

1

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

She is both a mother, a wife, and a killer.

2

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

This is solid gold.

3

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

Get out of here.

4

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

They got ahead.

5

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

This is just the tip of the iceberg.

6

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

For Voodooca!

7

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

For Voodooca!

8

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

Oh, my word!

9

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

Another silver coin.

10

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

Number three.

11

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

Cool.

12

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

This is insane.

13

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

Yeah.

14

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

When you look at a list of history's most famous military leaders,

15

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

Julius Caesar, Genghis Khan, Napoleon,

16

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

there's one thing they all have in common.

17

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

They're men.

18

00:01:02,000 --> 00:01:07,000

But one of the most fearsome generals you might not be familiar with

19

00:01:07,000 --> 00:01:10,000

was a female warrior named Voodoooca.

20

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

When the forces of Rome conquer Britain in the first century,

21

00:01:14,000 --> 00:01:18,000

they end up going toe to toe with 150,000 Celtic rebels,

22

00:01:18,000 --> 00:01:23,000

led into battle by a warrior queen who torches Roman cities

23

00:01:23,000 --> 00:01:28,000

and very nearly defeats their legendary army.

24

00:01:28,000 --> 00:01:32,000

Roman historians describe Voodoooca as a merciless foe,

25

00:01:32,000 --> 00:01:37,000

responsible for barbaric acts of torture.

26

00:01:37,000 --> 00:01:40,000

Yet today she's considered a British folk hero.

27

00:01:40,000 --> 00:01:43,000

So who was she really?

28

00:01:43,000 --> 00:01:46,000

Savage murderer or righteous freedom fighter?

29

00:01:46,000 --> 00:01:50,000

And there's more to Voodoooca's legacy than just bloody revenge.

30

00:01:50,000 --> 00:01:54,000

There could also be treasure.

31

00:01:54,000 --> 00:01:57,000

And lots of it.

32

00:01:57,000 --> 00:02:02,000

Her people buried offerings to the gods known as hordes,

33

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

priceless caches of coins, jewels, and golden artifacts.

34

00:02:08,000 --> 00:02:12,000

Now a team of archaeologists has secured special access

35

00:02:12,000 --> 00:02:16,000

to search one of the most sacred sites in all of ancient Britain.

36

00:02:16,000 --> 00:02:20,000

And an investigator is using cutting-edge technology

37

00:02:20,000 --> 00:02:25,000

to discover the location of Voodooca's last battle and lost tomb.

38

00:02:25,000 --> 00:02:29,000

Join me on an expedition to dig up the past

39

00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:33,000

and reveal the story of one of history's fiercest women

40

00:02:33,000 --> 00:02:37,000

and to search for her legendary golden treasure.

41

00:02:42,000 --> 00:02:45,000

My name is Josh Gates.

42

00:02:45,000 --> 00:02:47,000

Explorer.

43

00:02:47,000 --> 00:02:49,000

Adventurer.

44

00:02:49,000 --> 00:02:54,000

And a guy who ends up in some very strange situations.

45

00:02:54,000 --> 00:02:56,000

That was exciting.

46

00:02:56,000 --> 00:03:00,000

With a degree in archaeology and a passion for the unexplained,

47

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

I travel to the ends of the earth investigating the greatest legends in history.

48

00:03:06,000 --> 00:03:10,000

This is Expedition Unknown.

49

00:03:14,000 --> 00:03:19,000

My journey in the footsteps of a warrior queen begins on the streets of London, England.

50

00:03:19,000 --> 00:03:22,000

Today London is one of the world's great capital cities,

51

00:03:22,000 --> 00:03:28,000

a metropolis of 9 million people, a hub of business, education, and culture,

52

00:03:28,000 --> 00:03:33,000

a place where you can find everything except sunshine.

53

00:03:33,000 --> 00:03:36,000

But 2,000 years ago London wasn't a capital at all.

54

00:03:36,000 --> 00:03:43,000

It was a muddy frontier settlement with a scrappy little commercial port known as Londonium.

55

00:03:43,000 --> 00:03:46,000

OK, time circuits on.

56

00:03:46,000 --> 00:03:50,000

The year is 43 AD. It is the Iron Age.

57

00:03:50,000 --> 00:03:54,000

At this time, Britain is populated by a bunch of distinctly different tribes.

58

00:03:54,000 --> 00:03:58,000

But to keep it simple, people like to lump them all together and call them the Celts.

59

00:03:58,000 --> 00:04:02,000

Rome, who has expanded across Europe on their signature policy of

60

00:04:02,000 --> 00:04:09,000

hey, that looks nice. I think I'll take it, has finally conquered Britain and set up shop right here.

61

00:04:09,000 --> 00:04:15,000

In fact, sections of Londonium's original defensive wall still stand to this day.

62

00:04:15,000 --> 00:04:18,000

And it's not the only reminder of the battle for ancient Britain,

63

00:04:18,000 --> 00:04:22,000

hidden in plain sight on the streets of modern London.

64

00:04:22,000 --> 00:04:25,000

You know, I've visited London more times than I can remember.

65

00:04:25,000 --> 00:04:28,000

I've driven its streets.

66

00:04:28,000 --> 00:04:31,000

So much traffic.

67

00:04:31,000 --> 00:04:33,000

I've marveled at its monuments.

68

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

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

69

00:04:36,000 --> 00:04:38,000

It's tiny.

70

00:04:38,000 --> 00:04:42,000

I've even embraced its fashion.

71

00:04:42,000 --> 00:04:46,000

So considering how many times I have stood in this exact spot,

72

00:04:46,000 --> 00:04:49,000

in between the Thames and Parliament and Big Ben,

73

00:04:49,000 --> 00:04:54,000

how is it that I never, ever noticed her?

74

00:04:58,000 --> 00:05:00,000

And it turns out I'm not the only one.

75

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

A bustling city has shot up around Boudicca's statue,

76

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

with a tourist chachki shop all but obscuring her base.

77

00:05:09,000 --> 00:05:11,000

Do you know who that is? The statue?

78

00:05:11,000 --> 00:05:14,000

No? Do you know who that is?

79

00:05:14,000 --> 00:05:17,000

I don't know, my friend.

80

00:05:17,000 --> 00:05:18,000

Who is that?

81

00:05:18,000 --> 00:05:20,000

I don't know.

82

00:05:20,000 --> 00:05:22,000

I'm not a fan of her.

83

00:05:22,000 --> 00:05:23,000

I guess.

84

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

Yeah, anything. Statue of Liberty. That's correct.

85

00:05:26,000 --> 00:05:28,000

Statue of Liberty.

86

00:05:28,000 --> 00:05:30,000

Does anyone know who this woman is?

87

00:05:30,000 --> 00:05:32,000

Who is it?

88

00:05:32,000 --> 00:05:34,000

A warrior queen with her daughters.

89

00:05:34,000 --> 00:05:36,000

A warrior queen with her daughters?

90

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

I think that...

91

00:05:41,000 --> 00:05:43,000

Okay, enough fooling around. Who is it?

92

00:05:43,000 --> 00:05:45,000

I think it's a priest.

93

00:05:45,000 --> 00:05:47,000

High five.

94

00:05:47,000 --> 00:05:49,000

You're the smartest person in London today.

95

00:05:49,000 --> 00:05:51,000

Nobody knew!

96

00:05:52,000 --> 00:05:56,000

Meet Boudicca, or Boudicca as the Brits like to call her.

97

00:05:56,000 --> 00:06:00,000

Often depicted on a chariot with her daughters by her side,

98

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

she was the queen of the Isini,

99

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

the wealthiest and most powerful of the Celtic tribes.

100

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

After nearly two decades of suffering under Roman rule,

101

00:06:10,000 --> 00:06:12,000

Boudicca leads a rebellion.

102

00:06:15,000 --> 00:06:18,000

When it's all over,

103

00:06:18,000 --> 00:06:21,000

Londonium here is burned to the ground.

104

00:06:29,000 --> 00:06:31,000

To find out how she did it

105

00:06:31,000 --> 00:06:34,000

and whether she left a vast treasure behind,

106

00:06:34,000 --> 00:06:36,000

I catch a ride out of the big city

107

00:06:36,000 --> 00:06:39,000

at London's iconic King's Cross station.

108

00:06:39,000 --> 00:06:41,000

Long before this was King's Cross,

109

00:06:41,000 --> 00:06:43,000

this area was known as Battle Bridge.

110

00:06:43,000 --> 00:06:48,000

And there's always been a rumor that Boudicca waged her final campaign right here

111

00:06:48,000 --> 00:06:53,000

and that she's actually buried in between platforms 9 and 10.

112

00:06:53,000 --> 00:06:55,000

There's just one problem with that.

113

00:06:55,000 --> 00:06:57,000

It's bulle\*\*\*.

