

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:09,120

Day is breaking over the Salisbury Plain. We're about 75 miles west of London.

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00:00:09,120 --> 00:00:13,680

It's very early and it's very cold, but I for once certainly don't mind being up

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00:00:13,680 --> 00:00:17,400

because today I've been given a very rare permission to hike up here before

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00:00:17,400 --> 00:00:22,640

anybody else and to walk among giants.

5

00:00:30,000 --> 00:00:45,080

Stonehenge. Just the name is iconic. They're 13 or 14 feet tall. They're 7 feet wide.

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00:00:45,080 --> 00:00:50,880

They weigh 25 tons each and you know, whole generations of people are going to

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00:00:50,880 --> 00:00:55,960

be born and live and die and yet these stones will still be here. They are a

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00:00:55,960 --> 00:01:01,720

monument to time and yet we still don't fully understand the mysteries of

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00:01:01,720 --> 00:01:09,240

Stonehenge. Who built them and why? But I'm here to find out.

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00:01:15,960 --> 00:01:21,840

Stonehenge. Myth and legend have always surrounded its origins. It's been called

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00:01:21,840 --> 00:01:28,800

both a healing site and a place of human sacrifice. Was it a calendar or a stellar

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00:01:28,800 --> 00:01:34,480

observatory? Its construction has been attributed to druids, the wizard Merlin,

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00:01:34,480 --> 00:01:37,680

and even aliens.

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00:01:38,720 --> 00:01:45,040

For centuries historians have fiercely debated the site's true purpose, but now

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00:01:45,040 --> 00:01:49,800

for the first time ever they're coming close to solving the enigma. Cutting-edge

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00:01:49,840 --> 00:01:55,400

technology is revealing secret markings etched into the stones. Nearby the

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00:01:55,400 --> 00:02:00,480

revelation of other hidden monuments is rewriting everything we thought we knew

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00:02:00,480 --> 00:02:05,040

and a stunning discovery in the most remote reaches of Great Britain may

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00:02:05,040 --> 00:02:09,600

finally reveal where the idea for Stonehenge came from and expose the

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00:02:09,600 --> 00:02:16,160

identity of those who built it. So get ready to join an expedition to tackle

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00:02:16,200 --> 00:02:22,360

the ultimate ancient mystery, solving the riddle of Stonehenge.

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00:02:25,600 --> 00:02:32,400

My name is Josh Gates. With a degree in archaeology and a passion for

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00:02:32,400 --> 00:02:38,520

exploration, I have a tendency to end up in some very strange situations. It's just

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00:02:38,520 --> 00:02:44,280

straight down! Unbelievable! My travels have taken me to the ends of the earth

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00:02:45,040 --> 00:02:53,600

as I investigate the greatest legends in history. This is Expedition Unknown.

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00:02:54,800 --> 00:02:59,640

To kick off my investigation into Stonehenge, I begin in the surrounding

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00:02:59,640 --> 00:03:04,040

area of Wiltshire County, England. These are some of the most charming towns to

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00:03:04,040 --> 00:03:09,280

ever thatch a roof and in case the cafes, hotels, and bars don't tip you off,

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00:03:09,720 --> 00:03:14,560

folks around here are in the Stonehenge business. One shop catering to the

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00:03:14,560 --> 00:03:18,920

crystal and tree worshipping set appears to have been built for hobbits. I'm

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00:03:18,920 --> 00:03:24,640

officially too tall for this shop. Here you can find a small rock to set any

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00:03:24,640 --> 00:03:29,880

mood. Red Tiger's Eye said to be a stimulating stone. You know what that

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00:03:29,880 --> 00:03:38,320

means? Hard as a rock. The New Age shop is just one sign of the eclectic crowd

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00:03:38,360 --> 00:03:42,520

that the Stonehenge area seems to attract. But it seems that everyone has a

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00:03:42,520 --> 00:03:46,320

different opinion about where the town's main tourist attraction came from.

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00:03:48,320 --> 00:03:51,320

It's like a meteorite and it just blew up and went...

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00:03:52,320 --> 00:03:58,320

It's like a big massive time clock. Big massive time clock. The people who built Stonehenge

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00:03:58,320 --> 00:04:03,320

at like a logical analogue of Lewis Carroll's rabbit hole or the mirror, how do you

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00:04:03,320 --> 00:04:09,320

go through a mirror when the silvering's on the back? Big party up there, lots of

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00:04:09,320 --> 00:04:14,160

roast hog. Clumie and who built Stonehenge? Extraterrestrials that the ancient

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00:04:14,160 --> 00:04:19,000

Britons worshipped as gods basically. That settles that. I'm also admiring this

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00:04:19,000 --> 00:04:22,320

staff here. If you hold him like that on the ground... You want me to hold this?

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00:04:22,320 --> 00:04:28,320

I'd love you to. Okay. How do you feel holding him? Uncomfortable. Oh dear.

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00:04:29,320 --> 00:04:35,320

Though these guys definitely have some interesting ideas, I'm eager to hear what the

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00:04:35,320 --> 00:04:42,320

experts have to say about why Stonehenge was built. And to do that, I'm joining forces

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00:04:42,320 --> 00:04:49,320

with an all-star team of scholars back at the site. Hello. Josh. Hi Josh. I'm Mike.

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00:04:49,320 --> 00:04:53,320

Mike, nice to meet you. Hi. Susan. Susan. Hi Rupert. Rupert, pleasure.

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00:04:54,320 --> 00:04:59,320

Mike Parker Pearson is a leading expert in the archaeology of Stonehenge and his recent

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00:04:59,320 --> 00:05:05,320

findings are the reason I'm here. But first, I ask him for a bit of Stonehenge 101. So

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00:05:05,320 --> 00:05:10,320

what is ahenge? It's not the stones, right? No, ahenge is actually an earthen enclosure

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00:05:10,320 --> 00:05:14,320

with a ditch and a bank. So if these stones weren't here, this would still be ahenge?

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00:05:14,320 --> 00:05:18,320

It's still ahenge because there is a bank and ditch outside of it. So that's one mystery

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00:05:18,320 --> 00:05:23,320

solved. Stonehenge isn't just a name. It's a description of a stone circle inside a

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00:05:23,320 --> 00:05:29,320

henge that ancient peoples managed to plan and construct in stages between 4 and 5,000

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00:05:29,320 --> 00:05:34,320

years ago. Historian Susan Greeney has studied how they might have done it. The smallest stones

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00:05:34,320 --> 00:05:38,320

you can see around us here, these have been bought from South-West Wales about 180 miles

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00:05:38,320 --> 00:05:43,320

away. And we think they've been bought by the sea, by boats, and then overland Stonehenge.

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00:05:43,320 --> 00:05:49,320

That's crazy. Considering the complexity and the difficulty of the engineering, do you

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00:05:49,320 --> 00:05:55,320

think there was some centralized power conducting this? I think there has to be. This is a work

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00:05:55,320 --> 00:06:00,320

of genius. There's so much thought that has gone into every single bit of it. The evidence

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00:06:00,320 --> 00:06:06,320

we have is that this may well have been a moment of cohesion where people are bringing autonomous

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00:06:06,320 --> 00:06:11,320

groups together to all act in synchrony.

