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Geography Southwest Newsbites October 2024



Welcome to October 2024 Geography Southwest Newsbites with news stories from the South West, geography resources and details of forthcoming geography events. We are delighted to announce the date of the 2025 South West Geography Conference which will take place on Monday 16 June at the University of West of England, (UWE). The event is free to attend. Programme details will be available in January 2025 and bookings will open in early April.

Do look at our recent **guest blog** by Amy Case detailing her recent experience of a flash flood in the Sahara Desert.



Geography in the News

Storm Ashley causes local flooding across South West

The first UK named storm of the 2024-2025 season Storm Ashley hit the country on 20 October. Winds of over 80 mph interrupted power supplies and led to fallen trees. Rainfall averaged 25 mm across much of the South West, but up to 70 mm on Dartmoor and other uplands. Land already saturated from the wettest September on record resulted in high runoff with streams and rivers bursting their banks. The River Severn flooded parts of Worcester, and the Great South Run was cancelled in Portsmouth. Earlier in October the M5 south of Bristol was closed due to flooding. The high rainfall and increasing number of intense rainfall events and thunderstorms resulted some counties including Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire and Wiltshire recording more than three times their average September rainfall. Colder air from the Arctic meeting warm moist air over the Atlantic in low pressure systems led to the storms. The warm air is temperature is higher at present, meaning the air can hold more moisture until it falls as rain.

High-tech helps cows graze marginal land along cliffs

A National Trust Project along the South Devon Coast near Salcombe is enabling cows to graze land close to the cliff edge. Cows wear special collars which track their location

using GPS. If a cow strays near dangerous slopes, the collar sounds an audible warning. If this does not work, the collar will deliver a slight electric pulse. Cows are quick learners and have adapted quickly to their virtual grazing fields. The collars are very helpful to farmers in locating their stock especially in areas prone to mist and fog. The technology enhances the landscape by reducing the need for intrusive fencing and helps biodiversity as grazing marginal land reduces invasive scrub.



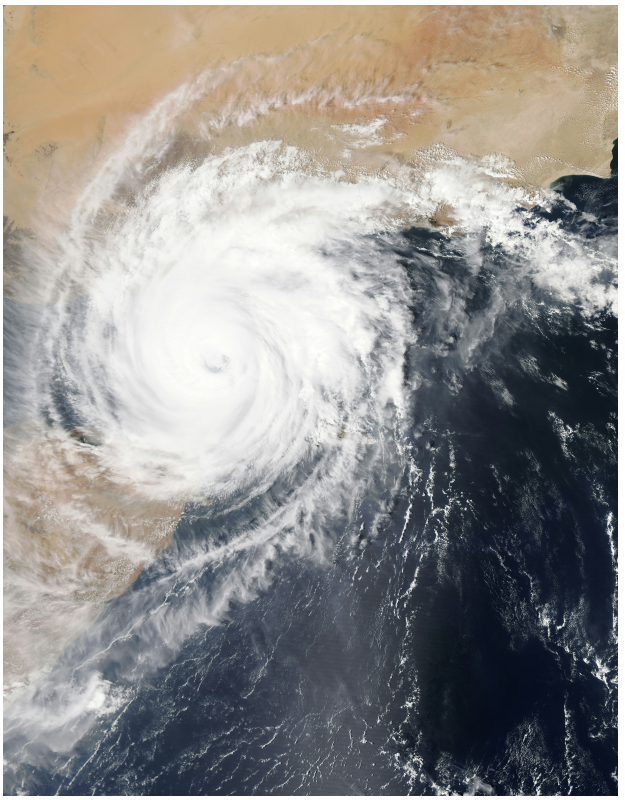
Cargo ships help sustainable transport in North Devon

Cargo ships unloading at **New Quay, Appledore** on the Torridge are helping make transport more sustainable in the region. The 91 metre Rix Sail docked in October with 3000 tonnes of animal feed for local farms, and further ships are expected in November. It is estimated that each shipload saves up to 120 lorry journeys from Eastern England.

