out here is part of what's called the Wash.

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00:04:59,840 --> 00:05:00,840

Yep.

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00:05:00,840 --> 00:05:05,960

The Wash forms a muddy estuary, very typical of the east coast of England.

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00:05:05,960 --> 00:05:09,360

But I confess, I don't really understand fully what it is.

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00:05:09,360 --> 00:05:11,680

I'm desperately hoping you can actually explain this to me.

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00:05:11,680 --> 00:05:14,080

Yeah, well, I think we can probably do a bit better than that.

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00:05:14,080 --> 00:05:16,240

We'll take a craft and get out there and show you what's going on.

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00:05:16,240 --> 00:05:17,240

I love it.

73

00:05:17,240 --> 00:05:18,240

Let's do it.

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00:05:18,240 --> 00:05:23,960

Navigating the Wash while staying dry requires a very unique and incredibly fun mode of transportation.

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00:05:28,960 --> 00:05:29,960

This is great.

76

00:05:29,960 --> 00:05:31,960

I love this, man.

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00:05:31,960 --> 00:05:33,960

Travel and style, John.

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00:05:34,960 --> 00:05:38,960

Okay, so all of this out here, this is all part of the Wash.

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00:05:38,960 --> 00:05:39,960

Yeah, this is the Wash.

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00:05:39,960 --> 00:05:45,960

This is the edge of the muddy estuary where the three main rivers actually meet the southern

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00:05:45,960 --> 00:05:46,960

North Sea.

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00:05:46,960 --> 00:05:53,960

The mud is a layer that's formed by the mixing of the fresh water that's brought from the

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00:05:53,960 --> 00:05:56,960

rivers, mixing with the salt water from the ocean.

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00:05:56,960 --> 00:06:01,960

As the tide comes in, this whole area will be under water by six to eight feet.

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00:06:01,960 --> 00:06:05,960

And so everything I see around here will all be under water at high tide.

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00:06:14,960 --> 00:06:16,960

The water comes in very quickly.

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00:06:16,960 --> 00:06:20,960

These areas will probably be covered in less than an hour.

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00:06:20,960 --> 00:06:23,960

As you people get into trouble out here.

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00:06:23,960 --> 00:06:25,960

People have lost their lives.

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00:06:25,960 --> 00:06:27,960

The currents are very strong when that tide is flooding.

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00:06:27,960 --> 00:06:33,960

I still don't fully get how it is coming tide could destroy higher care of them.

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00:06:33,960 --> 00:06:37,960

I've got something back in the dark that I think might provide the answer.

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00:06:48,960 --> 00:06:49,960

Perfect.

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00:06:51,960 --> 00:06:52,960

I don't know.

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00:06:53,960 --> 00:06:57,960

Once we're back on dry land, John shows me the fascinating data that he's been able to

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00:06:57,960 --> 00:07:02,960

collect inside the Wash that reveals what may have happened to King John's caravan.

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00:07:02,960 --> 00:07:05,960

So this is a digital model of the Wash.

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00:07:05,960 --> 00:07:08,960

This, Josh, is a normal tide.

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00:07:08,960 --> 00:07:12,960

This is the area where he would have crossed somewhere across this region.

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00:07:14,960 --> 00:07:19,960

This model illustrates that during a normal high tide, even when the water rolls in, some

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00:07:19,960 --> 00:07:25,960

of the Wash remains dry and navigable, which is where the King's caravan likely tried to cross.

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00:07:25,960 --> 00:07:31,960

But John has discovered that under certain conditions, the Wash could become a much deadlier place.

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00:07:31,960 --> 00:07:37,960

So one of the things that could have happened was a spring tide occurring, which occurs when there's a full moon

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00:07:37,960 --> 00:07:41,960

and the high tide level is slightly higher than a normal tide.

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00:07:41,960 --> 00:07:45,960

Another thing could have happened was a storm surge at that time.

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00:07:45,960 --> 00:07:50,960

It's possible under a powerful storm, you may get waves up to 15 to 16 feet high.

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00:07:50,960 --> 00:07:57,960

If all of those things occurred at the same time, then you could have a significantly bad flooding event.

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00:07:58,960 --> 00:08:04,960

With just the right mix of environmental conditions, the storm surge blows past the normal high tide

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00:08:04,960 --> 00:08:11,960

with a wall of water that could have swamped everything in its path and turned the Wash into a waterlogged hellscape.

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00:08:12,960 --> 00:08:18,960

With this revelation of how the caravan got destroyed, the next step is finding out exactly where.

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00:08:18,960 --> 00:08:24,960

For that, I need to get to London, and I'm traveling in a set of wheels with some serious mojo.

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00:08:24,960 --> 00:08:26,960

Groovy, baby!

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00:08:37,960 --> 00:08:44,960

Speaking of conspicuous modes of transportation, King John often traveled with a two-mile-long caravan of up to 3,000 people.

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00:08:44,960 --> 00:08:48,960

An impressive posse, considering very few people actually liked him.

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00:08:48,960 --> 00:08:56,960

It turns out that some historic documents, as well as 21st century technology, might be about to reveal the location of King John's lost treasure.

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00:08:56,960 --> 00:09:01,960

And to join the search, I'm headed to England's capital and the home of today's modern monarchy.

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00:09:04,960 --> 00:09:09,960

I steer my shagged-elic ride about 100 miles south to the storied streets of London.

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00:09:19,960 --> 00:09:28,960

London, there really is no place like it. It is one of the coolest cities in the world, a centre of empire, a city of traditions.

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00:09:28,960 --> 00:09:31,960

A very difficult place to drive a car.

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00:09:34,960 --> 00:09:36,960

So much traffic.

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00:09:37,960 --> 00:09:44,960

Since you could crawl through London faster than you can drive here, I decide to ditch my wheels and explore on foot.

122

00:09:45,960 --> 00:09:50,960

Is it too much if I wear this for the rest of the season? I'm gonna am solving mysteries.

123

00:09:57,960 --> 00:09:59,960

Thanks, guys.

124

00:10:05,960 --> 00:10:09,960

How many hat bits or too many hat bits for one scene?

125

00:10:09,960 --> 00:10:11,960

This many.

126

00:10:15,960 --> 00:10:18,960

What things a lot roomier on the inside?

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00:10:19,960 --> 00:10:26,960

And even though I'm hunting the 800-year-old treasure of King John, I find myself on the doorstep of today's reigning monarch.

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00:10:26,960 --> 00:10:30,960

This is the famous changing of the guard, one of the great traditions of the English monarchy.

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00:10:30,960 --> 00:10:35,960

There are five different regiments of the British army, as well as the Queen's own personal guards.

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00:10:35,960 --> 00:10:38,960

And every day, one group shows up and relieves the guards on duty.

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00:10:38,960 --> 00:10:43,960

It's this incredible piece of pageantry that's been going on here for more than 350 years.

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00:10:43,960 --> 00:10:47,960

Though in the time of King John, the mood in London wasn't quite so celebratory.

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00:10:50,960 --> 00:10:55,960

John is born around Christmas in 1166, the youngest son of Henry II.

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00:10:55,960 --> 00:10:59,960

But it's his brother Richard who becomes England's next king.

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00:10:59,960 --> 00:11:03,960

John plots against his brother and eventually assumes the throne,

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00:11:03,960 --> 00:11:06,960

heralding in one of the most tumultuous reigns in English history.

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00:11:07,960 --> 00:11:17,960

To find out more about John's troubled rule, I make my way to the National Archives to meet with archaeologist Dr. Ben Robinson,

138

00:11:17,960 --> 00:11:22,960

who's been working to identify the exact route the King's caravan took through the wash.