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00:06:11,320 --> 00:06:16,320

Mike tells me that 5 millennia ago, Britain was populated by disparate groups of people

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00:06:16,320 --> 00:06:21,320

who were finally making the transition from hunting and gathering to farming. These weren't

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00:06:21,320 --> 00:06:26,320

rogue druids like Spinal Tap would have you believe. Druids didn't even exist until thousands

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00:06:26,320 --> 00:06:31,320

of years later. No, these were surprisingly advanced Stonehenge or Neolithic people who

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00:06:31,320 --> 00:06:37,320

started working together on this massive project. But its biggest mystery remains.

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00:06:38,320 --> 00:06:43,320

What the hell is it for? For decades, many focused on the site's entrance. It's aligned

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00:06:43,320 --> 00:06:48,320

with the rising sun on the summer solstice, so many believed it was intended as an astronomical

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00:06:48,320 --> 00:06:54,320

worship or celebration site. But recently, an investigation turned up a macabre find that

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00:06:54,320 --> 00:07:01,320

began to change the accepted view of Stonehenge. When we dug here, what we found was human

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00:07:01,320 --> 00:07:07,320

remains. That was just a fraction of the number of people who were buried here. This place

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00:07:07,320 --> 00:07:14,320

was full of the cremated remains of the dead. It's basically the largest cemetery within

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00:07:14,320 --> 00:07:20,320

Britain for the whole of the 3rd millennium BC. Incredible.

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00:07:20,320 --> 00:07:26,320

So Stonehenge was much more than some ancient stargazing site. It also appears to be a massive

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00:07:26,320 --> 00:07:31,320

graveyard. The connection between the two functions has remained elusive, but in recent

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00:07:31,320 --> 00:07:37,320

years, the magic of technology has helped experts crack the code. English Heritage, which maintains

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00:07:37,320 --> 00:07:43,320

the site, has been working on the most detailed scans of the monument ever conducted. The team

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00:07:43,320 --> 00:07:50,320

behind the tech is here today. This is Stephen. Hi, Antonio. Nice to meet you, Josh. How are

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00:07:50,320 --> 00:07:55,320

you? Pleasure to meet you. They've been using 3D scanners that shower the area with lasers,

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00:07:55,320 --> 00:08:01,320

mapping and measuring every detail of the landscape down to fractions of a millimeter. Some are

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00:08:01,320 --> 00:08:07,320

mounted on tripods, but others, like the Leica Pegasus backpack, are a bit more mobile. That's

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00:08:07,320 --> 00:08:12,320

a Dalek from Dr. Who, correct? Correct, yes. Wearable Dalek. What is this thing? It's a mobile

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00:08:12,320 --> 00:08:16,320

mapping unit. Do you want to have a go? Oh, for sure. I'd love to. This is the coolest backpack

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00:08:16,320 --> 00:08:21,320

I've ever seen. So if I were to break this, what is the value of this thing I'm wearing? It's about

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00:08:21,320 --> 00:08:27,320

\$200,000. Well, it sounded a lot like you said \$200,000. I didn't eat. This is literally worth more

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00:08:27,320 --> 00:08:35,320

than everything that I own. I walk through the monument with a laser scanner. Talk about doing

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00:08:35,320 --> 00:08:42,320

work on the go. This thing has 32 individual lasers on board that are capable of capturing half

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00:08:42,320 --> 00:08:48,320

a million data points every second. And the onboard cameras are able to see every single time I take a

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00:08:48,320 --> 00:08:55,320

step, generating 25 megs of data every meter that I walk forward. In other words, this thing is able to

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00:08:55,320 --> 00:09:01,320

see everything. In the most recent rounds of scans, English Heritage generated an incredible 850

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00:09:01,320 --> 00:09:07,320

gigabytes of data, which has started to settle long simmering debates about the site's original

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00:09:07,320 --> 00:09:13,320

function. The scan showed us that particularly in this direction where the sun sets in midwinter

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00:09:13,320 --> 00:09:18,320

along the Solstice alignment, the stones were shaped much more carefully than some of the other stones.

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00:09:18,320 --> 00:09:23,320

The scans reveal that special care was used in constructing and refining a specific viewing

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00:09:23,320 --> 00:09:31,320

alignment, not just the summer Solstice, but in fact, completely the opposite. Stonehenge seems to

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00:09:31,320 --> 00:09:37,320

instead have been built to channel the sunset on the shortest day of the year. We've all been thinking

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00:09:37,320 --> 00:09:44,320

about the midsummer sunrise, but it now looks as though the most important direction of sight is through

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00:09:44,320 --> 00:09:55,320

that gap towards the midwinter sunset. Far from being an altar to worship the gods who brought the

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00:09:55,320 --> 00:10:01,320

light and warmth of summer, Stonehenge appears to have been made for the dark cold of an English winter.

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00:10:01,320 --> 00:10:08,320

And that's not all the data has shown. One of the things the laser scanner also shows us is the detail of the

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00:10:08,320 --> 00:10:13,320

dressing of the stones. When I say dressing, what we mean is the way that the stones are worked and they were

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00:10:13,320 --> 00:10:20,320

shaped using hammerstone. You can see here these mushroom shapes. So these are all axes. Look at that.

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00:10:20,320 --> 00:10:28,320

That is spectacular. The amazing detail uncovered 72 never before seen symbols carved into the stones. Oh, here.

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00:10:28,320 --> 00:10:34,320

That's right. Though more recent than the original construction, the carvings here serve as a sort of nail in the coffin

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00:10:34,320 --> 00:10:44,320

for what Stonehenge was really for. We only find carved axes on slabs associated with burials.

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00:10:44,320 --> 00:10:53,320

This, along with the winter solstice alignment, supports Mike's theory that Stonehenge was actually built as a monument to the ancestors,

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00:10:53,320 --> 00:11:02,320

a so-called land of the dead. In and of itself, this is a bombshell revelation for a site once thought to be a simple calendar

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00:11:02,320 --> 00:11:08,320

or a place of celebrations. But the question remains, why was Stonehenge built in this particular

spot?

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00:11:08,320 --> 00:11:18,320

What makes this place special? Mike leads me outside the stone circle to reveal another amazing find. Do you notice anything weird out here?

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00:11:18,320 --> 00:11:27,320

Well, you've got this kind of ditch mound here. That's it. These banks are natural landforms. The natural formation that was here sits in

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00:11:27,320 --> 00:11:34,320

an alignment with the stars and sun above. To the builders of Stonehenge, this made for the perfect spot to erect their monument.

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00:11:34,320 --> 00:11:41,320

What they did when they built Stonehenge was to embellish this natural feature that matches the movement of the heavens.

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00:11:41,320 --> 00:11:51,320

This may have been the center of their cosmos. Does it lead anywhere? Down to the valley over that ridge. There, we found another

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00:11:51,320 --> 00:11:58,320

henge, which has come to be known as Superhenge. I'm sorry, did he just say Superhenge?

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00:12:05,320 --> 00:12:13,320

I'm on a quest to discover the meaning of Stonehenge, and I've just learned that the site was actually a massive burial area.

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00:12:13,320 --> 00:12:21,320

Now, archaeologist Mike Parker Pearson is leading me away from the site along a secret avenue that points to another hidden henge.

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00:12:21,320 --> 00:12:23,320

Josh, this is Superhenge.

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00:12:24,320 --> 00:12:27,320

Look at that. It's massive.

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00:12:29,320 --> 00:12:34,320

Yes, it is the largest henge in the world. Incredible.

