

AS ARCHAEOLOGY

Unit 2 Archaeological Skills and Methods

Sources Booklet

ARCH2

Sources for use in answering the questions in Section A

Introduction: Doggerland

The questions in Section A are set on Doggerland and surrounding waterlogged or underwater sites. Doggerland was a huge plain that originally stretched across most of what is now the North Sea, from Britain in the west to Scandinavia in the east. As temperatures increased at the end of the last Ice Age, the glaciers melted and the sea levels rose. At some point in the Mesolithic, Doggerland became submerged under mud and the waters of the North Sea.

A group of geologists, archaeologists and palaeoenvironmentalists from Birmingham University carried out a research project to map Doggerland and to investigate its archaeology. The project finished in 2007. A number of new sites were uncovered and together with previous discoveries elsewhere in Britain for comparison, they give a new understanding of Doggerland.

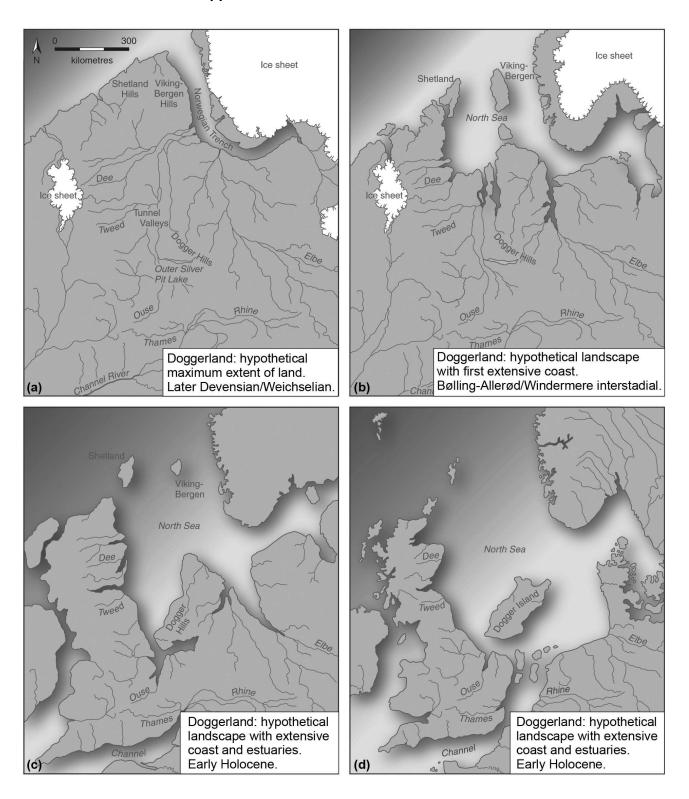
Glossary

Mesolithic – period of time from the end of the last Ice Age until the advent of farming, in Britain, around 9600 BC to around 4000 BC.

Palaeoenvironmentalist – someone who studies the environment of the past.

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Map 1 Map showing the gradual change in landscape and disappearance of Doggerland from the end of the Late Upper Palaeolithic to c. 5500 BC



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Map 2 Map showing locations of some of the sites surrounding Doggerland

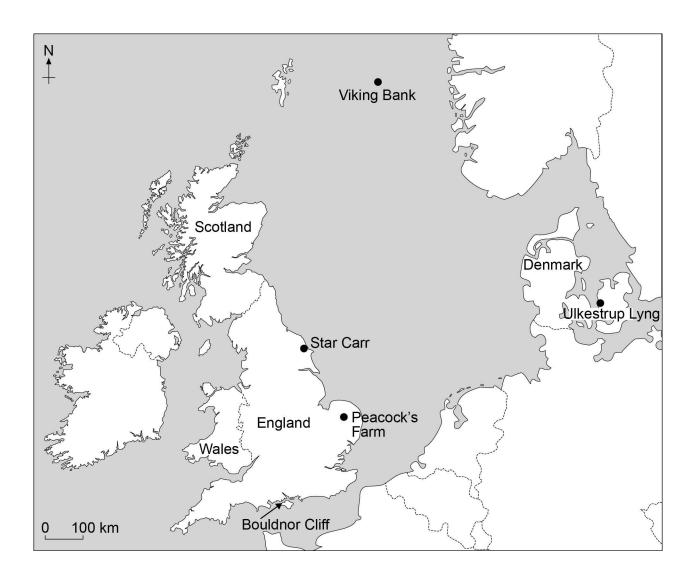


Figure 1 Peacock's Farm, in the Norfolk Fens, was excavated in 1935 and is an early example of the study of buried landscapes. The base of the trench would have been at ground level in the Mesolithic

