

First for some definitions

Settlement

These are places where
People live.

Site

The physical land on which the
settlement was built on

Situation

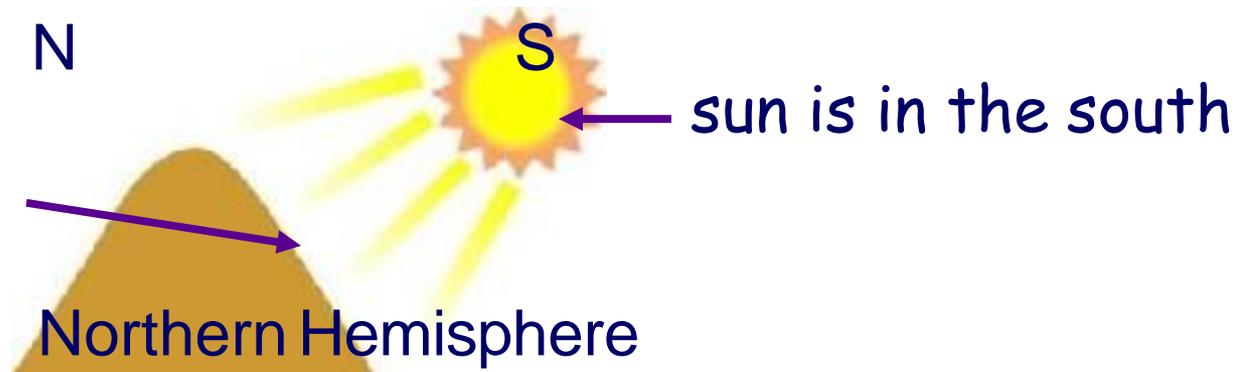
The settlement in relation to its
surroundings

**What factors
made
people decide
on a site to
locate their
settlement?**

Aspect and shelter

Settlements were built in sheltered areas such as valleys or in bays on coastal locations. **Aspect** (the direction in which a settlement faces) was also an important consideration. Settlements would be more ideally located on **south-facing slopes** in the **Northern Hemisphere** and on **north-facing slopes** in the **Southern Hemisphere**. For example, in Britain, it was an advantage to be sheltered from cold winds blowing from the north, and to be facing south which meant more sunlight.

settlements on south-facing slopes receive more heat and sunlight



Aspect and shelter



The town of Bradford-Upon-Avon in Wiltshire is located on a steep, south-facing slope.

Settlement sites

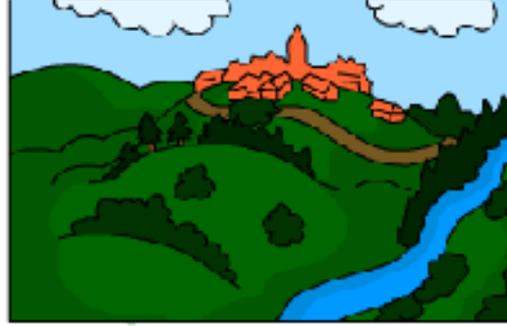
Some settlement sites had specific advantages

Bridging Point



Where a river was shallow enough to be crossed (a ford) or narrow enough to easily build a bridge (e.g. Oxford).

Dry-Point



In especially wet areas, settlements were built on slightly raised land to avoid flooding or the unhealthy marshland (e.g. Ely in Cambridgeshire).

Route Focus



Where natural routes meet, such as several valleys (e.g. York) or at the confluence of two rivers (e.g. St Louis on the Mississippi).

Settlement sites

Some settlement sites had specific advantages.

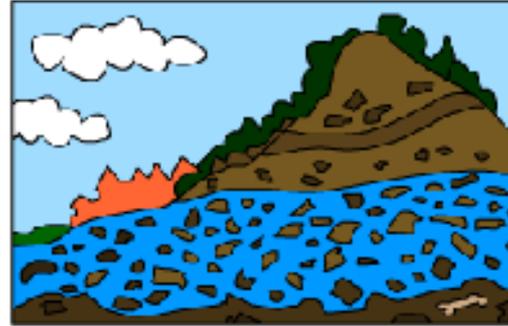
defensive



In order to protect themselves from attack, settlements were built within a river meander, with the river giving protection on three sides, e.g.

Shrewsbury, or on a hill with good views, or in a gap on a ridge e.g. Corfe Castle.

wet-point



These settlements were built at a source of water in an otherwise dry area. For example, in lowland Britain, many settlements were built at springs at the foot of chalk escarpments, e.g. Kemsingat near the North Downs.



Corfe Castle

Corfe castle was sited at a gap in a ridge of chalk. This is a DEFENSIVE SITE

Find out more [here](#) - [Find out more](#)

Corfe Castle

Corfe Castle is a Defensive Site



Berwick Castle is a defensive site

Why has Berwick-Upon-Tweed chosen as a location?

