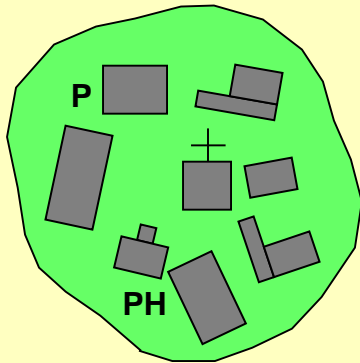


Settlement Sites

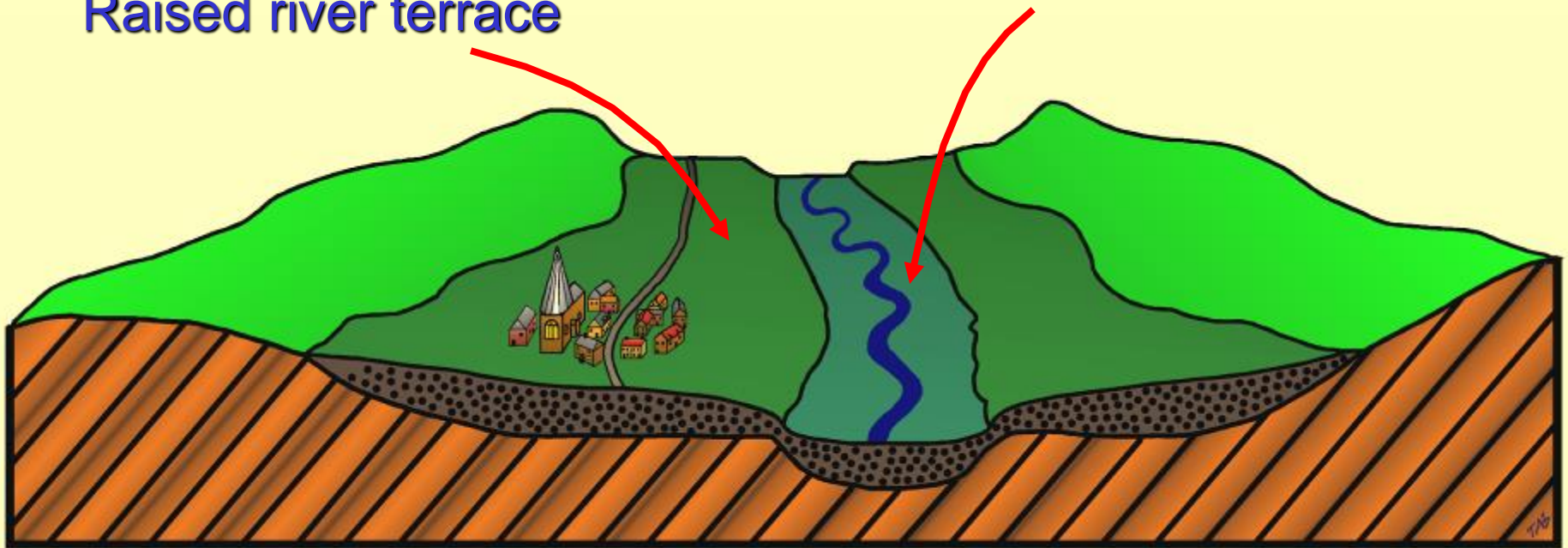
Village



Valley Site

River floodplain

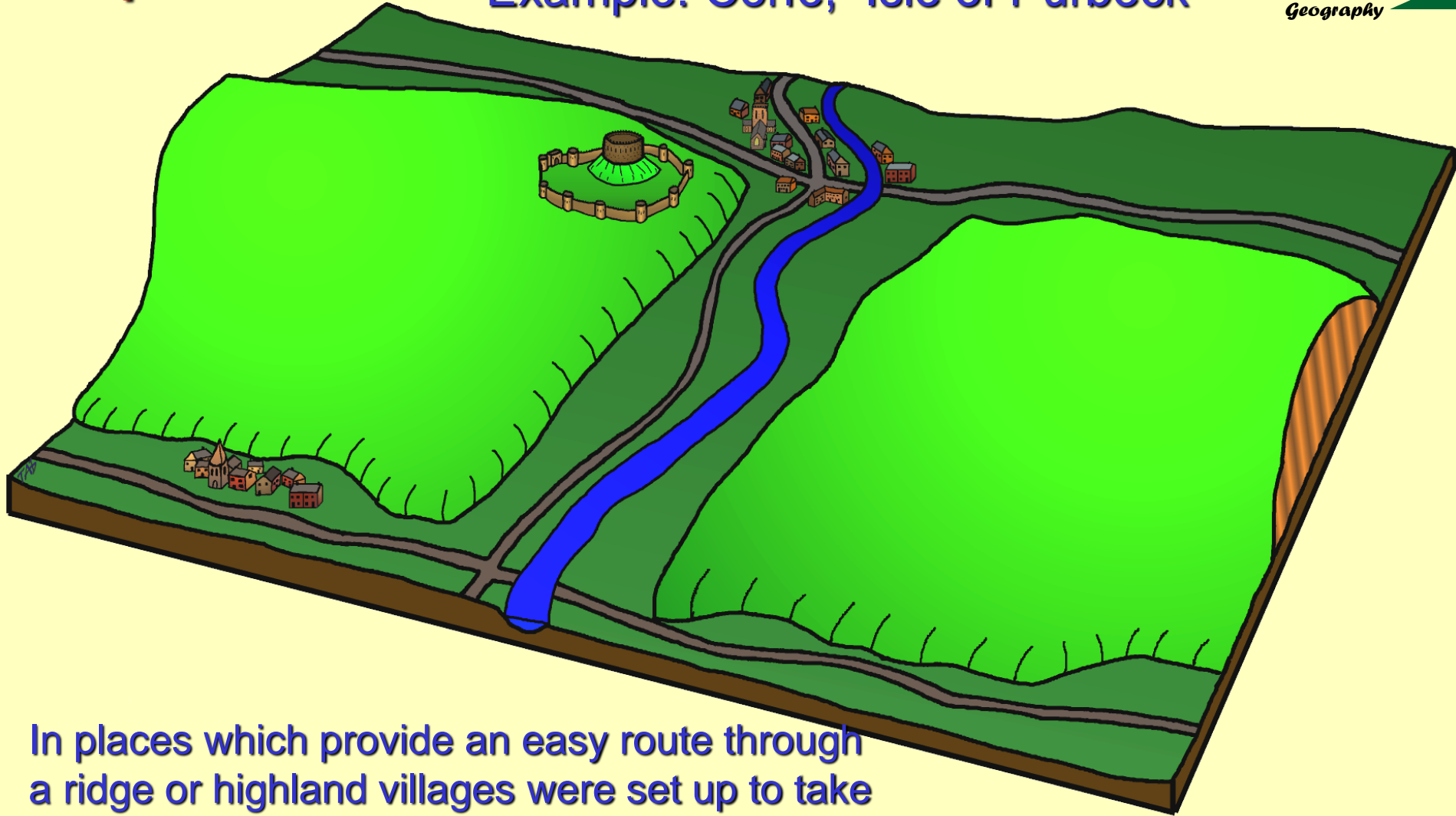
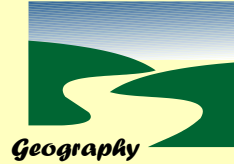
Raised river terrace



Some settlements are located in a valley to obtain water from the river. The flat land (deposited silt) also provided fertile farmland. The flat land above the floodplain might provide an excellent transport route way.

