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Geography Southwest Newsbites October 2025



Welcome to the October 2025 Newsbites with topical resources, news stories and details of forthcoming CPD events. This October edition has been published a week later in November to coincide with schools returning after half term.

Save the dates: The free 2026 South West Geography Conference will be on **Monday 22 June** at the University of West of England (UWE), Bristol. The provisional programme will be announced later this term. On **Monday 29 June**, the SE Geography Conference will take place at RHUL with free entry. See the website for further details and updates on the programme.

https://www.geographysouthwest.co.uk/conference/geog-sw-conference/se-geography-conference-2026/

STOP PRESS: A new set of GCSE resources on coastal management at Hurst Castle and Keyhaven have just been published on the website, developed by Simon Ross and the Environment Agency.
https://www.geographysouthwest.co.uk/secondary/gcse-articles/coastal-management-hurst-castle-and-keyhaven/



Geography in the News



New town planned for Marlcombe near Exeter

Detailed proposals have been unveiled for the creation of a new town at Marlcombe in East Devon. The development will provide up to 8000 new homes, schools, community health facilities, and retail spaces. There is a strong emphasis on sustainability and green spaces and the new town will be linked to the recently established **Clyst Valley Regional Park**. There are concerns about the impact of the new town on the countryside, wildlife habitats, local roads and transport networks and public consultation events will take place during 2026. The actual site is located south of Exeter Airport and north of the A3052 Exeter to Sidmouth Road in the area shown in the image.
https://news.eastdevon.gov.uk/marlcombe-recognised-in-national-programme-for-next-generation-new-towns/

Mega-Solar Farm proposed for North Devon.
Plans have been announced to build a mega solar farm near Holsworthy in Devon covering 1100 hectares of rural farmland. Developers Galileo Empower say the Beacon Solar project will generate clean electricity for thousands of homes and businesses across the South West with a capacity of over 100 MW. Developers are emphasising the potential environmental benefits, including a notable reduction in carbon emissions and progress toward meeting local and national sustainability targets.
Supporters of the scheme point out the urgent need for alternative energy sources and combating climate change while also noting opportunities for local investment and the possibility of creating new jobs in the area. Local concerns include the impacts on wildlife , the effects on the landscape and the loss of productive farmland. Public consultation events are taking place offering local stakeholders a chance to review plans, ask questions, and raise any objections or suggestions.
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3dn9nxn2jeo.amp

New railway station for Cullompton gets green light
Funding has been agreed for the construction of a new railway station at Cullompton, Devon. The project, backed by the

Department for Transport and local authorities, will provide direct rail services to Exeter, Taunton, Bristol and London. The new station is planned to open by 2027. The site is alongside the M5 motorway and close to the Culm Garden Village site which will provide over 5000 new homes. As part of the upgrade of rail services in this area, Wellington station in Somerset will also reopen.
https://docs.planning.org.uk/20240306/50/S9TMWXKS07T00/p7gsjzd0ibhx6xks.pdf



New geography resources



Teaching coasts?
The **Dorset Coast Forum** have links to several resources relevant to teachers studying the Jurassic Coast and nearby locations. These include updates on various projects such as the **Lyme Regis Cobb stabilisation scheme**, and the near completion in 2025 of the removal of hard engineering at **Middle Beach, Studland** to restore natural processes.

The new education game **CoastCraft** has been produced by the Environment Agency working in partnership with Minecraft Education and Cornwall Council and will help Key Stage 2 and 3 children to study of climate change and coastal flood resilience. Based on the coastal town of Bude, Cornwall, CoastCraft challenges players to respond to rising sea levels and the impacts of climate change such as flooding, balancing the needs of different communities while protecting the environment. The consequences of these decisions are then brought to life in the virtual Minecraft world.

Also in Cornwall, the new **Truro flood gates** protecting 185 properties are now fully operational, securing the city's flood defences for the next 30 years. They are designed to be closed during high spring tides and storm surges protecting 185 properties and local infrastructure.

Teaching natural hazards at GCSE or A level? The UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology have published reports on **Wildfires in North and South America** and their impacts and links to climate change.

The BBC published a story in October on how robot boats, developed by the Plymouth based company Oshen are being used to study **Hurricanes** in the Atlantic and Caribbean, the area recently hit by Hurricane Melissa.

Teaching changes in Polar Regions? The National Oceanography Centre (NOC) have a range of topical

