

Newport is a city located in South-East Wales. It is going through a process of **placemaking**.

Newport Leisure Centre is on track to become one the UKs first net-zero-ready leisure centres. The new leisure centre will have a swimming pool, gym and café.

The new leisure centre will be built on a brownfield site, surrounded by roads, lots of buildings and the River Usk.

- In order to make the leisure centre net zero, the building will ...
- ✓ Have capacity for solar power generation
 - ✓ Use a heat pump for cooling and heating
 - ✓ Have a biodiverse green roof
 - ✓ The structure of the new building will use glass and steel recovered from the demolition of the original building
 - ✓ Furniture in the building will be made from timber from the original building

The project is park of Newport City Council’s 15-year Placemaking Plan, which aims to transform Newport’s city centre into a ‘vibrant and thriving destination’

As part of this plan, the council conducted digital surveys and focus groups with local people to understand what changes local people want to see. They have summarised the responses into 60 big ideas. Below are a few of those ideas.

Establishing a Youth Hub Providing a welcoming safe place for young people to meet friends, socialise and learn	New city park and planting more trees To demolish unused buildings and create a green space in the city	Helping the homeless Provide emergency accommodation for those experiencing homelessness
Evening cafes Provide a calm atmosphere for people to relax and chill after work	Guerilla gardening Growing good or flowers in neglected spaces	Street signage Make street signage more colourful and vibrant to help people navigate and find their way around the city
More social spaces More places for people to meet up and socialise such as cafes, libraries and gyms	Night buses and street lighting More buses to run later into the night and more well lit-streets	Use more renewable energy Such as green walls/roofs, solar panels, rainwater harvesting and heat pumps

Read about all 60 ideas here:
<https://www.newport.gov.uk/our-city/placemaking>

References

WSP, Newport Leisure Centre: <https://www.wsp.com/en-gb/projects/newport-leisure-centre>



Photo credit: WSP

Key Terms

Placemaking – the process of improving places for local people and communities

Low-carbon – producing small amounts of greenhouse gases

Net-zero – to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases as much as possible and offsetting the rest

Brownfield - land that has been previously built on, such as a derelict building or old factory

The role of geographers

The are a whole team of **Quantity Surveyors** working on this project . Quantity Surveying is a popular career for geographers.

A Quantity Surveyor oversees the money side of a construction project and ensures that a project is delivered within budget. It involves lots of problem solving!

WSP UK & Ireland are a key player in the delivery of this project

WSP is a global organisation that oversees the development of large construction projects, ensuring that they are sustainable and have minimal impact on the environment and climate. For example, WSP lead on the development of new offshore wind farms or railway lines.

WSP UK & Ireland are a major employer for geographers, with many landing roles as Land Use Consultants, Environmental Consultants and Quantity Surveyors.

Meet the Geographers!

Meet a Quantity Surveyor



Olivia, Chartered Quantity Surveyor, Ridge and Partners LLP

Olivia studied geography at the University of Brighton before completing a Quantity Surveyor Foundation course at RICS Academy.

Being a Quantity Surveyor involves monitoring the costs of a project and keeping the project on budget. You will have meetings with the project team and track changes that could affect the cost of a project. You may work on projects across a range of sectors, from flood management to the development of new offices.

Olivia chose to study geography because she loves being outside and exploring places. She loved fieldwork because it allowed her to apply what she learnt in the classroom to the real world. She also loves that pursuing a geographical career allows you to make a real world impact.

Average Salary of a Chartered Quantity Surveyor is £43,000 per year



Lauren, Associate AECOM Quantity Surveyor at

Lauren studied Geography the University of Brighton. She then completed a Master’s in Quantity Surveying at the University of the Built Environment.

Lauren works with architects and engineers to examine whether a project is affordable and can be delivered on budget. Being a Quantity Surveyor involves a mix of desk-based work and visiting construction sites see how projects are progressing. Sustainability is a big part of her job, and her role involves helping to reduce the carbon impact of the different projects she works on.

Lauren chose geography because she knew it would give her skills like critical thinking and problem solving, and a general understanding of how the work worlds, which she knew would be helpful for any careers she wanted to go into.

