

## APPENDIX II

### GLOSSARY OF USEFUL TERMS

#### A

<b>air mass</b>	a very large body of air with relatively uniform temperature and moisture characteristics
<b>air pressure</b>	the weight of the air above a reference point, measured in millibars
<b>atmosphere</b>	the layer of air round the earth

#### B

<b>bay</b>	an area of sea between two headlands
<b>beach</b>	material which the sea deposits on the coast
<b>bedding plane</b>	the line dividing successive layers of sedimentary rock
<b>biodiversity</b>	the number and variety of all living things within an ecosystem
<b>brownfield site</b>	disused or derelict urban land which is available for redevelopment
<b>business park</b>	a development of offices and industrial units
<b>bypass</b>	a road built round a town

#### C

<b>Central Business District (CBD)</b>	the commercial and business centre of a town, with highest land values
<b>climate</b>	the average weather over many years
<b>collision boundary</b>	where continental plates collide
<b>compass</b>	an instrument used to identify direction
<b>condense</b>	gas becoming liquid
<b>conservative boundary</b>	where two tectonic plates slide past each other, but where crust is neither formed nor destroyed
<b>constructive boundary</b>	where two tectonic plates move apart from each other and new crust is formed
<b>continent</b>	a large land mass
<b>contour line</b>	a line on an OS map joining all points of the same height
<b>core</b>	the centre of the Earth
<b>crust</b>	the thin outer layer of solid rock round the Earth's surface

#### D

<b>dam</b>	a wall built to hold back water
<b>decompose</b>	the breakdown of organic material by animals, bacteria and fungi

<b>desert</b>	an area receiving less than 250 mm of precipitation per year
<b>destructive boundary</b>	where an oceanic plate slides underneath a continental plate or another oceanic plate
<b>dispersed</b>	spread out
<b>dormant</b>	inactive
<b>drought</b>	a prolonged period of below average precipitation
<b>E</b>	
<b>easting</b>	a vertical grid line on an OS map
<b>ecosystem</b>	an area displaying a distinctive interaction between plants, animals and the physical environment
<b>eco-tourism</b>	low impact tourism aimed at protecting the natural environment and local cultures
<b>environment</b>	the air, land, water, plants and wildlife
<b>epicentre</b>	the point on the Earth's surface directly above the focus of an earthquake
<b>equator</b>	the imaginary line running round the middle of the Earth
<b>erosion</b>	the wearing away of the land by material carried in rivers, glaciers, waves and wind
<b>ethnic group</b>	people of the same racial origin
<b>evaporate</b>	liquid turning to gas
<b>extinct</b>	no longer in existence (of animals): no longer active (of volcanoes)
<b>F</b>	
<b>fault</b>	a line of weakness in rock
<b>fetch</b>	the maximum distance over which wind can blow to form a wave
<b>fieldwork</b>	an enquiry which takes place outside the classroom
<b>floodplain</b>	the flat area either side of a river which is regularly flooded
<b>focus</b>	the point underground where the energy of an earthquake is released
<b>fog</b>	cloud at ground level (visibility less than 1km)
<b>foreshock</b>	a small earthquake before a large one
<b>front</b>	the boundary between warm and cool air masses
<b>function</b>	the activities of a settlement
<b>G</b>	
<b>geothermal energy</b>	heat and electricity produced from hot, underground water
<b>gorge</b>	a deep, steep-sided valley

<b>graph</b>	a drawing to show data
<b>greenfield site</b>	land which has not been built on before
<b>grid reference</b>	a number which locates an area on a map
<b>globalisation</b>	the ways in which companies, ideas and lifestyles spread round the world and interact with one another
<b>H</b>	
<b>habitat</b>	the area where plants and animals live
<b>headland</b>	a promontory of more resistant rock which juts out into the sea
<b>hemisphere</b>	half of the globe
<b>hierarchy</b>	a ranking of settlements according to their size or importance
<b>high order settlement</b>	a settlement which contains top level shops and services
<b>humidity</b>	the moisture in the air
<b>hydro-electric power</b>	electricity produced by water being released through dam turbines
<b>I</b>	
<b>infiltration</b>	the movement of water from surface into the soil
<b>interception</b>	precipitation landing on plants, trees and buildings
<b>irrigation</b>	the artificial watering of crops
<b>isotherm</b>	a line on a map joining places of equal temperature
<b>J</b>	
<b>joint</b>	a crack in the rock
<b>K</b>	
<b>key</b>	a list giving the meaning of symbols on a map
<b>L</b>	
<b>land use</b>	the way in which land is put to use by humans
<b>landfill</b>	the disposal of waste in natural or man-made holes in the ground
<b>lava</b>	molten rock at the Earth's surface
<b>LEDC</b>	Less Economically Developed Country
<b>levée</b>	an embankment next to a river channel, raised above the flood plain
<b>linear</b>	long and narrow
<b>longshore drift</b>	a movement of sand and pebbles along a beach by wave action

