



# Summer 1 Sustainability in Cornwall

Key concepts:

Place

Physical and Human Processes

Environmental Impact and  
Sustainable Development.

## Our Local Area

In Cornwall, plastic is the most common material found on our coastline as litter and many beaches are often recorded as some of the most polluted in the country.

The human impact on the environment is huge, so some of the questions we will consider during this geography unit are:

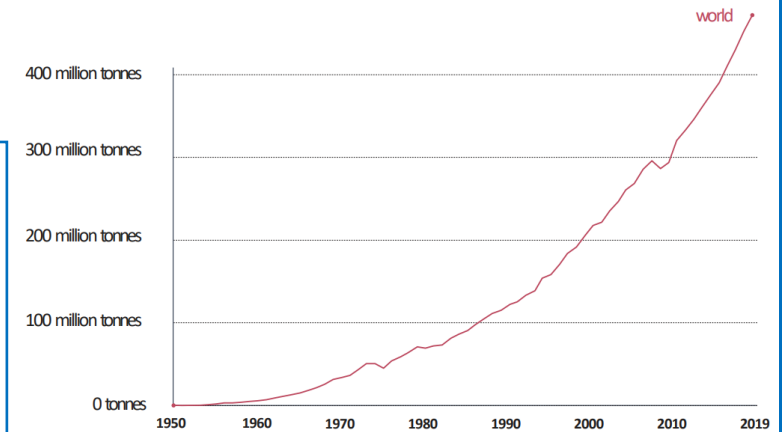
How can we find out about waste in our area?

How can we support our local area to become more sustainable?



Plastic is a human made, synthetic material, which can be formed into any shape. Most plastic is strong and long-lasting. Because of this, it can cause problems with our environment. Unless recycled, they remain on our planet, clogging up landfill sites and eventually make their way into the ocean. Plastic can take over 400 years to decompose (breakdown).

## Plastic Pollution



Over the last 70 years, global production of plastic has increased from 2 million tonnes to over 460 million tonnes annually.

## Sustainable Living

Changes in our daily lives can support humans to have a positive impact and help to protect our environment.

**Recycle:** recyclable materials can be cleaned, shredded or melted to create new products.

**Reduce:** reduce the amount of waste that you produce by only using what you need and using products that are biodegradable.

**Reuse:** before throwing things away, we can think carefully about whether they can be reused. E.g. Plastic bottles.

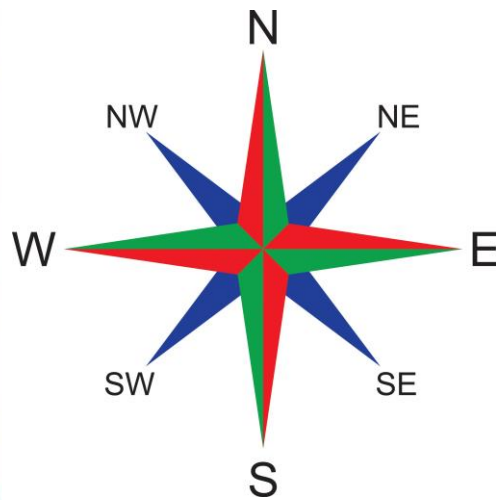
**Renewable Energy:** many people are working on ways to create energy from sources that will not run out – the sun, wind and water. In our local area, many people have solar panels or make use of wind turbines to create energy.

**Zero Emissions:** using vehicles and motors that create no waste products that pollute the environment. E.g. Bikes, electric cars.

## Key Vocabulary

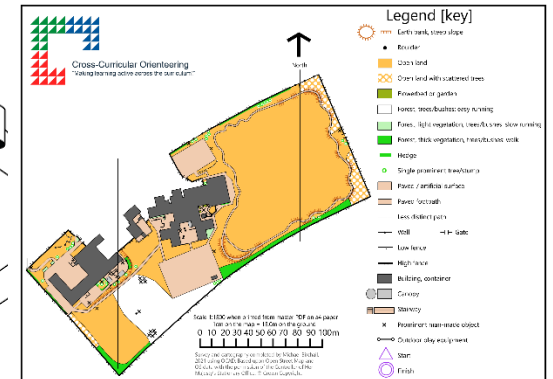
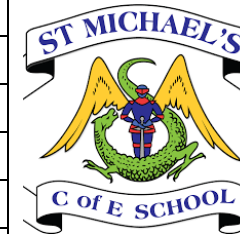
<b>Human geography</b>	How human activity affects the Earth's surface.
<b>Biodegradable</b>	Something is capable of being broken down.
<b>Microplastic</b>	Extremely small pieces of plastic in the environment.
<b>Plastic pollution</b>	When plastic build up negative impacts the environment.
<b>Recycling</b>	The process of converting waste into new materials.
<b>Sustainable</b>	Something that causes little or no damage to the environment.
<b>Grid References</b>	A location on a map using eastings and northings.
<b>Compass</b>	A navigation tool that shows magnetic north.
<b>Eastings</b>	The vertical lines on a map that increase as you move east.
<b>Northings</b>	The horizontal lines on a map that increase as you move north.
<b>Fieldwork</b>	Observing and collecting data about the world around us.

## Reading a Map: Grid References and Compass Directions



A compass is an important tool for map-readers, used to show the direction and help navigation. It tells us which way is north and then where to find the east, south and west. These are known as the cardinal points of a compass. We can make our readings more accurate by adding further points for north-east (NE), south-east (SE), south-west (SW) and north-west (NW).

## Local Fieldwork



In and around our school grounds:  
 Where will we find the most waste?  
 Where would be the best place for wind turbines/solar panels?  
 What are the levels of traffic around our school like?  
 How could improve sustainability within school?

Maps are covered by a series of blue grid lines, which help us to pin-point an exact location. Vertical lines are called 'eastings' and horizontal lines are called 'northings.'  
 When giving a location we go along the eastings and then up the northings to the bottom left hand corner of the square needed.  
 In the map shown, the 4 figure grid reference would be: **44,05**  
 People often use: along the corridor and up the stairs to help them create a grid reference.