114

00:06:57,000 --> 00:06:59,000

But if the idea of something special

115

00:06:59,000 --> 00:07:02,000

located between platforms 9 and 10 sounds familiar,

116

00:07:02,000 --> 00:07:06,000

that's because it happens to be where you catch the train to Hogwarts.

117

00:07:06,000 --> 00:07:08,000

Ow!

118

00:07:08,000 --> 00:07:10,000

I love you!

119

00:07:12,000 --> 00:07:14,000

I got it.

120

00:07:16,000 --> 00:07:21,000

Or in my case, the Muggle Express to the region of East Anglia.

121

00:07:23,000 --> 00:07:26,000

In a few hours, I'll be pulling into the city of Norwich.

122

00:07:26,000 --> 00:07:29,000

It's the perfect place to follow the trail of Boudicca

123

00:07:29,000 --> 00:07:33,000

because this was once the heartland of the Isini people.

124

00:07:33,000 --> 00:07:37,000

We steam out across the wide open fields of the English countryside

125

00:07:37,000 --> 00:07:42,000

on a journey a hundred miles north of London and centuries back in time.

126

00:07:42,000 --> 00:07:46,000

Today, Norwich is the best preserved medieval city in the UK.

127

00:07:46,000 --> 00:07:50,000

But long before that, it was Boudicca's stomping ground.

128

00:07:50,000 --> 00:07:52,000

To learn more, I head to the local pub

129

00:07:52,000 --> 00:07:55,000

where I meet historian Vanessa Collingridge.

130

00:07:55,000 --> 00:07:56,000

Vanessa!

131

00:07:56,000 --> 00:07:57,000

Hi!

132

00:07:57,000 --> 00:07:58,000

Great to meet you.

133

00:07:58,000 --> 00:08:00,000

Who's waiting for me by a crackling fire?

134

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

Now, first of all, are you sure you're not related to Boudicca?

135

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

No, I could be, couldn't I, with this hair?

136

00:08:06,000 --> 00:08:09,000

And in fact, that was my entree into Boudicca

137

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

because growing up, there weren't many female role models

138

00:08:12,000 --> 00:08:14,000

for a kid who loved history.

139

00:08:14,000 --> 00:08:16,000

A kick-ass warrior queen. What could you want?

140

00:08:16,000 --> 00:08:17,000

Absolutely.

141

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

And yet, I think a lot of people, sadly, don't know her story.

142

00:08:20,000 --> 00:08:23,000

The only things we do know come from the Roman histories.

143

00:08:23,000 --> 00:08:27,000

The ancient Britons didn't have a written language.

144

00:08:27,000 --> 00:08:30,000

They didn't have a culture of writing things down.

145

00:08:30,000 --> 00:08:33,000

Are the Romans impressed by her, do you think?

146

00:08:33,000 --> 00:08:35,000

I think they're terrified by her.

147

00:08:36,000 --> 00:08:39,000

They really hated women in power.

148

00:08:39,000 --> 00:08:42,000

Let's talk about the king. She's married to a guy named Prazutagus.

149

00:08:42,000 --> 00:08:45,000

He is ruler of the Isini tribe.

150

00:08:45,000 --> 00:08:49,000

They have together two daughters, and everything seems to be going along quite well.

151

00:08:49,000 --> 00:08:54,000

And when Rome arrives in Britain, he's allowed to stay in power.

152

00:08:54,000 --> 00:08:59,000

What they would do is make individual treaties with individual kings or rulers.

153

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

They are basically ruling on behalf of Rome,

154

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

they're allowed to keep their tribal lands,

155

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

and they're existing ways of doing things.

156

00:09:08,000 --> 00:09:11,000

And so when does all that fall apart?

157

00:09:11,000 --> 00:09:17,000

Round about 8060-61, King Prazutagus dies.

158

00:09:19,000 --> 00:09:24,000

He has left half of his estates to the emperor Nero for Rome,

159

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

and the other half to his daughters.

160

00:09:27,000 --> 00:09:30,000

So this goes over with Rome like a lead balloon.

161

00:09:30,000 --> 00:09:37,000

It is abhorrent, because Rome expects everything to be handed back to them.

162

00:09:37,000 --> 00:09:39,000

And so the Romans come in and do what?

163

00:09:39,000 --> 00:09:44,000

They go to Boudica's seat of power, they raid it and destroy it.

164

00:09:45,000 --> 00:09:49,000

And then they take Boudica out and they flog her.

165

00:09:49,000 --> 00:09:53,000

She's a queen to these people and she is publicly beaten by the Romans.

166

00:09:53,000 --> 00:09:56,000

But then it gets even worse if that were possible.

167

00:09:57,000 --> 00:10:01,000

Her daughters, they would have been children still, are taken out

168

00:10:01,000 --> 00:10:03,000

and they are raped by the Romans.

169

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

It's incredible that Rome has this viewpoint of these people as barbarians.

170

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

And yet that's about the most barbaric thing you could imagine.

171

00:10:14,000 --> 00:10:18,000

When it comes to low behavior, it's hard to find a worse example.

172

00:10:18,000 --> 00:10:22,000

And the Isini who have been going along with Roman rule up to this point,

173

00:10:22,000 --> 00:10:24,000

they react to this how?

174

00:10:24,000 --> 00:10:25,000

They've had enough.

175

00:10:26,000 --> 00:10:29,000

And they quickly mass an army.

176

00:10:30,000 --> 00:10:36,000

And Boudica leads this army to rise up and take the Romans on and seek revenge.

177

00:10:39,000 --> 00:10:42,000

And why do you think it's important that we remember Boudica today?

178

00:10:42,000 --> 00:10:44,000

Why celebrate her story?

179

00:10:44,000 --> 00:10:51,000

She is a really clear exemplar of how differently we have considered women in power throughout the ages.

180

00:10:51,000 --> 00:10:57,000

Because we still find it really uncomfortable to consider women as the givers of life,

181

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

but the bringers of death.

182

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

And a figure like Boudica can marry the two.

183

00:11:02,000 --> 00:11:06,000

She is both a mother, a wife and a killer.

184

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

But Boudica and her people weren't just fierce fighters.

185

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

They were skilled traders and master artists who literally buried treasure.

186

00:11:17,000 --> 00:11:21,000

To learn more about the legendary riches Boudica may have left behind,

187

00:11:21,000 --> 00:11:29,000

I head to Norwich Castle, a medieval fortress turned museum that houses a stunning collection of Isini hordes.

188

00:11:29,000 --> 00:11:33,000

Ceremonial treasures made up of their finest creations,

189

00:11:33,000 --> 00:11:38,000

which were offered to the gods by being cast into rivers or buried in the earth.

190

00:11:38,000 --> 00:11:42,000

In the heart of the gallery, I've arranged to meet with curator John Davies.

191

00:11:42,000 --> 00:11:47,000

Walking around these galleries, this metalwork is really phenomenal.

192

00:11:47,000 --> 00:11:51,000

They're making beautiful ornamental jewellery. They're also making coins though, right?

193

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

Indeed, very sophisticated coinage. They have very complex imagery.

194

00:11:55,000 --> 00:12:00,000

Some of them show suns and moons and depict the faces of tribal chieftains.

195

00:12:01,000 --> 00:12:05,000

We have coin hordes, we have metalwork hordes of jewellery.

196

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

One of the exciting things is that new discoveries are being made continuously.

197

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

Hordes like this are still being found.

198

00:12:11,000 --> 00:12:15,000

I can guarantee you that every month of the year we'll have another horde.

199

00:12:15,000 --> 00:12:17,000

Wow, incredible.

200

00:12:19,000 --> 00:12:23,000

John grants me special access to the museum's archive,

201

00:12:23,000 --> 00:12:28,000

where he's set aside a few of the most precious objects in the collection.

202

00:12:28,000 --> 00:12:33,000

This is a unique item, a very highly decorated end of a drinking horn.

203

00:12:34,000 --> 00:12:36,000

Excessively rare.

204

00:12:36,000 --> 00:12:38,000

This is really, really pretty.

205

00:12:39,000 --> 00:12:41,000

And I do love drinking horns.

206

00:12:42,000 --> 00:12:46,000

This ornamental piece would have been fused to the bottom of an animal horn

207

00:12:46,000 --> 00:12:48,000

and used for ceremonial drinking.

208

00:12:49,000 --> 00:12:51,000

I feel like drinking horns need to make a comeback.

209

00:12:51,000 --> 00:12:54,000

It's a drink you can't put down. You have to drink it.

210

00:12:55,000 --> 00:13:00,000

When we're talking about hordes, there is one that really does stand head and shoulders above all of the others.

211

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

It is called the Snetisham Treasure.

212

00:13:02,000 --> 00:13:07,000

It is the largest collection of iron age gold and jewellery in the whole of Western Europe.

213

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

And you have a piece of it here?

214

00:13:09,000 --> 00:13:10,000

Yes.

215

00:13:10,000 --> 00:13:11,000

Wow.

