

Glossary

aim a way of stating an enquiry's purpose

annotation detailed information added to an illustration

bar graph a graph with columns showing data that does not change over time

best-fit line a line added to a scatter graph which passes as close to as many of the plotted points as possible

brownfield site land that becomes available for re-use after the demolition of buildings

calipers instrument to measure pebble size

Central Business District the zone in which most of a town's business, recreation and transport facilities are located

choropleth map a map with colour shading between its plotted lines to show a distribution pattern

clinometer an instrument for measuring gradient angles

commuter a person who travels daily to work

contour a line on a map that links places having the same height above sea level

correlation coefficient a mathematical calculation that indicates the strength of the link between two sets of data

cross-section a diagram showing how the height of the land changes along a transect

derelict describes property that has been abandoned and allowed to deteriorate

description providing information about a place or event, but not suggesting any reasons for why or how it has occurred

desire-line map a map that uses straight lines to show the movement of people or goods between places

destructive waves waves that can erode a coast – because they exert a powerful downward force as they break, and their strong backwash movement transports the loosened beach material out to sea

divided bar graph a circular diagram with sectors that shows the different sizes of parts within a data set

erosion the wearing away and loosening of material due to the action of moving wind, water and ice – as well as walkers' footwear

explanation stating possible reasons for a geographical fact or topic that has been described

flow line map a map that uses straight lines whose thickness is proportional to the volume of traffic along routes between places

geology the study of rocks and their impact on the landscape

GIS a computer system that can store, combine and analyse layers of different types of spatial information

grid references a system for locating places and features on a map using numbered horizontal and vertical grid lines

groyne a wall built across part of a beach to reduce longshore drift along a coast

health and safety issues potential hazards that may occur during the collection of data for an enquiry

histogram a graph that uses columns to show information that is continuous in some way

hypothesis a statement that an enquiry is designed to prove or disprove

inter-quartile range a measure of the spread of data numbers around their median figure

interview asking people to provide information needed for an enquiry

isoline map a map that has lines which join places having the same value

label brief information added to an illustration

latitude and longitude the system of locating the exact positions of places on the Earth's surface

line graph a graph that uses a line to show how data has changed over time

longshore drift the natural movement of sand and other material along a coast due to wave action and wind

mean the average number within a data set

meander a bend in a stream or river

median the central number in a data set

mode the number that occurs most often in a data set

nearest neighbour analysis a mathematical way of showing how closely located similar land uses are to each other

overlay a piece of tracing paper that shows information about an illustration without disfiguring it

pictogram a graph that uses repeated shapes or symbols instead of bars to show quantity

pie graph a circular diagram with sectors that show the different sizes of parts within a data set

population pyramid a form of bar graph that shows a population's age and gender characteristics

prevailing winds winds that blow from one particular direction for most of the time

promenade a strong, high walkway built behind a beach to stop the sea flooding the land behind it

proportional symbol a symbol whose size is directly linked to that of the data it is displaying

questionnaire a set of questions put to people as part of their interview

ranging poles two poles that are used together with a tape measure and a clinometer to obtain the gradients of slopes on beaches or valley sides

redevelopment the upgrading of urban areas to give them a new lease of life

ribbon development urbanisation that takes place along roads leading out of a town

river cliff the steep bank on the outside of a meander

rock armour large boulders placed on a shore to reduce the power of oncoming waves and the rate of erosion along it

rural–urban fringe the zone at the outer edge of a built-up area; the place where town and country meet

scale the relationship between the actual size of an area on the ground and a map's representation of the same area

scatter graph a diagram used to show the strength of the link (relationship) between two sets of data

settlement the term for a built-up area of any size

site the place where a settlement was first established

situation the location of a settlement within its surrounding area

slip-off slope the gently-sloping inner bank of a meander

slumping loose material falling off a cliff face

spot height a point on a map that shows its exact height above sea level

suburbs the residential zones that are built as a town expands outwards

symbol a colour, shape, line or letter used to locate a type of feature on a map

timeline a way of displaying the timing and sequence of important events in the history of a place

transect a section that shows how human and/or physical features change across an area

transportation the movement of material, such as pebbles, by flowing water

triangular graph a type of diagram that allows three sets of data to be plotted against each other

urban describes built-up areas

urbanisation the expansion of an urban area

zone a part of an urban area that has particular functions such as housing and industry