139

00:11:22,960 --> 00:11:25,960

Ben. Hi there, Josh. Good to see you.

140

00:11:25,960 --> 00:11:26,960

Yeah, nice to meet you. How are you doing?

141

00:11:26,960 --> 00:11:27,960

Pretty good.

142

00:11:27,960 --> 00:11:31,960

Ben is getting me access into the highly restricted vaults of the National Archives,

143

00:11:31,960 --> 00:11:35,960

where we link up with the head of medieval collections, Dr. Jessica Nelson.

144

00:11:35,960 --> 00:11:41,960

This is where they keep the history, hundreds of years of it, meticulously conserved.

145

00:11:41,960 --> 00:11:46,960

And we're about to get a first-hand look at some incredible original documents.

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00:11:46,960 --> 00:11:48,960

What are we looking at today? What are these?

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00:11:48,960 --> 00:11:52,960

So these are documents which date from the reign of King John of England.

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00:11:52,960 --> 00:11:57,960

So they're original medieval documents. So they're about 800 years old.

149

00:11:57,960 --> 00:11:59,960

Wow. And that's pretty unusual, isn't it?

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00:11:59,960 --> 00:12:03,960

Because before this, British kings didn't document this kind of stuff in this detail.

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00:12:03,960 --> 00:12:07,960

We certainly think that King John was the first king to really systematically

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00:12:07,960 --> 00:12:12,960

enroll his documents and those documents survive, those enrollments survive until today.

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00:12:12,960 --> 00:12:17,960

King John was obsessive about documenting every detail of his reign.

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00:12:17,960 --> 00:12:23,960

In fact, his scrolls formed the backbone of what would become the British government's record-keeping system.

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00:12:23,960 --> 00:12:26,960

Ben, why do you think he instituted this?

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00:12:26,960 --> 00:12:30,960

He was kind of a paranoid, edgy character, you know.

157

00:12:30,960 --> 00:12:34,960

I think he wanted a document of what was being sent out so he could refer to it later to say,

158

00:12:34,960 --> 00:12:37,960

look, I told you, you've got the keys to that castle.

159

00:12:37,960 --> 00:12:39,960

Look, I've got the document here to prove it.

160

00:12:39,960 --> 00:12:41,960

Now, why haven't you got that castle? I think it was that kind of bloke.

161

00:12:41,960 --> 00:12:44,960

How are these potentially helpful in this search for his treasure?

162

00:12:44,960 --> 00:12:48,960

So you've almost got a day-by-day account of where the king was.

163

00:12:48,960 --> 00:12:52,960

And that's extraordinary because that gets us closer to those events,

164

00:12:52,960 --> 00:12:54,960

those crucial few days at the end of his life.

165

00:12:54,960 --> 00:12:57,960

Right. Is it possible to examine them closely?

166

00:12:57,960 --> 00:12:58,960

Certain years.

167

00:12:58,960 --> 00:12:59,960

Yeah? Wow.

168

00:12:59,960 --> 00:13:00,960

Look at that!

169

00:13:00,960 --> 00:13:06,960

With the unrolling of this priceless historic document, I'm about to enter the 13th century

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00:13:06,960 --> 00:13:11,960

and see the clues that could lead to King John's missing crown jewels.

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00:13:12,960 --> 00:13:17,960

I'm in the city of London, England, deep inside the British National Archives,

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00:13:17,960 --> 00:13:21,960

pouring over medieval scrolls with historian Jessica Nelson.

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00:13:21,960 --> 00:13:24,960

These documents were dictated by King John himself,

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00:13:24,960 --> 00:13:30,960

not long before his entourage was lost in a coastal area of marsh and quicksand called the Wash.

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00:13:30,960 --> 00:13:35,960

Archaeologist Ben Robinson is using these historic records to find the treasure.

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00:13:35,960 --> 00:13:37,960

Look at that!

177

00:13:37,960 --> 00:13:39,960

This is extraordinary.

178

00:13:39,960 --> 00:13:41,960

And it's written in Latin?

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00:13:41,960 --> 00:13:43,960

Yes, so it's written in medieval Latin.

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00:13:43,960 --> 00:13:45,960

Medieval Latin? Which you can read?

181

00:13:45,960 --> 00:13:47,960

Yes!

182

00:13:47,960 --> 00:13:49,960

Good. Because I'm a little rusty.

183

00:13:49,960 --> 00:13:51,960

This roll is from when?

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00:13:51,960 --> 00:13:53,960

The whole roll is from the last year of his reign.

185

00:13:53,960 --> 00:13:54,960

Okay.

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00:13:54,960 --> 00:13:57,960

And the section we're looking at here is just the last year of his reign.

187

00:13:57,960 --> 00:14:00,960

And the section we're looking at here is just the last year of his reign.

188

00:14:00,960 --> 00:14:03,960

And the section we're looking at here is just the last year of his reign.

189

00:14:03,960 --> 00:14:06,960

And the section we're looking at here is just the last few days.

190

00:14:06,960 --> 00:14:11,960

And he's issuing an order to one of his officials here on the 12th day of October.

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00:14:11,960 --> 00:14:15,960

But the crucial thing here is we actually know where he is, Josh.

192

00:14:15,960 --> 00:14:16,960

Right.

193

00:14:16,960 --> 00:14:17,960

That's the crucial thing.

194

00:14:17,960 --> 00:14:20,960

He's actually naming the places where he was.

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00:14:20,960 --> 00:14:22,960

These places still exist.

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00:14:23,960 --> 00:14:27,960

King John's insistence on recording the daily workings of his government

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00:14:27,960 --> 00:14:29,960

provided an unprecedented look at his reign.

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00:14:29,960 --> 00:14:34,960

His scribes are unwittingly providing clues for future historians to follow.

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00:14:34,960 --> 00:14:38,960

In 800 years, the town names written down on this parchment

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00:14:38,960 --> 00:14:40,960

will provide a treasure map of sorts

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00:14:40,960 --> 00:14:45,960

that describe the king's caravan's route through the deadly waters of the wash.

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00:14:48,960 --> 00:14:50,960

Okay. And so where does he go?

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00:14:50,960 --> 00:14:52,960

We see him moving on.

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00:14:52,960 --> 00:14:57,960

And then here, he's at Swine's Head on the 13th day of October.

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00:14:58,960 --> 00:15:03,960

According to the scrolls, King John and his caravan travel from Swine's Head Abbey in Spalding

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00:15:03,960 --> 00:15:07,960

to the town of Bishops Lynn, where he becomes ill with dysentery.

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00:15:07,960 --> 00:15:12,960

John parts ways with his baggage train and takes a longer route back west

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00:15:12,960 --> 00:15:14,960

through the town of Whiz Beach and onto Newark,

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00:15:14,960 --> 00:15:18,960

while his entourage is told to take a shortcut through the wash.

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00:15:18,960 --> 00:15:21,960

It's somewhere in this area that the caravan has lost.

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00:15:22,960 --> 00:15:27,960

And as for King John, he succumbs to his illness and dies several days later.

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00:15:27,960 --> 00:15:30,960

This is why you need to look at the archaeology

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00:15:30,960 --> 00:15:32,960

and you need to look at the environment.

214

00:15:32,960 --> 00:15:34,960

You need to look at how the coast operates today,

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00:15:34,960 --> 00:15:36,960

and then you'll start to understand.

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00:15:36,960 --> 00:15:38,960

Put that together with the archaeology,

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00:15:38,960 --> 00:15:40,960

with an understanding of the environment,

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00:15:40,960 --> 00:15:42,960

and we're starting to get closer.

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00:15:42,960 --> 00:15:44,960

And that's what's exciting.