216

00:13:11,000 --> 00:13:15,000

In 1948, a farmer plowing his field in the town of Snetisham

217

00:13:15,000 --> 00:13:18,000

accidentally uncovered an astounding find.

218

00:13:18,000 --> 00:13:21,000

Soon, archaeologists revealed even more.

219

00:13:21,000 --> 00:13:26,000

A royal Isini treasure trove worth hundreds of millions today.

220

00:13:28,000 --> 00:13:34,000

Here we have one of the most important pieces from the Snetisham treasure.

221

00:13:34,000 --> 00:13:36,000

This is solid gold.

222

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

Get out of here.

223

00:13:43,000 --> 00:13:49,000

I'm in the UK on a quest to understand the Celtic warrior queen known as Boudica.

224

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

To the Romans, she was a barbarian.

225

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

To the British, a heroine.

226

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

Her people, the Isini, buried treasure hordes.

227

00:13:57,000 --> 00:14:00,000

Exquisite artifacts offered to their gods.

228

00:14:00,000 --> 00:14:05,000

Now, curator John Davies is showing me the Norwich Museum's pride and glory,

229

00:14:05,000 --> 00:14:07,000

the Snetisham Horde.

230

00:14:07,000 --> 00:14:10,000

First discovered by an unsuspecting farmer in his field

231

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

and predating Boudica's reign by almost a century.

232

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

It's the biggest treasure trove ever uncovered in the UK.

233

00:14:18,000 --> 00:14:21,000

And here we have solid gold.

234

00:14:23,000 --> 00:14:25,000

Get out of here.

235

00:14:25,000 --> 00:14:29,000

It is known as a torque, which is the type of jewellery.

236

00:14:29,000 --> 00:14:33,000

And a torque was something which was worn around the neck.

237

00:14:33,000 --> 00:14:38,000

I know that you're talking, but I'm not hearing any of it, because my brain is melting.

238

00:14:38,000 --> 00:14:41,000

But you can see that is very, very delicate.

239

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

Oh, my word.

240

00:14:43,000 --> 00:14:48,000

It's really just beyond anything I have ever seen before.

241

00:14:48,000 --> 00:14:55,000

Not only is it beautiful, but it would have been held and worn by a chieftain of the Isini tribe.

242

00:14:55,000 --> 00:14:59,000

And Boudica herself would have worn something like this.

243

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

The idea of Boudica on a chariot wearing something like this around her neck,

244

00:15:05,000 --> 00:15:08,000

it must have been awe-inspiring.

245

00:15:08,000 --> 00:15:10,000

This is beyond jewellery, really.

246

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

It is.

247

00:15:11,000 --> 00:15:13,000

You know, this is a statement.

248

00:15:13,000 --> 00:15:19,000

It's likely that this priceless bit of bling was worn by one of Boudica's forebears.

249

00:15:19,000 --> 00:15:25,000

But the lost ceremonial offering of the last Isini queen may be even bigger.

250

00:15:25,000 --> 00:15:28,000

In what circumstances would you make an offering like this?

251

00:15:28,000 --> 00:15:31,000

There was so much value that went into something like this.

252

00:15:31,000 --> 00:15:35,000

It had to be once in a generation, really, but certainly before battles.

253

00:15:36,000 --> 00:15:41,000

It's hard to get more once in a generation than trying to take down the Roman Empire.

254

00:15:41,000 --> 00:15:46,000

And the staggering haul from Snedisham, tens of millions in gold and silver

255

00:15:46,000 --> 00:15:49,000

buried in dozens of locations in the area,

256

00:15:49,000 --> 00:15:53,000

suggests that it was the Isini tribe's most sacred site.

257

00:15:53,000 --> 00:15:56,000

The idea that objects like this, at this very moment,

258

00:15:56,000 --> 00:16:00,000

could still be sitting in the ground waiting to be found is amazing.

259

00:16:00,000 --> 00:16:03,000

It certainly is, and they certainly are out there.

260

00:16:03,000 --> 00:16:07,000

And there are some excavations and teams who are very active at the moment.

261

00:16:07,000 --> 00:16:08,000

Wow.

262

00:16:08,000 --> 00:16:10,000

And it turns out, I know them.

263

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

I joined Clive Bond and Kevin Elfleet a few years ago on the hunt for King John's treasure.

264

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

Now they've been granted exclusive access to survey the farmland where the Snedisham Horde was found.

265

00:16:22,000 --> 00:16:29,000

To meet them, I quickly hop a train, which takes me from Norwich, 40 miles northwest, to the town of Snedisham.

266

00:16:29,000 --> 00:16:35,000

And as is our custom, I find Clive and Kevin in the middle of an open field.

267

00:16:35,000 --> 00:16:37,000

Great to see you, man.

268

00:16:37,000 --> 00:16:38,000

Nice to see you guys.

269

00:16:38,000 --> 00:16:42,000

So where exactly, Kevin, was this Snedisham Horde found?

270

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

You would not believe this right down where your feet is.

271

00:16:45,000 --> 00:16:46,000

Under our feet?

272

00:16:46,000 --> 00:16:47,000

Absolutely.

273

00:16:47,000 --> 00:16:49,000

I mean, this is literally the spot.

274

00:16:49,000 --> 00:16:50,000

Yep, yep.

275

00:16:50,000 --> 00:16:52,000

It must have been a really significant ritual site.

276

00:16:52,000 --> 00:16:56,000

It's just amazing, you know, over 200 gold talks have been found in the whole of Europe.

277

00:16:56,000 --> 00:16:59,000

160 of them have come from this site alone.

278

00:16:59,000 --> 00:17:05,000

And considering how important this place must have been to the Isini, does it stand a reason that Boudica herself could have been here?

279

00:17:05,000 --> 00:17:07,000

I don't think it's wherever she could have been here.

280

00:17:07,000 --> 00:17:10,000

I think she most definitely was here.

281

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

And I think because of her status, you'd have had to have been involved in these rituals of burying the Snedisham Horde.

282

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

These rituals of burying talks, creating hordes and doing other observances to the gods.

283

00:17:24,000 --> 00:17:29,000

Now, the first horde was found here 70 some odd years ago.

284

00:17:29,000 --> 00:17:31,000

What's going on here today?

285

00:17:31,000 --> 00:17:33,000

Why are you two here?

286

00:17:33,000 --> 00:17:35,000

There's still discoveries to be found in this area.

287

00:17:35,000 --> 00:17:36,000

And we have one just over here.

288

00:17:36,000 --> 00:17:38,000

If you'd like to follow me in the woods.

289

00:17:38,000 --> 00:17:39,000

Yes, absolutely.

290

00:17:39,000 --> 00:17:40,000

Yeah, sure.

291

00:17:41,000 --> 00:17:50,000

Kevin and Clive lead me into the woods where an archaeological team is carefully surveying an

ancient structure.

292

00:17:50,000 --> 00:17:52,000

What am I looking at?

293

00:17:52,000 --> 00:17:54,000

Looks like a wall.

294

00:17:54,000 --> 00:17:56,000

Absolutely. This is a foundation of a Roman temple.

295

00:17:56,000 --> 00:17:57,000

This was a Roman temple?

296

00:17:57,000 --> 00:17:58,000

Absolutely, yes.

297

00:17:58,000 --> 00:18:00,000

Wow.

298

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

And does this date from the time of Boudica?

299

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

Yes, we believe so.

300

00:18:03,000 --> 00:18:06,000

After the uprisings, the Romans come along and they put their stamp on it.

301

00:18:07,000 --> 00:18:19,000

The Romans would often erect temples atop other people's sacred sites, a way to co-opt cultural heritage and ensure that a rebellion like Boudica's would never happen again.

302

00:18:21,000 --> 00:18:27,000

So no question we have this place that is really ritually significant, which means there must be more here to find.

303

00:18:27,000 --> 00:18:29,000

This is just a tip of the iceberg.

304

00:18:30,000 --> 00:18:36,000

We've got a lot of ground to cover, so we employ another famous Roman strategy, Divide and Conquer.

305

00:18:38,000 --> 00:18:44,000

While Clive and his team search near the temple, Kevin and I use metal detectors to scam the edge of the woods.

306

00:18:50,000 --> 00:18:51,000

Kevin, you got anything?

307

00:18:51,000 --> 00:18:53,000

No, we've got nothing as yet. Still looking.

308

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

Guys, I got a head. Good head.

309

00:19:02,000 --> 00:19:03,000

Hey guys.

310

00:19:03,000 --> 00:19:04,000

Guys.

311

00:19:06,000 --> 00:19:07,000

Hello?

312

00:19:10,000 --> 00:19:14,000

Okay, I am, uh, I'm alone in the woods, talking to myself.

313

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

You got a head there, yeah?

314

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

Yeah, where would you go?

315

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

What was that there? Where was you?

316

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

I was here!

