



Do you know?

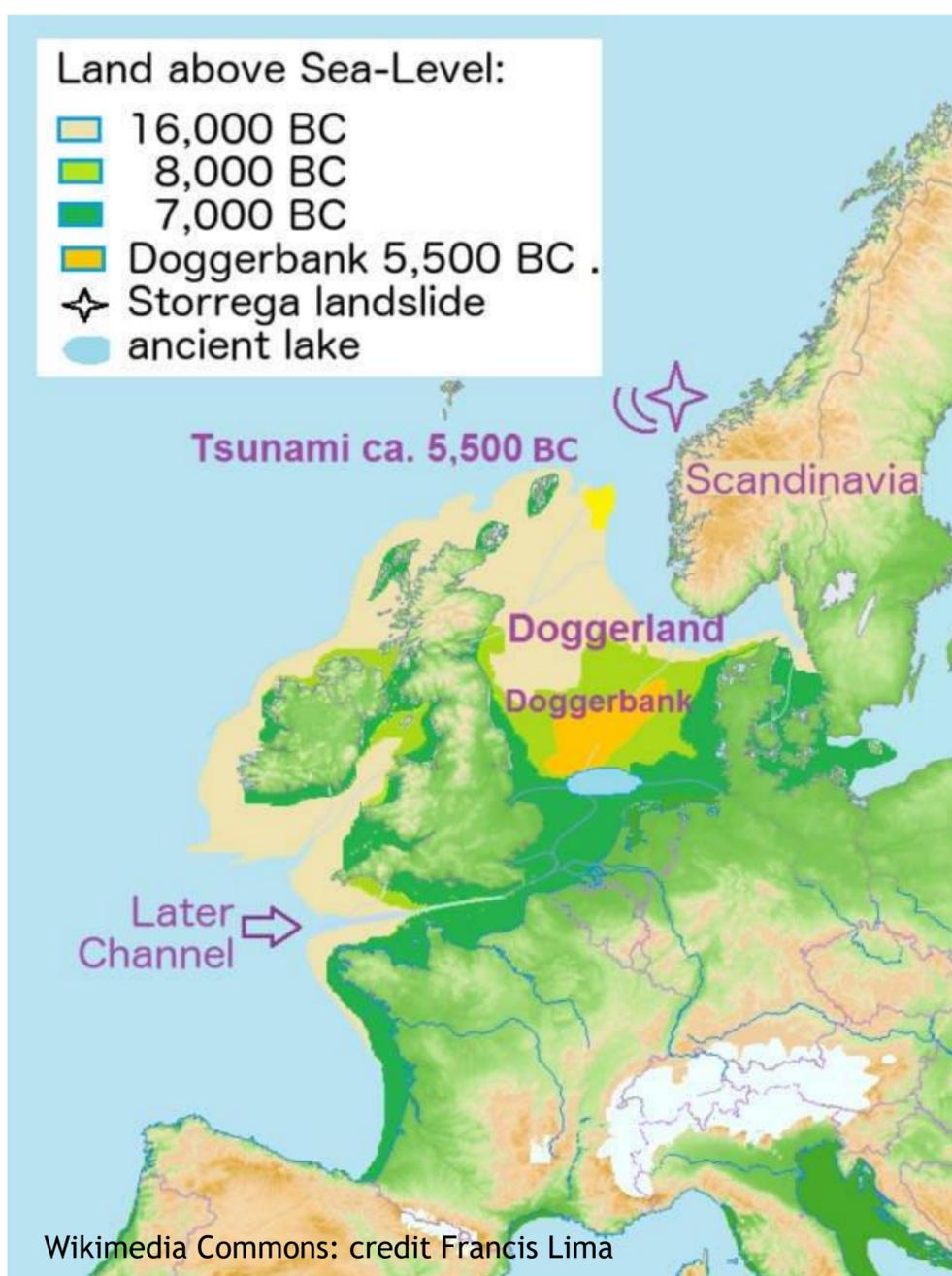
The Deben is a CHANGING ESTUARY



The Suffolk Coast can seem timeless with its soft, yellow cliffs and banks of shingle washed by the silty North Sea. It's an attractive picture, but that sense of timelessness is an illusion. In fact, Suffolk has a dynamic coast, with change measured over centuries, years and even on a daily basis.

The Birth of the Suffolk Coast

12,000 years ago - As ice melted, global sea levels rose by around **120 metres**. The Deben, along with other Suffolk estuaries such as the Alde and Orwell, was shaped during this last cold period. A lot of land disappeared under this water, including the wide plain which linked England to what are now Denmark, Holland, Belgium and France. This plain, which archaeologists have named Doggerland, was once home to herds of bison, wild horses and mammoth. Their fossilised bones are dredged up in the nets of trawlers and along with them, occasionally, the delicate flint tools of our Doggerland ancestors.



5,000 years ago during the Neolithic period or “new stone age” - the Suffolk Coastline began to resemble the one we know today -

mudflats, tidal channels and creeks where our ancestors lived as hunter gatherers.

1,600 years ago Anglo Saxons arrived from across the North Sea.

1,400 years ago in 624 AD a king or great warrior of East Anglia was laid to rest in a 90ft ship beneath a huge burial mound that was discovered in 1939. He was surrounded by his extraordinary treasures.

The burial site is at Sutton Hoo on the opposite river bank to Woodbridge.

It is believed it was for Raedwald, a King of East Anglia.



The iconic King's helmet

With thanks to Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) for support with content www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org including booklets
“Suffolk's Changing Coast” © Liz Ferretti
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