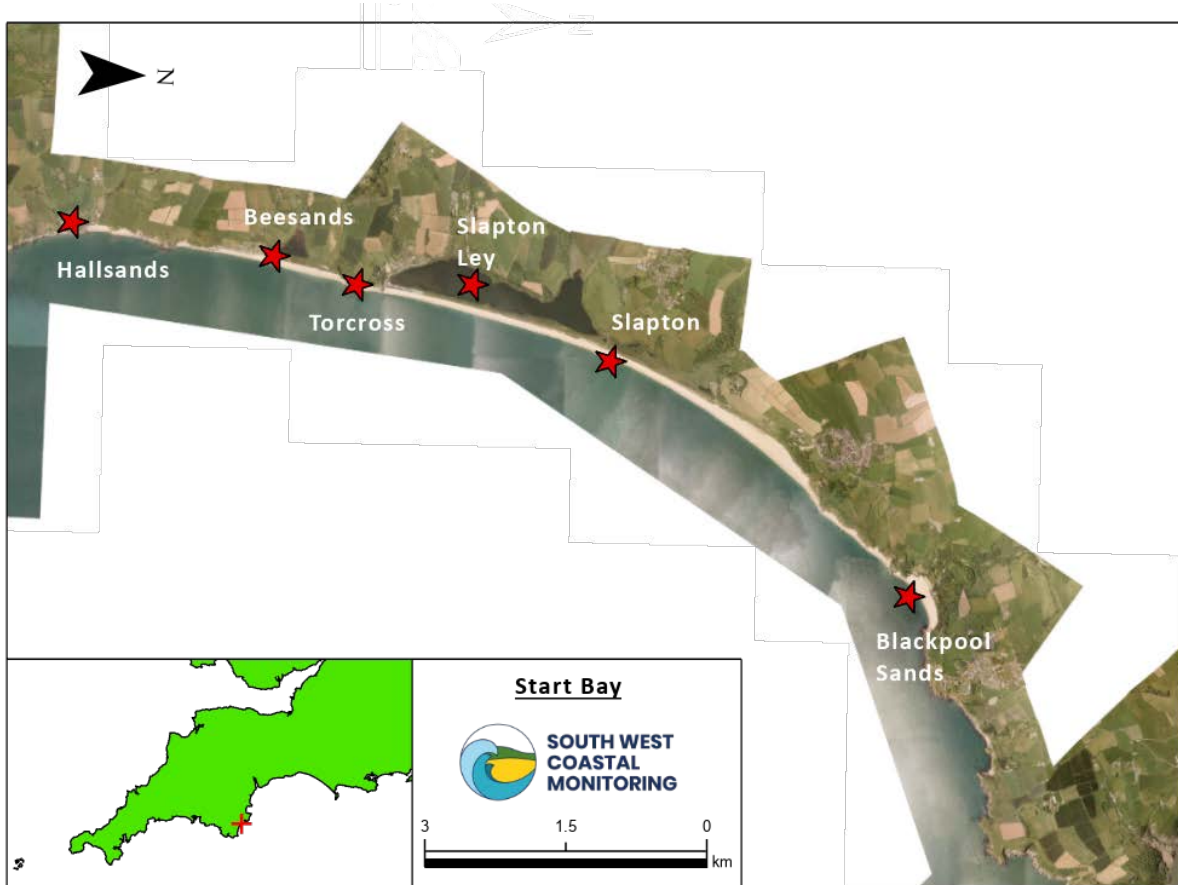


# The Dynamic Coast...

## The 'lost village' of Hallsands

1. Hallsands is located towards the southern end of Start Bay.



The photo below shows the site of Hallsands. You can see some of the properties that survived the storms of 1917 which destroyed most of the village.



(Source: [here](#))



Describe the site of Hallsands.

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**Site:** *The site of a settlement describes the land on which it has been built.*

2. Hallsands grew up as a small fishing village. The image below depicts working life in the village.
  - (a) Write your own title for the image in the white box.
  - (b) Write labels or use text boxes to describe the scene.



(Source: Paul Way)



3. The photo below was taken in 1894. It shows fishing boats on the beach.



(Source: [here](#))

Suggest why the residents of Hallsands thought they were safe from the sea.

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4. In 1904, severe storms battered the village. No longer protected by its extensive beach, waves pounded the rocky platform eroding a huge chasm. High waves damaged several houses. The photo below was taken between 1904 and 1917.



(Source: The Cookworthy Museum)



Worksheet 2

- (a) Use a labelled arrow to show the location of the eroded chasm in the photo.
- (b) Give three pieces of evidence that the village was still occupied despite the damage that was caused by the 1904 storms.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

- (c) Suggest why people continued to live and work in Hallsands after the 1904 storms.

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- (d) Imagine that you lived in the village. Would you continue to feel safe in Hallsands? Explain your answer.

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5. On 26 January 1917, much of the village of Hallsands was battered by storm waves. Whilst nobody died, the village was destroyed. The photo below shows the scene after the storm.



(Source: The Cookworthy Museum)

- (a) The account below was written by a teenage resident of Hallsands. Imagine that you also witnessed the storm on 26 January 1917. In no more than 50 words, write a description of your experience.

“All of a sudden the walls came toppling down, the floor caved in. It felt like being right in the sea, the roaring waves bouncing over us, the rafters all breaking in. We could see the white waves foaming underneath the floors. The coal house all slipping away, no fires, the sea came down the chimney.”

