Geography Fieldwork Academy
NEA opportunities

There are a wide range of geographical issues within Southwold which may be developed into individual fields of enquiry;

To what extent does the current visitor experience in Southwold collaborate with the vision for tourism in the Suffolk coastal region

How is gentrification impacting upon the characteristics of Southwold?

What risk does coastal flooding present to Southwold and how effectively is it defended?

What has been the impact of the installation of private sea defences at Easton Bavents?

What evidence is there of successful social engagement throughout the regenerated pier

Our base

North

How is the development of tourism perceived within the town of Southwold

Is Southwold really a thriving place, or do the tourists cover the cracks of a town under threat?

How does the sea wall contribute to the socio-economic appeal of Southwold?

How do the existing coastal management strategies affect the coastline at Southwold?

How does public perception of the town beach and the beach at Easton Bavents compare?

Our 3 day / 2 night NEA itinerary:

Start midday **Day one** Finish 19:30	• **Orientation walk of the town** • **Classroom session 1** – Introduction to NEA, requirements and scale • **Fieldwork menu –** completed around town and on beach • **Classroom session 2** – Developing individual lines of enquiry

Start 9:30 **Day two** Finish 19:30	• **Classroom session 3 –** Methods focus: selecting appropriate methods for enquiry, sampling, scale, risks and ethics. • **Classroom session 4 –** Designing individual fieldwork collection • **Fieldwork collection –** completed around town and on beach • **Classroom session 5 –** Collating data and refining focus • **Classroom session 6 –** Data presentation ideas demonstration including ArcGIS

Start 9:30 **Day three** Finish 12:30	• **Classroom session 7 –** Consideration of extensions and refinements to enquiry • **Fieldwork collection –** Final fieldwork collection opportunity • **Classroom session 8 –** Review of enquiries. Option for statistics demonstration.

Context: (Useful for students to consider in advance of their visit)

Southwold is a traditional British seaside resort town. The local economy is dependent on tourism. The biggest tourist attraction is the beach. Yet the sea also presents the biggest threat to Southwold – this is a very dynamic coastline with high rates of erosion, longshore drift and often, powerful and destructive waves - especially during winter storms.

The town is protected by a range of different coastal defences and the management of these is important to protecting the community here. This is a fantastic place to investigate coastal process such as erosion and longshore drift and the impact of the management of these threats to the local community.

The popularity and accessibility of the town has also created an ongoing human challenge – namely the influx of second home owners, and the issues which their increasing population presents. Gentrification has changed the type of services provided by the high street due largely to the fact that the demographics of Southwold now reflect a wealthy middle and upper class. Locals are being priced out of the town, which in turn is subsequently threatens locals services such as the hospital and police station, both of which have recently closed. On face value, Southwold is a thriving, successful place, yet dig a little deeper and the very people that are attracted to Southwold are the ones which challenge the sustainability of it's population and success.

Useful initial research:

Southwold's Economic Town Plan – March 2017 http://www.coastalcommunities.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/southwold-cct-economic-plan-full-1.pdf

Southwold's Shoreline Management Plan – Proposal summary
http://www.suffolksmp2.org.uk/publicdocuments/finalsmp2/SMP%20May%202012%20Proof%203.pdf

Full version -
http://www.suffolksmp2.org.uk/publicdocuments/finalsmp2/Section%204_Policy%20Development%20Zones/PDZ3v9.pdf