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00:15:45,960 --> 00:15:47,960

The scrolls reveal critical clues,

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00:15:47,960 --> 00:15:51,960

but to find the exact spot where the caravan was lost,

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00:15:51,960 --> 00:15:54,960

we have to study the terrain as it appeared 800 years ago.

223

00:15:54,960 --> 00:15:57,960

And to do so, we have to see it from above.

224

00:15:58,960 --> 00:16:01,960

Ben and I leave the archives and head to a small airfield.

225

00:16:02,960 --> 00:16:06,960

We load into a very snug Cessna 172 Skyhawk.

226

00:16:06,960 --> 00:16:10,960

We're going to use this footage, Ben, also, for my new series called Big Guy's Little Plains.

227

00:16:12,960 --> 00:16:16,960

From the air, Ben plans to show me exactly how technology

228

00:16:16,960 --> 00:16:19,960

is cracking open this royal cold case.

229

00:16:26,960 --> 00:16:28,960

This is great. The visibility is fantastic.

230

00:16:28,960 --> 00:16:31,960

You can see the whole expanse of the wash,

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00:16:31,960 --> 00:16:35,960

and the thing to remember is that what we see as the wash coast today,

232

00:16:35,960 --> 00:16:38,960

it thought the wash coast in medieval times.

233

00:16:38,960 --> 00:16:41,960

And how would it have looked different back then, this area?

234

00:16:41,960 --> 00:16:43,960

Look at the shape of the fields.

235

00:16:43,960 --> 00:16:47,960

You've got wiggly line here as well, the wiggly drains and droves,

236

00:16:47,960 --> 00:16:52,960

and they mark previous water courses and the traces of sea banks.

237

00:16:52,960 --> 00:16:56,960

Piece by piece, the land has been reclaimed from the sea.

238

00:16:56,960 --> 00:17:02,960

The wash is almost 20 miles across, but it turns out it used to be even bigger.

239

00:17:02,960 --> 00:17:05,960

The fields beneath us were once part of the medieval mudflats,

240

00:17:05,960 --> 00:17:09,960

but have now been filled in and reclaimed as farms and roads.

241

00:17:09,960 --> 00:17:11,960

So we know where he was coming from.

242

00:17:11,960 --> 00:17:15,960

We know where the treasure was going to. How do you narrow that down?

243

00:17:15,960 --> 00:17:17,960

We use something called LIDAR.

244

00:17:17,960 --> 00:17:21,960

A LIDAR, basically, it's like an airborne laser system

245

00:17:21,960 --> 00:17:24,960

that beams these lights very fast at the ground.

246

00:17:24,960 --> 00:17:29,960

It gives you this snapshot of the landscape underneath the landscape.

247

00:17:29,960 --> 00:17:31,960

And so what did the data reveal?

248

00:17:31,960 --> 00:17:36,960

Well, the first thing you could see is the height differences between areas of landscape,

249

00:17:36,960 --> 00:17:37,960

and that's really important.

250

00:17:37,960 --> 00:17:42,960

That green area marks perfectly the shape of the medieval estuaries.

251

00:17:42,960 --> 00:17:46,960

The crossing point is somewhere between that sea bank and that sea bank.

252

00:17:46,960 --> 00:17:52,960

Based on the LIDAR, how many promising areas do you think have emerged

253

00:17:52,960 --> 00:17:54,960

than maybe where the crossing happened?

254

00:17:54,960 --> 00:17:59,960

You see the high points, the places where there's stable land,

255

00:17:59,960 --> 00:18:03,960

where there's potential routes through the marsh,

256

00:18:03,960 --> 00:18:07,960

and I think there's three or four potential crossing points that make sense.

257

00:18:07,960 --> 00:18:10,960

One of those crossing points, you save the best part of a day.

258

00:18:10,960 --> 00:18:16,960

And at this time of year, when you're on a war footing, saving a day's travel is important.

259

00:18:16,960 --> 00:18:21,960

That crossing point is between here and there.

260

00:18:21,960 --> 00:18:23,960

That's about five miles.

261

00:18:23,960 --> 00:18:26,960

I think King John sent his baggage train across that route,

262

00:18:26,960 --> 00:18:29,960

but on that particular day, it didn't work out.

263

00:18:29,960 --> 00:18:31,960

Right.

264

00:18:31,960 --> 00:18:33,960

The plane returns to the airstrip.

265

00:18:33,960 --> 00:18:38,960

I say goodbye to Ben and continue my journey to see how his LIDAR scans are being used

266

00:18:38,960 --> 00:18:40,960

to find the missing treasure.

267

00:18:47,960 --> 00:18:49,960

Well, Ben's LIDAR discoveries have been big news,

268

00:18:49,960 --> 00:18:53,960

and now various groups of archaeologists and historians are on the ground

269

00:18:53,960 --> 00:18:57,960

attempting to use that data to pinpoint the location of the accident.

270

00:18:57,960 --> 00:19:01,960

And I'm going to join them, which means I'm headed back to the wash.

271

00:19:01,960 --> 00:19:04,960

I drive nearly 100 miles north to the edge of the wash

272

00:19:04,960 --> 00:19:09,960

and through the medieval gates of the historic city of King's Lim.

273

00:19:13,960 --> 00:19:17,960

Walking around King's Lim is like stepping through a portal into the past

274

00:19:17,960 --> 00:19:23,960

between the soaring cathedral, ancient streets, and time-worn bridges.

275

00:19:23,960 --> 00:19:26,960

It's easy to imagine King John himself rolling through here.

276

00:19:26,960 --> 00:19:29,960

King's Lim has been on the map since the Middle Ages.

277

00:19:29,960 --> 00:19:33,960

It used to be known as Bishop's Lim, and in King John's time, it was a thriving port city.

278

00:19:33,960 --> 00:19:36,960

It's also one of the few towns in England that doesn't hate King John,

279

00:19:36,960 --> 00:19:41,960

and that's because he actually granted the city a charter, which gave them certain rights.

280

00:19:41,960 --> 00:19:44,960

In fact, they're so sympathetic to King John here in King's Lim,

281

00:19:44,960 --> 00:19:48,960

they actually erected a statue of him, or of the Burger King.

282

00:19:48,960 --> 00:19:51,960

In fairness, it's very hard to tell the difference.

283

00:19:52,960 --> 00:19:56,960

I'm here to meet with one of the UK's most successful metal detectorists,

284

00:19:56,960 --> 00:20:00,960

named Gary Drayton, who's asked me to meet him at the place where all treasure hunts

285

00:20:00,960 --> 00:20:03,960

officially begin and end the local pub.

286

00:20:03,960 --> 00:20:05,960

Hey, Josh. Nice to meet you. How are you doing?

287

00:20:05,960 --> 00:20:06,960

How are you doing? Great.

288

00:20:06,960 --> 00:20:07,960

Yeah, pleasure. All the best.

289

00:20:07,960 --> 00:20:09,960

How are you, mate? Cheers.

290

00:20:12,960 --> 00:20:14,960

I've actually ordered some food if you're hungry.

291

00:20:14,960 --> 00:20:15,960

Gary, I'm always hungry.

292

00:20:15,960 --> 00:20:17,960

I'm local delicacy.

293

00:20:17,960 --> 00:20:19,960

Jelly Deals.

294

00:20:19,960 --> 00:20:21,960

I'm sorry, jellyed eels?

295

00:20:21,960 --> 00:20:22,960

Yeah.

296

00:20:24,960 --> 00:20:26,960

There's a strong smell coming off of him.

297

00:20:26,960 --> 00:20:28,960

Immediately, it's the first thing I notice.