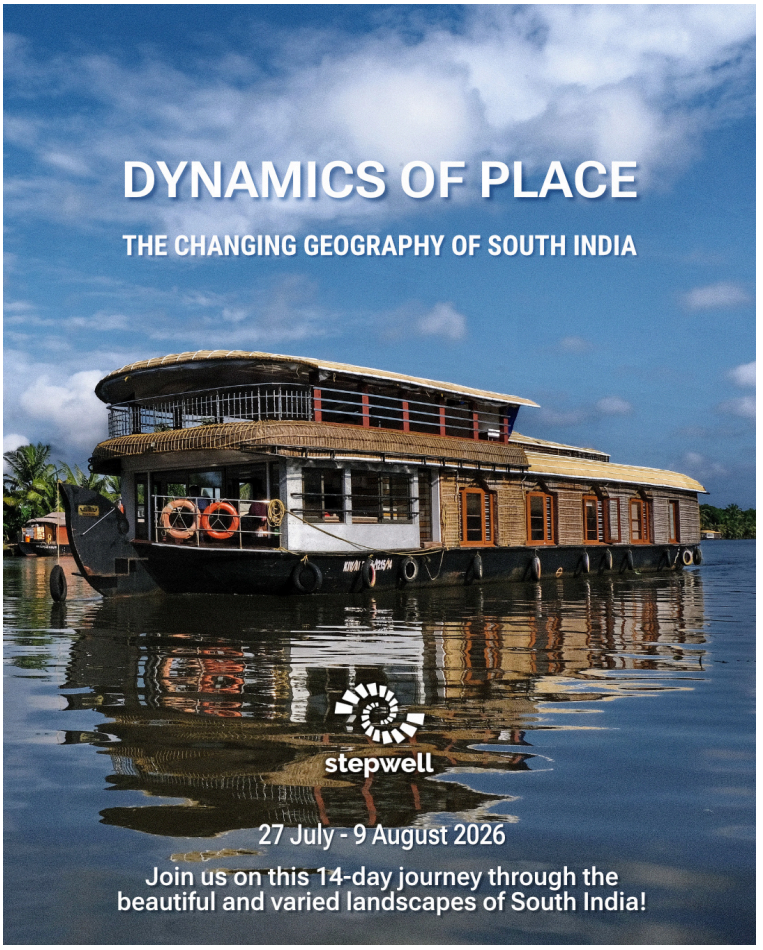
resources on their website under **Arctic Science and Innovation** including useful infographics.

Teaching about global issues and climate change? The **Global Tipping Points Report 2025** written by 160 scientists from across the world, including the University of Exeter and the National Oceanography Centre offers the most up-to-date assessment yet of where we stand relative to Earth's critical climate and ecological thresholds.

Teaching Climate justice? Do look at the **Classrooms for Climate Justice** resources which include KS3, GCSE and A level lesson plans, ideas and games.

New free geography lesson plans and teaching resources. Oak Academy have now published a new fully-sequenced geography curriculum with plans and lesson resources, developed in partnership with Geography Southwest. Oak makes it simpler than ever to find high-quality materials that support your teaching. GCSE resources are available for Geography A**QA** and **Edexcel B** specifications. Do take a look at these resources.

'Devon Heroes & Villains' by Paul Berry is now available on Amazon as a paperback or as a Kindle book and provides a range of great stories and anecdotes to enrich your teaching or to enjoy during leisure time.



Forthcoming events for geography teachers

Visit India in 2026. Places are still available on the Stepwell Project's **Dynamics of Place: The Changing Geography of South India** study trip from 27 July to 9 August 2026.

Discover the World new destinations offer the magic of Morocco: Essential Morocco School Trip | Discover the World Education
Discover the World have added Morocco to their range of exciting places for school fieldwork trips. Full details of all destinations can be found on their **website**, including their classroom resources. posters and quizzes.

Royal Geographical Society (RGS) events: https://www.rgs.org/events

Wednesday 26 November, morning or afternoon. London-in person: **A level study day** including hazards, global governance, water and carbon cycle and exam technique.

Wednesday 19 November, 5 pm, London, in person, for School members. **The Element of Surprise-why hazards become disasters.**

The RGS is continuing with its **ArcGIS day courses** on Tuesday 18 (getting started) and Wednesday 19 November (going further) in London with support and classroom ideas. The RGS also has a collection of recorded lectures available to watch **here.**

Geographical Association (GA) events:
The GA Annual Conference 2026 will take place from 8-10 April 2026 at Sheffield College – City Campus.

The free **Get your Geography geek on** CPD is coming to Bradford Grammar School on Saturday 29 November 2025, supported by the Geographical Association and Discover the World. The 6 hour programme includes urban regeneration, thinking skills, and fieldwork ideas.

Save the dates!
DCF : **Slapton Ley FSC research seminar day:** Saturday 15 November. 10 am to 4 pm. Free. This annual Research Seminar at Slapton Ley National Nature Reserve, Devon includes talks from researchers, academics and volunteers and a 'marketplace of ideas' about wider projects taking place in South Devon.

Dorset Coast Forum Annual Conference is on Wednesday 19 November at the RNLI College in Poole with a varied programme looking at coastal issues. Tickets are currently still available

The **East Devon Beaver Management Group Partnership Forum** is on 20th November 2025 at the Beehive, Honiton. This free event brings together a range of different organisations involved in the monitoring of the beaver populations of the Exe and Otter river catchments.

Look out for our next Newsletter at the end of November 2025.

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John Davidson 6/11/25
Co-Director and Newsbites editor, Geography Southwest

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Geography Southwest
Snows Cottage, Wrangway, Wellington, TA21 9QG
john@geographysouthwest.co.uk

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