317

00:19:30,000 --> 00:19:39,000

Oh, what is that? What is that?

318

00:19:41,000 --> 00:19:46,000

It's a piece of iron slag for making weapons, for tools for the use.

319

00:19:46,000 --> 00:19:54,000

Slag is the byproduct that remains after a metal has been separated from raw ore and is often found near furnaces.

320

00:19:54,000 --> 00:19:58,000

So now does that mean that they were smelting metal right here?

321

00:19:58,000 --> 00:20:00,000

Yeah, somewhere very close to this location, yeah.

322

00:20:00,000 --> 00:20:03,000

A little remnant of the past right there.

323

00:20:03,000 --> 00:20:04,000

Wow.

324

00:20:05,000 --> 00:20:11,000

To figure out if the Iceni were just making metal here or burying it, Kevin brings out the big guns.

325

00:20:15,000 --> 00:20:16,000

Hi.

326

00:20:16,000 --> 00:20:17,000

Hi.

327

00:20:18,000 --> 00:20:19,000

You're upping the ante here?

328

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

Yeah, well this is plan B.

329

00:20:21,000 --> 00:20:27,000

In order to survey the site, Kevin needs to clear a thin layer of plant growth from the surface of the soil.

330

00:20:27,000 --> 00:20:28,000

Would you like to have a go?

331

00:20:28,000 --> 00:20:30,000

Yes, I would love a go. Let's do it.

332

00:20:30,000 --> 00:20:33,000

Okay, jump in here.

333

00:20:35,000 --> 00:20:38,000

Yes, so I turn this to start.

334

00:20:38,000 --> 00:20:39,000

One bird of a vice.

335

00:20:39,000 --> 00:20:40,000

Yeah.

336

00:20:40,000 --> 00:20:43,000

If you're not quite sure what you're doing, you're starting to make a mistake or something.

337

00:20:43,000 --> 00:20:44,000

Always am.

338

00:20:44,000 --> 00:20:47,000

You take your hands off the controls, let's go, and we'll stop where it is.

339

00:20:47,000 --> 00:20:48,000

I'm going to keep going.

340

00:20:48,000 --> 00:20:49,000

Perfect, okay.

341

00:20:49,000 --> 00:20:56,000

With instructions to give this ground a close shave, I'm quickly reminded of why I never became a barber.

342

00:20:58,000 --> 00:21:03,000

All right, it's a little touch and go at first, but soon I get the hang of it.

343

00:21:03,000 --> 00:21:04,000

Oh yeah.

344

00:21:04,000 --> 00:21:06,000

That's it. Did a good job there.

345

00:21:06,000 --> 00:21:07,000

Like a surgeon, Kevin.

346

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

Very good. That's good. That's good. Very good.

347

00:21:16,000 --> 00:21:25,000

With the sun setting, I climb down from the rig and we get to work searching the area, which doesn't take long.

348

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

Got some hits in here for sure.

349

00:21:28,000 --> 00:21:30,000

Some here and some here.

350

00:21:32,000 --> 00:21:33,000

Some here for sure.

351

00:21:36,000 --> 00:21:37,000

Oh, there is.

352

00:21:42,000 --> 00:21:43,000

We've got something.

353

00:21:45,000 --> 00:21:46,000

It's metal.

354

00:21:46,000 --> 00:21:47,000

What is that?

355

00:21:47,000 --> 00:21:48,000

What is that?

356

00:21:48,000 --> 00:21:49,000

Ah!

357

00:21:53,000 --> 00:22:01,000

I'm in Snedisham, England, searching for evidence of a treasure hoard, buried on the eve of battle by Isimie Queen Boudica.

358

00:22:02,000 --> 00:22:05,000

And we've just discovered an incredible clue.

359

00:22:06,000 --> 00:22:07,000

Is that something?

360

00:22:10,000 --> 00:22:11,000

Metal.

361

00:22:11,000 --> 00:22:12,000

What is that?

362

00:22:17,000 --> 00:22:19,000

Looks like a horse. Can you see that?

363

00:22:20,000 --> 00:22:21,000

Yes.

364

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

Yes, it's a horse.

365

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

Yeah, it's an Isimie coin.

366

00:22:24,000 --> 00:22:25,000

That's an Isimie coin.

367

00:22:25,000 --> 00:22:26,000

It's a silver one.

368

00:22:26,000 --> 00:22:28,000

Oh my word. On the other side.

369

00:22:31,000 --> 00:22:32,000

Is it a face?

370

00:22:32,000 --> 00:22:34,000

Is it got a nose? Lodge nose?

371

00:22:34,000 --> 00:22:36,000

Yes, it does. Who am I looking at?

372

00:22:36,000 --> 00:22:41,000

That face is Pesotagus, the king of the Isimie.

373

00:22:41,000 --> 00:22:44,000

This is the face of Boudica's husband.

374

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

Yes.

375

00:22:45,000 --> 00:22:47,000

That is unbelievable.

376

00:22:48,000 --> 00:22:56,000

Nearly 2,000 years old, this Celtic coin depicting Boudica's husband was one of the first to be minted by ancient Britons.

377

00:22:56,000 --> 00:22:58,000

It was also one of the last.

378

00:22:58,000 --> 00:23:04,000

After Roman conquest, the practice was suppressed, making this an extremely rare find.

379

00:23:05,000 --> 00:23:09,000

We continue searching, hoping this coin is part of a much bigger hoard.

380

00:23:09,000 --> 00:23:15,000

But it appears this section of the site was for smelting metal, not making ritual offerings.

381

00:23:15,000 --> 00:23:20,000

So it's not a hoard, but I would call this a little piece of treasure. This is astounding.

382

00:23:20,000 --> 00:23:28,000

Kevin and Clive are going to continue investigating this sacred site for traces of Boudica's hoard, and they'll keep me posted.

383

00:23:28,000 --> 00:23:31,000

But Snedisham is not the only place it could be.

384

00:23:32,000 --> 00:23:38,000

To continue the hunt, I'm following the path of Boudica's rebellion south to the city of Colchester.

385

00:23:39,000 --> 00:23:45,000

2,000 years ago, the Romans made Colchester the capital of their newly conquered territory, Britannia.

386

00:23:45,000 --> 00:23:57,000

But it wasn't known as Colchester back then. The Romans called it Camulodunum.

387

00:23:59,000 --> 00:24:03,000

Two hours later, I reach...let's just stick with Colchester.

388

00:24:04,000 --> 00:24:09,000

A city that has a unique relationship with Queen Boudica.

389

00:24:11,000 --> 00:24:15,000

In 1st century Camulodunum, she was seen as a dangerous revolutionary.

390

00:24:15,000 --> 00:24:19,000

But in 21st century Colchester, she's a rock star.

391

00:24:23,000 --> 00:24:28,000

From statues...to schools...to wine labels.

392

00:24:28,000 --> 00:24:32,000

Today, Boudica is hailed by the locals as a freedom fighter.

393

00:24:32,000 --> 00:24:38,000

So I decide to get a nice cuppa and settle in to read the Romans' description of her.

394

00:24:39,000 --> 00:24:42,000

Good Lord! This woman's a monster!

395

00:24:43,000 --> 00:24:52,000

Writing 150 years after the uprising, Roman historian Cassius Dio catalogs a horrifying list of Boudica's crimes.

396

00:24:53,000 --> 00:25:01,000

The wholesale murder of 80,000 Romans, prisoners boiled alive, and noble women tortured, mutilated and impaled.

397

00:25:01,000 --> 00:25:08,000

So who was she really? Righteous rebel? Or cold-blooded barbarian?

398

00:25:10,000 --> 00:25:16,000

Many modern writers have noted that Boudica gets a bad rap since her Roman enemies wrote her biography.

399

00:25:16,000 --> 00:25:23,000

But in a quaint little coffee shop in the center of town, I'm exploring a secret that could set the record straight.

400

00:25:23,000 --> 00:25:30,000

Beneath a newly installed glass floor, I step back in time 2,000 years.

401

00:25:30,000 --> 00:25:36,000

These are the remains of the original Roman settlement, discovered by accident in 2016.

402

00:25:36,000 --> 00:25:38,000

How cool is this?

403

00:25:39,000 --> 00:25:46,000

Though today it sits in ruins, this was once a hugely important building, known as the Temple of Claudius.

404

00:25:47,000 --> 00:25:58,000

More than a thousand local citizens hid inside this temple for two days, after Boudica defeated the 9th Roman Legion and attacked the city with her 150,000 rebels.

405

00:25:58,000 --> 00:26:05,000

Once her forces breached the temple, they killed everyone inside and burned the entire city to the ground.

406

00:26:05,000 --> 00:26:07,000

Boudica took no prisoners.

407

00:26:10,000 --> 00:26:13,000

Pottery found down here is charred black from the event.