298

00:20:28,960 --> 00:20:32,960

Just to be clear, these are eels that have been...

299

00:20:32,960 --> 00:20:33,960

Jellyed.

300

00:20:33,960 --> 00:20:34,960

Jellyed.

301

00:20:34,960 --> 00:20:37,960

King John was a big fan of this local delicacy,

302

00:20:37,960 --> 00:20:40,960

famously demanding it at his royal table.

303

00:20:40,960 --> 00:20:42,960

Then again, he died of dysentery.

304

00:20:44,960 --> 00:20:46,960

So hopefully we'll fare better.

305

00:20:50,960 --> 00:20:52,960

Oh, bones.

306

00:20:52,960 --> 00:20:53,960

Bones?

307

00:20:53,960 --> 00:20:55,960

I wasn't expecting bones.

308

00:20:58,960 --> 00:20:59,960

You can really taste the river.

309

00:20:59,960 --> 00:21:00,960

Yeah.

310

00:21:05,960 --> 00:21:07,960

English cooking at its finest.

311

00:21:07,960 --> 00:21:09,960

Okay, let's talk treasure.

312

00:21:09,960 --> 00:21:12,960

Do you have an idea where you think King John's treasure might be?

313

00:21:12,960 --> 00:21:16,960

Yeah, well, thanks to these new Lida redales,

314

00:21:16,960 --> 00:21:20,960

we've got a lot of new areas that have opened up to us.

315

00:21:20,960 --> 00:21:23,960

And have you investigated in these places before?

316

00:21:23,960 --> 00:21:27,960

No, I haven't, but we are going to be.

317

00:21:27,960 --> 00:21:29,960

Let's finish these eels and get out there.

318

00:21:32,960 --> 00:21:34,960

Mmm, I've got some bones now.

319

00:21:42,960 --> 00:21:44,960

With eel bones still stuck in my mouth,

320

00:21:44,960 --> 00:21:47,960

Gary and I make our way to meet up with fellow treasure hunter,

321

00:21:47,960 --> 00:21:48,960

Charlie Field.

322

00:21:48,960 --> 00:21:50,960

What are you guys getting into here?

323

00:21:50,960 --> 00:21:52,960

This is probably a crossing.

324

00:21:52,960 --> 00:21:55,960

What we should do is metal detect first,

325

00:21:55,960 --> 00:21:58,960

and then that way we can use the dredge in the areas

326

00:21:58,960 --> 00:22:00,960

that look the most promising.

327

00:22:00,960 --> 00:22:02,960

And the dredge basically is just suctioning up the muscle?

328

00:22:02,960 --> 00:22:03,960

Yeah.

329

00:22:03,960 --> 00:22:06,960

So you're going to find things and tiny things

330

00:22:06,960 --> 00:22:09,960

which you wouldn't find with a metal detector as well.

331

00:22:15,960 --> 00:22:18,960

Now you might think that after the waters recede,

332

00:22:18,960 --> 00:22:21,960

the king's men will just come back down to the wash

333

00:22:21,960 --> 00:22:24,960

and recover the treasure, but it's not quite that simple.

334

00:22:24,960 --> 00:22:27,960

The thick mud here swallows anything and everything that touches it.

335

00:22:27,960 --> 00:22:30,960

So while some of the larger pieces of treasure might be recovered,

336

00:22:30,960 --> 00:22:33,960

without future technology, the rest of it will be impossible to find

337

00:22:33,960 --> 00:22:35,960

here in the 13th century.

338

00:22:35,960 --> 00:22:40,960

Thankfully, Gary and Charlie have brought all the modern-day treasure hunting essentials,

339

00:22:40,960 --> 00:22:43,960

including a dry suit that I'm assured will keep me toasty warm.

340

00:22:43,960 --> 00:22:46,960

Help me! Help me!

341

00:22:48,960 --> 00:22:51,960

Okay, snug as a bug, we're suited and booted.

342

00:22:51,960 --> 00:22:55,960

And don't open this zip underwater. Is that correct?

343

00:22:55,960 --> 00:22:56,960

Yeah.

344

00:22:56,960 --> 00:22:57,960

Okay, got it.

345

00:22:57,960 --> 00:22:58,960

Yeah.

346

00:22:58,960 --> 00:22:59,960

Perfect.

347

00:23:04,960 --> 00:23:07,960

We start our sweep of the area,

348

00:23:07,960 --> 00:23:11,960

and it seems that today, luck is on our side.

349

00:23:15,960 --> 00:23:17,960

You got something?

350

00:23:32,960 --> 00:23:35,960

I've joined treasure hunters Gary Drayton and Charlie Field

351

00:23:35,960 --> 00:23:38,960

in a freezing cold river in East Anglia, England.

352

00:23:38,960 --> 00:23:42,960

We're searching for signs of King John's lost crown jewels.

353

00:23:42,960 --> 00:23:43,960

You got something?

354

00:23:43,960 --> 00:23:46,960

When our metal detector signals a massive hit.

355

00:23:46,960 --> 00:23:47,960

What is that?

356

00:23:49,960 --> 00:23:52,960

It's iron, and it's reed in 11 inches.

357

00:23:52,960 --> 00:23:53,960

11 inches under the mud?

358

00:23:53,960 --> 00:23:55,960

Yeah, definitely we should mark this.

359

00:23:57,960 --> 00:23:59,960

All right, so that's one possible charlie.

360

00:23:59,960 --> 00:24:01,960

Okay, great. Moving on.

361

00:24:06,960 --> 00:24:08,960

We mark the spot and keep searching,

362

00:24:08,960 --> 00:24:11,960

planning to dredge wherever we've dropped our stakes.

363

00:24:13,960 --> 00:24:15,960

Get in the possible target here Josh.

364

00:24:15,960 --> 00:24:16,960

Got something?

365

00:24:16,960 --> 00:24:17,960

Yeah.

366

00:24:26,960 --> 00:24:28,960

Got another signal here Josh.

367

00:24:28,960 --> 00:24:30,960

Is mine turned on?

368

00:24:30,960 --> 00:24:33,960

Now Gary, any interest in switching metal detectors?

369

00:24:33,960 --> 00:24:35,960

Not at the moment Josh.

370

00:24:35,960 --> 00:24:37,960

This one's I think this is on a lucky streak.

371

00:24:37,960 --> 00:24:38,960

Yeah.

372

00:24:38,960 --> 00:24:40,960

I mean, I got nothing over here.

373

00:24:40,960 --> 00:24:42,960

Discouraged by my lack of success,

374

00:24:42,960 --> 00:24:44,960

I wade into deeper territory.

375

00:24:44,960 --> 00:24:47,960

But before long, I start to question that decision.

376

00:24:47,960 --> 00:24:48,960

There it is.

377

00:24:48,960 --> 00:24:49,960

Yeah.

378

00:24:49,960 --> 00:24:50,960

Oh boy.

379

00:24:51,960 --> 00:24:52,960

I don't know if the crown jewels,

380

00:24:52,960 --> 00:24:54,960

the family jewels are definitely gone now.

381

00:24:54,960 --> 00:24:55,960

Lost forever.

382

00:24:55,960 --> 00:24:56,960

Oh boy.

383

00:24:56,960 --> 00:24:57,960

That is chilly.

384

00:25:07,960 --> 00:25:08,960

Big hit here.

385

00:25:08,960 --> 00:25:09,960

Big hit.

386

00:25:11,960 --> 00:25:13,960

Can somebody get a snorkel for Gary please?

387

00:25:13,960 --> 00:25:15,960

This might be over your head Gary, I don't know.

388

00:25:16,960 --> 00:25:17,960

Too shiny.

