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Geography Southwest Newsbites June 2025



Welcome to the June 2025 Newsbites, featuring news stories, new resources and forthcoming CPD courses and events. This is the final newsletter for this academic year. The next newsletter will be in September at the start of term.
The South West Geography Conference 2025 on Monday 16 June at UWE was attended by nearly 100 delegates, presenters and exhibitors. A report on this conference and presentations from the lectures and workshops can be found on the website.

Do read our latest **guest blog** on rewilding, innovative approaches to fieldwork and outdoor education in Devon by Adrian Ferraro of Bioasis.

Do also look at our **past guest blogs.** Follow the link to to see guest blogs back to 2021 which are still relevant today.

Looking for inspiration for the last lessons of term? The Discover the World Education **Big Summer Geography Quiz** has just been published and provides a useful resource for KS3 and KS4 at the end of term. The Urban Round questions were written by Simon Ross from Geography Southwest.

The **Stepwell Project** are planning to start a working group of teachers in the South West to group to develop and share resources on Global Issues in Geography Education. If you are interested in this initiative, you can sign up **here.**

Do also look at the latest in our series of **geographical places to walk and visit**, a wonderful **circular walk around Boscastle** by Paul Berry. We are very grateful to Paul for continuing to produce such interesting walks, complete with his unique excellent maps. Boscastle was the location of the August 2004 flash flood and is used as a geography case study. Paul's article includes details of the flood damage and a timeline and could be used for a fieldwork trip.



Geography in the News

Octopus Boom in South West England benefits fishing industry.

Local fishermen have gained from a **boom in Octopus** this year. On one day in March, 36 tonnes of octopus came through the Brixham fish market compared with about 200kg around the same time last year. There is no quota on octopus. Much of the catch is sold abroad but local cafes have also put it on the menu. The boom is linked to the sea temperatures being 2 to 4 degrees warmer than average. This marine heat wave has brought octopus usually found off Morocco further north. However not everyone has gained. **Crab fishermen** have found that octopus get into the crab pots and eat the bait and the crabs. Fishermen in Morocco have found their catch has declined. While higher sea temperature may be one reason for the increase in octopus, scientists have pointed out that Octopus booms occurred previously in the 1950s. Other causes could be a decrease in predators like Moray Eels and Squids, or an increase in the shellfish like crabs and scallops that they eat. A mild winter also enables more baby octopus to survive. Time will show if this boom is a natural cycle or the result of warmer seas. Read more **here.**

Mousehole flood resilience scheme underway.

Work is being undertaken to reduce the risks of **flash flooding** in Mousehole near Penzance, Cornwall from two local streams which flow directly through the village. The existing channels and culverts are often overwhelmed during heavy rainfall leading to flooding. The scheme includes nature-based solutions in the headwaters, improved channels along the Paul Stream, and measures to increase the resilience of properties.

Bristol Temple Quarter redevelopment a step closer

The redeveloped scheme for Bristol's Temple Quarter on former industrial and railway land east of Temple Meads station is available for comments from the public. The masterplan includes 10,000 new homes along with new industrial areas and a focus on innovation and knowledge. The area includes Bristol University's new Temple Quarter Campus.

During July, the public are being asked to assess **three different options for the way the area will be developed**. Public events are being held to explain the scenarios in Totterdown, Bedminster, Brislington and Easton. Teachers could use these materials to develop an urban redevelopment DME based on the three schemes. A level students could base their NEA on people's views on the options.

Concern over Planning and Infrastructure Bill and effects on wildlife.

The Devon Wildlife Trust and other organisations have raised concerns about the **Nature Restoration Fund section** of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill currently going through Parliament. The Bill aims to speed up house building by making it easier for developers to deliver their environmental obligations. It is suggested that developers will be able to pay to fundamentally alter the environment.

There is a recently published **Government factsheet on the Nature Restoration Fund.** Developers will need to produce strategic Environmental Delivery Plans showing how they will mitigate the effects of their development work. The new system will be supported by Natural England. If the Bill is passed in its present form, development schemes in the next few years will need to show how the Environmental Delivery Plans can be made to work effectively in practice without detrimental effects on wildlife.



New geography resources



Teaching volcanoes and natural hazards?
Discover the World Education have a relevant and informative summary of **types of lava**. Different forms of lava are discussed with examples, images and videos. The hazards associated with different types of lava are also explained.

Another useful resource from Discover the World Education is **Introducing Italy's "Big three" volcanoes.** Featuring

Vesuvius, Etna and Stromboli with images the fact file provides statistics and details of eruptions, including the Volcanic explosivity index rating (VEI).

Time for Geography in partnership with Rayburn Tours, Swansea University, the University of Leicester, the University of Liverpool and Manchester Metropolitan University have been nationally recognised for their video series **Isle of Fire, Lessons in Volcano Hazard Management from Heimaey to Grindavik** being awarded the Geographical Association 2025 Silver Publishers Award, and the Scottish Association of Geography Teachers 2024 Resource Award.
Supporting students' learning through the case studies of the 1973 Eldfell Eruption in Iceland and Grindavik, the Isle of Fire series shows first-hand accounts from those affected, along with insights from volcanic experts from a variety of UK universities.