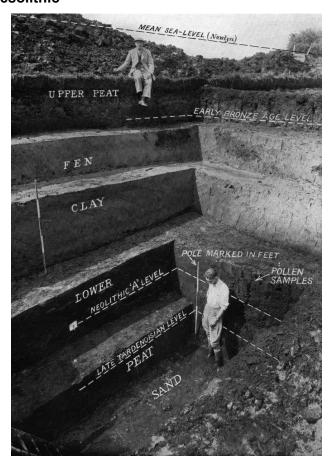


Figure 2 The Bouldnor Cliff site is situated a few hundred metres from land and 11 metres below sea level in the modern-day Solent, off the southern coast of England. This site would have been at ground level in the Mesolithic



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Figure 3 Dating information from a deer antler from Star Carr, a site contemporary with the occupation of Doggerland

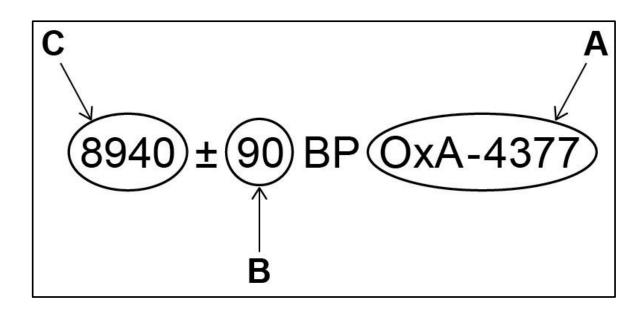


Figure 4 Pollen profile for the British Isles from the end of the Ice Age until the beginning of the historic period

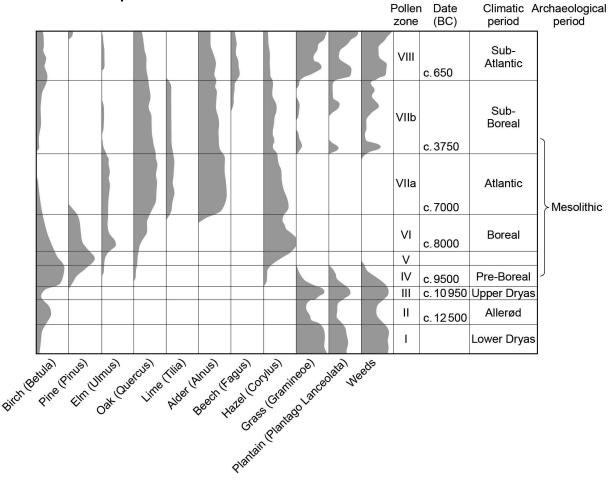


Figure 5 The Viking Bank flint was recovered from an environmental soil core sample taken off the coast of Norway in 1979. Viking Bank would have been a hilly area in the Mesolithic

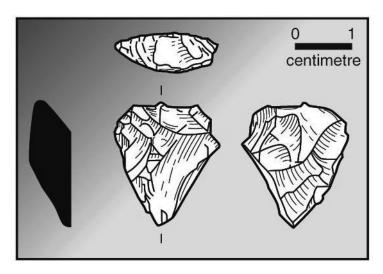
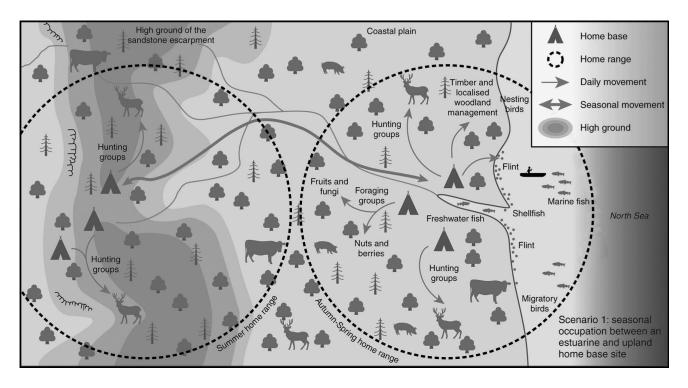
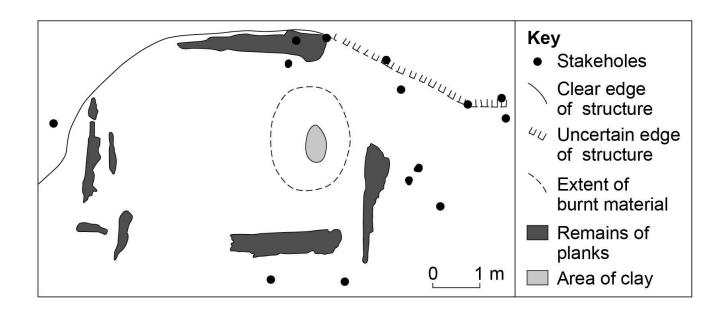


Figure 6 Diagram showing the resources (including wild animals) possibly exploited around Star Carr, a site contemporary with the occupation of Doggerland



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Figure 7 Plan of the remains of a dwelling from Ulkestrup Lyng, a submerged Mesolithic site contemporary with the occupation of Doggerland



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