389

00:25:17,960 --> 00:25:19,960

No, it's fine.

390

00:25:27,960 --> 00:25:28,960

Get a hit.

391

00:25:28,960 --> 00:25:30,960

I'm hoping that the concentration of stakes

392

00:25:30,960 --> 00:25:33,960

in this small area means we're on the right track

393

00:25:33,960 --> 00:25:36,960

and about to unearth some lost British bobbles.

394

00:25:36,960 --> 00:25:38,960

So I think we should fire up the dredge.

395

00:25:38,960 --> 00:25:39,960

Start doing some vacuuming.

396

00:25:39,960 --> 00:25:40,960

Yeah.

397

00:25:40,960 --> 00:25:41,960

Alright, yeah.

398

00:25:41,960 --> 00:25:42,960

We'll fire up the dredge Charlie.

399

00:25:42,960 --> 00:25:43,960

Let's see what's down here.

400

00:25:43,960 --> 00:25:44,960

Yeah.

401

00:25:44,960 --> 00:25:45,960

Charlie starts up the dredge

402

00:25:45,960 --> 00:25:47,960

and she purrs like a chain smoking kit.

403

00:25:56,960 --> 00:26:06,960

I'm relegated to hose duty, which basically means

404

00:26:06,960 --> 00:26:09,960

I suction up the riverbed in the places we've targeted.

405

00:26:09,960 --> 00:26:10,960

This is tough.

406

00:26:12,960 --> 00:26:17,960

I tried to vacuum before when your eyes closed.

407

00:26:18,960 --> 00:26:20,960

It's Antarctica.

408

00:26:21,960 --> 00:26:28,960

The dredge sucks up and spits out torrents of mud and water.

409

00:26:28,960 --> 00:26:32,960

Whatever's left over ends up trapped on the multi-layered strainer.

410

00:26:34,960 --> 00:26:36,960

Let's see if we got anything.

411

00:26:38,960 --> 00:26:41,960

So now the heavier stuff has all been kind of trapped in here.

412

00:26:47,960 --> 00:26:49,960

I think I got something here Gary.

413

00:26:49,960 --> 00:26:50,960

See that?

414

00:26:50,960 --> 00:26:51,960

Look at that.

415

00:26:51,960 --> 00:26:52,960

Look at that.

416

00:26:52,960 --> 00:26:54,960

It's like a hot cup of tea.

417

00:26:54,960 --> 00:26:57,960

Here in England, everything stops for tea time.

418

00:26:57,960 --> 00:26:58,960

Cheers.

419

00:26:58,960 --> 00:26:59,960

That is a treasure.

420

00:26:59,960 --> 00:27:01,960

Even a promising treasure hunt.

421

00:27:04,960 --> 00:27:07,960

But after a quick cuppa, we get right back to business

422

00:27:07,960 --> 00:27:09,960

looking for the jewel in the rock pile.

423

00:27:09,960 --> 00:27:11,960

Holy, hold it guys.

424

00:27:14,960 --> 00:27:15,960

It's going to hold me there.

425

00:27:16,960 --> 00:27:18,960

What is this?

426

00:27:20,960 --> 00:27:21,960

I don't know exactly what that is.

427

00:27:21,960 --> 00:27:22,960

What is it?

428

00:27:22,960 --> 00:27:24,960

That is the crest of England.

429

00:27:24,960 --> 00:27:26,960

That's the three lions for Sam.

430

00:27:27,960 --> 00:27:29,960

It's the official seal of England.

431

00:27:29,960 --> 00:27:30,960

It's the seal?

432

00:27:30,960 --> 00:27:32,960

Yeah, that's the seal, a wax seal.

433

00:27:33,960 --> 00:27:34,960

It would stamp on documents.

434

00:27:34,960 --> 00:27:35,960

Yeah, wax.

435

00:27:35,960 --> 00:27:36,960

Wax, put it onto the document.

436

00:27:36,960 --> 00:27:39,960

But not just any documents, royal documents.

437

00:27:40,960 --> 00:27:44,960

The stamp is made of lead and would have been used to seal official letters,

438

00:27:44,960 --> 00:27:48,960

possibly from someone in a position of great authority.

439

00:27:48,960 --> 00:27:49,960

How old is this?

440

00:27:49,960 --> 00:27:50,960

That is old.

441

00:27:50,960 --> 00:27:51,960

I mean, that is really old.

442

00:27:51,960 --> 00:27:52,960

How old is it?

443

00:27:52,960 --> 00:27:56,960

That's like 11, 12, that's in the time?

444

00:27:56,960 --> 00:27:59,960

This is 800 years old.

445

00:27:59,960 --> 00:28:00,960

Yeah.

446

00:28:00,960 --> 00:28:02,960

Look at that, right there.

447

00:28:02,960 --> 00:28:03,960

That is history.

448

00:28:03,960 --> 00:28:04,960

That's extraordinary.

449

00:28:04,960 --> 00:28:09,960

And for you guys to give that to me is, I mean, the generosity.

450

00:28:09,960 --> 00:28:10,960

I'll just keep this in here.

451

00:28:10,960 --> 00:28:11,960

You'll be King Josh.

452

00:28:11,960 --> 00:28:12,960

There we go.

453

00:28:12,960 --> 00:28:13,960

King Josh.

454

00:28:13,960 --> 00:28:15,960

That does have a certain ring to it.

455

00:28:16,960 --> 00:28:18,960

The seal is a significant find,

456

00:28:18,960 --> 00:28:21,960

significant enough for us to keep sifting through the freezing muck.

457

00:28:21,960 --> 00:28:23,960

And it's a good thing we do,

458

00:28:23,960 --> 00:28:28,960

because it's not long before I spot something that appears metallic stuck under the grate.

459

00:28:28,960 --> 00:28:29,960

What is that?

460

00:28:29,960 --> 00:28:30,960

Is that?

461

00:28:30,960 --> 00:28:31,960

There.

462

00:28:31,960 --> 00:28:32,960

It's a carrot?

463

00:28:32,960 --> 00:28:33,960

It looks a metal.

464

00:28:39,960 --> 00:28:40,960

What is that?

465

00:28:40,960 --> 00:28:41,960

Look at that!

466

00:28:41,960 --> 00:28:42,960

Look at that!

467

00:28:46,960 --> 00:28:51,960

I'm with treasure hunters Gary Drayton and Charlie Field

468

00:28:51,960 --> 00:28:55,960

in a region of eastern England historically referred to as the wash.

469

00:28:55,960 --> 00:28:58,960

We're sifting through what our dredge pulled out of this river

470

00:28:58,960 --> 00:29:01,960

when a piece of metal catches my eye.

471

00:29:01,960 --> 00:29:02,960

Look at that!

472

00:29:02,960 --> 00:29:03,960

A little face!

473

00:29:03,960 --> 00:29:04,960

Look at that!

474

00:29:04,960 --> 00:29:05,960

Look at it!

475

00:29:07,960 --> 00:29:09,960

It's got like a little face on it, isn't it?

476

00:29:09,960 --> 00:29:10,960

Yeah.

477

00:29:10,960 --> 00:29:13,960

I've got it for that could be way older even than what we're looking for.

478

00:29:13,960 --> 00:29:18,960

Sort of, you know, maybe 300 years earlier than what we'd be looking at.

479

00:29:18,960 --> 00:29:20,960

Wow, I mean look at that face!

480

00:29:20,960 --> 00:29:21,960

That's crazy!

481

00:29:21,960 --> 00:29:22,960

What is it?

482

00:29:22,960 --> 00:29:25,960

That would have been the metal strip when you open a purse.

483

00:29:25,960 --> 00:29:26,960

Right.

