

Take a fresh look at geography for the future on the Isle of Wight!

With the expansion of internet access and reductions in travel times, the Island is attracting commuters and businesses: even London is a mere 2 hours away! In fact it is being re-branded as a dynamic and innovative venue for high-tech industry and extreme sports and as the Eco-Isle, endeavouring to establish a sustainable and low carbon economy. Developing a small, rural Island where much of the landscape and unique habitats are protected and where there is a high proportion of retired people, gives rise to many of the contemporary issues of interest to A level geography students. These include:

- Assessing renewable energy generation potential: tidal power & wind farms



Artists impression of a proposed wind farm on the Isle of Wight

- The rapid expansion of housing causing pressure on land and resources;



Residential development on green field sites on the outskirts of Newport, Isle of Wight

- Climate change, especially sea level rise, contributing to land instability and demanding effective coastal management;



Ventnor on the Isle of Wight's Undercliff

- Regeneration of urban and rural communities in an aging demography



Sandown, site of The Bay regeneration scheme

- Flooding and management of river catchments.

** No part of the Island is more than a 30 minute drive from Newport, giving GCE students opportunities to use a variety of field techniques and to visit several contrasting locations during a residential field course at the Medina Valley Centre.*