

SETTLEMENT

1. The site and situation of Settlements.

A settlement is a place where people live. These may vary from tiny hamlets to huge conurbations.

The **site** of a settlement is the nature of the land a place is built on.

Example: The SITE of St Ives.

St Ives is located on the gently sloping land to the north of the River Great

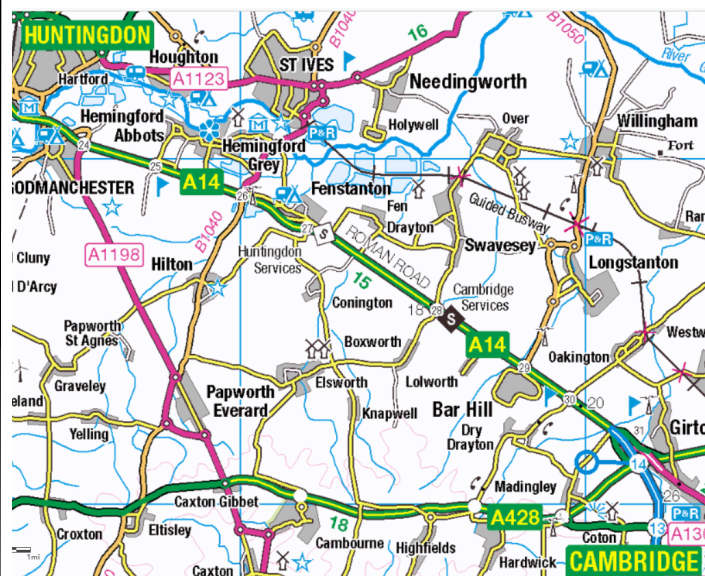


Ouse. The area to the south of the river is mainly flood plain. The land around St Ives is fertile and mainly agricultural.

The **situation** of a settlement is where a place is in relation to other settlements and features around it.

Example: The SITUATION of St Ives.

St Ives is on the north bank of the River Great Ouse. It is north of the A14 and is located 12 miles north west of Cambridge and 5 miles East of Huntingdon.



2. What factors affect the location of settlements?

When early settlements were established they need to provide the basic needs of the people living there and therefore a number of **location factors** were considered.

- BUILDING MATERIALS** - having access to materials such as wood, stone etc. locally.
- DEFENCE / PROTECTION**—being on a hill with steep sides and views over the area or within a river bend would help protect the people
- SHELTER**—places needed shelter from prevailing cold winds. South facing places would give sunshine, heat and light.
- FOOD SUPPLIES**—having access to fertile land for growing crops and land for rearing animals.
- RELIABLE SOURCE OF WATER** (wet-point site) - e.g. close to a river.
- DRY-POINT SITE**—although close to a river was important a site had to be safe from flooding!
- BRIDGING POINT**—place where



CHANGES WITH TIME

As time goes on, location factors change. Today building materials can easily be bought in by road. Piped water means places don't have to be by a river. People can get food from shops and there is no need for defensive positions. Other things become more important—e.g. close to major road networks for access. Close to other places for jobs etc.

3. Why did St Ives grow up where it did?

Great River Ouse

provided **transport** and supported trade

River provided a **water source**

Trees provided **shelter** and **building materials**



North side of the river was higher providing a **dry-point** above the flood plain on the south.

Surrounding **flat land** easy for building on

Good **food source** (fertile land around).

Natural crossing point (ford existed originally) - bridge built here.

4. Settlement function

The **function** of a settlement is its purpose related to the activities that take place there.

Many settlements now have a number of functions and their original functions may change over time. St Ives grew up as a **market town**.

Port	Coastal settlement with access for ships
Market Town	Main town in an agricultural area with a
Residential	The main function is for housing
Mining town	Town that has grown up around natural re-
Tourist resort	An area popular with tourists e.g. by the
Cultural / Religious	Settlement built around an important church or religious building
Industrial	Settlement with many factories
Commercial	Place important for business & politics

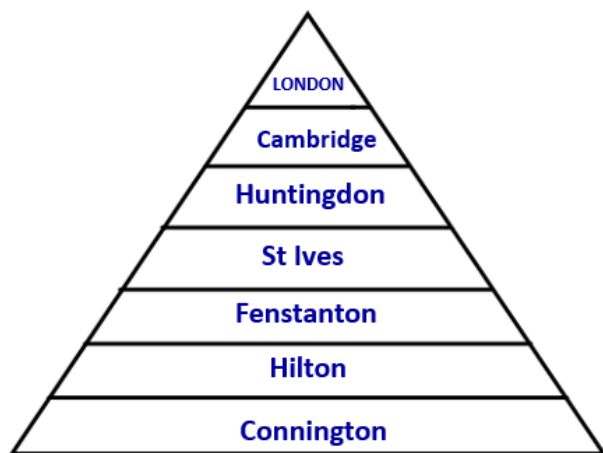
Settlement continued..

5. Settlement Hierarchy

A **settlement hierarchy** is a way of sorting settlements in order of their size and importance. For example...



Below is an example of our local **settlement hierarchy**.



6. Service Provision

A **service** is that something that provides something that people need.

The number of services a settlement provides increases with settlement size.

Small settlements only provide **low-order services**—e.g. post offices, doctors and churches.



Large towns, cities and conurbations will provide low and **high-order services**—this includes things like chain stores, leisure centres, hospitals, airports etc.



7. Settlement Patterns

Settlement pattern refers to the shape of the settlement as seen from above.