484

00:29:26,960 --> 00:29:28,960

You know, just like a little money purse.

485

00:29:28,960 --> 00:29:29,960

Right.

486

00:29:29,960 --> 00:29:31,960

And it's the same design through the centuries.

487

00:29:31,960 --> 00:29:33,960

It's a little mini piece of that.

488

00:29:33,960 --> 00:29:35,960

I mean, look at the decoration, I know.

489

00:29:35,960 --> 00:29:36,960

It's really something.

490

00:29:36,960 --> 00:29:38,960

To me, the thing that's really mind-blowing about this

491

00:29:38,960 --> 00:29:40,960

is that we found all this in one day.

492

00:29:40,960 --> 00:29:42,960

In one little area as well.

493

00:29:42,960 --> 00:29:44,960

This is just in this little area.

494

00:29:44,960 --> 00:29:50,960

So you think that we could be on top of part of the treasure from the carriage accident?

495

00:29:50,960 --> 00:29:51,960

I really do, yeah.

496

00:29:51,960 --> 00:29:54,960

I find these are serious clues.

497

00:29:54,960 --> 00:29:55,960

It's incredible.

498

00:29:55,960 --> 00:30:01,960

The artifacts we found in the river certainly suggest that this may have been a crossing point in medieval times.

499

00:30:01,960 --> 00:30:06,960

That means that King John's caravan could have become swamped right here.

500

00:30:06,960 --> 00:30:07,960

Time will tell.

501

00:30:07,960 --> 00:30:12,960

And Gary and Charlie plan to keep hunting to see what else they can dredge up.

502

00:30:14,960 --> 00:30:19,960

While they do that, I'm doing my due diligence and following another hot lead.

503

00:30:19,960 --> 00:30:22,960

I'm off to join a team that's investigating a different spot

504

00:30:22,960 --> 00:30:25,960

identified by Ben Robinson's LIDAR scans.

505

00:30:27,960 --> 00:30:32,960

The LIDAR data indicates several places where King John's caravan could have crossed the wash.

506

00:30:32,960 --> 00:30:36,960

And a group of researchers led by an archaeologist named Clive Bond

507

00:30:36,960 --> 00:30:38,960

believes they've located the right one.

508

00:30:40,960 --> 00:30:45,960

Clive's group of researchers has banded together to find out what lies beneath.

509

00:30:45,960 --> 00:30:48,960

And they're using everything from high-tech metal detectors

510

00:30:48,960 --> 00:30:51,960

to good old-fashioned shovels and sifters.

511

00:30:51,960 --> 00:30:52,960

Clive.

512

00:30:52,960 --> 00:30:53,960

Hi.

513

00:30:53,960 --> 00:30:54,960

How are you? Nice to meet you.

514

00:30:54,960 --> 00:30:55,960

Nice to meet you as well.

515

00:30:55,960 --> 00:30:56,960

Yeah, pleasure. Thanks for having me.

516

00:30:56,960 --> 00:30:57,960

Okay.

517

00:30:57,960 --> 00:30:59,960

Quite an operation you got going out here?

518

00:30:59,960 --> 00:31:00,960

It's quite busy today, yes.

519

00:31:00,960 --> 00:31:03,960

The LIDAR data gives you a high point here.

520

00:31:03,960 --> 00:31:06,960

And you can visually see this, this rise of at least a meter.

521

00:31:06,960 --> 00:31:08,960

Yeah, yeah, this kind of bump here.

522

00:31:08,960 --> 00:31:12,960

At the time of King John, this certainly would have been a route where people are going back and forth.

523

00:31:12,960 --> 00:31:16,960

So today we're investigating whether there's any activity on that rise

524

00:31:16,960 --> 00:31:20,960

which could be of that date, of that period, sort of 1216 or so,

525

00:31:20,960 --> 00:31:23,960

when potentially this caravan went past.

526

00:31:23,960 --> 00:31:26,960

To find proof that this is where the baggage train went down,

527

00:31:26,960 --> 00:31:30,960

scientists must first establish that this field was once a section of coast

528

00:31:30,960 --> 00:31:34,960

with terrain that could have engulfed such a large procession.

529

00:31:34,960 --> 00:31:38,960

That job belongs to Clive's colleagues, Martin Bates and Aaron Kavanaugh.

530

00:31:38,960 --> 00:31:39,960

Nice to meet you.

531

00:31:39,960 --> 00:31:40,960

Aaron.

532

00:31:40,960 --> 00:31:41,960

Aaron, how are you? Nice to meet you.

533

00:31:41,960 --> 00:31:43,960

And they're using some unusual-looking equipment.

534

00:31:43,960 --> 00:31:46,960

So what we're actually trying to use a geophysics for

535

00:31:46,960 --> 00:31:50,960

is to help us reconstruct the landscape that's buried beneath our feet.

536

00:31:50,960 --> 00:31:51,960

Got it.

537

00:31:51,960 --> 00:31:55,960

And it works because different sediments conduct electricity in different ways,

538

00:31:55,960 --> 00:32:00,960

so a clay will conduct electricity differently to a sand which might be more resistant.

539

00:32:00,960 --> 00:32:01,960

Got it.

540

00:32:01,960 --> 00:32:03,960

Behind you is what you're going to be doing.

541

00:32:03,960 --> 00:32:04,960

Okay.

542

00:32:04,960 --> 00:32:07,960

And this is called an electromagnetic pole.

543

00:32:07,960 --> 00:32:09,960

And it creates an electrical field around you,

544

00:32:09,960 --> 00:32:12,960

and as you move across the ground surface,

545

00:32:12,960 --> 00:32:17,960

it records the changing conductivities of the sediments beneath your feet.

546

00:32:17,960 --> 00:32:19,960

Is it going to electrocute me to death?

547

00:32:20,960 --> 00:32:21,960

Probably not.

548

00:32:21,960 --> 00:32:22,960

Okay.

549

00:32:23,960 --> 00:32:28,960

Who could possibly pass up an opportunity to have a massive electromagnetic field around them?

550

00:32:28,960 --> 00:32:33,960

So I strap on what would be best described as circus bondage gear and get to work.

551

00:32:33,960 --> 00:32:35,960

How is this a real thing?

552

00:32:35,960 --> 00:32:36,960

So we're going to turn it on.

553

00:32:36,960 --> 00:32:37,960

Okay.

554

00:32:37,960 --> 00:32:40,960

There's a lot of equipment right around this area.

555

00:32:40,960 --> 00:32:41,960

Yeah.

556

00:32:41,960 --> 00:32:42,960

Off you go.

557

00:32:42,960 --> 00:32:44,960

Why are you running away from me?

558

00:32:46,960 --> 00:32:50,960

With little direction and everyone keeping their distance for some reason,

559

00:32:50,960 --> 00:32:51,960

I'm often running.

560

00:32:52,960 --> 00:32:53,960

Science is weird.

561

00:32:55,960 --> 00:32:58,960

Can you see that you're making a little snail trail on the screen?

562

00:32:58,960 --> 00:32:59,960

Yes, I can.

563

00:33:00,960 --> 00:33:01,960

That means it's working.

564

00:33:01,960 --> 00:33:02,960

That means it's working.

565

00:33:02,960 --> 00:33:03,960

Okay.

566

00:33:03,960 --> 00:33:06,960

And each one of those points is a data point.

567

00:33:06,960 --> 00:33:08,960

I feel a little bit like a tightrope walker.

568

00:33:09,960 --> 00:33:14,960

This electromagnetic pole can look at sediments up to nearly 20 feet underground.