Gap Town

Example: Corfe, Isle of Purbeck

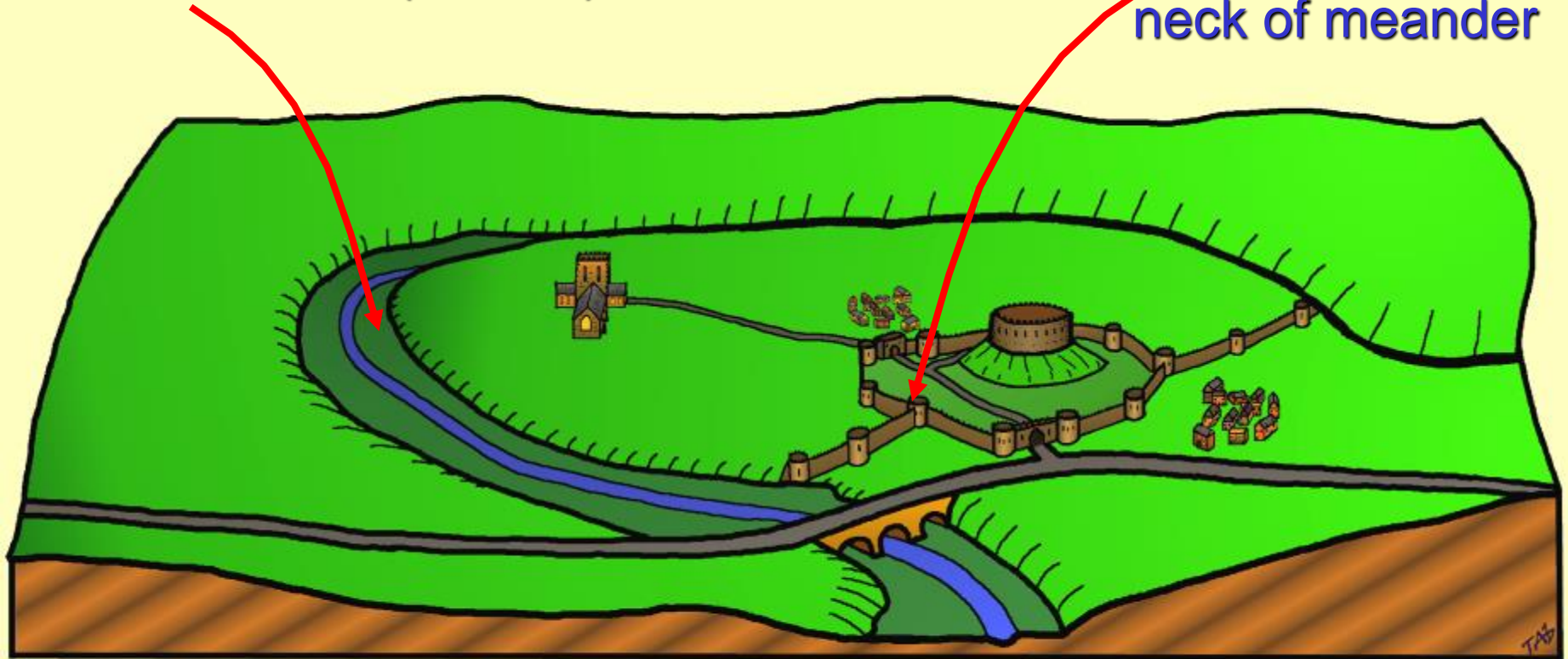


In places which provide an easy route through a ridge or highland villages were set up to take advantage of the trade and travellers. Highland can provide good defensive sites.

Defence Site Example: City of Durham

River meander (incised)