408

00:26:13,000 --> 00:26:24,000

In fact, if you dig down anywhere in the city of Colchester, you find a line of charcoal-colored soil that is officially known as the Boudican Destruction Layer.

409

00:26:24,000 --> 00:26:28,000

So there can be no question that Boudica's fight was merciless.

410

00:26:29,000 --> 00:26:35,000

However, she probably gave as good as she got, fighting back against the brutality of Rome.

411

00:26:36,000 --> 00:26:43,000

But how exactly did Boudica and her ragtag rebels take on Rome's storied 9th Legion in the first place?

412

00:26:43,000 --> 00:26:48,000

And could Boudica's tactics reveal the location of her treasure?

413

00:26:48,000 --> 00:26:58,000

To find out, I've arranged to meet a group of experts in ancient warfare, and they arrive in style, riding Boudica's secret weapon.

414

00:27:19,000 --> 00:27:26,000

Good morning. Good morning. That was extraordinary. I'm Josh. I'm Claire. And I'm Rekha. Rekha? That's me.

415

00:27:26,000 --> 00:27:35,000

I love that name. Nice to meet you, Claire and Rekha. You know, Boudica is always associated with this chariot. Did the Romans use them in war?

416

00:27:35,000 --> 00:27:40,000

No, the Romans purely fought on foot. It was just the Isenians that used them in war. The Romans used to use...

417

00:27:40,000 --> 00:27:44,000

Wait a minute. This is sacrilege. I have, like, Ben Hur visions in my head. Didn't the Romans fight on chariots?

418

00:27:44,000 --> 00:27:48,000

No, they purely used them for racing. They never fought from their chariots.

419

00:27:48,000 --> 00:27:53,000

Wow. In terms of Boudica, how would she have fought? Do you want to find out?

420

00:27:53,000 --> 00:27:57,000

On there? Sure. Yes. Yes, yes, I do.

421

00:27:58,000 --> 00:28:08,000

The next thing I know, Rekha sets up a dummy Roman soldier. Let's call him Targeticus. And an armorer brings out the Isenian arsenal.

422

00:28:08,000 --> 00:28:12,000

Are you the weapon man? I am indeed. I'm Josh. I'm Chunk. Chunk? Chunk.

423

00:28:12,000 --> 00:28:18,000

Rekha and Chunk. Yes. Okay, what's your last name? Cox. Your name is Chunk Cox. It is, yes.

424

00:28:18,000 --> 00:28:23,000

That's not your birth name. No, no, no. I don't know. It's Richard. Or Dick, for sure. Your birth name is Dick Cox.

425

00:28:23,000 --> 00:28:27,000

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah, my parents didn't think that through, did I? No. No.

426

00:28:27,000 --> 00:28:32,000

I'm not going to make fun of you. You're holding some serious weapons. Wow, yeah, no. Would this have been in Boudica's arsenal here?

427

00:28:32,000 --> 00:28:37,000

Yeah, yeah, the spear would have been the most common weapon. Pretty much everyone had a spear. You'd use it for hunting.

428

00:28:37,000 --> 00:28:44,000

Right. Also the axe was a very common weapon because everyone had one of Chupwood. The sword on the other hand would have been a lot more high status weapon.

429

00:28:44,000 --> 00:28:49,000

Boudica herself would probably have one. So what do we start with? Well, spear.

430

00:28:49,000 --> 00:28:53,000

Spear it is. How to crack. Okay, very lightweight. What's the technique on this?

431

00:28:53,000 --> 00:28:59,000

You throw it like a dart. Really, it's just like a dart? Yeah, you just literally give it a lob. Okay. What could possibly go wrong?

432

00:28:59,000 --> 00:29:03,000

I don't know. Well, we are about to find out. Okay, here we go.

433

00:29:07,000 --> 00:29:18,000

Okay. Maintain at least three points of contact. So both feet and one hand at any one time. Okay. And as you go into a corner, transfer your weight to the inside or you could flip over.

434

00:29:18,000 --> 00:29:22,000

If the carriage turns over, you're going to be skinned alive.

435

00:29:22,000 --> 00:29:26,000

Well, you're really selling it, Claire. It's good fun. It's good fun, I promise.

436

00:29:26,000 --> 00:29:31,000

Give me the spear. Okay. All right, let's rock and roll.

437

00:29:31,000 --> 00:29:38,000

Go. Oh, boy. Okay, coming into the course.

438

00:29:38,000 --> 00:29:42,000

Change your lane. Left, left, left, left, left. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

439

00:29:42,000 --> 00:29:45,000

Come on. Claire navigates through the course.

440

00:29:45,000 --> 00:29:48,000

Let's go. Shot that. Nice.

441

00:29:48,000 --> 00:29:53,000

Picking up speed with each pass until we're approaching 30 miles an hour.

442

00:29:54,000 --> 00:29:57,000

Woo-hoo!

443

00:29:57,000 --> 00:30:00,000

Gonna go right to the bottom.

444

00:30:00,000 --> 00:30:05,000

When you come out of the corners, the acceleration is amazing.

445

00:30:05,000 --> 00:30:08,000

Right turn. Yeah. Yeah.

446

00:30:08,000 --> 00:30:17,000

After the next corner, I want you to hold on with one hand, get your spear ready with your other hand. Yeah.

447

00:30:17,000 --> 00:30:23,000

And we're going to try and take that rime in now. Okay. Go, go. Go, go. Go, go, go, go, go.

448

00:30:23,000 --> 00:30:26,000

It's hard just to hold on with one hand.

449

00:30:29,000 --> 00:30:33,000

I missed him. You really caught the fanny hole.

450

00:30:33,000 --> 00:30:37,000

I didn't die hit though. I was nowhere near the horse. Give me a spear.

451

00:30:37,000 --> 00:30:40,000

Okay, here we go.

452

00:30:40,000 --> 00:30:49,000

You know, it's one thing to be doing this in an obstacle course, but imagine being in the heat of battle against the Romans.

453

00:30:52,000 --> 00:30:56,000

Channel my inner Isini warrior.

454

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

I'll put 10 credit misses.

455

00:31:02,000 --> 00:31:09,000

Struggling to hit a stationary target shows me just how skilled Boudica's charioteers must have been.

456

00:31:09,000 --> 00:31:14,000

If this were a real battle, I wouldn't even have this second chance.

457

00:31:20,000 --> 00:31:28,000

I'm in Colchester, England on the trail of first century Isini queen Boudica's legendary treasure hoard.

458

00:31:28,000 --> 00:31:37,000

Boudica led a rebellion against Britain's Roman overlords, sacking three cities and nearly defeating the most powerful army on earth.

459

00:31:37,000 --> 00:31:44,000

Now I'm attempting to master the weapon that gave the rebels their edge, the war chariot.

460

00:31:50,000 --> 00:31:52,000

Yes! In the neck!

461

00:31:52,000 --> 00:31:56,000

Crocodile shop for Boudica!

462

00:31:59,000 --> 00:32:06,000

I've learned that fighting from chariot back is extremely hard, even with a stationary target on a controlled course.

463

00:32:06,000 --> 00:32:14,000

But to Boudica and her army, chariots and horses were key to their strategy, and for a time, it paid off.

464

00:32:15,000 --> 00:32:25,000

After sacking Colchester and crushing the 9th Legion, Boudica and the rebels destroyed first century London, followed by what is now the city of St. Albans.

465

00:32:25,000 --> 00:32:37,000

Where Boudica's final battle took place is a mystery that's endured for almost 2000 years, but her reliance on chariot warfare may help us unlock the answer.

466

00:32:39,000 --> 00:32:49,000

I follow an ancient Roman highway known as Watling Street to the tiny village of Church Stow and head to a stunning medieval church perched above the town.

467

00:32:56,000 --> 00:33:01,000

John! Hi Josh, good to see you. Nice to meet you. You too, Josh.

468

00:33:01,000 --> 00:33:09,000

This is historian and landscape archaeologist John Pegg, who has been rewriting the book on the location of Boudica's final act.

469

00:33:10,000 --> 00:33:12,000

Let's talk Boudica, okay?

470

00:33:12,000 --> 00:33:18,000

This question of her final battle and her burial is a huge mystery.

471

00:33:18,000 --> 00:33:21,000

So, why Church Stow?

472

00:33:21,000 --> 00:33:25,000

Well, that's interesting. I've been fascinated by the story since I was a child.

473

00:33:25,000 --> 00:33:34,000

So, if we take it right back, the only thing we have to base any study of Boudica's final days on is the writings of two Roman historians, one's Tacitus and the other's Dio.

474

00:33:34,000 --> 00:33:37,000

What do the Roman writers tell us about this final battle?

475

00:33:37,000 --> 00:33:46,000

Well, the key one is Tacitus, and he gives us the overall picture of the campaign, but also some very specific terrain descriptions that help us identify the battle site.

476

00:33:46,000 --> 00:33:47,000

Okay.

