



Sea Salt & Samphire!

Welcome to Newtown! Once upon a time this was a thriving borough and centre of trade and shipping for the Isle of Wight. In this study you will learn:

- ✓ A little of the history of the settlement, and what the settlement is like today
- ✓ About the natural environment and ecosystems at Newtown.



History..

In the 14th Century, Newtown was the most important port on the Isle of Wight, and a thriving settlement, and street names such as 'Gold Street' and 'Silver Street' show the high hopes these early inhabitants had of its success as a port.

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complete the table on page 2.

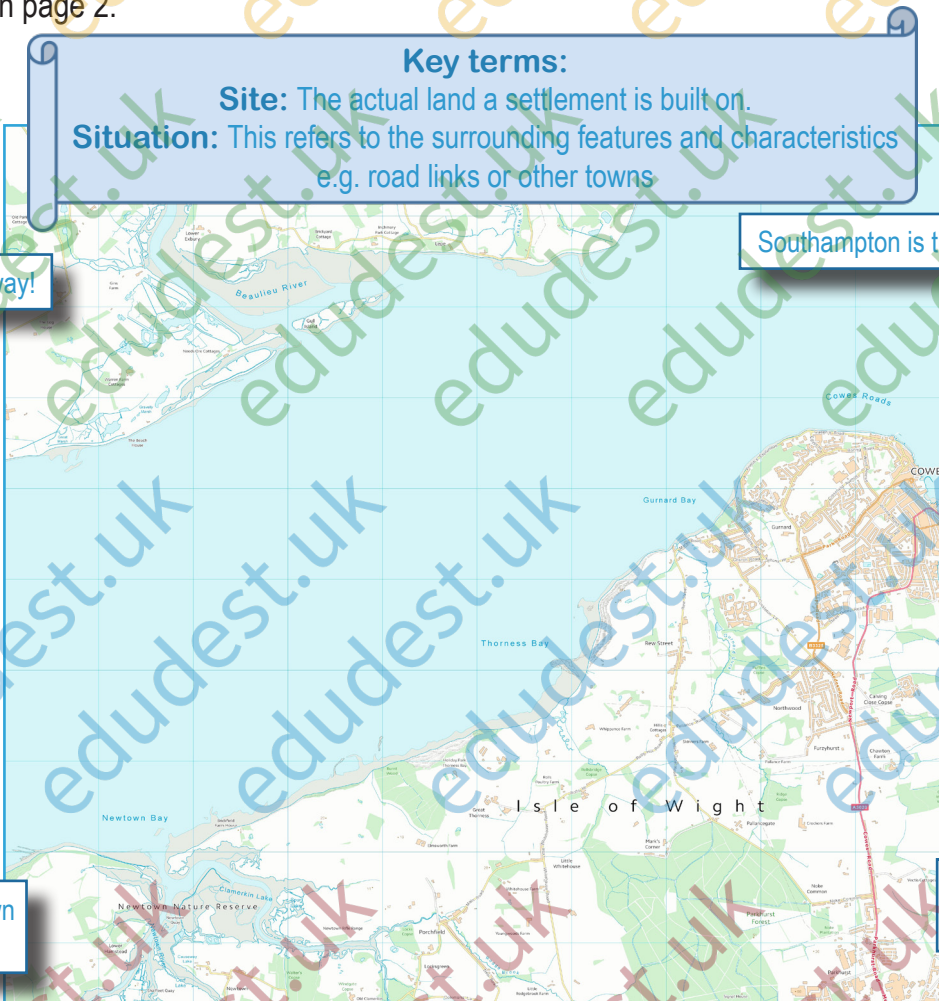
Key terms:

Site: The actual land a settlement is built on.

Situation: This refers to the surrounding features and characteristics e.g. road links or other towns

Lymington is this way!

Southampton is this way!



Newtown and Newtown Quay are here

This is the edge of Newport

Features/characteristics that made this a good place for the settlement and port of Newtown	
THE SITE	THE SITUATION

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A salty industry...