New geography resources



Teaching about Antarctica? Look out for the National Geographic's documentary film **Endurance (2024)**. This captivating film combines the story of Ernest Shackleton's expedition to cross the Antarctic continent in 1915 using archive images and restored film footage with the 2022 search for the wreck of the expedition's ship Endurance. It's an inspiring tale of the courage of the original explorers and the professional determined approach of the recent search team. The film is currently showing in cinemas but will be released for streaming in due course. **Image credit: Asile Clairette on Unsplash**



Teaching about natural hazards and hurricanes?
Both **BBC** and **ITV** have produced useful resources on Hurricane Milton. The articles include powerful images, statistics and links to other websites. Teachers can also compare Hurricane Milton to **Hurricane Helene** which hit nearby areas only a few days before. **Image credit: NASA on Unsplash**



Teaching about Biodiversity? The South Devon National Landscape stretches 75 km from Torquay to Plymouth. It has

been awarded a £2.2 million grant from the National Lottery to delivery its **Life on the Edge project.** Devon has five National Landscapes, known as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty until 2023: Blackdown Hills, East Devon, North Devon Coast, South Devon, and the Tamar Valley. The Life on the Edge project (LoTE, known as Lottie) aims to enhance biodiversity by boosting local populations of rare invertebrates and plants in five hotspot areas, including the coastlines at Start Point, Berry Head and Bolt Head. They are working with local Schools, Universities and Community Groups and providing talks, activities and a blog. **Read more.**

RGS Case Studies and talks. Find out about the range of **resources** for teachers from the RGS. They include case studies and articles members on subjects like natural hazards and risks and the changing city, and free resources on water security and coastal managed realignment. Also see a range of **recordings** of their geography talks.

Teaching about climate change and carbon storage? A case study from the **Arne Moors** at Poole Harbour looks at a scheme to monitor how newly created salt marshes store carbon. Data will be collected before and after coastal realignment enables salt water to flood back into reclaimed areas when existing flood banks are removed.
In another project the National Oceanography Centre NOC is looking at how **sea grass** captures, binds and stores carbon and ways in which the underwater sea grass meadows can be protected and restored.

STOP PRESS- **Arctic Life and Polar Bears talk Friday 25 October 1400** – sign up for a talk on Arctic Canada and Polar Bears delivered digitally to your school through **Wicked Weather Watch** and see their other resources.

Teaching about Climate change? The **Interclimate Network** produce a range of resources on Climate and climate change including free two-page briefings to on topics including the

circular economy and the Paris Agreement. During October and November, they are conducting a **Climate Action survey** amongst 11- to 24-year-olds in the Bristol area and looking for more students to take part.

Forthcoming events for geography teachers



Project Seagrass educational day
Project Seagrass is a seagrass conservation and restoration charity based in Brackla, Bridgend South Wales. Do join them on Tuesday 12th November for **Protecting Our Planet Day 2024** (POP24), a day of live-streamed events for schools full of sessions from passionate people working to protect our planet! POP24 is organised by the UK Space Education Office (ESERO-UK) at STEM Learning and in collaboration with the European Space Agency and the UK Space Agency.

RGS A level Update courses Wed 27 November
Sign up for either the morning or the afternoon.

Get your Geography GEEK on event , Manchester, Saturday 7 December. This free CPD hosted by **Discover the World Education** in partnership with the Geographical Association will help you develop your skills, broaden your

geographical understanding and learn new classroom strategies.

Flooglebinder to host 2025 GA trip to Costa Rica
In partnership with the Geographical Association.
Flooglebinder will host an extraordinary **expedition to Costa Rica**. Renowned for its unparalleled biodiversity, this is a unique opportunity to be immersed in stunning landscapes, from the emerald depths of lush rainforests to spectacular coastlines and spellbinding rivers. Working hands-on, in harmony with local communities and wildlife, expect to participate in forest and mangrove restoration, beach cleanups and sea turtle and bird monitoring projects. Enjoy talks on topics such as regenerative farming, climate change resilience and many other common geographical issues that align with GCSE and A Level specifications.
This unique CPD opportunity offers geographers and conservationists the chance to contribute actively to the preservation of this distinctive ecosystem while enhancing your pedagogical toolkit, bringing classrooms to life. Alongside fellow travellers and teachers, and with the support of our curriculum expert, you will create a bank of truly representative and adaptable resources to take back to school and contribute to the Geographical Association's resource base. **Register your interest HERE**.



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