477

00:33:47,000 --> 00:33:55,000

In terms of the campaign, we've got General Paul Inas, the leader of the Romans. He's in Anglesey in North Wales, suppressing the Druids.

478

00:33:55,000 --> 00:34:01,000

On hearing of the rebellion, he started to move southeast to try and deal with the Isenian threat.

479

00:34:01,000 --> 00:34:10,000

At the same time, Boudica and the Isenians were moving from their homeland in Norfolk through Colchester, which they destroyed, the destruction of London, and then they moved up to St. Albans.

480

00:34:10,000 --> 00:34:15,000

So, we have a force coming down from the north, a force coming up from the south, so we need to start looking in the centre.

481

00:34:15,000 --> 00:34:17,000

We are right in the middle of these two arrows.

482

00:34:17,000 --> 00:34:20,000

You're right in the middle of the two arrows on Watling Street.

483

00:34:20,000 --> 00:34:25,000

Now, Watling Street is this amazing road that's still in use today that was effectively a Roman highway, right?

484

00:34:25,000 --> 00:34:26,000

Absolutely.

485

00:34:26,000 --> 00:34:28,000

Okay, so we're in the right area.

486

00:34:28,000 --> 00:34:29,000

I would hope so.

487

00:34:31,000 --> 00:34:42,000

According to Tacitus, the Romans are outnumbered 25 to 1, so they use the local topography to their advantage, stationing their troops around the edge of a steep valley.

488

00:34:42,000 --> 00:34:49,000

The fastest is very specific that the Roman victor was dependent on his massively outnumbered troops holding a piece of terrain.

489

00:34:49,000 --> 00:34:55,000

We need a narrow valley with steep sides so the British couldn't bring into play their wonder weapon, the chariot.

490

00:34:55,000 --> 00:34:56,000

Right. Too steep for a chariot.

491

00:34:56,000 --> 00:35:05,000

Too steep for a chariot to go up, but not too steep for the Romans to advance down once they started their attack, and that's the description we have, and that's what we've got at Church Stove.

492

00:35:06,000 --> 00:35:09,000

John shows me a topographical map of the area.

493

00:35:09,000 --> 00:35:14,000

Just take a look at how steep this ridge is and how good a bottleneck this valley makes.

494

00:35:14,000 --> 00:35:17,000

Right, so this goes all the way around this area.

495

00:35:17,000 --> 00:35:30,000

Absolutely. All the way around the top, 40 viable at the top, but at the base, you've got a valley that narrows significantly that could trap the Isenians as they try to escape, which is one of the key factors in the battle.

496

00:35:31,000 --> 00:35:45,000

Tacitus describes a slaughter. 80,000 Celts died that fateful day while the Romans suffered just 400 casualties. In one fell swoop, Boudica's uprising is crushed.

497

00:35:46,000 --> 00:36:00,000

As for the queen herself, Dio claims she falls ill and dies, likely from poison, and is given a costly burial, which means ceremonial offerings were likely made at the site.

498

00:36:03,000 --> 00:36:11,000

Convinced that he's discovered the location of the battlefield, John thinks he's found this costly burial site as well.

499

00:36:15,000 --> 00:36:21,000

John brings me to a field directly south of the church, a place with an extremely intriguing name.

500

00:36:21,000 --> 00:36:22,000

This is Dead Queensmoor.

501

00:36:22,000 --> 00:36:27,000

This is Dead Queensmoor. It's a real Lord of the Rings name. So why did they call it that?

502

00:36:27,000 --> 00:36:34,000

It's possible that something, at some point, was found that suggested someone of royal birth was buried up here.

503

00:36:34,000 --> 00:36:35,000

Like Queen Boudica.

504

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

But there's more.

505

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

Okay.

506

00:36:38,000 --> 00:36:45,000

In 1880, they were building a waterworks just over there, a few hundred meters away, and they came across a first century Roman temple.

507

00:36:45,000 --> 00:36:47,000

But the big thing they found was this.

508

00:36:48,000 --> 00:36:55,000

Get out of here. This is a huge sculpted head of a woman.

509

00:36:55,000 --> 00:36:58,000

Yeah, but it's not any woman. It's a very angry looking woman.

510

00:36:58,000 --> 00:36:59,000

Yes.

511

00:36:59,000 --> 00:37:00,000

And what looks like a torque in her hair.

512

00:37:00,000 --> 00:37:04,000

Oh, there is. Look at that. We've got something in her hair here. It looks like a torque.

513

00:37:04,000 --> 00:37:09,000

And it's Romano-British style rather than Roman. And it's dated to the mid first century.

514

00:37:10,000 --> 00:37:12,000

That's like a smoking gun.

515

00:37:12,000 --> 00:37:14,000

That could definitely be a smoking gun.

516

00:37:14,000 --> 00:37:20,000

No significant survey work has been done at this exact site until today.

517

00:37:20,000 --> 00:37:22,000

Look at this. We are not alone up here.

518

00:37:22,000 --> 00:37:24,000

Nope. We've got a whole team.

519

00:37:24,000 --> 00:37:25,000

Awesome.

520

00:37:31,000 --> 00:37:32,000

Hi there.

521

00:37:32,000 --> 00:37:33,000

How are you?

522

00:37:33,000 --> 00:37:34,000

Well, thank you. How are you?

523

00:37:34,000 --> 00:37:35,000

This is Alan. Alan.

524

00:37:35,000 --> 00:37:36,000

Nice to meet you. How are you?

525

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

How are you? Very well.

526

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

You have a regular army out here today.

527

00:37:38,000 --> 00:37:39,000

Yeah, we certainly have.

528

00:37:40,000 --> 00:37:43,000

I noticed that everyone has these orange vests on that say NARC.

529

00:37:44,000 --> 00:37:45,000

That's correct.

530

00:37:45,000 --> 00:37:46,000

You guys are a bunch of NARCs?

531

00:37:46,000 --> 00:37:49,000

No, we are indeed. It's the Sandsford Northamptonshire Artifact Recovery Club.

532

00:37:49,000 --> 00:37:51,000

Ah, okay. The Northamptonshire Artifact Recovery Club.

533

00:37:51,000 --> 00:37:52,000

Correct.

534

00:37:52,000 --> 00:37:53,000

It has a different connotation in the States.

535

00:37:53,000 --> 00:37:54,000

Yeah.

536

00:37:54,000 --> 00:37:56,000

So how's it going so far? Any sign of Boudicca's Horde?

537

00:37:56,000 --> 00:37:57,000

Not yet.

538

00:37:58,000 --> 00:38:00,000

But we only just started, so fingers crossed we can find something.

539

00:38:00,000 --> 00:38:01,000

Okay, great.

540

00:38:01,000 --> 00:38:03,000

We've got a lot of ground to cover.

541

00:38:03,000 --> 00:38:07,000

While the NARCs try to rat out Boudicca's Horde with metal detectors,

542

00:38:07,000 --> 00:38:10,000

John's called in backup to help narrow down the search zone.

543

00:38:10,000 --> 00:38:16,000

A remote sensing team using cutting edge new technology, Aerial GPR.

544

00:38:17,000 --> 00:38:19,000

This is Bruce and John from Aerodite.

545

00:38:19,000 --> 00:38:21,000

Hey, Bruce, how are you? Nice to meet you.

546

00:38:21,000 --> 00:38:22,000

Pleasure.

547

00:38:22,000 --> 00:38:23,000

Pleasure.

548

00:38:23,000 --> 00:38:24,000

What is this beast?

549

00:38:24,000 --> 00:38:27,000

This is a broadband ground penetrating radar system.

550

00:38:27,000 --> 00:38:29,000

Whoa, whoa, whoa, wait a minute.

551

00:38:29,000 --> 00:38:31,000

This is a radar unit attached to a drone.

552

00:38:31,000 --> 00:38:32,000

Yes.

553

00:38:32,000 --> 00:38:34,000

I have never seen this before.

554

00:38:34,000 --> 00:38:37,000

So when you fly this with the radar unit attached, how high off the ground do you fly?

555

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

About five foot.

556

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

And how far underground can it see?

557

00:38:40,000 --> 00:38:42,000

10 to 15 feet.

558

00:38:42,000 --> 00:38:44,000

10 to 15 feet underground?

559

00:38:44,000 --> 00:38:45,000

Yeah.

560

00:38:45,000 --> 00:38:46,000

Wow.

561

00:38:46,000 --> 00:38:50,000

Aerial GPR sends high frequency radio waves into the ground

562

00:38:50,000 --> 00:38:53,000

and measures how these waves are reflected back.

563

00:38:53,000 --> 00:38:56,000

It can cover more area than a ground-based unit

564

00:38:56,000 --> 00:38:59,000

and detect disturbances in the soil from above.

565

00:38:59,000 --> 00:39:02,000

Signs that something might be buried here.

566

00:39:03,000 --> 00:39:04,000

All right, should we fly?