Edith Patey (17), villager. 26 January 1917



- (b) The photo above is to appear on the front page of the local newspaper. As Editor, write a headline for the story and the first paragraph (maximum 25 words).

Headline: \_\_\_\_\_

1<sup>st</sup> paragraph:

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----- (25 words max)

6. The cause of the disaster at Hallsands was the erosion of the village's protective beach.
- (a) Look at the two photos below. They show changes in the height of the beach over a period of a few decades at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Draw a line on the right-hand photo to show how much it has fallen since 1897.

1897



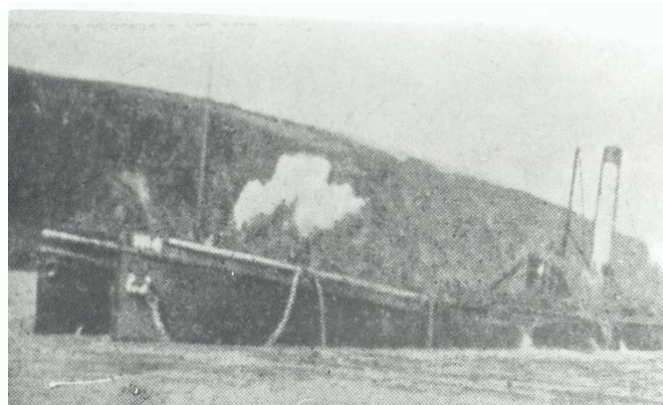
1902



(Source: The Cookworthy Museum)



- (b) A contributory cause of the 1917 disaster was dredging in Start Bay. The photo below shows a shingle dredger off the Devon coast in 1898.



(Source: [here](#))

- (c) Why was shingle dredged from the beaches at Hallsands, Beesands and Slapton?

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- (d) Explain why a period of predominantly southerly winds eroded the beach at Hallsands.

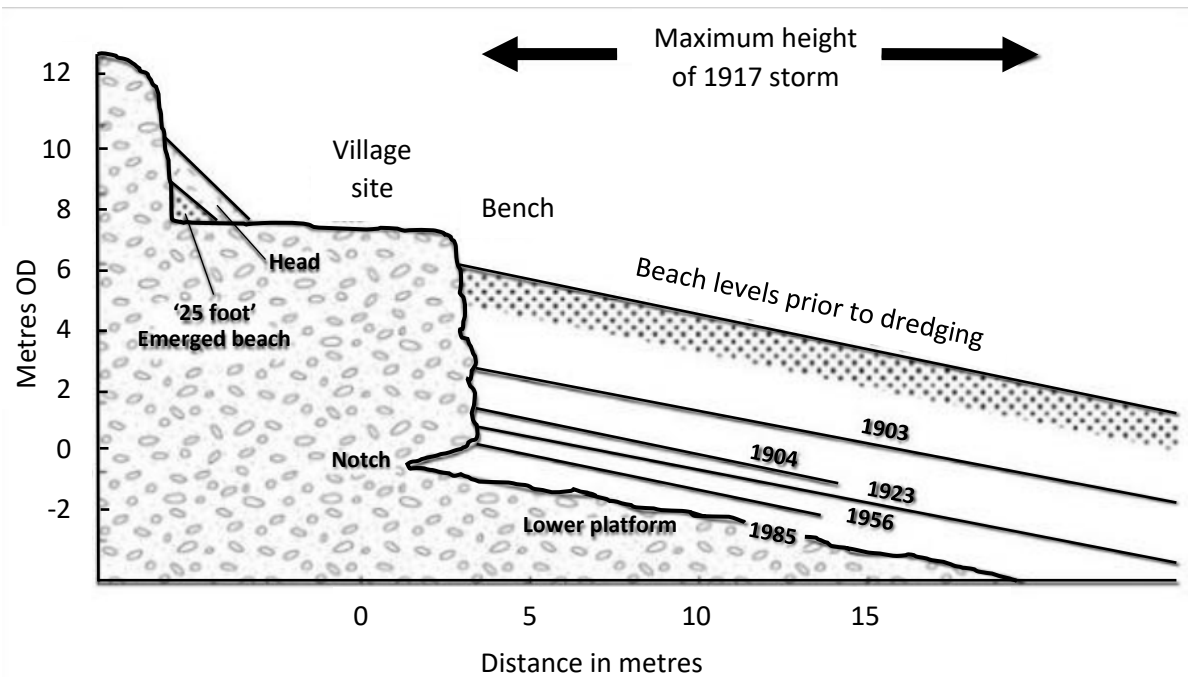
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- (e) Explain why the fall in the level of the beach made the village more vulnerable to the sea.

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7. The diagram below is a cross section showing the site of the village on the rocky platform and the beach. Notice how the height of the beach fell after dredging started.



(Source: Mottershead, 1986)

The vertical scale shows height - 0 is sea level.

'Head' describes sediment formed by frost weathering and slumping during colder climatic conditions that has collected at the foot of a cliff.

- Use a colour to shade the solid rock cliff.
- What was the highest level of the beach prior to dredging? \_\_\_\_\_ m
- By how much had the beach fallen by 1903? \_\_\_\_\_ m
- What maximum height above sea level were the 1917 storm waves? \_\_\_\_\_ m
- What is the evidence that the absence of a beach has resulted in the erosion of the rocky platform?

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8. What do you think is the main lesson of the Hallsands disaster?

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(Source: [here](#))