Average Salary of an Associate Quantity Surveyor is £63,000 per year

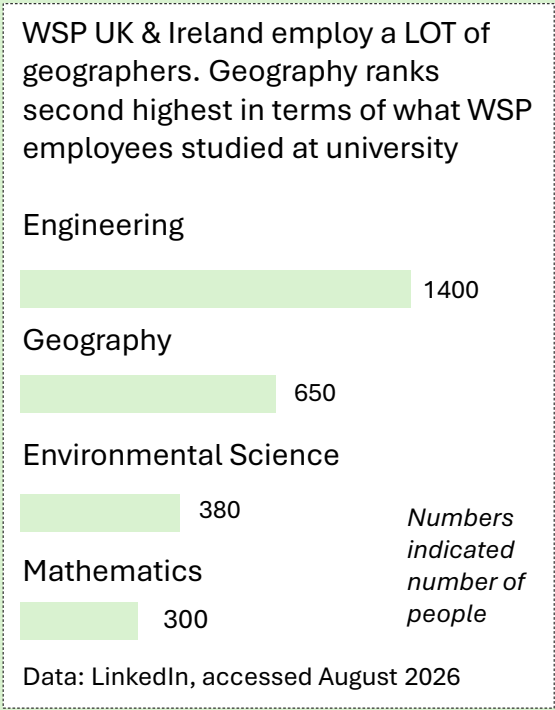
Meet a Geographer who works at WSP



Environmental Consultant

Theo studied geography at the University of Exeter before completing a MSc in Sustainability and Management at the University of Bath Theo’s role at WSP involves coordinating Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs). He works alongside ecologists and archaeologists to assess the environmental impact of a new construction project. This may include impacts on habitats, biodiversity, soil and water.

Theo chose to study geography because of the depth and breadth of the subject, and because it allows you to develop a range of skills. Understanding how people and the environment interact is key to his job today.



£33,000 per year
Average salary of an early career Environmental Consultant

£22,000 per year
Average salary of Junior Land Use Consultant



Junior Land Consultant

Suha studied geography at Kings College London. Land Consultants are like detectives, they investigate who occupies specific areas of land to inform whether the land is suitable for the development of new infrastructure (such as roads, housing or renewable energy facilities). Suha’s work involves a mixture of desk based investigative work and in-person site visits. She uses a lot of GIS and digital mapping in her work.

Suha chose to study geography because she is interested in the environment, people and planet. These lots of variety in geography and these lots of opportunity to learn outside of the classroom.

Student Activity

Activity 1

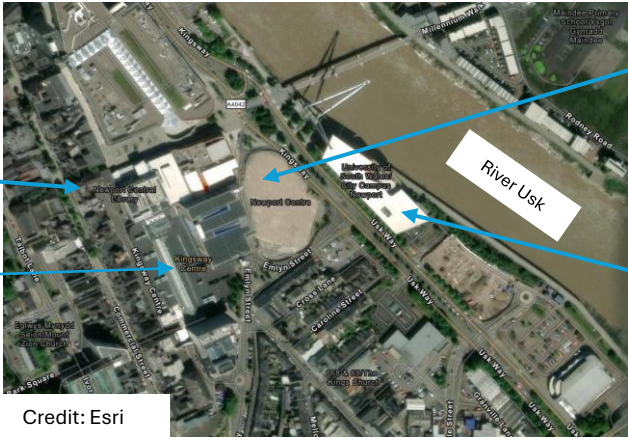
Using the case study information on page 1 and your own geographical understanding, complete the activities below

1a. Describe the site of Newport Leisure Centre, including key human and physical features of the surrounding environment

A map of Wales showing the location of Newport



Newport Central Library
Kingsway Shopping Centre



Site of Newport Leisure Centre

University of South Wales Campus



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1b. Suggest one opportunity and one challenge of building on this site

Think about: renewable energy, community impact, green space, transport, air pollution

Opportunity

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Challenge

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Activity 2

2a. Define the term *sustainable*

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1. Land is contaminated
2. Easier to get planning permission
3. Demolition costs
4. Water, drainage, electricity and roads may already be in place
5. Reduces urban sprawl

A vertical line is shown. To the left of the line is a checkmark (✓). To the right of the line is a circle containing an 'X' (✗).

Make a list of responses that the building of the Leisure Centre may help address

[illegible]

Student Activity

Activity 3

Read the *Meet the Geographers* page and answer the following questions

3a. Choose the correct definition of Quantity Surveyor

- i. Surveys the land using satellite imagery to decide the best site for a construction project
- ii. Measures how damaging a new construction project will be on the surrounding habitats
- iii. Oversees the financial side of a construction project

3b. Theo and Suha are both Consultants. Theo is an Environmental Consultant focusing on Environmental Impact Assessments and Suha is a Land Consultant.

What is the difference between their roles?

Sentence starter: *Theo’s role involves ... whereas Suha’s role focuses on ...*

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3c. Sort the statements into whether they apply to Quantity Surveyor, Environmental Consultant and Land Use Consultant

- 1. Uses GIS and digital mapping
- 2. Day-to-day involves a mixture of desk-based work and site visits
- 3. Uses numerical skills
- 4. Responsible for the financial side of project
- 5. Works with a range of specialists, like ecologists
- 6. Uses problem solving skills
- 7. Requires good understanding of sustainability
- 8. Requires good understanding of the impacts of climate change