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00:12:34,320 --> 00:12:45,320

Nearly two miles away, northeast of Stonehenge, is an enormous bank and ditch construction, with walls nearly 10 feet tall and a diameter of 1,600 feet across.

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00:12:45,320 --> 00:12:50,320

It's more than five times the size of the earthworks at Stonehenge.

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00:12:50,320 --> 00:12:52,320

But what I do not see are any stones.

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00:12:52,320 --> 00:12:55,320

Yeah, this is all about timber.

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00:12:56,320 --> 00:13:02,320

Archaeologists here discovered a timber circle, then another, then a third.

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00:13:03,320 --> 00:13:11,320

And then this last year, we discovered that the whole thing was surrounded by a giant timber circle.

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00:13:11,320 --> 00:13:12,320

Wow.

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00:13:14,320 --> 00:13:20,320

1,200 feet in diameter, probably more than 300 giant posts.

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00:13:20,320 --> 00:13:22,320

Posts the size of totem poles.

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00:13:22,320 --> 00:13:24,320

That is extraordinary.

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00:13:25,320 --> 00:13:36,320

The wood posts may be long gone, but excavations inside this massive henge have unearthed proof that the site wasn't just for rituals or burials like Stonehenge.

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00:13:37,320 --> 00:13:45,320

They were surrounded by houses. This is where people were living in their thousands.

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00:13:45,320 --> 00:13:48,320

So these are the people that are constructing Stonehenge?

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00:13:48,320 --> 00:13:53,320

Yes, linking natural landforms with these great monuments.

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00:13:54,320 --> 00:13:58,320

But to understand it best, you've really got to see it from the air.

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00:13:58,320 --> 00:13:59,320

From the air.

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00:14:09,320 --> 00:14:16,320

To show me the super side of Superhenge, Mike takes me to a nearby airfield where a helicopter awaits.

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00:14:16,320 --> 00:14:17,320

Okay, up and out.

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00:14:18,320 --> 00:14:26,320

Once we get airborne, we arrive over Superhenge. The scale of the construction finally hits home.

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00:14:26,320 --> 00:14:32,320

Wow, look at that. You can really see the shape of it from up here. And it's massive.

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00:14:32,320 --> 00:14:43,320

It is. This was a sophisticated civilization, but it's just one small part of what's going on in this landscape back in prehistory.

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00:14:43,320 --> 00:14:49,320

From Superhenge, we fly on to Silbury Hill, the tallest man-made mound in Europe.

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00:14:50,320 --> 00:14:54,320

Finally, we come upon the site that Mike is most excited about showing me.

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00:14:54,320 --> 00:14:56,320

Josh, you see this town up ahead of us?

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00:14:56,320 --> 00:14:57,320

Yes.

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00:14:57,320 --> 00:15:00,320

Do you notice anything strange about it?

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00:15:00,320 --> 00:15:02,320

It's got a circle around it.

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00:15:02,320 --> 00:15:05,320

It's sucked inside a henge.

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00:15:06,320 --> 00:15:08,320

Oh my God, look at that.

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00:15:09,320 --> 00:15:18,320

This is the town of Avebury, which sits inside the largest stone circle in the world, 16 times bigger than Stonehenge.

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00:15:18,320 --> 00:15:22,320

It originally had 98 sarsen slabs running around the edge.

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00:15:23,320 --> 00:15:28,320

In terms of understanding the origins of Stonehenge, where does this idea come from?

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00:15:28,320 --> 00:15:31,320

I think we need to look to the west. To Wales.

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00:15:31,320 --> 00:15:32,320

Wales?

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00:15:32,320 --> 00:15:37,320

That's probably where the Stone Circle tradition originated.

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00:15:39,320 --> 00:15:47,320

Stonehenge, a site that we think of as being without equal, is actually part of a much larger network of circular monuments.

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00:15:47,320 --> 00:15:53,320

There's the bank and ditch in nearby Superhenge, and a larger stone circle at Avebury.

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00:15:54,320 --> 00:16:00,320

So the question is, where did the idea for these henges and stone circles originate?

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00:16:01,320 --> 00:16:05,320

Answering this question will mean taking a journey back in time.

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00:16:06,320 --> 00:16:11,320

To get there, I'm riding in my own piece of English history.

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00:16:18,320 --> 00:16:22,320

To learn more about the mysteries of Stonehenge, as well as the people who built it,

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00:16:22,320 --> 00:16:29,320

I'm traveling to meet archaeologists working at a much lesser known but equally mysterious site, known as Bryn Kecklidde.

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00:16:29,320 --> 00:16:34,320

And to reach them, I'm traveling about five hours west, out of England, and into Wales.

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00:16:36,320 --> 00:16:49,320

From majestic castles to quaint village streets, it's easy to see why this region is said to have inspired Lewis Carroll to dream up Alice in Wonderland.

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00:16:49,320 --> 00:16:55,320

It's littered with beautiful sights and signs, both short and really long.

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00:16:57,320 --> 00:17:02,320

That might even push the mad hatter over the edge. What do you think the Welsh national spelling bee looks like?

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00:17:06,320 --> 00:17:14,320

Soon after crossing onto the island of Anglesey in north Wales, I finally reach the site I'm looking for.

168

00:17:17,320 --> 00:17:23,320

The ancient passage tomb of Bryn Kecklidde, at archaeologist Saren Griffiths.

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00:17:24,320 --> 00:17:28,320

Hello, I'm Josh. Nice to meet you. How are you doing? Nice to meet you too. I'm doing great.

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00:17:28,320 --> 00:17:30,320

This, I'm assuming, is the site.

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00:17:31,320 --> 00:17:33,320

This is the site. This is Bryn Kecklidde.

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00:17:33,320 --> 00:17:39,320

It's really beautiful. It's obviously a tomb. And so what are you investigating here? What are you trying to figure out?

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00:17:39,320 --> 00:17:50,320

Prior to the passage tomb, there was a stone circle within it. And the big research question is whether the earliest phase of it comprises a hench monument.

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00:17:50,320 --> 00:17:52,320

And if it is a hench, why is that significant?

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00:17:52,320 --> 00:17:57,320

Because that would be about 500 years earlier than the stone hench.

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00:17:57,320 --> 00:17:58,320

Incredible.

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00:17:59,320 --> 00:18:07,320

If this is a hench, it will be much older than stone hench and offer potential insight into the

origins of the world-famous landmark.

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00:18:07,320 --> 00:18:13,320

But to unlock the secrets of Bryn Kecklidde, Saren tells me we need a different point of view.

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00:18:14,320 --> 00:18:16,320

Mythic entrance.

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00:18:22,320 --> 00:18:23,320

This is awesome.

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00:18:23,320 --> 00:18:24,320

Awesome.

182

00:18:26,320 --> 00:18:31,320

So on the solstice, the sun would have come right through here and shined on this back wall.

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00:18:31,320 --> 00:18:32,320

Yeah.

184

00:18:33,320 --> 00:18:37,320

That's outstanding. And so to your mind, what went on in this room?

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00:18:37,320 --> 00:18:43,320

So we know that the cremated remains of a group of people were deposited within the chamber.

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00:18:43,320 --> 00:18:48,320

Behind this chamber, we have a range of very weird and wonderful things.

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00:18:48,320 --> 00:18:51,320

A human ear bone and a bit of frog.

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00:18:51,320 --> 00:18:52,320

Wow.