A prosperous salt works once existed in Newtown and you can still see the large square ponds which were dug as salterns for the manufacture of salt close to the boathouse at the quay (pictured).

In 1344 it was assessed as twice the value of Newport; the port was thriving and was considered the safest on the island.

Newtown today...

The great dreams of those first inhabitants of Newtown that it would become a rich port were, unfortunately for them, short lived.

Along came the plague and in 1377 the French raided the town and destroyed much of it.

By the 16th Century, Newtown had been overshadowed by the more easily defended town of Newport, which then grew into the island's main port.



Activity: New Newtown!

Actually, Newtown's failure as a port has meant that it is a rare example of a medieval new town that has not been developed over. You can still see the Town Hall and walking down the street you will pass the boundaries of the house plots belonging to individual medieval tenants, known as 'burgage plots' – some of these have houses on and some remain as small paddocks.

1. **What type of settlement would you say Newtown is today? Choose from the following, and then explain your choice below:**

- Town Village Hamlet City

I think that it is a _____ because _____

2. **Can you find any evidence of services in Newtown?**

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your choice(es) below:

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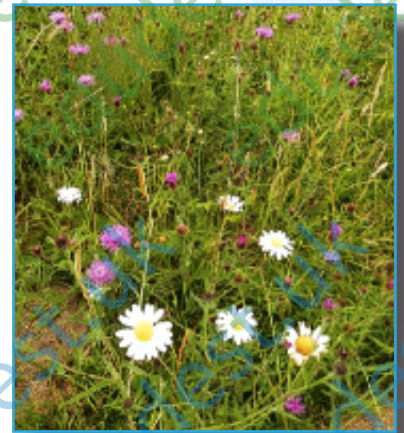
- Agricultural centre Trading Centre Tourist centre Industrial centre

I think that it is a _____ because _____

Natural Newtown...

Newtown is a very special place and it is protected by law. There are a variety of different types of ecosystem here:

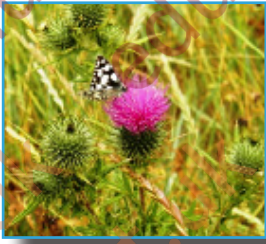
- Flower-rich hay meadows
- Ancient woodlands with rare butterflies and red squirrels
- Salt marshes, mudflats and the harbour, alive with birds.



Activity: Flower forage

Walking around the meadows, see how many different types of flowers you can find. See if you can find flowers which are all of these different colours and tick them off as you go. There are 3 spaces for you to fill in your own colours!

Pink	Purple	White	Yellow	Blue
Orange	Green	?	?	?



Bonus Activities:

1. Can you name any of the flowers that you have observed? You may need to use a key for identifying them, but have a go!
2. The array of meadow flowers in turn attracts a wide variety of butterflies... How many different types can you find?

Salty heaven!

Walking down through the meadows you will come to the upper part of the saltmarsh. A saltmarsh is a type of coastal ecosystem which develops in sheltered areas such as estuaries or behind a spit.

Saltmarshes start life as little more than a lot of mud! Mud is deposited in the sheltered waters and gradually builds up to above the water level. It's a pretty horrible place to try to grow, but some plants are tolerant of the very salty and very exposed conditions and will colonise the mud. These plants are called pioneer species and are just like the pioneers of the wild west who were the first to explore and settle there... these tough little plants are the

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Activity: Saltmarsh Hunt! Can you find...

1. The following commonly seen birds:



Little Egret



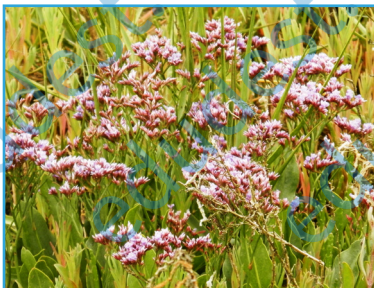
Black-headed Gull



Oystercatcher

...or can you find and name any other birds?

2. The following saltmarsh plants:



Sea Lavender with its striking purple flowers



The edible saltmarsh Samphire

3. A salt pan and a creek?



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