569

00:33:14,960 --> 00:33:16,960

Once the data is sorted and mapped,

570

00:33:16,960 --> 00:33:20,960

we can determine if this field was once part of the deadly mudflats of the wash.

571

00:33:20,960 --> 00:33:24,960

What's really amazing is that back in the 1970s,

572

00:33:24,960 --> 00:33:27,960

somebody was looking for King John's treasure in the wash,

573

00:33:27,960 --> 00:33:30,960

and they did a very early version of this sort of survey.

574

00:33:30,960 --> 00:33:31,960

Really?

575

00:33:31,960 --> 00:33:32,960

And they did it all by hand,

576

00:33:32,960 --> 00:33:34,960

because of course it didn't have any GPS.

577

00:33:34,960 --> 00:33:35,960

Right.

578

00:33:35,960 --> 00:33:37,960

It would have taken weeks and weeks.

579

00:33:37,960 --> 00:33:38,960

Wow.

580

00:33:38,960 --> 00:33:41,960

Yeah, I feel that this size we can now do in 45 minutes.

581

00:33:41,960 --> 00:33:42,960

Incredible.

582

00:33:43,960 --> 00:33:46,960

Once I walk across the entire field,

583

00:33:46,960 --> 00:33:48,960

the data points are reviewed,

584

00:33:48,960 --> 00:33:50,960

and there's promising results.

585

00:33:50,960 --> 00:33:54,960

The scan indicates what appear to be softer layers beneath the field.

586

00:33:54,960 --> 00:33:56,960

But to prove it's part of the wash,

587

00:33:56,960 --> 00:33:59,960

the team will have to actually see beneath the surface.

588

00:33:59,960 --> 00:34:03,960

To do that, we'll be employing a simple device and a lot of muscle.

589

00:34:04,960 --> 00:34:06,960

Okay, so, how does this work?

590

00:34:06,960 --> 00:34:08,960

Well, what we've got here is what's called a gouge auger.

591

00:34:08,960 --> 00:34:09,960

A gouge auger.

592

00:34:09,960 --> 00:34:10,960

A gouge auger, yeah.

593

00:34:10,960 --> 00:34:11,960

Okay.

594

00:34:11,960 --> 00:34:14,960

And so we essentially just use brute force.

595

00:34:14,960 --> 00:34:15,960

And gouge the ground.

596

00:34:15,960 --> 00:34:19,960

To drive it into the ground, we turn it, and then we pull it out.

597

00:34:19,960 --> 00:34:20,960

Got it.

598

00:34:20,960 --> 00:34:23,960

So we have to drive this entire thing down to the bottom?

599

00:34:23,960 --> 00:34:24,960

Yeah, we're going to give it a go.

600

00:34:24,960 --> 00:34:25,960

Ready?

601

00:34:25,960 --> 00:34:26,960

Yep.

602

00:34:31,960 --> 00:34:32,960

We'll push this down.

603

00:34:32,960 --> 00:34:33,960

Okay.

604

00:34:39,960 --> 00:34:40,960

Okay.

605

00:34:40,960 --> 00:34:41,960

Got it down.

606

00:34:42,960 --> 00:34:43,960

So we twist it now.

607

00:34:43,960 --> 00:34:46,960

This process isn't flashy, but it is effective.

608

00:34:46,960 --> 00:34:52,960

And it could help reveal if this is indeed the spot where King John's caravan met its tragic end.

609

00:34:52,960 --> 00:34:54,960

So we'll pull it out and we'll see what we've got.

610

00:34:54,960 --> 00:34:55,960

Okay, got it.

611

00:34:55,960 --> 00:34:56,960

Okay, so...

612

00:34:56,960 --> 00:34:58,960

This is where you throw your back at.

613

00:34:58,960 --> 00:34:59,960

Yeah, okay.

614

00:34:59,960 --> 00:35:00,960

Okay.

615

00:35:09,960 --> 00:35:15,960

Modern technology has renewed the search for the 800-year-old missing crown jewels of England's

King John.

616

00:35:15,960 --> 00:35:20,960

And I'm digging deep for soil samples with the scientists on the front lines of the hunt.

617

00:35:20,960 --> 00:35:21,960

Okay.

618

00:35:30,960 --> 00:35:34,960

Oh, actually, we got here quite soft.

619

00:35:34,960 --> 00:35:36,960

Yeah, different layers here, yeah?

620

00:35:36,960 --> 00:35:40,960

Yeah, so we've got sand and silt, sand and silt.

621

00:35:40,960 --> 00:35:41,960

Yeah.

622

00:35:41,960 --> 00:35:47,960

And this is exactly the sort of conditions you might find in mud flats associated with the tidal channel.

623

00:35:47,960 --> 00:35:50,960

So we're getting into the sort of things that we're actually looking for.

624

00:35:50,960 --> 00:35:54,960

The primary sources talk about quicksand.

625

00:35:54,960 --> 00:35:57,960

They talk about a tidal channel that opens up.

626

00:35:57,960 --> 00:35:58,960

Yeah.

627

00:35:58,960 --> 00:36:00,960

And they're sucked in by the quicksand.

628

00:36:00,960 --> 00:36:05,960

This sort of soft sand that we're seeing here, I assume, would be pretty nasty stuff to get caught in.

629

00:36:05,960 --> 00:36:08,960

It would look like solid ground.

630

00:36:08,960 --> 00:36:09,960

Right.

631

00:36:09,960 --> 00:36:11,960

But underneath it would be liquefied.

632

00:36:11,960 --> 00:36:23,960

What we're seeing here are the right sort of conditions for wetlands that would appear dry and tidal channels that you could disappear into.

633

00:36:24,960 --> 00:36:31,960

The scans and soil sampling have confirmed that this field was once part of the dangerous tidal channels of the wash.

634

00:36:31,960 --> 00:36:34,960

Now, we just need to know what's trapped in all that mud.

635

00:36:34,960 --> 00:36:39,960

To find out, Clive and his team begin metal detecting and digging test pits.

636

00:36:44,960 --> 00:36:45,960

Got something.

637

00:36:49,960 --> 00:36:50,960

This is it.

638

00:36:50,960 --> 00:36:51,960

King John's treasure, right?

639

00:36:51,960 --> 00:36:52,960

This is it.

640

00:36:52,960 --> 00:36:54,960

King John's treasure right here.

641

00:36:54,960 --> 00:36:55,960

This is the moment.

642

00:36:59,960 --> 00:37:00,960

Looks like a nail, yeah?

643

00:37:00,960 --> 00:37:01,960

Yeah.

644

00:37:03,960 --> 00:37:09,960

The nail is certainly old and could have easily been from part of a traveling baggage train.

645

00:37:09,960 --> 00:37:14,960

As for what else is lying beneath my feet, it's too tempting for me to not dig in myself.

646

00:37:14,960 --> 00:37:17,960

I grab a trowel and get to work.

647

00:37:17,960 --> 00:37:21,960

So the method to the madness here is just dig down, you know?

648

00:37:21,960 --> 00:37:23,960

Dig down, yeah, evenly, relatively.

649

00:37:23,960 --> 00:37:28,960

It's kind of difficult material because it's kind of easy to miss things and all kind of clumps up.

650

00:37:28,960 --> 00:37:31,960

The soil is dense and could be hiding anything.

651

00:37:31,960 --> 00:37:34,960

So we bring in a metal detector to expedite the search.

652

00:37:34,960 --> 00:37:36,960

Something here, something, yeah?

653

00:37:42,960 --> 00:37:44,960

Oh, oh, right there.

654

00:37:44,960 --> 00:37:45,960

See it?

655

00:37:45,960 --> 00:37:46,960

Yeah.

656

00:37:47,960 --> 00:37:48,960

What are you?