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00:18:52,320 --> 00:18:53,320

Kind of witches, brood.

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00:18:53,320 --> 00:18:54,320

Yeah, so this was a place of magic.

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00:18:54,320 --> 00:18:55,320

Yes.

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00:18:55,320 --> 00:18:56,320

This is Macbeth stuff, yeah.

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00:18:56,320 --> 00:18:58,320

Absolutely. That kind of ritual and ceremony.

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00:18:58,320 --> 00:18:59,320

Yeah.

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00:19:00,320 --> 00:19:03,320

There are so many dots here that connect to stone hench.

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00:19:03,320 --> 00:19:10,320

A resting place of the dead, arranged with the solstice alignment and used for arcane magic rituals.

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00:19:10,320 --> 00:19:12,320

There's even a ditch around the tomb.

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00:19:12,320 --> 00:19:18,320

To find out if there's an adjacent bank hidden underneath, which would make this place a hench,

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00:19:18,320 --> 00:19:22,320

Saren has enlisted the support of her partner, archaeologist Ben Edwards.

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00:19:23,320 --> 00:19:24,320

Hi.

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00:19:24,320 --> 00:19:25,320

Hi, yeah.

202

00:19:25,320 --> 00:19:27,320

Josh, nice to meet you.

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00:19:27,320 --> 00:19:29,320

This looks crazy.

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00:19:29,320 --> 00:19:31,320

It's not too crazy.

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00:19:31,320 --> 00:19:32,320

What is this?

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00:19:32,320 --> 00:19:33,320

This is a resistivity meter.

207

00:19:33,320 --> 00:19:34,320

Oh, of course.

208

00:19:34,320 --> 00:19:37,320

That's what I was going to say, a resistivity meter.

209

00:19:37,320 --> 00:19:41,320

You know, for those who don't know exactly what a resistivity meter is, how does it work?

210

00:19:41,320 --> 00:19:42,320

All it does is measure resistance.

211

00:19:42,320 --> 00:19:43,320

Got it.

212

00:19:43,320 --> 00:19:46,320

So you put current into the ground and it measures the resistance to that current.

213

00:19:46,320 --> 00:19:49,320

Say the bank of our hench, if there's one underneath, that'll be high resistance.

214

00:19:49,320 --> 00:19:50,320

Got it.

215

00:19:50,320 --> 00:19:51,320

You can have a go if you'd like.

216

00:19:51,320 --> 00:19:52,320

Yeah?

217

00:19:52,320 --> 00:19:53,320

Yeah.

218

00:19:53,320 --> 00:19:54,320

Oh, I would love to.

219

00:19:54,320 --> 00:19:55,320

Okay.

220

00:19:55,320 --> 00:19:56,320

So all you have to do is press start.

221

00:19:56,320 --> 00:19:58,320

It takes a reading, lift it up.

222

00:19:58,320 --> 00:19:59,320

Okay.

223

00:19:59,320 --> 00:20:00,320

That's it.

224

00:20:00,320 --> 00:20:01,320

Put it in by the meter mark on the tape.

225

00:20:01,320 --> 00:20:02,320

There's your next reading.

226

00:20:02,320 --> 00:20:03,320

Great.

227

00:20:03,320 --> 00:20:04,320

Do it again.

228

00:20:04,320 --> 00:20:05,320

Okay.

229

00:20:05,320 --> 00:20:07,320

So just every meter, okay.

230

00:20:07,320 --> 00:20:08,320

That's it.

231

00:20:08,320 --> 00:20:09,320

It's done.

232

00:20:09,320 --> 00:20:10,320

You've done the line.

233

00:20:10,320 --> 00:20:11,320

So now we go have a pint?

234

00:20:11,320 --> 00:20:12,320

No.

235

00:20:12,320 --> 00:20:13,320

No.

236

00:20:13,320 --> 00:20:14,320

Do the rest of the square on my square.

237

00:20:14,320 --> 00:20:15,320

We go back the other way.

238

00:20:15,320 --> 00:20:19,320

Oh, this suddenly got a lot less fun.

239

00:20:19,320 --> 00:20:24,320

Ben has marked out the test path with a measuring tape, so I don't take this resistivity meter

240

00:20:24,320 --> 00:20:25,320

too far astray.

241

00:20:25,320 --> 00:20:30,320

No, I'm not sure how much trouble I can get into looking like an old man with a tricked

242

00:20:30,320 --> 00:20:31,320

out walker.

243

00:20:31,320 --> 00:20:32,320

Okay.

244

00:20:32,320 --> 00:20:34,320

So moment of truth.

245

00:20:34,320 --> 00:20:36,320

Lighter gray, high resistance.

246

00:20:36,320 --> 00:20:39,320

So if we've got a light gray area, that should be the hench bank.

247

00:20:39,320 --> 00:20:40,320

Got it.

248

00:20:40,320 --> 00:20:42,320

The results are in and they are typically Welsh.

249

00:20:42,320 --> 00:20:45,320

In other words, hard for me to read.

250

00:20:45,320 --> 00:20:49,320

But to Sarin and Ben, this pixelated image is as clear as day.

251

00:20:49,320 --> 00:20:50,320

What's that?

252

00:20:50,320 --> 00:20:54,320

That in there is a lighter gray area right where the hench bank should be.

253

00:20:54,320 --> 00:20:56,320

Is that a hench?

254

00:21:04,320 --> 00:21:09,320

I'm at a Stone Age tomb in Northern Wales using state of the art geophysics technology

255

00:21:09,320 --> 00:21:13,320

to determine if this monument was once surrounded by a hench.

256

00:21:13,320 --> 00:21:19,320

That in there is a lighter gray area right where the hench bank should be.

257

00:21:19,320 --> 00:21:20,320

Is that a hench?

258

00:21:20,320 --> 00:21:21,320

Yeah.

259

00:21:21,320 --> 00:21:22,320

Yeah, that's a hench.

260

00:21:22,320 --> 00:21:24,320

Doesn't look like much, but it is.

261

00:21:24,320 --> 00:21:26,320

Ten gray pixels.

262

00:21:26,320 --> 00:21:28,320

That looks like it's confirming your theory.

263

00:21:28,320 --> 00:21:29,320

Yeah.

264

00:21:29,320 --> 00:21:30,320

Wait, that's a huge deal.

265

00:21:30,320 --> 00:21:31,320

Yeah, yeah.

266

00:21:31,320 --> 00:21:35,320

Then Ben shows me another visual reading of the same spot.

267

00:21:35,320 --> 00:21:37,320

And there it is.

268

00:21:37,320 --> 00:21:38,320

That is as clear as day.

269

00:21:38,320 --> 00:21:39,320

That looks like a hench.

270

00:21:39,320 --> 00:21:41,320

Yeah, so that makes it really old.

271

00:21:41,320 --> 00:21:43,320

Yeah, significantly old.

272

00:21:43,320 --> 00:21:48,320

This is maybe 500 years older than Stonehenge.

273

00:21:48,320 --> 00:21:49,320

That's incredible.

274

00:21:49,320 --> 00:21:51,320

So could it be the oldest hench?

275

00:21:51,320 --> 00:21:54,320

There's one other significant contender for that.

276

00:21:54,320 --> 00:21:55,320

And where's that?

277

00:21:55,320 --> 00:21:56,320

That's an Orkney.

278

00:21:56,320 --> 00:21:57,320

An Orkney is...