<b>low order settlement</b>	a settlement which contains few basic shops and services
<b>M</b>	
<b>magma</b>	molten rock beneath the Earth's crust
<b>mantle</b>	the semi-solid mass of rock beneath the Earth's crust
<b>market</b>	the place where goods are sold
<b>mass movement</b>	the movement of weathered soil and rock on a slope
<b>meander</b>	a bend in a river
<b>MEDC</b>	More Economically Developed Country
<b>microclimate</b>	the local climate of a small area such as a garden
<b>N</b>	
<b>national park</b>	an area of countryside of outstanding beauty which is protected from development
<b>Newly Industrialised Country (NIC)</b>	a country which has recently become industrialised
<b>northing</b>	a horizontal grid line on an OS map
<b>nucleated</b>	clustered together
<b>O</b>	
<b>OS</b>	Ordnance Survey
<b>P</b>	
<b>percentage</b>	the number out of 100
<b>permeable</b>	allowing water to flow through, e.g. joints in rocks
<b>plate boundary</b>	the point where two tectonic plates meet
<b>plate tectonics</b>	the theory explaining how the Earth's crust is able to move
<b>plunge pool</b>	a deep pool which is eroded at the base of a waterfall
<b>pollution</b>	damage to the environment as a result of human activity
<b>porous</b>	able to hold water like a sponge
<b>precipitation</b>	rain, snow, hail or sleet
<b>primary information</b>	geographical data which one has collected oneself
<b>pyroclastic flow</b>	a cloud of superheated gas and ash ejected from a volcano
<b>R</b>	
<b>raw material</b>	mineral and agricultural resources which can be processed to make something else
<b>recycling</b>	reusing waste
<b>relief</b>	the height and shape of the land
<b>renewable energy</b>	a sustainable source of power which can be used indefinitely (e.g. wind, solar, tidal)

<b>reservoir</b>	a lake behind a dam
<b>resource</b>	any product of the environment used by people
<b>retail</b>	selling products to the public
<b>river basin</b>	an area of land drained by a river and its tributaries
<b>river cliff</b>	a steep, undercut area on the outside of a river meander
<b>run-off</b>	the movement of water across a surface
<b>rural</b>	relating to the countryside

## **S**

<b>science park</b>	a development of high-tech industries close to a university
<b>scree</b>	piles of broken rock found beneath steep rock faces
<b>secondary information</b>	geographical data collected by somebody else
<b>sedimentary rock</b>	layered rock formed by deposition of sediments
<b>seismic wave</b>	a shock wave produced by earthquakes
<b>seismometer</b>	a sensitive instrument used to measure earthquakes
<b>service industry</b>	work such as retail, administration, education, healthcare or tourism
<b>settlement pattern</b>	the shape and spacing of settlements
<b>settlement</b>	a place where people live
<b>site</b>	the exact location of a settlement
<b>situation</b>	the location of a settlement in relation to the surrounding area
<b>slip-off slope</b>	a gently-sloping area formed on the inside of a river meander
<b>spit</b>	an extended beach which grows by deposition across a bay or river mouth
<b>social</b>	relating to society
<b>source</b>	the beginning of a river
<b>stack</b>	a pillar of rock which stands in the sea
<b>stewardship</b>	looking after resources in a sustainable way for the future
<b>suburb</b>	the residential and commercial development at the edge of a city
<b>sustainable</b>	using resources in a way which prevents them from being exhausted/running out
<b>symbol</b>	something used to represent something else

## **T**

<b>tectonic plate</b>	a large, rigid section of the Earth's crust
<b>topographical map</b>	a map showing natural features
<b>tourism</b>	travel involving an overnight stay away from home, and associated support industry

<b>transportation</b>	the movement of eroded material
<b>tributary</b>	a river joining a larger river
<b>tsunami</b>	a sea wave caused by earthquakes and volcanic eruptions
<b>U</b>	
<b>urban</b>	relating to a town or city
<b>urbanisation</b>	the increase in the percentage of people living in cities
<b>V</b>	
<b>vegetation</b>	trees, shrubs and plants
<b>volcanic bomb</b>	lava exploded into the air which solidifies as it falls
<b>W</b>	
<b>waste</b>	items which no longer have a use
<b>waterfall</b>	a point on a river where water falls vertically
<b>water table</b>	the upper surface of water in the ground
<b>weathering</b>	the breakdown of rocks in situ by mechanical, chemical or biological means