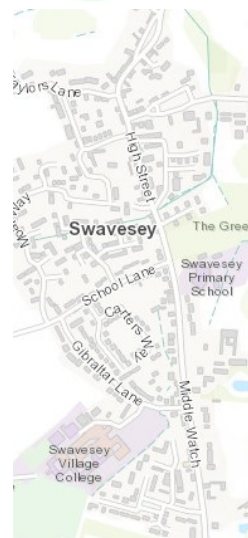
Three distinctive settlement patterns are (i) **LINEAR** (ii) **DISPERSED** and (iii) **NUCLEATED** settlements.



1. LINEAR SETTLEMENT

These are where settlements have largely grown up in a line along a feature such as a road or following a feature such as a river.

A good local example of a linear settlement is **SWAVESEY**—a long settlement with the oldest part built along the main road going through.



2. NUCLEATED SETTLEMENT

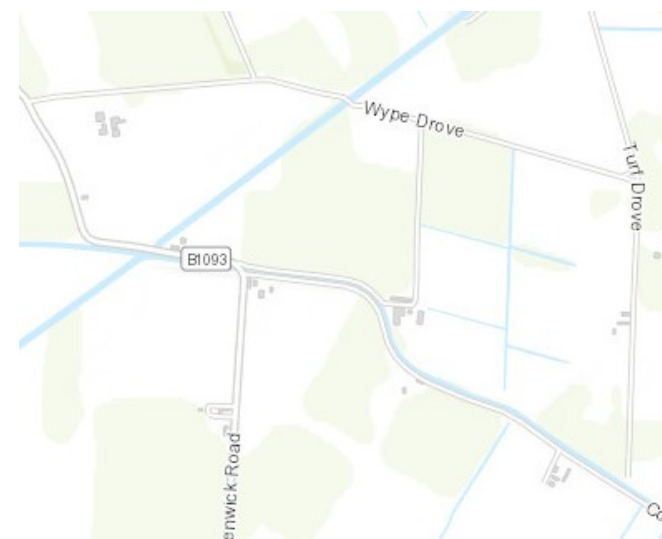
These are where settlements have largely grown up with houses grouped closely together. Often around a central feature such as a cross-roads, village green or church.

A good local example of a linear settlement is **HILTON**



3. DISPERSED SETTLEMENT

These are where houses are spread out over a wide area. They are often in rural and upland areas. For example as found in areas of the fens (see below)





Settlement continued..

6. Land-use and Settlement Change

Land-use refers to what land is being specifically used for. For example:

- **Residential land-use**—used for housing.
- **Recreational land-use**—e.g. parks, sports fields.
- **Industrial land-use**—e.g. factories
- **Agricultural**—used for farming
- **Commercial**—used for shops, offices, businesses etc.

In many towns and cities simple land-use patterns can be found. For example the **CBD** (Central Business District) - the area where shops, entertainment and offices are located often have **central locations** easy for **access for customers and workers**.

As towns and cities have grown outwards, **suburbs** have grown up with housing estates and on the **outer edges** of many town and cities are found larger, detached homes as well as retail parks, business parks and large supermarkets which take advantage of **cheaper land** and **good transport links**.

As settlements continue to grow they have undergone a lot of change.

1. Older areas have become run-down and suffered problems such as overcrowding, lack of open space, traffic congestion. These has resulted in **urban regeneration** in these areas and strategies such as **traffic management**. Old abandoned factories etc. (known as **brownfield sites**) have been redeveloped.
2. As cities have grown outwards they have undergone **urban sprawl** (growth into the surrounding rural areas) with building taking place on **green-field sites** (areas that have never been built on before).

YOU WILL EXPLORE THESE IDEAS MORE AT GCSE

APPLYING YOUR KNOWLEDGE...

1. Describe the situation of St Ives
2. Outline the location factors that may have affected where a settlement grew up in the first place.
3. Explain why St Ives grew up where it has.
4. Describe how a settlement hierarchy works.

Now Challenge yourself even further!

1. Why might the function of a place change over time?
2. How and why do you think St Ives has changed over time? (you could consider: (i) changes in population (ii) changes in the centre of St Ives (iii) changes on the outskirts of St Ives) .
3. Northstowe is a new settlement that is currently being built in Cambridgeshire—why do you think it has been built where it has? <https://www.northstowe.com/>

Some ideas for finding out more...

Have a think about what cities of the future might look like—particularly with the need to consider more **sustainable living**. Find out what sustainable living means and then explore some possible ideas for more sustainable cities here.. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2019/04/see-sustainable-future-city-designed-for-people-and-nature/>

OTHER RESOURCES

- Settlement in Urban Areas (BBC Bitesize) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z2dmn39/revision/1>
- Rural Settlements (BBC Bitesize) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/>

KS3 Schoology



SCAN ME

Key Term	Definition
Accessibility	How easy it is to get to a place.
CBD	Central Business District - the main commercial and busi-
Conurbation	Where a number of towns / cities have expanded and joined into each other to produce an extended urban area.
Dispersed	Where buildings are very spread out
Function	The purpose of a settlement - e.g. residential, commercial etc.)
Hamlet	Small settlement with only a few residential buildings and without a church.
High-order settlement	This is a settlement with lots of high level shops and services (e.g. department stores, theatres, hospitals etc.)
Land-use	The way land is used e.g. for housing, farming, industry, recreation etc.
Linear settlement	Long, narrow settlements where buildings have grown up along a road.
Low-order settlement	This is a settlement with only a few basic shops and services (e.g. post office)
Nucleated settlement	Where buildings are clustered close together often around a crossroads
Settlement	A place where people live
Settlement Hierarchy	A ranking of settlements according to size or importance
Settlement	The shape and spacing of settlements
Site	This is the actual land on which the settlement was built.
Situation	This is where a place is located in relation to other places
Urban	This relates to towns or cities
Urbanisation	An increase in the number of people living in towns / cities.

To test yourself Read, Cover, Write, Check OR try this quizlet
<https://tinyurl.com/KS3Settlement>