279

00:21:57,320 --> 00:21:58,320

Very far north.

280

00:21:58,320 --> 00:21:59,320

The North.

281

00:21:59,320 --> 00:22:00,320

The North.

282

00:22:00,320 --> 00:22:03,320

North, north, north, the coast of Scotland.

283

00:22:03,320 --> 00:22:04,320

Okay.

284

00:22:05,320 --> 00:22:11,320

The builders of Bryn Kethly-D appear to have brought their influence down to Stonehenge.

285

00:22:11,320 --> 00:22:18,320

The Stone Circle incorporated surrounding landforms, advanced engineering, and ritual burials.

286

00:22:18,320 --> 00:22:24,320

But further north could be an even older hench and evidence of the people that started it all.

287

00:22:25,320 --> 00:22:31,320

The next morning I hop back into my Britmobile and embark on a 10-hour road trip toward Orkney.

288

00:22:31,320 --> 00:22:36,320

Three and a half hours in, I cross the border into Bonnie's Scotland.

289

00:22:36,320 --> 00:22:41,320

I always think of Scotland as England's slightly edgy older brother.

290

00:22:41,320 --> 00:22:46,320

Bit rowdy-er, bit drunker, been to jail a few times, but a lot of fun.

291

00:22:48,320 --> 00:22:51,320

My first mandatory pit stop is Urquhart Castle.

292

00:22:51,320 --> 00:22:54,320

Which dates back to the 13th century.

293

00:22:56,320 --> 00:22:59,320

As castles go, this one's a little run down.

294

00:22:59,320 --> 00:23:07,320

But since it's perched over Loch Ness, I'm more interested in it as the best viewing spot for the world's most famous monster.

295

00:23:07,320 --> 00:23:08,320

Sorry, Bigfoot.

296

00:23:08,320 --> 00:23:13,320

It says here there is a million-dollar reward, Bryn, if you capture evidence of Nessie.

297

00:23:13,320 --> 00:23:16,320

So, pretty much the episode took a hard turn.

298

00:23:16,320 --> 00:23:18,320

We're just going to be staying here now.

299

00:23:18,320 --> 00:23:21,320

We're staying here, Bryn. It's a million dollars.

300

00:23:21,320 --> 00:23:23,320

You keep looking through that camera.

301

00:23:23,320 --> 00:23:25,320

Burn yourself a suite. 10 grand.

302

00:23:25,320 --> 00:23:26,320

10 grand?

303

00:23:26,320 --> 00:23:27,320

15 grand, maybe.

304

00:23:27,320 --> 00:23:28,320

We can talk about it, Bryn.

305

00:23:28,320 --> 00:23:31,320

The point is, keep your eye on that lens.

306

00:23:31,320 --> 00:23:33,320

You're Nessie, Nessie, Nessie, Nessie.

307

00:23:34,320 --> 00:23:37,320

You can't stay underwater forever.

308

00:23:41,320 --> 00:23:44,320

And from there, it's onward up the North Coast 500.

309

00:23:44,320 --> 00:23:47,320

A.K.A. Scotland's Route 66.

310

00:23:49,320 --> 00:23:57,320

The scenery is a quintessentially Scottish mix of very old buildings, medieval cathedrals, and quirky roadside attractions.

311

00:23:57,320 --> 00:23:59,320

Oh my God, there it is.

312

00:23:59,320 --> 00:24:00,320

Yard hinge.

313

00:24:00,320 --> 00:24:02,320

Very rare.

314

00:24:02,320 --> 00:24:06,320

Unless you have a subscription to an English Skymall catalogue.

315

00:24:14,320 --> 00:24:18,320

With the sun starting to set, I finally arrive at the end of the road.

316

00:24:19,320 --> 00:24:21,320

Literally, there's no more land.

317

00:24:23,320 --> 00:24:29,320

This is the very tiny village of John O'Groats, population about 300.

318

00:24:29,320 --> 00:24:32,320

We're at the very northeastern tip of Great Britain here.

319

00:24:32,320 --> 00:24:37,320

This place has the unfortunate honour of being named the most dismal town in Scotland.

320

00:24:37,320 --> 00:24:40,320

Sure, it seems a little bit lonely, but what do you want?

321

00:24:40,320 --> 00:24:42,320

We're at the end of the world.

322

00:24:45,320 --> 00:24:47,320

What's not to like here?

323

00:24:47,320 --> 00:24:51,320

From stunning seaside cliffs to a damn fine fish and ship stand.

324

00:24:51,320 --> 00:24:52,320

That's it.

325

00:24:52,320 --> 00:24:54,320

Oh man, is that good.

326

00:24:54,320 --> 00:24:56,320

John O'Groats is my kind of dismal.

327

00:24:56,320 --> 00:25:01,320

They even have a charming inn at Land's End that looks like it was plucked out of a Wes Anderson film.

328

00:25:01,320 --> 00:25:04,320

And it affords me a cozy room to spend the night.

329

00:25:04,320 --> 00:25:08,320

The next morning, I hop aboard a ferry to the remote archipelago of Orkney.

330

00:25:08,320 --> 00:25:09,320

Thank you.

331

00:25:09,320 --> 00:25:15,320

Passage from mainland Scotland to Orkney's Port of Stromnes is just 24 miles as the crow flies.

332

00:25:17,320 --> 00:25:21,320

But this stretch of sea has bested even the world's most seasoned seafarers.

333

00:25:21,320 --> 00:25:23,320

This is known as the Pendlin Firth.

334

00:25:23,320 --> 00:25:26,320

The Viking sagas talk about this sea continent.

335

00:25:26,320 --> 00:25:30,320

The Orkney River is the most beautiful and most beautiful river in the world.

336

00:25:30,320 --> 00:25:32,320

And this is known as the Pendlin Firth.

337

00:25:32,320 --> 00:25:35,320

The Viking sagas talk about this sea consuming their ships.

338

00:25:35,320 --> 00:25:40,320

And just a couple of years ago, it swallowed a cargo freighter that's even larger than this ferry.

339

00:25:45,320 --> 00:25:47,320

This is going to be pukey.

340

00:25:51,320 --> 00:25:52,320

Beautiful out here.

341

00:25:52,320 --> 00:25:54,320

Beautiful North Sea weather.

342

00:26:01,320 --> 00:26:10,320

My search for the hidden origin of Stonehenge has brought me from a tomb in Wales to a treacherous ferry crossing.

343

00:26:10,320 --> 00:26:15,320

We're sailing from the northern tip of Scotland to the remote islands of Orkney.

344

00:26:15,320 --> 00:26:18,320

That is, if the waves don't get us first.

345

00:26:18,320 --> 00:26:19,320

Woo!

346

00:26:19,320 --> 00:26:22,320

He has just keep your eye on the horizon.

347

00:26:22,320 --> 00:26:26,320

Once inside the breakwaters of Orkney, the seas calm.

348

00:26:26,320 --> 00:26:31,320

And we dock at the charming, if isolated, town of Stromnes.

349

00:26:34,320 --> 00:26:38,320

From here, I'm crossing the island to meet with archaeologist Caroline Wickham-Jones,

350

00:26:38,320 --> 00:26:42,320

who has been studying Stonehenge structures in the far northern edge of Britain.

351

00:26:42,320 --> 00:26:47,320

She's revealing to me a little known but jaw-dropping sea-sweeping rock.

