

ICT – pivotal to high-quality learning in geography in all Key Stages – pivotal within specifications for new GCSE geography

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This article, centred on the Naish Farm locality (grid reference (GR) SZ 210931 and 220931) on the Dorset/Hampshire border (near Highcliffe), is the second in a series written to support secondary geographers in making greater use of ICT to enhance learning and teaching in Key Stage 4.

A significant number of other new ideas for teachers and learners related to this article can be located in the projects section of the Geographical Association website, www.geography.org.uk. This association project, aimed at expanding the use of existing digital learning resources in Key Stage 4 geography, was funded by BECTA.

Ever since I started teaching geography in Southampton in the early 1970s I have had, for some reason, to defend the subject's position within the curriculum. Sending young people into the world devoid of appropriate geographic skills, knowledge and understanding would be like sending them into the featureless world.

Similarly, there have regularly been periods of significant curriculum change. We find ourselves in this position now. Not only have new courses post-16 come on stream and a new statutory order for Key Stage 3 been published – commenced September 2008 – from September 2009 schools start to deliver their selected new GCSE course. The reformation is complete when you add to this new 14–19 diploma courses systematically coming on stream and the changes that will take place within the primary phase.

Pivotal to all new GCSE courses is the requirement to enhance old and progressively develop new mapping skills and, more importantly, to apply these skills in a place or thematic context. (Many young people can 'do skills' but often find them difficult to apply to new situations.) For example:

AQA® A and B

- Use and interpret Ordnance Survey maps at a range of scales, including 1:50 000 and 1:25 000 – and other maps appropriate to the topic.
- Use maps in association with photographs and be able to compare maps.

Edexcel® A and B

- Extract and interpret information from a range of sources, including field observations, maps (including Ordnance Survey maps of different scales), drawings, photographs (ground, aerial and satellite imagery), diagrams and tables.

Syllabus A – Unit 1 requires very specific **Ordnance Survey 1:50 000** scale skills:

- Recognise symbols (using a key), four- and six-figure grid references, and straight line and winding distances.
- Demonstrate an understanding of direction using an eight-point compass.

- Complete and annotate cross sections, indicating height and degree of slope and simple contour patterns.
- Recognise and describe patterns of vegetation, land use and communications.
- Describe and identify the site and situation and shape of settlements.
- Recognise and describe distributions and patterns of both human and physical features.
- Infer human activity from map evidence, including tourism.
- Use maps in association with photographs, sketches and written directions.

OCR® A

Unit A 672: You as a global citizen – the impact of our decisions.

- Extract and interpret information from a range of sources, including field observations, maps (including **Ordnance Survey maps of different scales**) drawings, photographs (ground, aerial and satellite images), diagrams and tables.

Unit A 674: Issues in our fast-changing world – specifically requires mapping skills.

Using and making maps is an implicit requirement of the **OCR B** syllabus.

WJEC B

- Maps are an essential resource for the geographer, and candidates are expected to be able to use maps drawn from a number of sources, including those from **Ordnance Survey**.

Linked to this is the demand to use a wide range of new technologies, with the very extensive use of **geographical information systems**.

Preparations are well under way in schools for ensuring that new GCSE entitlements are planned and in place for September 2009. It is important that these entitlements enable students to become confident and astute geographic detectives, via independent enquiry, investigation, problem solving and decision making, that they are able to 'read the story of the landscape' – the 'landscape storyboard'.

Welcome to Naish Farm

– a coastal mystery supporting
new GCSE requirements

Background notes for colleagues

Naish Farm is situated near Highcliffe on the coast of Christchurch Bay. The bay stretches from Hengistbury Head (GR SZ 180905) in the west to Hurst Castle Spit (GR 315897) in the east. It is a subsection of the Portland to Selsey Bill coastal management cell.

The Naish Farm (GR SZ 220931) area is a holiday venue with chalets and caravan parks. (Many weekend visitors and holidaymakers use this stretch of coastline.) It is just to the east of Chewton Bunny. The bunny marks the approximate boundary between Hampshire and Dorset.

The bunny also marks the boundary between New Forest District Council to the east and Christchurch (Dorset) Borough Council to the west.

