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Geography Southwest Newsbites November 2026



Welcome to the November 2026 edition of Newsbites. Please encourage your students to explore the Geography Southwest website and read this newsletter. Many of the website articles provide case studies and resources for GCSE and A level students along with help with their NEAs and investigations. Our Guest Blogs feature topical geographical ideas and suggestions for fieldwork and investigation topics. Students can also sign up to our e-newsletter and have a go at our *Where in the World* competition.

The programme for the **2027 Geography Southwest Conference** on **Monday 21 June 2027** at the University of

West of England (UWE), Bristol is largely complete.
Full details are on the **website**. The conference focus is KS3. Lectures will include Steve Brace (GA) providing updates on the National Curriculum, Dr Chloe Brimicombe from Oxford on "Our future is heating up" and Dr William Clayton (UWE) on "Making place meaning matter." Workshop topics will include sustainability, fieldwork for KS3, GIS, ecotourism and adapting coastlines for climate change. Other workshop titles will follow soon. The Geography South East conference is on **Friday 25 June**. Please note these dates in your diary. Both conferences are free and booking will open on April 1, 2027

We have exciting new resources on the website for GCSE coastal studies. The **Making Space for Sand project has published case studies** with powerpoints, student activities and suggested answers.
Case Study 1: Coastal landforms of erosion and deposition – Trevose Head, Cornwall
Case Study 2: Coastal management – Dawlish Warren, Devon
Case Study 3: Sand dune regeneration – Cornwall (Widemouth Bay, Penhale and Porthtowan)



Our latest **Guest Blog by Karen Corfield looks at the concept of Third Places**, with examples from Nordic Countries. Third Place ideas feature in urban design and planning, and provide an important focus when studying recent urban

development for example in AQA changing places. The image shows local pavement cafes in Paris which are examples of Third Places.

Photo by Alex Harmuth on Unsplash



Geography in the News



Summer heatwaves brings benefits and problems to the South West.

Tourism businesses across the South West and Channel Islands reported higher visitor numbers during the summer's heatwaves. Holiday parks and attractions such as Crealy Theme and Resort Park saw increases in bookings and visits. Outdoor swimming pools were warmed by the sunshine, reducing the need for gas boilers. Some indoor attractions, including the National Marine Aquarium in Plymouth attracted more visitors as people sought shelter from the sun. However, concerns about water supplies grew as the drought continued, with water restrictions in place across the region by the end of August. Although higher visitor numbers brought increased spending, concerns remain that future tourist taxes could make these destinations less appealing to visitors. This article on the Devon Wildlife Trust website provides useful insights into **why heatwaves occur and how nature can provide help everyone cope**

A broader approach to sustaining biodiversity: OECMs

As governments gathered in Armenia this October for the UN biodiversity summit, researchers have highlighted an approach to conservation that recognises the places where nature thrives beyond conventional protected areas.

What are OECMs?

"Other effective area-based conservation measures", or OECMs, are areas that sustain biodiversity over the long term, even when conservation is not their primary purpose. They could help countries meet the global "30 by 30" target: conserving at least 30% of land, inland waters, coastal areas and oceans by 2030.

OECMs broaden the range of places recognised for their contribution to conservation. Landscapes and waters managed by Indigenous Peoples, local communities, farmers and private landowners may support important biodiversity alongside other activities including agricultural land, orchards, woodlands and wetlands.



New geography resources



New geography website of key terms launched

Checkit Geography is a new key terms website aimed at KS3 and GCSE. It includes almost 1000 key terms drawn from the main GCSE specifications and beyond. Sorted by topics with high quality images, students are helped to develop the ‘language’ of geography. In addition to simple, easy to learn definitions, students can access extended definitions, see how the terms are used within a sentence and appreciate potential misunderstandings. Students can reinforce their understanding

through the flexible use of interactive flashcards, for which they can set their own parameters. All terms have been reviewed by teachers and where appropriate validated and approved by professional organisations. A senior examiner has approved a comprehensive list of Command Words.

As a special introductory offer, **teachers can register for FREE access for their school** to the entire site for the remainder of this year.

Teaching about COP 31, Global Governance and the role of the United Nations?
A selection of **free resources** for classroom use are available for teachers on the InterClimate Network website.

Teacing natural hazards? Steve Brace, Chief executive of the Geographical Association has an important article on *Teachwire* on **Geography and natural hazards – How should you frame them?**
This provides a useful strategy for teaching students about hazards including the idea that there is no such thing as a "natural disaster". Supported with references the article looks at the importance of providing positive grounds for hope in the classroom, rather than only negative images and data.

The RGS new publication, ***Geography Today***, aimed at school students is packed with **curriculum-relevant** and timely **case studies** from **expert geographers. It has a** clear **exam-focus** to help students take their learning to the next level. The launch edition features fascinating insights into current issues - from the global impact of Hurricane Helene and foreign aid in the UK, to the human geographies of the UK's high streets. The publication is for school members in digital format, with a print option also available.



Forthcoming events for geography teachers

Slapton Ley Research Seminar day: **Image credit- Field Studies Council.** Saturday 14 November 0930-1600: Free:
Slapton Ley Field Studies Council and National Nature Reserve will host its annual Research Seminar which will showcase the incredible research and work conducted in and around Slapton Ley.

Flooglebinder are providing the opportunity for students and teachers to **visit India for a 12 day fieldtrip** which will include the **Ladii project** working in urban and rural slum areas. More details on their website.

RGS events:
Friday 13 November: 1000-1600: London
Getting started with ArcGIS
This CPD event is for school teachers with little or no previous GIS experience.

Wednesday 18 November: 1000-1600: London

Going further with ArcGIS

This event is for school teachers who have previously attended ‘Getting started with ArcGIS’ or acquired equivalent experience in another way.

Wednesday 18 November: 1700-1800: Free: London

How can biogeomorphology contribute to a nature positive future?

In this school member lecture, Professor Gemma Harvey will share insights from projects on rewilding, restoration and natural flood management to explore how working with natural processes can support nature recovery and the delivery of ecosystem services including the mitigation of floods and droughts.

Tuesday 24 November: 1700-1830: Free: Online

Planning a KS3 enquiry curriculum

Wednesday 25 November 1000-1230. London, repeated in the afternoon

A level study day.

This half day course, repeated in the afternoon will consist of a series of three 35-minute subject knowledge-focused lectures: changing places, global governance and carbon and water cycle (topics are subject to change if speakers change).

Wednesday 2 December: 1700-1830: Free: Online

Preparing and planning for the NEA

The Field Studies Council will support teachers to prepare students for their independent investigation by building a toolkit of fieldwork opportunities, planning considerations and showcasing how to tackle generation of titles.

GA Annual Conference 2027:

6 to 8 April 2027: Sheffield

Details of the 2027 GA annual conference are on their website, including booking details.

Look out for the next Newsletter in December 2026. If you have not already signed up to receive this newsletter direct to you by email, please click on the **Sign-Up box** and complete the short form below.

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