352

00:26:47,320 --> 00:26:52,320

This is the best preserved Stonehenge village in Europe.

353

00:26:52,320 --> 00:26:54,320

This is insane.

354

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

This is like hobbit Middle-Earth stuff.

355

00:27:04,320 --> 00:27:11,320

You're seeing a house that is, as it was left by Stonehenge village.

356

00:27:12,320 --> 00:27:17,320

Caroline has secured special permission for us to get inside for a closer look.

357

00:27:17,320 --> 00:27:20,320

This is not going to be the most glamorous entrance.

358

00:27:20,320 --> 00:27:24,320

There have definitely been advances in doorframe technology since the Stonehenge.

359

00:27:24,320 --> 00:27:30,320

After a quick crawl through a prehistoric portal, we emerge in a Stonehenge domicile.

360

00:27:30,320 --> 00:27:34,320

This is one of the most beautiful places in the world.

361

00:27:34,320 --> 00:27:40,320

After a quick crawl through a prehistoric portal, we emerge in a Stonehenge domicile.

362

00:27:40,320 --> 00:27:42,320

This is awesome.

363

00:27:44,320 --> 00:27:46,320

Literally, we're in someone's home.

364

00:27:46,320 --> 00:27:47,320

Yes.

365

00:27:47,320 --> 00:27:48,320

Are these beds?

366

00:27:48,320 --> 00:27:50,320

Yes. Furniture made of stone.

367

00:27:50,320 --> 00:27:52,320

And this awesome storage area here?

368

00:27:52,320 --> 00:27:57,320

We think that they've probably used them to keep things fresh as a sort of Stonehenge fridge.

369

00:27:57,320 --> 00:27:59,320

You could rent this place in Manhattan tomorrow.

370

00:27:59,320 --> 00:28:01,320

You'd get a lot of money for it.

371

00:28:01,320 --> 00:28:04,320

This homey one bedroom isn't just a fixer-upper with a view.

372

00:28:04,320 --> 00:28:10,320

It's also the key to learning about how the people here ended up influencing the building of Stonehenge.

373

00:28:10,320 --> 00:28:15,320

One of the things that we find here is highly decorated pottery.

374

00:28:15,320 --> 00:28:19,320

The very early estates for this pottery are here in Orkney.

375

00:28:19,320 --> 00:28:23,320

So it's being developed by the people who are living in these sort of communities.

376

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

We also find pieces of this pottery down at Stonehenge.

377

00:28:28,320 --> 00:28:29,320

Really?

378

00:28:31,320 --> 00:28:37,320

It shows us that there must be people travelling from the north to the south.

379

00:28:37,320 --> 00:28:39,320

That's a proof positive linkage.

380

00:28:39,320 --> 00:28:41,320

Absolutely, yes.

381

00:28:42,320 --> 00:28:47,320

As we've seen in Wales, the people migrating south to present-day England didn't just bring pottery.

382

00:28:47,320 --> 00:28:53,320

They brought ideas, advanced engineering know-how, and their sacred rituals.

383

00:28:53,320 --> 00:28:56,320

But what about stone circles and henges?

384

00:28:56,320 --> 00:28:59,320

Turns out, those are here too.

385

00:29:00,320 --> 00:29:06,320

Caroline brings me a few miles up the road to a stone circle that may be the oldest henge in the UK.

386

00:29:06,320 --> 00:29:08,320

The Stones of Stennis.

387

00:29:08,320 --> 00:29:11,320

Everything out here is so Game of Thrones.

388

00:29:21,320 --> 00:29:24,320

Look at these stones. I mean, they're enormous.

389

00:29:24,320 --> 00:29:25,320

Yes.

390

00:29:29,320 --> 00:29:32,320

This site is 3,200 BC.

391

00:29:32,320 --> 00:29:34,320

So more than 5,000 years old.

392

00:29:35,320 --> 00:29:39,320

We may have finally zeroed in on the earliest known henge.

393

00:29:39,320 --> 00:29:44,320

Centuries older than Stonehenge, and older even than Bryn Ketley-D in Wales.

394

00:29:44,320 --> 00:29:48,320

But even if we've found the part of the world where these stone circles originated,

395

00:29:48,320 --> 00:29:51,320

there's still one big question in my mind.

396

00:29:51,320 --> 00:29:54,320

If this is the earliest henge, where did that idea come from?

397

00:29:54,320 --> 00:29:56,320

Why put anything in a circular form?

398

00:29:56,320 --> 00:29:59,320

We think we may have the answer to that.

399

00:30:01,320 --> 00:30:07,320

Caroline has been part of a research project that may have turned up a site that predates all of these.

400

00:30:07,320 --> 00:30:10,320

And that could be the henge that started it all.

401

00:30:10,320 --> 00:30:16,320

And when she introduces me to her research partner, I know getting there will be interesting.

402

00:30:17,320 --> 00:30:19,320

Josh, I think you know Richard.

403

00:30:19,320 --> 00:30:20,320

Richard Bates.

404

00:30:20,320 --> 00:30:22,320

Josh, great to see you again.

405

00:30:22,320 --> 00:30:23,320

How you been?

406

00:30:23,320 --> 00:30:24,320

Not too bad, yourself?

407

00:30:24,320 --> 00:30:25,320

I've been well.

408

00:30:25,320 --> 00:30:27,320

Good old Dicky Bates.

409

00:30:27,320 --> 00:30:30,320

The renowned geophysicists and I have shared some amazing adventures.

410

00:30:31,320 --> 00:30:37,320

Searching for a lost mythical city in India, and hunting for a chest of World War I gold in Namibia.

411

00:30:37,320 --> 00:30:43,320

And now we meet in yet another remote corner of the world, this time on his home turf of Scotland.

412

00:30:44,320 --> 00:30:47,320

I'm told there's a special site that I need to look at.

413

00:30:47,320 --> 00:30:48,320

I think so.

414

00:30:48,320 --> 00:30:53,320

And one that very few people have ever even heard of, let alone seen.

415

00:30:53,320 --> 00:30:54,320

And where is it?

416

00:30:54,320 --> 00:30:55,320

It's out there.

417

00:30:57,320 --> 00:30:58,320

In the bay.

418

00:30:58,320 --> 00:30:59,320

In the bay.

419

00:30:59,320 --> 00:31:02,320

This water there today, but if you go further back in time, that was land.

420

00:31:02,320 --> 00:31:03,320

You could have walked here.

421

00:31:03,320 --> 00:31:07,320

And we think it could relate to a lot of the early monuments.

422

00:31:07,320 --> 00:31:08,320

Well, let's go look at it.

423

00:31:08,320 --> 00:31:09,320

How do we get out there?

424

00:31:09,320 --> 00:31:11,320

Well, we've got to find ourselves a boat.

425

00:31:11,320 --> 00:31:12,320

Oh boy.

426

00:31:12,320 --> 00:31:13,320

Have you been in boats with Richard before?

427

00:31:13,320 --> 00:31:14,320

All right, come on.

428

00:31:14,320 --> 00:31:15,320

Let's go.

429

00:31:15,320 --> 00:31:17,320

Let's see what you got for us now.

430

00:31:19,320 --> 00:31:25,320

I never would have expected that my quest to find the origins of Stonehenge would take me below the surface of the frigid North Sea.

431

00:31:25,320 --> 00:31:27,320

But here we are.

432

00:31:27,320 --> 00:31:33,320

And if my past work with Bates is any indication, this investigation will be one wild ride.

