



Location of Settlements

Why Do We Build Settlements in Certain Places?

Settlements are usually built in places that are a combination of a **good site** for building and a **good situation** for living.



Site refers to the land (hilly/flat) a settlement is built on and the climate of the area.

Situation refers to how close the settlement is to resources, water and other settlements.

Old vs. New Settlements

People have been building settlements for thousands of years.

In the past, the important factors for choosing where to build were:

- Soil type
- Site
- Being close to fresh water



Nowadays, these factors aren't as important.

Older Settlements: Why Was Soil Type Important?

Soil was an important factor for deciding where settlements would be built.

Fertile soil is good for growing crops.



Houses needed to be built on soil that drained easily.
If soil became waterlogged, houses could flood.

Older Settlements: Why Was Site Important?

People had to consider whether to build on a hill or in a flat area.

Hilltop areas were easier to **defend**, whereas **flat areas** were **easier** to build on.

Some settlements were built in valleys – these areas are more **protected** against harsh wind and rain.



Older Settlements

Why Did People Need to be Near Fresh Water?

Historically, settlements tended to be built **near a fresh water** source like a **river**.

This was so people had access to water for drinking and washing.

They had to make sure they built their homes higher than any flood waters, so their homes were safe.



Why is Being Near Fresh Water not Vital Now?

Settlements don't have to be built close to a river because fresh water can now be transported long distances and delivered to homes through pipes.



People have built flood defences, so it is now possible to build homes close to rivers and be *safer* from flooding.

Why Do We Build New Settlements Where We Do?

These days, new settlements are often built close to bigger towns and cities – this means the residents can go to work or school in the bigger settlements.



Newer settlements also tend to be built close to road or rail links to connect them to other places.

What are All Settlements Built Close To?

All settlements are built **close to a resource which is important to the community that live there.**

In the past, this may have been resources such as coal reserves, fish stocks or forests for wood.

Now, these resources tend to be jobs, schools and transport links.

