

Geography Knowledge Organiser

Year 3

Autumn (ii)

What can you find out about The North Downs?

Substantive Knowledge – The North Downs are a range of chalk hills and valleys in south east England.

Counties and Cities of the United Kingdom.

In the North East of England:

County Durham; Tyne and Wear; Northumberland and part of North Yorkshire known as Tees Valley.

Cities include: Newcastle-Upon-Tyne and Durham.

In the South East of England:

Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Hampshire.

Cities include: Oxford, Portsmouth and Southampton



The North Downs and Their Identifying Physical Characteristics and Topography



The North Downs are a range of chalk hills and valleys in south east England (such as the deep valleys of the Stour, Medway, Darent, Wey and Mole). Chalk forms the backbone of the North Downs but the upper part of the hills are covered with clay and flint deposits. They have been formed after many years of erosion and the build-up of sedimentary rock. Patches of clay and sandy soils also occur in dry valleys. The North Downs end at the dramatic White Cliffs of Dover, one of the country's most distinctive and famous landmarks.

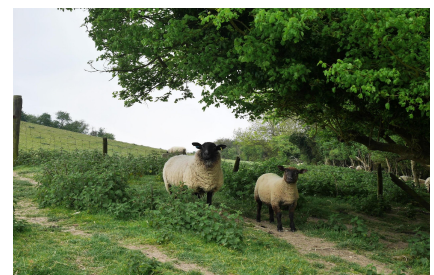
Due to the porous nature of the underlying chalk, the North Downs is generally a treeless landscape. However, there are areas of open chalk where grasslands grow and sheep can graze. There is also a large rabbit population which keep the scrubland down.



The North Downs Way



The White Cliffs of Dover



Sheep grazing on the North Downs

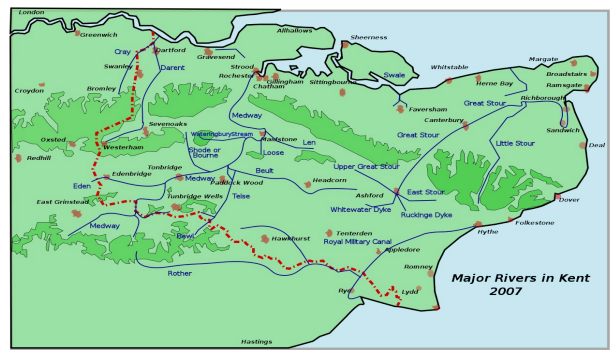
Coasts and Rivers of The North Downs

The ridge of the North Downs is intersected by the valleys of a series of rivers: the Wey, Mole, Darent, Medway and Stour. In addition to existing rivers, the Downs are crossed by a number of wind gaps – prehistoric river valleys no longer occupied by rivers.

Part of the England Coast Path that runs near to the North Downs Way along the edge of the cliff between Round Down and Shakespeare has collapsed and is no longer useable.

The Medway Megaliths

These are a group of Early Neolithic and other megalithic monuments in the lower valley of the River Medway in Kent.



The North Downs and Their Identifying Human Characteristics

The North Downs Way is a well-signposted 131-mile (209.6km) walk over generally level and firm ground. It is an attraction for tourists and walkers who enjoy being in nature and the outdoors. There are a number of picturesque villages with roads and paths to guide walkers. Along the coastal pathway, there are handrails and fences. For those needing a rest break, there are also benches.



The North Downs Way – Kent Downs



The Coastal Path



Waymarked Trail

Portable Knowledge – What we need to remember

Most human settlements are near to water as we need water to survive.

The North Downs are a range of chalk hills and valleys in south east England which were formed over millions of years and have many physical characteristics including coastal paths and open grasslands as well as wind gaps.

Counties are areas of land which are made up of cities and towns.

Core Vocabulary

Topography– the arrangement of human and physical features.

County– the dividing of a country into smaller areas with local government.

Valley – a low area of land between hills and mountains.