433

00:31:33,320 --> 00:32:00,320

At the Bay of Firth in the remote Scottish archipelago of Orkney, I've joined geophysicist Richard Bates and archaeologist Caroline Wickham-Jones on a potentially groundbreaking diving expedition to explore an ancient underwater feature that may be the original inspiration for sites like Stonehenge.

434

00:32:00,320 --> 00:32:02,320

The boat just down here on the left, Josh.

435

00:32:02,320 --> 00:32:03,320

Yep.

436

00:32:03,320 --> 00:32:06,320

But at the moment, there is one thing that's dampening my excitement.

437

00:32:06,320 --> 00:32:09,320

I feel as though I need to point out that it is snowing.

438

00:32:09,320 --> 00:32:10,320

Yeah.

439

00:32:10,320 --> 00:32:11,320

Perfect diving weather.

440

00:32:14,320 --> 00:32:25,320

Today, Caroline and Richard have enlisted the help of Teledyne Blueview, a company that's developed pioneering underwater sonar technology, often used on deep sea shipwrecks.

441

00:32:25,320 --> 00:32:28,320

I'm hoping our boat isn't their next project.

442

00:32:33,320 --> 00:32:37,320

After gearing up, we venture out to sea.

443

00:32:37,320 --> 00:32:40,320

And Richard tells me we've got a bit of a ride ahead of us.

444

00:32:40,320 --> 00:32:42,320

It's about half an hour out here.

445

00:32:42,320 --> 00:32:43,320

We're going to get out into the bay.

446

00:32:43,320 --> 00:32:45,320

It's a bit a little bit rough because the northerlies are blowing.

447

00:32:45,320 --> 00:32:46,320

How rough?

448

00:32:46,320 --> 00:32:47,320

You know.

449

00:32:47,320 --> 00:32:48,320

Scottish rough.

450

00:32:48,320 --> 00:32:49,320

Scottish rough.

451

00:32:49,320 --> 00:32:50,320

All right.

452

00:32:50,320 --> 00:32:51,320

Hang on to something, boys.

453

00:33:03,320 --> 00:33:05,320

Beautiful out here, Richard.

454

00:33:05,320 --> 00:33:07,320

Where else would you want to be on a day like today?

455

00:33:07,320 --> 00:33:08,320

Oh, I don't know.

456

00:33:08,320 --> 00:33:12,320

In indoors, in dry clothes, at the movies.

457

00:33:14,320 --> 00:33:17,320

The farther out we get, the more the weather starts to clear.

458

00:33:17,320 --> 00:33:22,320

And Caroline gives me the lay of the land as it was over 5,000 years ago.

459

00:33:22,320 --> 00:33:27,320

When the receding glaciers of the last Ice Age would have given the North Sea a much different look.

460

00:33:27,320 --> 00:33:32,320

What you have to do is drip the water away, get your mind's eye back 5,000, 6,000 years.

461

00:33:32,320 --> 00:33:34,320

Would have been a gentle valley.

462

00:33:34,320 --> 00:33:36,320

The sea would have been somewhere in that direction.

463

00:33:36,320 --> 00:33:37,320

This would have been dry.

464

00:33:37,320 --> 00:33:39,320

This would have been dry.

465

00:33:39,320 --> 00:33:43,320

Richard tells me that over the years, divers have explored these waters.

466

00:33:43,320 --> 00:33:48,320

Just a few years ago, one finding in particular really grabbed his and Caroline's attention.

467

00:33:48,320 --> 00:33:51,320

For reasons I'm about to understand.

468

00:33:51,320 --> 00:33:54,320

OK, Josh, we're coming up on the site now in the middle of the bay here.

469

00:33:54,320 --> 00:33:58,320

We're going to get a high resolution sonar image of what's on the bottom.

470

00:33:58,320 --> 00:34:00,320

All right, great. Let's see it.

471

00:34:00,320 --> 00:34:01,320

OK, off you go.

472

00:34:04,320 --> 00:34:08,320

Our first move is to break out Teledyne's boat-mounted sonar imaging scanner

473

00:34:08,320 --> 00:34:11,320

to get an initial overview of the site.

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00:34:11,320 --> 00:34:13,320

Some assembly is required.

475

00:34:13,320 --> 00:34:17,320

But once we've got it all rigged up, it's an impressive piece of kit.

476

00:34:18,320 --> 00:34:21,320

Sonar generates high resolution 3D point clouds.

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00:34:21,320 --> 00:34:24,320

So we're hoping to get some very good details of the area of interest.

478

00:34:24,320 --> 00:34:26,320

We should see individual stones.

479

00:34:26,320 --> 00:34:27,320

Awesome.

480

00:34:28,320 --> 00:34:32,320

The scanner is able to stitch together 3D sonar scans in real time,

481

00:34:32,320 --> 00:34:34,320

creating an image of the site from above.

482

00:34:34,320 --> 00:34:39,320

But first, we'll need to generate the data by taking the boat back and forth.

483

00:34:40,320 --> 00:34:41,320

Zamboni style.

484

00:34:41,320 --> 00:34:47,320

We are following where we are actually sending these sonar signals onto the sea floor.

485

00:34:47,320 --> 00:34:48,320

Right.

486

00:34:48,320 --> 00:34:52,320

So each little dot on there is a real reflection from the sea floor.

487

00:34:52,320 --> 00:34:53,320

Got it.

488

00:34:53,320 --> 00:34:58,320

As we navigate back and forth over the site, the computer begins stitching together the data.

489

00:34:58,320 --> 00:35:02,320

Before long, something unusual starts to take shape.

490

00:35:03,320 --> 00:35:05,320

So no question there's a feature down there.

491

00:35:05,320 --> 00:35:08,320

There's a definite step in the landscape here.

492

00:35:09,320 --> 00:35:11,320

That's fabulous. It's really clear.

493

00:35:11,320 --> 00:35:13,320

Look at that. Look at the curve there. It's circular.

494

00:35:13,320 --> 00:35:15,320

That's not ordinary.

495

00:35:16,320 --> 00:35:20,320

So I might understand that this is a monument. Is this a henge?

496

00:35:20,320 --> 00:35:22,320

Well, that's the million dollar question.

497

00:35:22,320 --> 00:35:27,320

If Caroline and Richard can prove that people made or even modified this site,

498

00:35:27,320 --> 00:35:33,320

it would mean that this is the earliest man made henge and stone circle monument ever found.

499

00:35:33,320 --> 00:35:36,320

Perhaps the inspiration for all others that followed.

500

00:35:36,320 --> 00:35:40,320

The only way for us to continue studying that is to get in the water.

501

00:35:40,320 --> 00:35:44,320

Boy, you better have some seriously warm gear on this boat.

502

00:35:45,320 --> 00:35:50,320

So against my better judgment, an open ocean dive in near arctic waters is on.

503

00:35:50,320 --> 00:35:55,320

John's brought another scanning setup to document the site in even richer detail.

504

00:35:55,320 --> 00:36:01,320

But first, we'll need to squeeze into specialty diving suits capable of keeping us alive in freezing water.

505

00:36:01,320 --> 00:36:05,320

I feel like I look like the Michelin man and Richard looks like James Bond.

506

00:36:09,320 --> 00:36:12,320

We drop the anchor in to mark the spot.

507

00:36:12,320 --> 00:36:15,320

And then bombs away.

