

CoOI S2E8 A Bead on the Target

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Synopsis by Jan Anderson

Money Pit

Alex, Charles, Steve, and Jillian are supervising the drilling of borehole D.25-6.76, which is a little north of where the team has been drilling. They are hoping to hit a possible tunnel at 109 feet and the wall of the Money Pit at a depth of about 150 feet. Last week, the team hit what could possibly be the Chappel Vault when they reached a depth of about 150 feet. A core is brought over from 99 feet for examination, and it does contain wood. Steve tells the group that this borehole is close to a 40-inch caisson known as T1 from 2016. The wood found in T1 is some of the oldest wood the team has found, and it dates back to the 1600s. This is also the area where the clay is a match to the soil from the Lot 5 feature. The next core sample we see is from 159 feet and contains sand. Charles notes that there is backfill but no wood in the sample and this leads Steve to believe the drill has veered off course.

War Room

The team is meeting in the War Room to discuss the plans for the work to be done in the swamp. Scott tells the group that during the winter, they decided on four areas to obtain permits for work to be done this year. Permit one is for the southeast corner of the swamp where the stone road is located. The next permit is permit two, which is for the paved area, and permit three will cover the area where the stone path is located. The last area that has been permitted is for the north bog, which is located on the north side of Tom's road. Tom tells the team that they have been pumping out the swamp for two weeks, and only the northernmost part is dry. Marty suggests that they work on the area north of the road first, and the team agrees.

Swamp

Rick, Alex, Gary, and Billy are beginning work in the swamp near the cobblestone pathway that is in the northern part of the swamp. Billy begins excavating the area, and Gary begins metal-detecting the spoils. Soon after they start, Rick notices a notched board that looks hand-cut. The group also notices several large logs that could be part of a structure. Rick wants to check with Tom to see if this is something Fred Nolan built. As Billy continues to dig, he unearths a large bolder, and then Alex and Rick notice cobble similar to what they found in the paved area. Rick decides to stop work until they can talk to Tom and then make a plan to proceed. Tom arrives at the swamp to take a look at the feature uncovered earlier. After looking at the feature, Tom tells the group that he does not remember his dad building the structure. The group will continue to excavate the area for clues about who could have built the structure. Laird suggests getting Dr. Spooner to come and take organic samples. The next day, the group returns to the swamp, and Dr. Spooner is with them. Rick points out where some of the logs are, and he and Dr. Spooner both feel this is part of a ramp and seems to be pointing to the Eye of the Swamp. Dr. Spooner examines the feature and finds a piece of wood to date.

Lot 5

As the archaeologists continue working on the large stone foundation on Lot 5, Moya finds a small bead similar to the ones found last year. Helen, Laird, and Jack take a look, and Laird suggests that they scan it.

The Lab

Rick and Alex are waiting to hear the results of the scans done on the bead found on Lot 5. Laird tells the group that because of its size, this bead is called a seed bead. Laird also tells them that the bead was found outside of the structure and was not in the fill. Emma tells them she did compare this bead to the Venetian beads found last year, and the seed bead did match in composition and coloring to the Venetian beads. Next, she tells them that the coloring does not contain selenium or gold but does contain copper, which

she thinks is an indicator that the colorant is in the early 1700s or earlier. Laird tells the group that this reinforces his idea that this was an earlier structure that was repurposed at a later date.