Route focus –
road and
railway

Castle-
Defensive
Site

Coastal
location for
trade &
tourism

Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland, TD15

Fertile Land for
Farming

Bridging
Point

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54°46'21.45" N 2°02'41.16" W elev 88 ft

Streaming 100%

Eye all 20988

Resources



Fertile Soil : needed for growing crops to support the settlements population. There is a higher density of rural settlements where there are fertile soils



Early settlements relied upon timber for fuel and building materials so nearby woodland was an advantage.

Resources



Clay soils would have been used to make clay pots for cooking with



Coal seams or oil fields would also be an advantage as they could also be mined as a source of fuel.

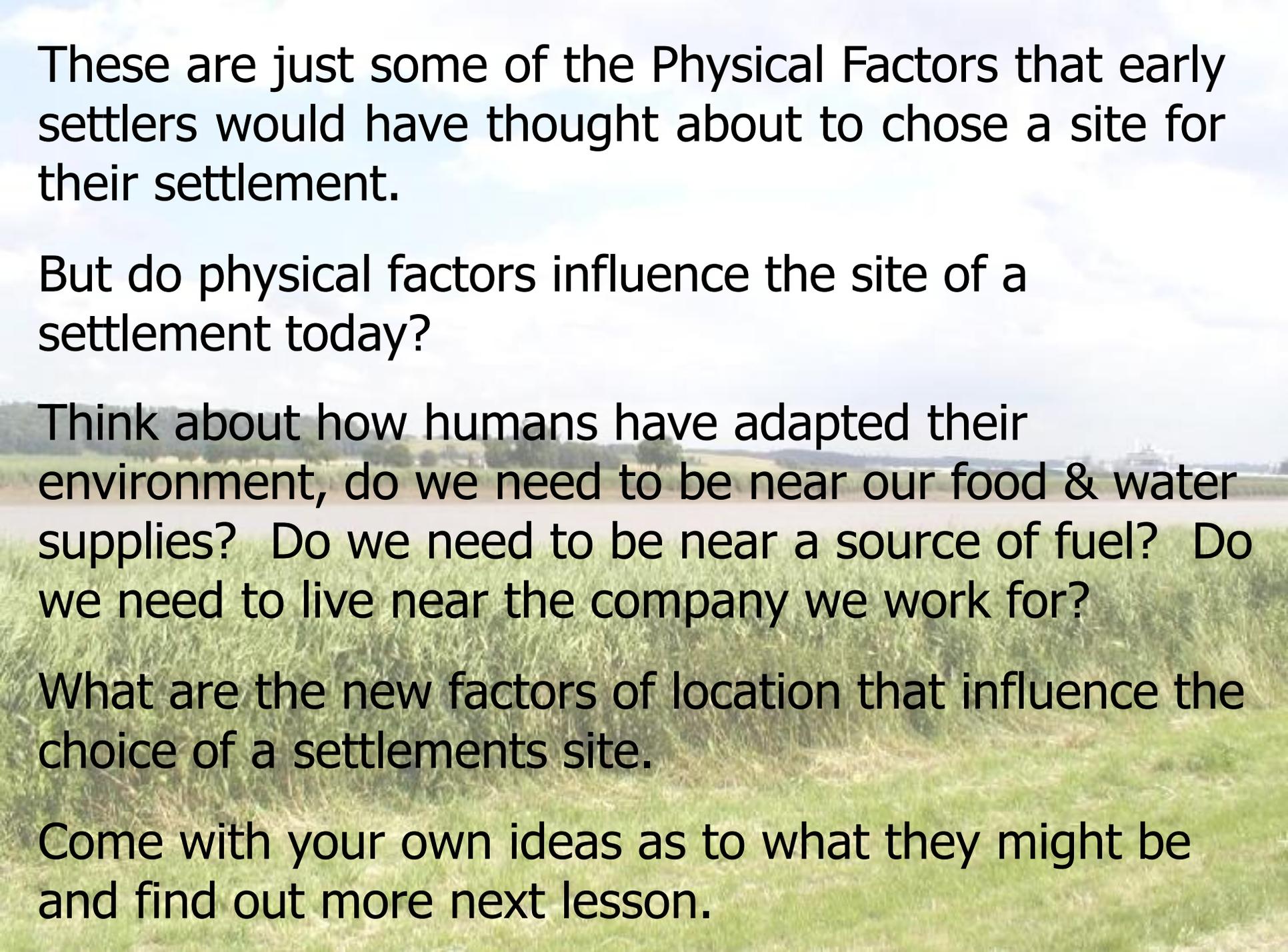
Resources



Iron Ore or Tin for
making tools



Supply of easily quarried
stone to build houses



These are just some of the Physical Factors that early settlers would have thought about to choose a site for their settlement.

But do physical factors influence the site of a settlement today?

Think about how humans have adapted their environment, do we need to be near our food & water supplies? Do we need to be near a source of fuel? Do we need to live near the company we work for?

What are the new factors of location that influence the choice of a settlement's site.

Come with your own ideas as to what they might be and find out more next lesson.