508

00:36:21,320 --> 00:36:24,320

Richard, it is so cold down here.

509

00:36:24,320 --> 00:36:29,320

The feature is only about 15 feet deep, but it feels like we're on another planet.

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00:36:29,320 --> 00:36:33,320

First impression, it's not really a flat sandy bottom.

511

00:36:33,320 --> 00:36:36,320

A lot of kelp down here and a lot of stones.

512

00:36:36,320 --> 00:36:40,320

Yeah, stones is what we're off to. Going to see around in that kelp.

513

00:36:40,320 --> 00:36:45,320

We swim closer to the center and the ground beneath us starts to rise.

514

00:36:45,320 --> 00:36:50,320

Just like this. Start to tip more to the vertical.

515

00:36:53,320 --> 00:36:56,320

Oh, it looks like a hatch.

516

00:37:03,320 --> 00:37:08,320

I'm in Scotland's frigid Bay of Firth, below the surface and getting up close and personal

517

00:37:08,320 --> 00:37:13,320

with a strange formation that we hope is the inspiration for all Henge monuments.

518

00:37:13,320 --> 00:37:18,320

So, John, look at this. Start to tip more to the vertical.

519

00:37:18,320 --> 00:37:21,320

Oh, it looks like a hatch.

520

00:37:23,320 --> 00:37:26,320

It has this perfectly circular outer edge.

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00:37:26,320 --> 00:37:29,320

I mean, and you can see how it rises up in the middle.

522

00:37:29,320 --> 00:37:31,320

You see what looks like a platform.

523

00:37:33,320 --> 00:37:34,320

Really wild.

524

00:37:34,320 --> 00:37:39,320

Yeah, it's one of a kind. We just haven't seen anything like this anywhere else.

525

00:37:41,320 --> 00:37:43,320

Okay, what's the plan now?

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00:37:43,320 --> 00:37:47,320

Crop the sonar unit, bring it down here. We can get even more resolution.

527

00:37:49,320 --> 00:37:56,320

We have the surface team lower the sonar unit to the ocean floor and we prepare for a hyper detailed scan of the site.

528

00:37:56,320 --> 00:38:00,320

Okay, tripod in position, commercial 360 scan.

529

00:38:00,320 --> 00:38:01,320

Okay, we're starting to scan.

530

00:38:01,320 --> 00:38:05,320

John, my head is about two feet from this thing. Is that going to be a problem?

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00:38:05,320 --> 00:38:07,320

It's not recommended, but it is safe.

532

00:38:09,320 --> 00:38:13,320

Richard and I swim out of the way to let the scanner do its job.

533

00:38:13,320 --> 00:38:19,320

So as the sonar scans around, it will build up the 3D point cloud of that area.

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00:38:19,320 --> 00:38:25,320

It only takes minutes for the machine to collect millions of data points, rendering an image in real time.

535

00:38:25,320 --> 00:38:27,320

So the scan is completed now.

536

00:38:28,320 --> 00:38:35,320

That's amazing, guys. There's fabulous detail just even so quickly. That's just incredible.

537

00:38:37,320 --> 00:38:44,320

After hours in near freezing water, we're eager to make our way topside, far out and examine the scan.

538

00:38:48,320 --> 00:38:49,320

What do we got?

539

00:38:51,320 --> 00:38:52,320

How cool is that?

540

00:38:53,320 --> 00:38:54,320

Hey, work.

541

00:38:55,320 --> 00:39:05,320

The combined scans from above and below have come through crystal clear, giving Caroline and Richard the most accurate model yet of the mysterious underwater feature.

542

00:39:05,320 --> 00:39:08,320

You can really see the pattern of it, really.

543

00:39:08,320 --> 00:39:12,320

Absolutely, it is. It's that very distinct outer part of the circle.

544

00:39:12,320 --> 00:39:17,320

The oldest henges, they occur in Orkney. They have to be inspired by something.

545

00:39:17,320 --> 00:39:22,320

Our work here tells us that they would have seen this on a land surface.

546

00:39:22,320 --> 00:39:31,320

The formation we saw underwater, so reminiscent of the banks and ditches of Stonehenge and Stennis, may in fact have been the reason for their existence,

547

00:39:31,320 --> 00:39:35,320

as the people migrating south sought to emulate the site here.

548

00:39:37,320 --> 00:39:43,320

It's impossible to ignore how similar it is in some ways to these henges we see on Orkney and other places.

549

00:39:43,320 --> 00:39:45,320

Do you think this is a part of that story?

550

00:39:45,320 --> 00:39:54,320

The henges mimic it so closely. It's got the platform, the ditch, it's the same sort of size, but natural.

551

00:39:54,320 --> 00:39:55,320

Yeah.

552

00:39:55,320 --> 00:40:03,320

Is it a coincidence that we get something like this where these sites are developed? It could be a mother henge.

553

00:40:04,320 --> 00:40:12,320

It turns everything on its head. You wouldn't think it would be the genesis of something as magnificent as Stonehenge.

554

00:40:13,320 --> 00:40:20,320

In search of Stonehenge's origins, I've gone all around the United Kingdom, travelling through time in the process.

555

00:40:22,320 --> 00:40:27,320

I've seen how technology is settling long, simmering debates about the site's purpose.

556

00:40:27,320 --> 00:40:32,320

While Stonehenge is a place of ritual, it wasn't just used for celebrations.

557

00:40:32,320 --> 00:40:36,320

This appears to be a cemetery, a land of the dead.

558

00:40:37,320 --> 00:40:40,320

But it's also part of a much larger story.

559

00:40:40,320 --> 00:40:48,320

It's connected to super henges and to monuments in Wales and in Orkney that are older than we once thought possible.

560

00:40:48,320 --> 00:40:54,320

And in cold Scottish waters, the origins of all henge monuments might finally be coming into view.

561

00:40:54,320 --> 00:41:01,320

All of it tells a tale far richer than the popular myths and legends let on of restless and inventive people

562

00:41:02,320 --> 00:41:10,320

whose perseverance, ingenuity and creativity would pave the way for the Britain that so many love and cherish today.

563

00:41:10,320 --> 00:41:18,320

Stonehenge will be here long after we're gone, and as the sun continues to rise and set across these mysterious stones,

564

00:41:18,320 --> 00:41:26,320

I'm left marveling not just at the monuments, but at the people who lived, died and endured here.

565

00:41:26,320 --> 00:41:32,320

On the next Expedition Unknown.

566

00:41:32,320 --> 00:41:34,320

We're getting rich today.

567

00:41:36,320 --> 00:41:38,320

If you look here, there's a windmill.

568

00:41:38,320 --> 00:41:40,320

That's the Chicago Water Tower.

569

00:41:40,320 --> 00:41:43,320

My dad thought that people would find it very quickly.

570

00:41:45,320 --> 00:41:48,320

If you look here, you can see the state of Florida.

571

00:41:48,320 --> 00:41:49,320

She's the lion.

572

00:41:49,320 --> 00:41:51,320

Nobody's figured that out before.

573

00:41:51,320 --> 00:41:52,320

It's buried under a lion.

574

00:41:52,320 --> 00:41:53,320

Something.

575

00:41:53,320 --> 00:41:54,320

Hold on.

576

00:41:54,320 --> 00:41:55,320

Oh, come on.

577

00:41:55,320 --> 00:41:56,320

Wait, is that it?