567

00:39:04,000 --> 00:39:05,000

Yep.

568

00:39:05,000 --> 00:39:06,000

Yeah, let's do it.

569

00:39:17,000 --> 00:39:18,000

Get ready for takeoff.

570

00:39:18,000 --> 00:39:19,000

Okay, let's back it up.

571

00:39:27,000 --> 00:39:31,000

Flying the drone low and slow, Bruce gets to work,

572

00:39:31,000 --> 00:39:34,000

running a grid pattern over the field.

573

00:39:43,000 --> 00:39:47,000

After a few passes, the ground penetrating radar picks something up.

574

00:39:49,000 --> 00:39:50,000

All right, are we getting data?

575

00:39:50,000 --> 00:39:52,000

Yes, we're getting great data.

576

00:39:52,000 --> 00:39:53,000

Wow.

577

00:39:53,000 --> 00:39:54,000

We've got something here.

578

00:39:56,000 --> 00:39:57,000

Right there.

579

00:39:57,000 --> 00:39:58,000

How deep is that hit?

580

00:39:58,000 --> 00:39:59,000

Less than five feet.

581

00:40:00,000 --> 00:40:01,000

We've got something out there.

582

00:40:01,000 --> 00:40:02,000

Yep.

583

00:40:02,000 --> 00:40:03,000

This thing works.

584

00:40:04,000 --> 00:40:09,000

The GPR detected a disturbance in the soil nearly seven feet long,

585

00:40:09,000 --> 00:40:11,000

potentially big enough to be Boudicca's tomb

586

00:40:11,000 --> 00:40:14,000

or maybe a treasure trove of offerings.

587

00:40:17,000 --> 00:40:20,000

John and I join Alan and Dave from the NARC squad

588

00:40:20,000 --> 00:40:22,000

and we begin our journey to the NARC squad.

589

00:40:22,000 --> 00:40:26,000

And we begin to sweep the area where the GPR spotted the anomaly.

590

00:40:27,000 --> 00:40:28,000

And anything, John?

591

00:40:28,000 --> 00:40:30,000

Nothing so far.

592

00:40:31,000 --> 00:40:34,000

But metal detecting is all about persistence.

593

00:40:38,000 --> 00:40:41,000

And Dave here didn't earn his NARC vest for nothing.

594

00:40:46,000 --> 00:40:47,000

Alan, hey!

595

00:40:47,000 --> 00:40:48,000

You got something?

596

00:40:48,000 --> 00:40:49,000

Got something, yeah.

597

00:40:49,000 --> 00:40:50,000

What do you got?

598

00:40:50,000 --> 00:40:51,000

What do you got?

599

00:40:53,000 --> 00:40:55,000

Oh, my word!

600

00:40:55,000 --> 00:40:56,000

Look at that!

601

00:40:56,000 --> 00:40:57,000

That's silver!

602

00:40:57,000 --> 00:40:58,000

Yeah, that's Roman silver.

603

00:40:58,000 --> 00:41:01,000

You can see there's no later silver looks like that.

604

00:41:01,000 --> 00:41:02,000

Alan, come here.

605

00:41:02,000 --> 00:41:03,000

Look at this.

606

00:41:03,000 --> 00:41:04,000

Oh, my God!

607

00:41:05,000 --> 00:41:06,000

Silver coin.

608

00:41:06,000 --> 00:41:07,000

Wow.

609

00:41:07,000 --> 00:41:08,000

Definitely Roman.

610

00:41:08,000 --> 00:41:09,000

Grassian.

611

00:41:09,000 --> 00:41:10,000

Grassian.

612

00:41:10,000 --> 00:41:12,000

So he'll be late fourth century, about three seventies.

613

00:41:12,000 --> 00:41:14,000

Look at the condition of this, hey!

614

00:41:14,000 --> 00:41:15,000

Nice work!

615

00:41:15,000 --> 00:41:16,000

Fantastic day.

616

00:41:16,000 --> 00:41:19,000

So we're looking at about 300 years after Boudicca here.

617

00:41:19,000 --> 00:41:20,000

Yep.

618

00:41:20,000 --> 00:41:23,000

There's no problem with that at all, because if this were a burial site, then why wouldn't

619

00:41:23,000 --> 00:41:27,000

there be people passing by here, visiting here, even making offerings?

620

00:41:27,000 --> 00:41:30,000

So I think the trick is now to take a more measured approach.

621

00:41:30,000 --> 00:41:31,000

Keep looking around here.

622

00:41:31,000 --> 00:41:32,000

Yeah, okay.

623

00:41:32,000 --> 00:41:33,000

Yeah.

624

00:41:33,000 --> 00:41:34,000

And see what else we've got.

625

00:41:34,000 --> 00:41:36,000

Yeah, I got a little signal here.

626

00:41:36,000 --> 00:41:37,000

Another head.

627

00:41:37,000 --> 00:41:38,000

Let's see what comes up.

628

00:41:38,000 --> 00:41:39,000

Oh!

629

00:41:40,000 --> 00:41:42,000

And I got one here.

630

00:41:44,000 --> 00:41:47,000

As quickly as we can, Dave and I dig in.

631

00:41:50,000 --> 00:41:52,000

And just like that.

632

00:41:52,000 --> 00:41:53,000

We got another one.

633

00:41:53,000 --> 00:41:54,000

Another coin.

634

00:41:54,000 --> 00:41:55,000

Another one.

635

00:41:55,000 --> 00:41:56,000

Yeah.

636

00:41:56,000 --> 00:41:57,000

Is it another silver coin?

637

00:41:57,000 --> 00:41:58,000

Yep.

638

00:41:58,000 --> 00:41:59,000

I got something here.

639

00:42:02,000 --> 00:42:04,000

Double jackpot.

640

00:42:04,000 --> 00:42:05,000

Yes!

641

00:42:05,000 --> 00:42:06,000

Yes!

642

00:42:06,000 --> 00:42:07,000

Wow.

643

00:42:07,000 --> 00:42:09,000

Look at that, another silver coin!

644

00:42:09,000 --> 00:42:11,000

This could be a treasure hoard.

645

00:42:12,000 --> 00:42:13,000

Holy \*\*\*\*!

646

00:42:14,000 --> 00:42:21,000

Back at the chariot course, it wasn't all spears.

647

00:42:21,000 --> 00:42:28,000

I also tried my hand at a sword against Rome's feared 9th Legion, represented here by a defenseless melon.

648

00:42:34,000 --> 00:42:35,000

I scalped him.

649

00:42:36,000 --> 00:42:38,000

That Roman is definitely in trouble.

650

00:42:43,000 --> 00:42:44,000

Nice!

651

00:42:44,000 --> 00:42:46,000

Oh, that guy's dead.

652

00:42:46,000 --> 00:42:47,000

But he's done.

653

00:42:47,000 --> 00:42:49,000

That is game over.

654

00:42:50,000 --> 00:42:52,000

He's definitely dead.

655

00:42:53,000 --> 00:42:55,000

And delicious.

656

00:42:55,000 --> 00:42:56,000

Very nice.

657

00:42:56,000 --> 00:42:58,000

Italians aren't known for their cuisine.

658

00:43:02,000 --> 00:43:08,000

I'm in Church Stowe, England, investigating Dead Queen's Moor, a possible burial site of Boudica,

659

00:43:08,000 --> 00:43:13,000

a Celtic rebel queen who challenged the Roman conquerors of Britain.

660

00:43:13,000 --> 00:43:17,000

Roman historian Tacitus describes her funeral as Costly,

661

00:43:17,000 --> 00:43:21,000

which means this field could be hiding a treasure hoard.

662

00:43:21,000 --> 00:43:23,000

And in fact, it seems like it is.

663

00:43:23,000 --> 00:43:24,000

Yes!

664

00:43:24,000 --> 00:43:25,000

Wow.

665

00:43:25,000 --> 00:43:27,000

Look at that, another silver coin!

666

00:43:27,000 --> 00:43:29,000

This could be a treasure hoard.

667

00:43:30,000 --> 00:43:31,000

Holy \*\*\*\*!

668

00:43:32,000 --> 00:43:33,000

It's a different emperor.

669

00:43:33,000 --> 00:43:34,000

Look, different.

670

00:43:34,000 --> 00:43:35,000

Different.

671

00:43:36,000 --> 00:43:38,000

So, this is...

672

00:43:38,000 --> 00:43:39,000

It's a Valens.

673

00:43:39,000 --> 00:43:43,000

Different emperor, but still the same period of time, late 4th century.

674

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

So, we put him in order, first one top.

675

00:43:46,000 --> 00:43:49,000

So that's one, two, three coins.

676

00:43:49,000 --> 00:43:50,000

In a row.

677

00:43:50,000 --> 00:43:51,000

Yeah, yeah.

678

00:43:51,000 --> 00:43:52,000

I mean, that's incredible.

679

00:43:52,000 --> 00:43:53,000

It is.

