



Valuable Ventnor!

Welcome to Ventnor! In this location, you will study:

- ✓ What the **human features** of Ventnor are, why these are 'valuable' and, therefore, why **coastal protection** is needed
- ✓ How **coastal management techniques** are protecting the town.

Introducing Ventnor

Ventnor has grown from its humble roots as a small fishing hamlet. In the mid-19th Century, the warm climate and fresh channel air was considered beneficial to health and several sanatoriums were established, taking patients from all over the country. By the middle of the 20th century, Ventnor was thriving as a seaside resort, and is still popular today with holiday-makers.



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Ventnor Cottage Hospital between 1890 & 1900.
(Detroit Publishing Company, 1905)

sheltered from the north by the steep St Boniface Down, rising to almost 800 feet above the town, its physical geography has created a unique Mediterranean microclimate, with more hours of sunshine and fewer frosts than much of the British Isles. In Ventnor, you will find species of plants and animals that usually aren't found outside of the Mediterranean. Look carefully along the walls and you may well see a wall lizard; usually found in southern Europe!

Human characteristics of Ventnor

Take a little walk around the seafront in Ventnor. What **human characteristics** can you spot?

What are the different types of **land use**? Can you spot the following? (Tick them as you go)...



Ventnor at risk!

Winter storms can be punishing in this location. The long **fetch** (the distance over which the wind blows) across the channel and the fact that Ventnor faces south, exposing it to the **prevailing** SW winds, can lead to **high energy destructive** waves and a **storm surge** over 1 metre higher than normal levels. The seafront can take a battering!

You are going to consider the importance of the human geography of Ventnor, and why it needs protecting.

Complete the table below in as much detail as you can – one has been done as an example for you.

Human feature / characteristic	Why is this important?	Why does this need protecting?
<i>The road</i>	<i>The road serves the seafront businesses and residential properties and is vital for access. There is also parking along the edge of the road for visitors, and the road leads to large car parks at both ends of the beach.</i>	<i>Without coastal protection, this road would be under serious threat from coastal erosion. Winter storms could destroy it and prevent access for businesses and residents.</i>

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Protection in place...

You are now going to investigate what is being done to protect Ventnor. The management plan in Ventnor is to 'hold the line', which means that the current coastline must be protected by maintaining existing defences and/or building new ones so that protection is sufficient.

So, what is being done, and how is it protecting Ventnor? The images below show the main techniques used to protect Ventnor town/beach-front itself, and its surroundings. Annotate each image to explain how each technique works...

Limestone boulder revetment

Wooden groyne



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Stepped wall

Limestone boulder revetment



Sea wall

Outside of steps reinforced



Concrete beach access steps