A great deal of coastal protection work has been undertaken on the Dorset side of the bunny. On the New Forest side there is little or no coastal protection below Naish Farm. Coastal protection on the Hampshire side of the bunny starts nearer Barton on Sea (GR SZ 233928).

The cliffs in this area are formed of soft rocks – Barton clays and sands capped with gravels. The geology of the area means that it is easy for marine and sub-aerial processes to undermine the coastline.

The building of a very large groyne – Chewton Bastion – on the western side of the mouth of the bunny has had a big impact on the coastline. The bastion was built to protect the mouth of the bunny and to halt the movement of shingle, by the sea, along the coast. The replenished beach to the west is much wider than the natural beach to the east.

The prevailing winds in this area are from the south-west. Because of this, most waves tend to be from this direction – because of location they have a large fetch. Longshore drift is west to east.



Aerial picture and map of the Naish Farm locality.



The wooded valley Chewton Bunny is the boundary between Hampshire to the east and Dorset to the west.

Naish Farm mystery – who can solve it?

In the late 1950s I stayed at Naish Farm holiday camp with my parents. It was a great place, overlooking Christchurch Bay and the Isle of Wight. They were really exciting holidays – a long, long way from Portsmouth, my home city.

In 1973 I returned with a group of year 10 pupils and noticed that the chalet that I had stayed in (in 1955) was much nearer the edge of the cliff.



I also noticed that many of the other chalets had disappeared. Remains of some of the chalets were sticking out of the cliff. By 2008 it, along with other chalets, had vanished completely. They had disappeared over and down the cliff.

'Things can only get worse,'
said an elderly resident of the area as I looked up at the cliff from the coastal path.

'Going to get worse even quicker now I reckon.' 'Pity that the chalets weren't built on the other side of the Bunny. Going to be a disaster here in years to come.'

Before I could ask what she meant, she had disappeared up the footpath leading away from the beach.

What she said was a mystery to me. I could not work out what she meant.

Can you solve the mystery and explain in depth what is happening to this stretch of coastline? A detailed analysis of the digital learning resources listed below will help you to get to grips with the geography of the location.

Suggested digital learning resources/ information systems

www.multimap.co.uk or similar digital map resources.

www.googlemaps.com for maps and satellite shots.

www.geograph.co.uk for ground shots.

www.francisfrith.com for old map of the location.

www.stacey.peak-media.co.uk

for ground shot photographs.

www.dorsetphotos.co.uk/dorset/category,25,Eype.html?resultpage=6

www.tutiempo.net/en/search.php

for past weather conditions.

www.defra.gov.uk/enviro/fed/policy/coastalgroups.htm

for coastal cells.

www.dorsetforyou.com/index.jsp?articleid=323386

for Dorset coast protection.

www.nfdc.gov.uk/coastal/cmp/CMPPartC1Zone1.pdf

for Naish Farm protection – New Forest District Council.

Suggested enrichment/extension tasks

- **Detailed review of the coastal protection work undertaken**

Hengistbury Head (GR 1790); Mudeford (GR 1992); Highcliffe; Barton on Sea (GR 2392); Miford on Sea (GR2891); and Hurst Castle Spit (GR3090). The knock-on effect of protection schemes to the west of each site. Discussing the importance of an integrated approach to managing coastlines.

- **Review of past weather data for the area**

– presentation of data to indicate suggested periods of severe storms where coastal erosion might be more pronounced. Cross checking with local cliff retreat records.

- **Use of GIS to display cliff recession in the area using agreed retreat rates.**

Impact of retreat upon the Naish Farm site.

- **Discussing the preferred and the probable outcomes for the locality of processes operating on the coast.**

- **Planning a coastal defence scheme for the area to the east of Chewton Bunny – the coast below Naish Farm.**

This activity can be redeveloped for similar case-study sites around the UK. It supports investigation of processes, marine, sub-aerial and human, coastal management strategies and sustainable future scenarios – both probable and preferable. See board syllabuses to aid the development of more precise learning objectives and outcomes.

Did you manage to solve the Naish Farm mystery?

Answers on a postcard to...

