

# SUNKEN CIVILIZATIONS

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A paradise on Earth, sunken beneath the waves, lost to man for centuries... It sounds like the stuff of legend. Yet Doggerland, often considered a real-life Atlantis, is no myth. Ongoing archeological efforts reveal more about this lost land every day, including the end of habitation on its once-fertile ground.

Doggerland once connected Great Britain to the European mainland during the last Ice Age when massive frozen glaciers created lower sea levels. During this time it was home to a Mesolithic tribe until, due to heating temperatures, sea levels began to rise. Despite the rising tides, this sunken civilization would have initially benefited from a gradually warming planet, which melt-

## “A Real Atlantis”

ed the snows of the thawing Ice Age and turned the landscape into a collection of sloping hills, marshland, wooded areas, and swampy lagoons. The land became a low-lying marshy island about the size of Wales around 8,000 years ago, and remained until the Storegga Slide occurred and the land sank beneath the waves.

Bones dredged up by fishermen in the North Sea have hinted at Doggerland’s existence,

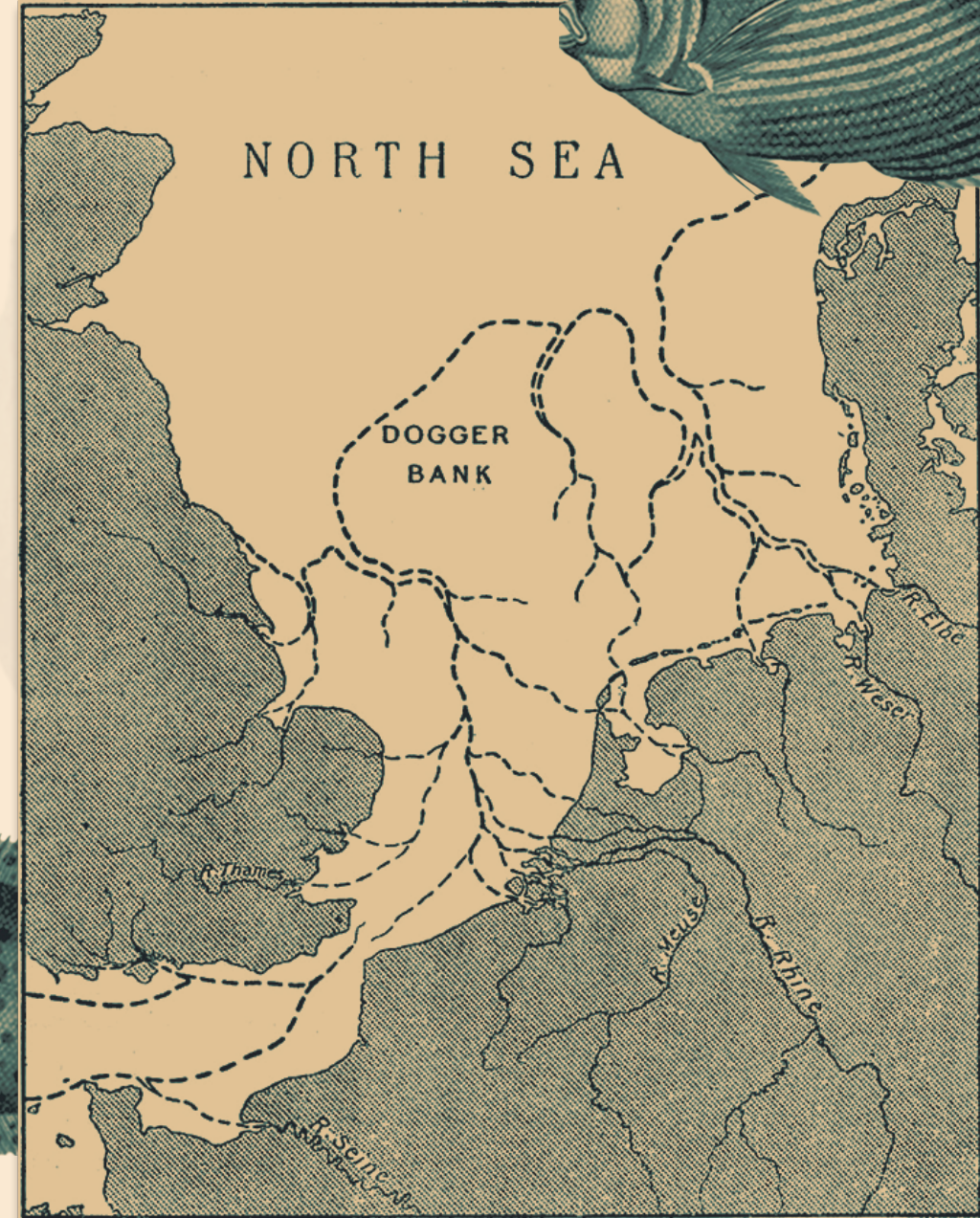
but more recent research from around 2012 has allowed archeologists to recreate the topography, flora, and fauna of the land. From these data points, they estimate that the area could have been home to about ten thousand people. Re-



Spearheads (Rijksmuseum van Oudheden)

searchers from Imperial College in London have used computer simulations to model the Storegga landslide and its subsequent tsunami, the cataclysmic events that turned an already sinking landmass into an uninhabitable one.

Atlantis may be a myth, but sunken continents and civilizations do exist! The Earth shifts with time, one can look at the same point on the globe over thousands of years and watch it transform from a paradise to an icy sea. As humans adapt to each new hill and climate produced by these shifting landscapes, we see interactions between the natural state of equilibrium and forces of change, which are interwoven into every aspect of our existence.



Map showing approximate Doggerland coastline (1913)

### Bibliography

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