

ABOUT : Britain becomes an Island

Origins

Around 20,000 years ago, when the last Ice Age was at its peak, sea levels were about 100m lower than they are today and Britain was connected to Europe by land. This connecting area was called 'Doggerland' and it stretched not only over what we call 'the channel', but it also linked the east of England over a vast area to the Netherlands.

Sea Levels

As the Ice Age came to an end, much of the ice melted, increasing sea levels over a period of thousands of years. In addition, great rivers such as the Thames, Rhine, Meuse and Scheldt all emptied out into a super river, running westward, where the Channel is situated today. This great flow of water, brought with it large desoposits of silt, raising the height of the river bed below. It also created large lakes in the Channel area and Doggerland.

The 'Channel' is formed

It is thought that the Channel area and Doggerland were very fertile and full of great elk and mammoths etc, however as sea levels continued to rise, the lakes overflowed and the rising North Sea overran doggerland and the super river in the Channel, thus creating, around 6.300 BC, a permanent water link between the North Sea and the Atantlic, which we know today as the 'English Channel'.

Other Theories

Another explanation for the creation of the Channel, is that as the sea levels rose, there was a great tsunami, around 6,200 BC, caused by an undersea landslide off the coast of Norway. This poured through the Channel area, from the North Sea side, linking the super river and lakes and then emerging at the Atlantic ocean, very much as it does today.

BRITAIN BECOMES AN ISLAND - *more information...*

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you want to find out even more about when Britain became an island, then use the links below.

Further information :

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doggerland>

<http://www.qpg.geog.cam.ac.uk/research/projects/englishchannelformation/>

(This document may need to be saved to a hard drive, before the links will operate)