

# I am a Geographer: How has local land use changed over time?

Abbey Hey has changed dramatically over the years. Did you know that opposite our school site, there used to stand one of the largest cotton mills in Manchester? In fact, before the Industrial Revolution, most of Abbey Hey was fields and farmland. Did you also know that school owns the currently unused field at the back of the school site? Now we can see how land use continues to change to reflect the needs of our every-changing community. In this unit we will be learning about land use has changed over time, and we will complete fieldwork to discover if there is a better way to use the field at the back of school.

## Key facts

- Greater Manchester is a mix of high density urban areas, suburbs, semi-rural and rural locations. Overwhelmingly the land use in the county is urban.
- Manchester is in the North West of the UK.
- The rivers Mersey, Irwell and Tame run through the city boundaries.
- Coal mining began in Greater Manchester as early as the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and ceased in the late 1970's.
- The Bridgewater Canal and other canals were built to enable coal and other goods such as cotton to be transported from Manchester to Liverpool cheaply.
- A canal used to run beside the site of Abbey Hey Primary Academy.
- The population of Abbey Hey was estimated to be 16,000 in 2001, rising to approximately 21,500 in 2019.
- There are many human features within walking distance of the school: parks, a railway station, housing, bus routes, supermarkets to name a few.
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## Key Vocabulary

Compass	An instrument used for finding directions. The magnetic needle always points to the north.
Data	Information/facts/statistics that can be analysed
Fieldwork	The gathering of information about something in a real, natural environment
Human features	Things that have been built or changed by humans
Hypothesis	An idea which is suggested as a possible explanation for a situation (needs proving)
OS maps	Ordinance survey maps (the national mapping agency for Great Britain)
Population	All the inhabitants (people who live there) of a particular place.
Physical features	The study of the Earth's natural features, such as mountains, rivers, deserts and oceans. Landforms, land use and how they change is also studied, alongside climate and its effects.
Residential	Designed for people to live in.
Rural	In, relating to, or characteristic of the countryside rather than a town or city.
Settlements	A place, typically one which has previously been uninhabited, where people establish a community.
Sustainable	Conserving an ecological balance by avoiding depletion of natural resources.
Urban	In, relating to, or characteristic of a town or city.

## Prior Learning

### Year 3

- The key geographical features of the UK
- Investigating mountains and volcanoes
- Compared two European locations

### Year 4

- A village in Brazil
- A rainforest ecosystem
- The effect of earthquakes on human settlements.

### Year 5

- World trade
- Water including rivers
- Climate across the world.

### Year 6

- How to improve the environment, linked to climate change
- Migration.



The future of the planet is in our hands!