657

00:37:48,960 --> 00:37:49,960

What is that?

658

00:37:51,960 --> 00:37:54,960

Oh, look at that!

659

00:37:54,960 --> 00:38:00,960

Clive calls his team member Kevin over to examine the item and hopefully confirm its origin.

660

00:38:00,960 --> 00:38:01,960

What do you got?

661

00:38:01,960 --> 00:38:02,960

He's writing on it for sure.

662

00:38:02,960 --> 00:38:03,960

He's writing on it.

663

00:38:03,960 --> 00:38:04,960

What is it, Kevin?

664

00:38:04,960 --> 00:38:05,960

What is it?

665

00:38:05,960 --> 00:38:06,960

It's actually a lead seal, a metric seal.

666

00:38:06,960 --> 00:38:12,960

It's the sort of thing they would have used to impress in things like wax to leave their seal on

their mark, on their documents and things like that.

667

00:38:12,960 --> 00:38:13,960

What does it say?

668

00:38:13,960 --> 00:38:14,960

It's in Latin.

669

00:38:15,960 --> 00:38:17,960

I don't know if you believe that might be John.

670

00:38:17,960 --> 00:38:19,960

Does it? Does it say John?

671

00:38:19,960 --> 00:38:22,960

It does look definitely like John to me.

672

00:38:22,960 --> 00:38:23,960

Look at that!

673

00:38:23,960 --> 00:38:24,960

Made evil Latin.

674

00:38:24,960 --> 00:38:28,960

Yeah, and then there's John, the son of Richard.

675

00:38:28,960 --> 00:38:30,960

No! No!

676

00:38:30,960 --> 00:38:33,960

John, brother of Richard, I would take.

677

00:38:33,960 --> 00:38:36,960

But John was, our John was son of Henry.

678

00:38:36,960 --> 00:38:38,960

Son of Henry would be much better, yeah.

679

00:38:38,960 --> 00:38:39,960

Right.

680

00:38:39,960 --> 00:38:40,960

Anyway, wow.

681

00:38:40,960 --> 00:38:41,960

No!

682

00:38:41,960 --> 00:38:42,960

John?

683

00:38:42,960 --> 00:38:44,960

What sort of date do you think that is, though?

684

00:38:44,960 --> 00:38:45,960

The 13th century.

685

00:38:45,960 --> 00:38:46,960

Yeah.

686

00:38:46,960 --> 00:38:47,960

It's right on the back, back on the mark, yeah.

687

00:38:47,960 --> 00:38:48,960

So right, right time period?

688

00:38:48,960 --> 00:38:49,960

Right time period.

689

00:38:50,960 --> 00:38:57,960

To find electrifies the dig, there's a sense that we're on the verge of a major discovery.

690

00:38:57,960 --> 00:39:01,960

Kevin goes to search in the fields while I keep looking in the pit where we found the seal.

691

00:39:01,960 --> 00:39:06,960

And that's where we stay until Kevin finds something incredible.

692

00:39:06,960 --> 00:39:07,960

Son!

693

00:39:07,960 --> 00:39:08,960

You got something really good here, mate.

694

00:39:08,960 --> 00:39:09,960

You got something really good here, mate.

695

00:39:09,960 --> 00:39:10,960

You got something really good here, mate.

696

00:39:10,960 --> 00:39:11,960

You got something really good here, mate.

697

00:39:11,960 --> 00:39:12,960

You got something!

698

00:39:12,960 --> 00:39:13,960

Yeah, great!

699

00:39:13,960 --> 00:39:14,960

This is...

700

00:39:16,960 --> 00:39:20,960

We've got to find some fantastic stuff, though, but this is really quite amazing.

701

00:39:22,960 --> 00:39:23,960

How cool is that?

702

00:39:31,960 --> 00:39:37,960

I'm on the east coast of England surrounded by archaeologists, geophysicists and historians.

703

00:39:37,960 --> 00:39:40,960

All on the hunt for King John's long lost treasure.

704

00:39:40,960 --> 00:39:43,960

And we may have finally uncovered the missing link.

705

00:39:44,960 --> 00:39:45,960

What do you got?

706

00:39:45,960 --> 00:39:46,960

Well, look at this.

707

00:39:46,960 --> 00:39:47,960

That's amazing.

708

00:39:47,960 --> 00:39:48,960

It's actually a strap end.

709

00:39:48,960 --> 00:39:50,960

And I can't be certain, but it looks like medieval.

710

00:39:50,960 --> 00:39:53,960

But the amazing thing is it's got a king's head on the top with a crown on it.

711

00:39:54,960 --> 00:39:56,960

It's like it's off the end of a belt, you know, like a strap.

712

00:39:58,960 --> 00:40:00,960

Just amazing it's got a king's head on it.

713

00:40:00,960 --> 00:40:01,960

Wow.

714

00:40:01,960 --> 00:40:02,960

How cool is that?

715

00:40:02,960 --> 00:40:04,960

Doesn't get much more high society than that, the head of the king.

716

00:40:04,960 --> 00:40:05,960

No, no.

717

00:40:06,960 --> 00:40:09,960

We may be looking at a representation of King John himself.

718

00:40:10,960 --> 00:40:16,960

The depiction of a king's head from the end of a strap would certainly be a luxury item in the 13th century,

719

00:40:16,960 --> 00:40:18,960

possibly even royal in origin.

720

00:40:19,960 --> 00:40:25,960

Together with the seal we found earlier, this area is turning out to be a trove of high-end medieval relics.

721

00:40:25,960 --> 00:40:28,960

There is, of course, one important question left to ask.

722

00:40:29,960 --> 00:40:32,960

Do you think that this area could be the crossing in question?

723

00:40:32,960 --> 00:40:36,960

You can't doubt it for one second that the fact that this is some sort of causeway.

724

00:40:36,960 --> 00:40:38,960

It's just got all the right answers for us.

725

00:40:38,960 --> 00:40:44,960

And it's got these roads leading to different locations, which somebody like John and his caravan would have to use.

726

00:40:44,960 --> 00:40:45,960

Right.

727

00:40:45,960 --> 00:40:47,960

And we also have rich finds like that.

728

00:40:47,960 --> 00:40:48,960

So yeah, absolutely.

729

00:40:48,960 --> 00:40:52,960

We have a location which fits, I think, the story.

730

00:40:52,960 --> 00:40:54,960

And so a lot more work to be done here.

731

00:40:54,960 --> 00:40:55,960

Absolutely. This is just the beginning.

732

00:40:55,960 --> 00:40:56,960

Yeah.

733

00:40:56,960 --> 00:40:59,960

It'll go on, it'll go on for many seasons to come, I think.

734

00:40:59,960 --> 00:41:01,960

So, watch this space. More to come.

735

00:41:02,960 --> 00:41:03,960

Awesome work, guys.

736

00:41:05,960 --> 00:41:11,960

With the sun disappearing over the horizon, my quest for King John's lost caravan comes to an end.

737

00:41:11,960 --> 00:41:18,960

I've explored the deep end in search of the treasure, and perhaps even hover on the brink of an epic discovery.

738

00:41:18,960 --> 00:41:26,960

Because of the sheer size of the king's baggage train, it's possible that both places we explored were in their ill-fated path across the wash.

739

00:41:26,960 --> 00:41:31,960

And so the hunt for a missing piece of British history continues.

740

00:41:31,960 --> 00:41:37,960

But with dedicated archaeologists, historians, and treasure hunters on the case, and dramatic new finds,

741

00:41:37,960 --> 00:41:45,960

it might just be a matter of time before these 800-year-old jewels emerge from the mud to shine once more.