680

00:43:53,000 --> 00:43:54,000

Is this a normal day out for you guys?

681

00:43:54,000 --> 00:43:55,000

No, certainly not.

682

00:43:55,000 --> 00:43:58,000

In 22 years, probably about eight or nine of them all together.

683

00:43:58,000 --> 00:44:00,000

In 20 odd years of detecting.

684

00:44:00,000 --> 00:44:01,000

Wow.

685

00:44:01,000 --> 00:44:02,000

So now we've got three.

686

00:44:02,000 --> 00:44:03,000

In the span of about six feet.

687

00:44:03,000 --> 00:44:04,000

That's right.

688

00:44:04,000 --> 00:44:06,000

Okay, everybody pick up a metal detector.

689

00:44:06,000 --> 00:44:07,000

That's it.

690

00:44:09,000 --> 00:44:12,000

With daylight fading fast, we continue combing the area.

691

00:44:14,000 --> 00:44:15,000

We could have another one.

692

00:44:15,000 --> 00:44:16,000

Same shape, no?

693

00:44:17,000 --> 00:44:19,000

And we keep getting hits.

694

00:44:19,000 --> 00:44:20,000

Right there.

695

00:44:24,000 --> 00:44:25,000

Yeah, look.

696

00:44:25,000 --> 00:44:26,000

Is it?

697

00:44:26,000 --> 00:44:27,000

Number four.

698

00:44:27,000 --> 00:44:28,000

Number four.

699

00:44:28,000 --> 00:44:29,000

Get out of here!

700

00:44:29,000 --> 00:44:30,000

Really?

701

00:44:30,000 --> 00:44:31,000

Yeah, really.

702

00:44:31,000 --> 00:44:32,000

Number four.

703

00:44:33,000 --> 00:44:36,000

If that's another coin, beers are on me boys.

704

00:44:39,000 --> 00:44:40,000

Ah, it's another one!

705

00:44:40,000 --> 00:44:41,000

Yes!

706

00:44:42,000 --> 00:44:43,000

This is insane!

707

00:44:44,000 --> 00:44:48,000

Five coins in probably no more than 10 feet, 11 feet.

708

00:44:50,000 --> 00:44:55,000

Our pockets full of silver, we lay out the loot and keep looking.

709

00:44:58,000 --> 00:45:00,000

Oh, I got something.

710

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

We quickly get a trifecta of hits.

711

00:45:06,000 --> 00:45:07,000

Oh, I got another one!

712

00:45:08,000 --> 00:45:09,000

Another one!

713

00:45:09,000 --> 00:45:10,000

Yeah, that's amazing.

714

00:45:10,000 --> 00:45:11,000

Yeah, another one for me.

715

00:45:11,000 --> 00:45:12,000

You have one!

716

00:45:12,000 --> 00:45:13,000

Yeah!

717

00:45:14,000 --> 00:45:15,000

This is it!

718

00:45:15,000 --> 00:45:16,000

We live in this field now!

719

00:45:18,000 --> 00:45:19,000

And another.

720

00:45:19,000 --> 00:45:20,000

You just have two coins.

721

00:45:20,000 --> 00:45:21,000

Two silver coins.

722

00:45:21,000 --> 00:45:22,000

Two silver coins.

723

00:45:22,000 --> 00:45:23,000

Two silver coins.

724

00:45:23,000 --> 00:45:24,000

Yeah.

725

00:45:24,000 --> 00:45:25,000

Wow.

726

00:45:25,000 --> 00:45:26,000

And another, and another.

727

00:45:27,000 --> 00:45:29,000

We've hit the mother load.

728

00:45:29,000 --> 00:45:34,000

For the next hour, we continue plucking silver coins from the ground, a horde that may have

729

00:45:34,000 --> 00:45:37,000

been left in tribute to the rebel queen, Boudica.

730

00:45:42,000 --> 00:45:43,000

Alan, what are we up to?

731

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

We're up to 14 at the moment.

732

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

Maybe 15.

733

00:45:48,000 --> 00:45:50,000

Another one for Pyle.

734

00:45:50,000 --> 00:45:51,000

21.

735

00:45:51,000 --> 00:45:54,000

Correction, 21 and a half.

736

00:45:54,000 --> 00:45:55,000

Half counters, 1.

737

00:45:55,000 --> 00:45:56,000

22.

738

00:45:56,000 --> 00:45:57,000

22.

739

00:45:59,000 --> 00:46:00,000

Another one.

740

00:46:04,000 --> 00:46:05,000

Alan, anything else?

741

00:46:05,000 --> 00:46:06,000

No, nothing at all.

742

00:46:07,000 --> 00:46:08,000

I think that might be it.

743

00:46:09,000 --> 00:46:11,000

At least for stuff by the surface.

744

00:46:11,000 --> 00:46:12,000

Yeah.

745

00:46:12,000 --> 00:46:13,000

What's the final haul?

746

00:46:13,000 --> 00:46:15,000

We're going to get a little bit of silver.

747

00:46:15,000 --> 00:46:17,000

We're going to get a little bit of silver.

748

00:46:17,000 --> 00:46:18,000

At least for stuff by the surface.

749

00:46:18,000 --> 00:46:19,000

Yeah.

750

00:46:19,000 --> 00:46:21,000

What's the final haul here?

751

00:46:21,000 --> 00:46:22,000

Let's take a look at this.

752

00:46:22,000 --> 00:46:28,000

We have 6, 12, 18, 24, 25 coins.

753

00:46:28,000 --> 00:46:29,000

Fantastic.

754

00:46:29,000 --> 00:46:30,000

Yes.

755

00:46:30,000 --> 00:46:31,000

Fantastic is the word.

756

00:46:31,000 --> 00:46:32,000

That's amazing.

757

00:46:32,000 --> 00:46:34,000

Really, really great work.

758

00:46:34,000 --> 00:46:35,000

Unbelievable.

759

00:46:35,000 --> 00:46:37,000

I mean, this is a horde.

760

00:46:37,000 --> 00:46:38,000

That's a horde.

761

00:46:38,000 --> 00:46:39,000

Truly.

762

00:46:39,000 --> 00:46:40,000

Absolutely.

763

00:46:40,000 --> 00:46:41,000

Now, not to be negative.

764

00:46:41,000 --> 00:46:44,000

We don't have Boudica's burial here yet.

765

00:46:44,000 --> 00:46:48,000

We don't have her horde, but we do have a horde.

766

00:46:48,000 --> 00:46:49,000

This is really significant.

767

00:46:49,000 --> 00:46:52,000

It is significant, and that means that this site was

768

00:46:52,000 --> 00:46:54,000

significant to some people who chose to come here and put a

769

00:46:54,000 --> 00:46:58,000

lot of valuable material into the ground on Dead Queens Mall.

770

00:46:58,000 --> 00:46:59,000

And that's something.

771

00:46:59,000 --> 00:47:00,000

That is something.

772

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

And maybe another puzzle piece to her story.

773

00:47:03,000 --> 00:47:04,000

Absolutely.

774

00:47:04,000 --> 00:47:06,000

Possibly the key to unlocking the puzzle.

775

00:47:06,000 --> 00:47:08,000

And for you guys to let me keep this.

776

00:47:08,000 --> 00:47:09,000

Wow.

777

00:47:09,000 --> 00:47:10,000

So generous.

778

00:47:11,000 --> 00:47:14,000

The discovery of this Roman coin horde is one of the most

779

00:47:14,000 --> 00:47:16,000

exciting of my career.

780

00:47:16,000 --> 00:47:20,000

And there's likely much more to find in Dead Queens Mall.

781

00:47:20,000 --> 00:47:24,000

And at the Sacred Isini site in Snedisham.

782

00:47:24,000 --> 00:47:28,000

Still, the biggest discovery of all may be the character of

783

00:47:28,000 --> 00:47:30,000

Queen Boudica herself.

784

00:47:30,000 --> 00:47:31,000

Who was she?

785

00:47:31,000 --> 00:47:33,000

Hero or villain?

786

00:47:33,000 --> 00:47:38,000

Boudica, like all people, was complex and not easily defined.

787

00:47:38,000 --> 00:47:42,000

I think her most impressive quality is that she has endured.

788

00:47:42,000 --> 00:47:45,000

She lived in a land without writing where nearly no one is

789

00:47:45,000 --> 00:47:46,000

remembered.

790

00:47:46,000 --> 00:47:49,000

A brutal age largely lost to time.

791

00:47:49,000 --> 00:47:53,000

For her story to reach forward through the centuries as a

792

00:47:53,000 --> 00:47:57,000

mother, a leader, and a freedom fighter is a remarkable

793

00:47:57,000 --> 00:47:58,000

accomplishment.

794

00:47:58,000 --> 00:48:02,000

And we should all reach back and take her hand in

795

00:48:02,000 --> 00:48:03,000

remembrance.