Looking at issues of Nature recovery?
Dorset County Council have a **Factfile.**
and web pages identifying pressure, opportunities and strategies for different areas. Dorset CC are also running a **Youth Survey** which is open to young people until August 1, 2025.

Looking for topical lectures for A level students on key geography topics?
The **Teachers Resources** section of the Royal Holloway University website has a wealth of **30 minutes lectures** ranging from a case study of Mumbai, and Arctic GeoPolitics to Dryland environments, River Catchment Hydrology and Natural Hazards in a changing climate.



Forthcoming events for geography teachers

RGS CPD events:

Forthcoming RGS CPD events include a free webinar on Tuesday 22 July 10.00 to 11.30 Choosing geography at university - webinar 22 July and an inperson free event on Wednesday 23 July 10.00-12.30 Choosing geography at university - in person workshop - RGS

Free Digimap for Schools with Ordnance Survey events contine in the autumn term.

Digimaps for Schools: a quick guide to overlays: Online, Monday 29 September

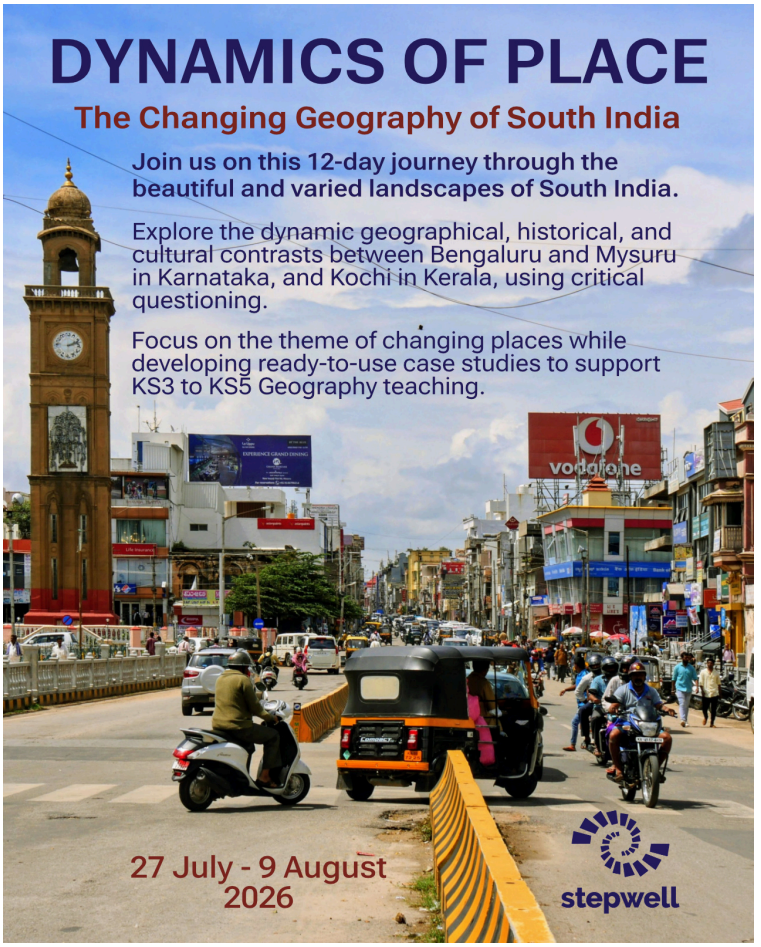
Using Digimap for Schools for GIS: In person, London, Tuesday 14 October

Look out for GlosGeog events.

GlosGeog is Gloucestershire's local Geographical Association (GA) branch aimed at students, teachers, ECTs, trainees, HE

educators and anyone with a passion for/interest in geography.
To join, complete the Google Form **here**
Or Contact Peter Vujakovic
(Secretary): peter.vujakovic@canterbury.ac.uk

DYNAMICS OF PLACE: Exploring the Changing Geography of South India.
This **12-Day study visit from July 27th - 9th August 2026** offers case study development for KS3–KS5 Geography. The visit will explore the changing geographical, historical, and contemporary cultural contexts of three contrasting South Indian cities—Bengaluru and Mysuru in Karnataka, and Kochi in Kerala. The journey between these cities will visit rivers, farmland, spice forests and the coastal backwaters. The programme is curated to support the development of curriculum-aligned case studies for KS3 to KS5 Geography, with a particular focus on the Changing Places unit. For full details, pricing, and booking information, please contact info@stepwellproject.com or visit our website www.stepwellproject.com where there is a registration link. Early registration is recommended due to limited spaces.



Look out for our next Newsletter at the start of the new academic year in September 2025.
If you have not already signed up to receive this newsletter directly by email, please click on the **Sign Up box** and complete the short form below.

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