



Paranormal Phenomenon: Ghosts, Spirits & Hauntings



Episode 20:

TOP 5 Haunted Places around the World - Whitby Abbey



TOP 5 Haunted Locations in the World

3. WHITBY ABBEY ENGLAND



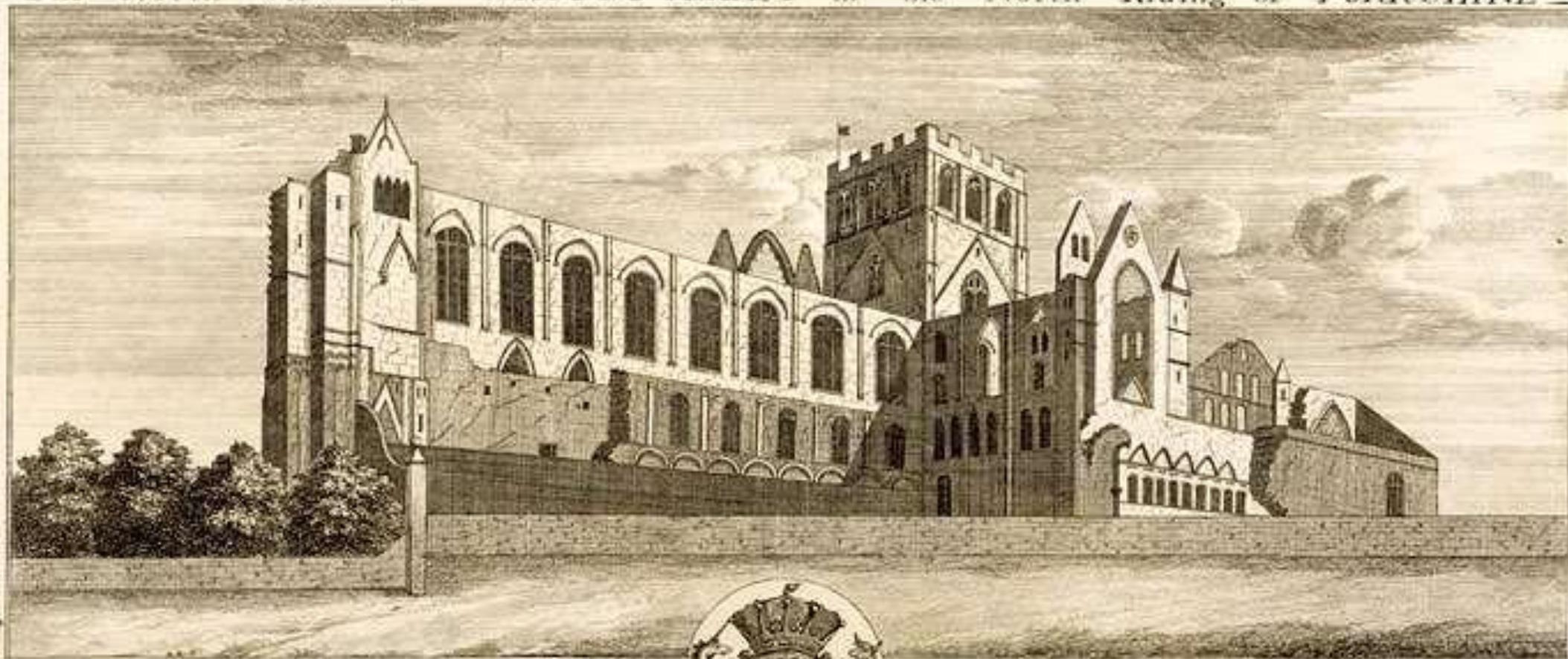
The current ruins of **Whitby Abbey** in North Yorkshire England off the North Sea stretch back to about **657 A.D.**, as the **first monastery** was founded on those grounds.

Today, we mostly see the shell, or remnants of a **13th-century Benedictine abbey** which was founded after the Norman Conquest.



Here is what it would have looked like just a few centuries ago (next slide):

The North View of WHITBY ABBEY in the North Riding of YORKSHIRE



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To the R^{ts} Hon^{ble} Algernon Earl of Hartford, Son & Heir Apparent, to his
Grace the Duke of Somerset; Baron Percy &c. Lord Lieutenant and Chief
Justiciary of the County of Sussex, Captain of the Second Troop of Horse
Guards, and Governour of Tynemouth Castle, This Prospect is humbly Injerd
my Lord

