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Geography Southwest Newsbites November 2024



Welcome to the November 2024 Geography Southwest Newsbites featuring news stories from the South West, new geography resources and details of forthcoming events. Plans for our free summer 2025 South West Geography Conference on Monday 16 June at the University of West of England, (UWE) are well underway. Look out for more details early in 2025. Do also look at our **guest blogs**.



Geography in the News

Landslides damage cliff tops at Sidmouth
In early November a huge cliff fall occurred at **Salcolme Hill, Sidmouth**, a popular picnic place on the South West Coast Path. The collapse of the upper cliff here was the result of a series of rockfalls close to sea level where high tides and storm waves now regularly undermine the cliff base. The area has been closed off and the coastal footpath diverted. A week before, another landslide west of Sidmouth left a house less than 40 metres from the cliff edge, a short distance from where an October landslide closed the South West Coast Path between **Peak Hill and High Peak**. These landslides follow a period of wave erosion at the cliff foot. The public have been warned to keep away from the beach below these cliffs as further falls are expected following autumn storms.

Unexpected snow fall brings chaos to South West.
An unexpectedly heavy snowstorm delivered over 5 cm of snow Exeter and over 20 cm to Dartmoor, Mid Devon and parts of Cornwall, just before rush hour on Friday 22 November. Over 100 Schools across Devon were closed, power supplies disrupted, and roads shut, including the main A30 trunk road near Okehampton which was completely impassable for several hours. In Exeter, traffic ground to a halt and all bus services were cancelled during the morning. **DevonLive have a selection of images and videos showing the snow and its effects.** This amount of snow has not occured in mid

November since 1974. A blast of Arctic air with northerly winds brought the snow to Devon and much of the UK.

Exciting new vision for Plymouth Hoe

A draft report for the future of Plymouth Hoe was published in November, with policies for the future of this “thriving urban village in the heart of the city” and maps, statistics and links. Useful for teachers planning fieldwork or looking for NEA ideas. **Read a summary**.

Plymouth Hoe Image credit - Brian Aitkenhead on Unsplash



New geography resources



Teaching about volcanoes?

Discover the World have a FREE Reykjanes Eruption **Image Bank and Activity Resource pack**.

Tell the story of Iceland's recent eruptions! Following the volcanic awakening of Iceland’s Reykjanes Peninsula, Discover the World’s photographer has been documenting this evolving case study. The free image bank resource, complete with

questions and activities, enables you to tell the story of these eruptions. Teach your students how fissure eruptions develop, the associated hazards, and the steps taken to mitigate threats and protect communities. **Request your free resource today.**

Isle of Fire-Part 2 published by Timeforgeography in collaboration with Rayburn Tours looks at the 1973 eruption of Heimaey in Iceland and the successful methods used to manage the eruption and protect the fishing village.

Teaching about coastal flooding?
The National Oceanography Centre's **podcast video** on YouTube discusses the various causes of coastal flooding and the issues that results.

Teaching about COP29 in Azerbaijan?
The Royal Meteorological Society (RMetS) have a study **pack of resources** to engage students in COP29. including data on Azerbaijan and its vulnerability to climate change.



Planning fieldwork in Dorset or teaching coastlines?
The **Dorset Coast Forum website** has an interactive map, details of coastal management schemes, shoreline management plans and an educational hub with links to more resources. The map includes aerial photos for the last 20 years, enabling changes over time to be studied.



Looking for new ideas for Urban fieldwork?
The recently published **Creative Fieldwork 2** produced by the Field Studies Council in partnership with the Geographical Association and Newcastle University features practical examples of fieldwork techniques to inspire and challenge your students under three broad themes: Urban design, Green space and local ecosystems and Public art and street art.

Forthcoming events for geography teachers

RGS Conference for new and aspiring heads of geography - Friday 14 March
Book **here**, for an in-person day event in London, focussing on leading a geography department and covering topics such as preparing students for NEAs, fostering a departmental culture and supporting non-specialist teachers.

Get your Geography Geek on - Manchester
There is still time to register for the **free Geography CPD on Saturday 7 December** hosted by Discover the World Education in partnership with the Geographical Association, to help you develop skills, broaden your geographical understanding and learn new classroom strategies.

GA Annual Conference and Exhibition 2025.

Open for early bird bookings

The 2025 GA annual conference will be held at Oxford Brookes University from Tuesday to Thursday 17 April.

Look out for our next Newsletter in December 2024.

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