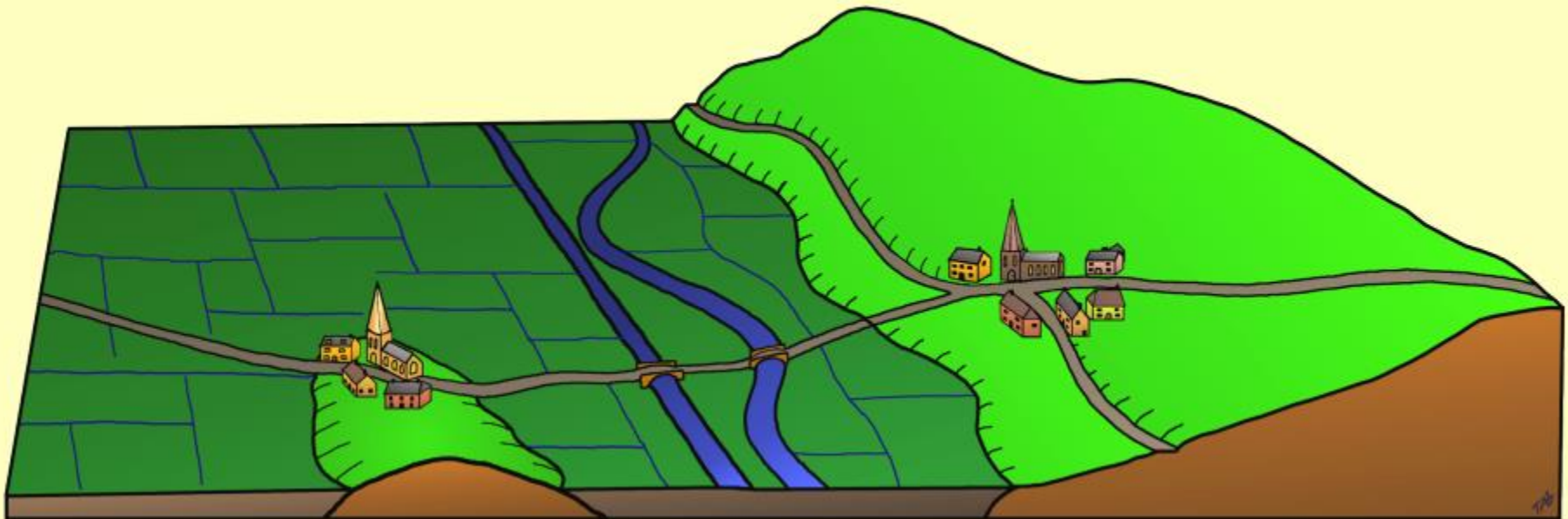
Defences on the neck of meander



Early settlers needed to find places which were easily defended from attack. A good site was one which was surrounded by a river meander. The villagers would only have to build defences on one side at the neck of the meander.

Dry Point Site

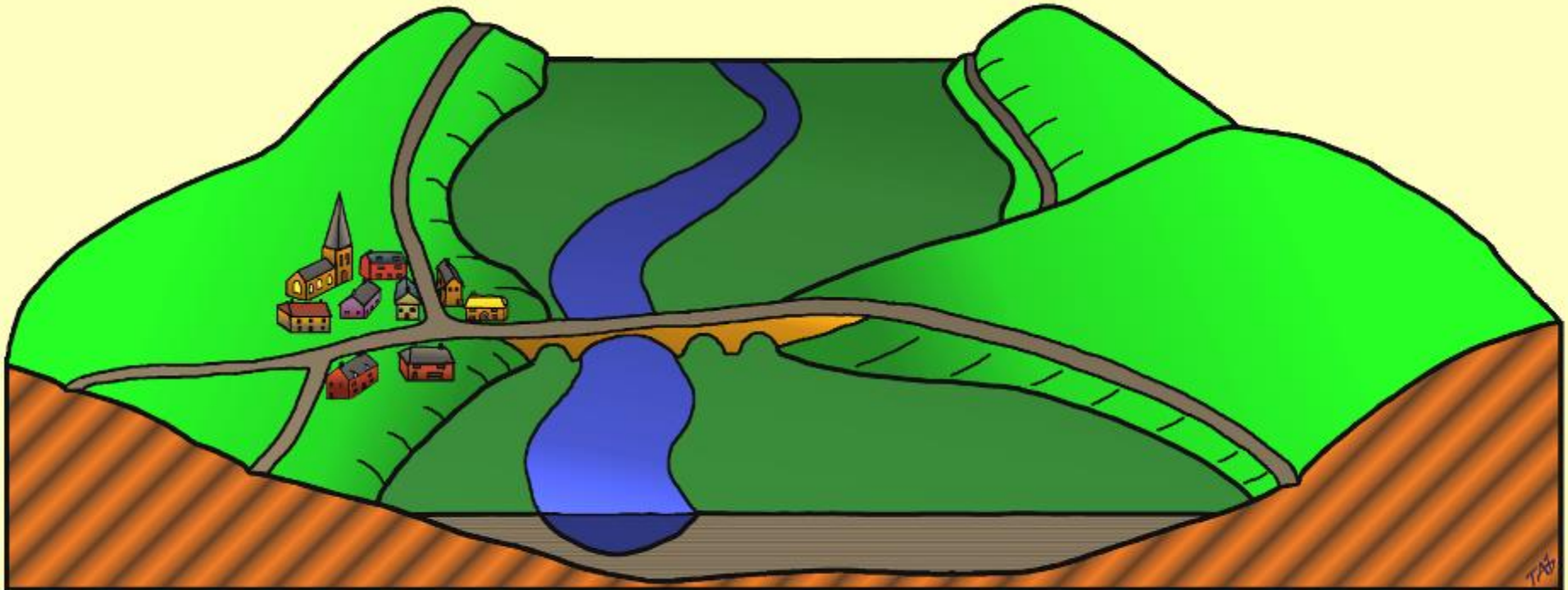
Example: Isle Ely (Fens), Cambridgeshire



In areas of the country where the landscape flooded regularly people sought locations which were normally drier. This might be on the edge of the wetland area or on islands of higher land.

Bridging Point

Example: City of Oxford



Villages were sometimes built at places where it was easier to cross a valley floodplain. These places acted as nodal points, an attraction for travellers and traders.