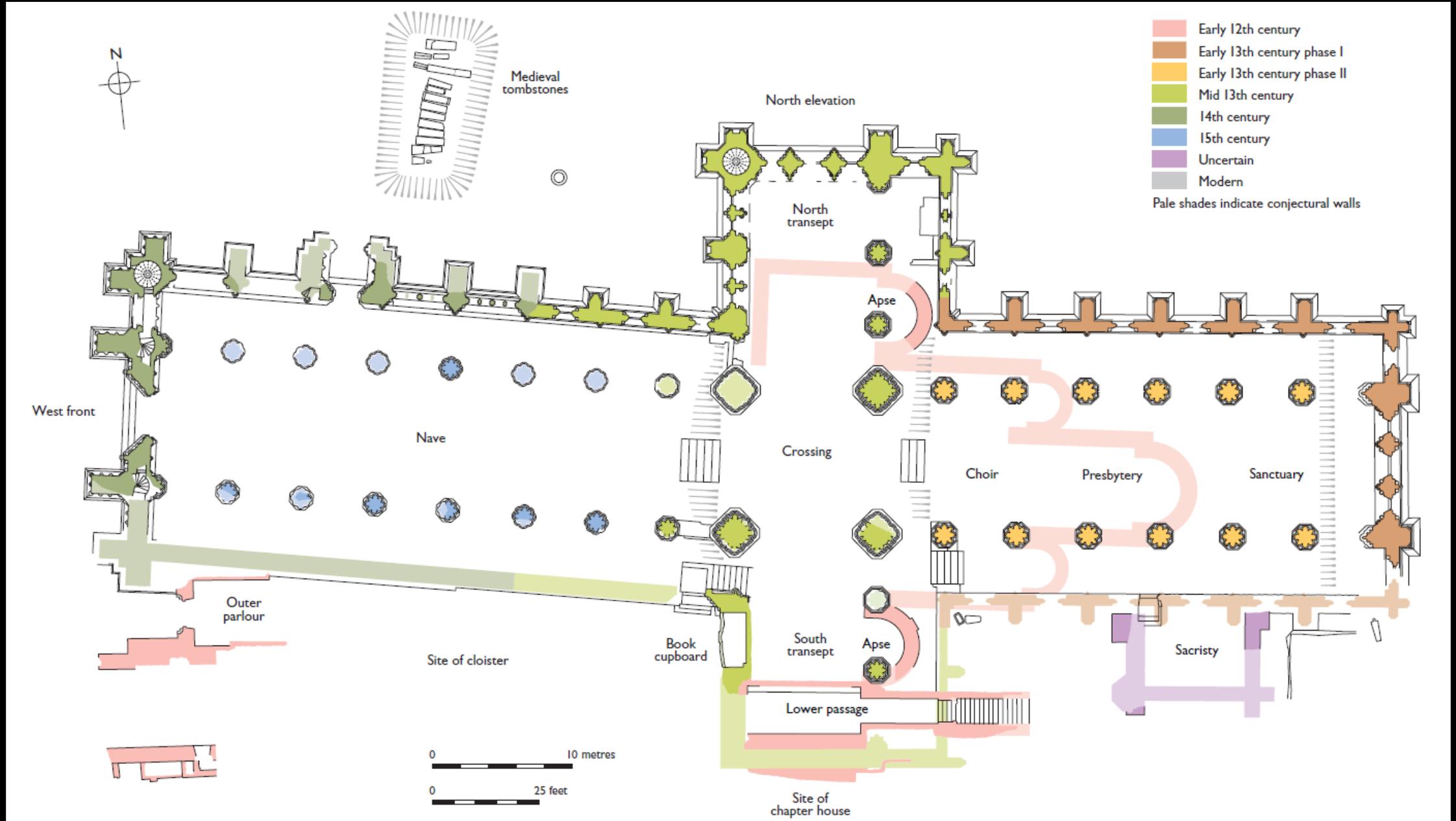
Y^r Lordship's weyr humble &c.
Obed^t Serv^t J. Back

Henry King of Northumberland having Beat Down the Seawalls of Mercia, and vanquish'd all his
People, 866. In 868. was Whitby's the lands and riches Captiv'd from Mappog hermit, 855.
to be convert'd into religious Habitations, in completion of a vow for the said Victory. It was first a
Monastery begun by Hilda a Lady of great sanctity. This destroy'd by the Danes, but since five have
had 894. rebuilt upon the ruins of the former. Books by William de Worre, who A. D. 1067
dedicat'd the said Abbey, town of Whitby, and Monastery to the God S^t Peter, S^t Hilda, and Hilda's
serving God through you. Thus which, the chief factors of the said Abbey which by its numerous, long
and stately a delightful Prospect upon the German Ocean, has made the said A. D. 1790. not a few
years since.

J. Back delin. J. Back sculp.

Ann^o 1790. Fabricat^o 1797
V. 1. p. 204

And the following plan nicely depicts its evolution over the centuries:

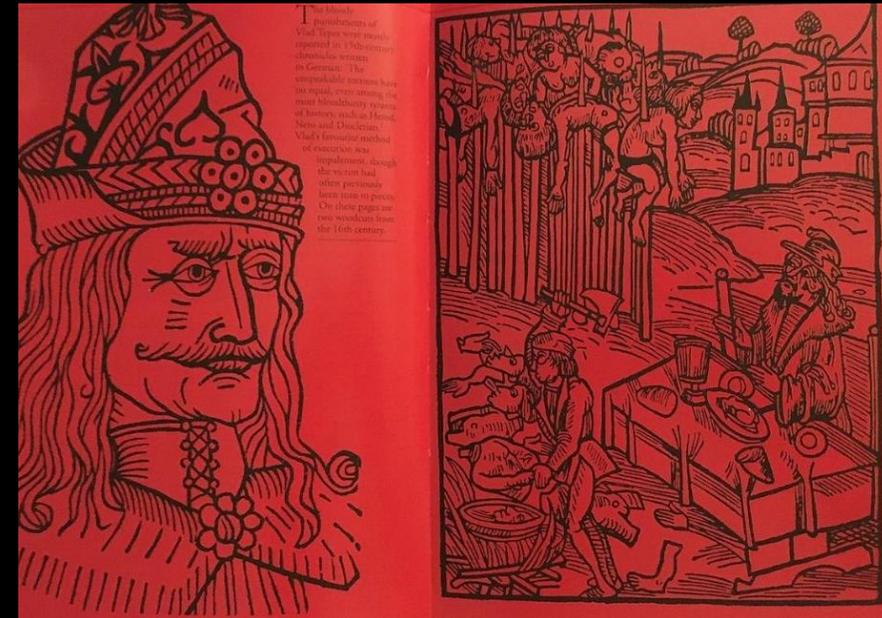
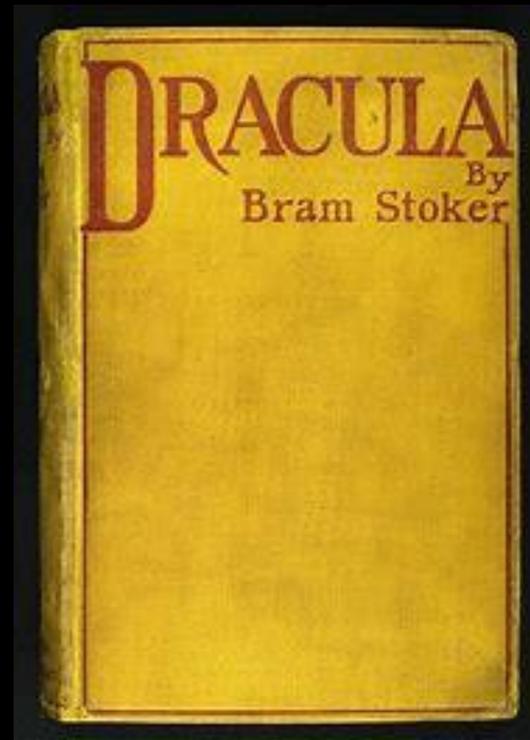


Interestingly, Whitby Abbey is known for providing inspiration to the famous 1897 novel **Dracula** by **Bram Stoker**.

On holiday, Stoker visited the abbey in 1890.

Stoker had visited a local library where he found a book that was written near the start of the 1800s. This book, *An Account of the Principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia* by William Wilkinson, mentioned the evil 15th-century Wallachian (Romanian) real-life prince called Vlad Tepes – better known as **Vlad the Impaler** who many deem as the original Dracula.

Whether he heard the ghastly tales from the locals or had experienced supernatural phenomena himself, it all remains a mystery.



One of the **first hauntings** arose from a tale similar to one that reportedly happened at Borley Rectory – once deemed the most haunted house in England, namely, that of **a nun that was walled up** for breaking her vow of chastity. At least according to legend, the young nun, **Constance De Beverley**, had carried on a **secret affair** with a young knight. When caught, she was walled up – a severe form of punishment in the Middle Ages.





Visitors to the abbey have reported the **eerie screams of a woman in agony** and also seeing the **specter** of a young woman running through the abbey (perhaps trying to flee her captors).

Off the coast of the North Sea was laid two lighthouses (built in 1833). The Western one is said to be haunted by a **one-arm ghost** of a man who fell to his death on the rocks under the lighthouse. The **entity** has repeatedly attempted to **trip visitors** to the location so that they can join him in death.



But perhaps one of the more terrifying entities found at Whitby is that of the **Barquest Hound**.

This beastlike creature that bears the appearance of a red glowing-eyed hound from hell.



The black dog ghost is said to prowl Whitby's streets, alleyways & nearby St. Mary's cemetery and preys upon those who hear its howls.

According to folklore, black dogs are a type of **spirit entity** usually associated with **death**, **demonic forces**, and **hell** itself.



Next to the abbey lies **St. Mary's Church** high on the east cliff which was founded in 1110. In the **churchyard cemetery** there are hundreds of highly-faded and mostly unreadable **tombstones** from the ancient townspeople, fishermen, and possibly pirates.



The graveyard is also home to an infamous **ghostly wanderer**.

Legend has it that a '**Barquest Coach**' is pulled by **headless horses** and its passengers are a group of **skeletons sailors** coming to the graveyard to pay their respects to fallen seafarers.

The skeletons writhe and murmur, reaching out bony hands to welcome fellow sailor spirits. As a ghost rises from the grave to join them, the whole coach shudders and crashes along the cliff, past the Abbey and down, down towards the North sea.

Over the years, many have witnessed the spectral phenomenon.



Whitby Abbey remains a hotbed of paranormal activity and is frequented by many ghost hunters and paranormal investigators.

Sites rich in history such as this one are often home to residual spirit energy eagerly waiting to reveal themselves.

