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Vince Gaffney on Doggerland transcript

Professor Vince Gaffney of the Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity discusses his research into Doggerland.

Title: **Vince Gaffney on Doggerland (/schools/historycultures/departments/caha/research/arch-research/videos/gaffney-vince-doggerland.aspx)**
Duration: 2.09 mins

One of the projects I'm currently engaged in is looking at the landscapes which exist under the North Sea.

Perhaps many people don't realise but until about 6000 years ago, 6-7000 years ago, the current area of the southern North Sea was actually dry land. It was inhabited by hunter gatherers who roamed across pretty much the whole of the area between Yorkshire and Denmark.

However, of course, global warming, the end of the Ice Age, rising sea levels, meant that this landscape was actually swallowed up by the sea over time and it was pretty much lost to knowledge. About 6/7 years ago, we started a project using oil data - data collected by the oil industry from seismic actually - to start mapping this lost landscape and the results have actually been wonderful.

Currently we've mapped rivers, hills, lakes, marshes, over an area of about 23000 square kilometres. That's an entirely new prehistoric country in fact and we're now starting to try and use that information to model where hunter gatherers may have lived with the idea that we'll eventually go back to sea and use modern coring techniques to see if we can find traces of settlement.

That's a first and we're very excited that we've been able to carry out that sort of innovative exploration at Birmingham. But we are recognised as innovators within digital archaeology and remote sensing and this probably has been one of the most important and largest projects of its kind in this country or indeed the world.

End of recording.

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