

SOUTH DOWNS
NATIONAL PARK



Our South Downs

Jonathan Dean – Education Officer



Learning in the South Downs



- Why the South Downs?
- Where can I find out more about the South Downs?
- Where can I go?
- What else?





South Downs
National Park Authority

UK National Park family



South Downs National Park



Coastline



Rivers and wetlands



Market towns



Farming



The South Downs Way



Scheduled monuments



Biodiversity



Rare habitats



Learning in the South Downs



- School visits to the South Downs National Park are increasing
- Schools are including it in their curriculum
- Multiple benefits
- Part of a bigger journey



Where can I find out more?

- Learning Zone
- Newsletters
- South Downs Curriculum



Search Learning Zone

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK Learning Zone

learning.southdowns.gov.uk

- About The National Park
- Wildlife & Habitats
- Geology & Landscapes
- Culture & Heritage
- Farming & Land Management
- Economy & Industry
- Access & Recreation
- Resource Finder



OUR SOUTH DOWNS SCHOOLS' CONFERENCE

BOOK YOUR SPACE AT THE 2018 SCHOOLS' CONFERENCE

We are pleased to be hosting the 6th annual schools' conference at Amberley Museum & Heritage Centre on Wednesday 21 March 2018. Booking is open to all primary and secondary teachers, governors and senior leaders from schools in and around the South Downs National Park.

LEARNING IN THE SOUTH DOWNS

The Education Team works with schools, students and outdoor learning providers to support learning in, and about, the National Park. Find out more about how you can get involved



NEWS

The hub of all things educational: news stories, how to get involved, updates on outdoor learning and inspiring uses of the South Downs to bring the curriculum to life.



LEARNING MAP

Your tool to find opportunities to learn outside the classroom: filter the options to find the perfect visit for your group.



SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK Learning Zone

learning.southdowns.gov.uk

- About National Park
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- Resource Finder

- Dark Night Skies
- South Downs Habitats
 - Chalk Downland
 - Coastal and Marine
 - Farmland
 - Heathland
 - Rivers and Wetlands
 - Woodland
- South Downs Species
 - Water Vole

WILDLIFE & HABITATS

The South Downs has many different types of habitats due to the type of land, weather patterns and the way that the land has been managed. These habitats include [chalk downland](#), [lowland heath](#), [woodland](#), [wetland](#) and [rivers, farmland, coastal and marine](#). Many rare and important wildlife species live in the South Downs.

Sheep-grazed downland is the main habitat of the [chalk](#) landscape. Southdown sheep are a local breed that eat the grass and encourages lots of other species in the area.

The greensand of the Western Weald contains important lowland heath habitats including Woolmer Forest. This is the only site in the British Isles where all our native reptile and amphibian species are found.

West of the River Arun the National Park is more wooded. There are important features such as the ancient yew woodland and the magnificent "hanging" woodlands.

A large percentage of the National Park is farmland. Farmland includes important wildlife habitats such as hedgerows, arable land, semi-natural grassland and dew ponds.

The river valleys that cross the South Downs support wetland habitats and a wealth of birdlife.

EXTERNAL LINKS

- National Trust
- Nature Detectives
- Sussex Wildlife Trust
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
- Open Air Laboratories (OPAL)
- BBC Summer of Wildlife
- Brighton Biosphere Project

KEY MESSAGES

Did you know 

The National Park is not a wilderness, the habitats need to be managed by people to keep them special.

JARGON BUSTER

Biodiversity – is a term used to describe the variety of life on earth



SHEEP

00:00 | 08:51



RESOURCES TOOLBOX

General Interest All Ages

 **Chalk Grassland**
Introducing chalk grasslands - the European

LEARNING MAP



TAKE PART...

Completed a [Bee Scene Botanical Adventure](#)? Add your results to the Wild about Plants map.

Virtual flower meadow 

- Met good for wildflowers
- Good for wildflowers

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK Learning Zone

About The National Park

Wildlife & Habitats

Geology & Landscapes

Culture & Heritage

Farming & Land Management

Economy & Industry

Access & Recreation

Resource Finder

News

- Sign up to the Outdoor Provider Newsletter
- Sign up to the Teacher Newsletter
- Meeting Curriculum Needs
- Staying Safe
- Endorsed Seasons
- John Muir Award
- Travel Grant
- Work Experience
- Useful Organisations
 - Our South Downs Network
- Events and Courses Calendar
 - Annual Schools' Conference

EDUCATION TEAM BLOG

Welcome to the Education Team blog – news stories, links to new resources, plans for upcoming projects and details about how you can get involved.

NEWSLETTER

Make sure that you never miss an opportunity! Sign up to receive our termly newsletter directly to your inbox.

Teachers

Education Providers

BOOK YOUR SPACE AT THE 2018 SCHOOLS' CONFERENCE

December 4th, 2017



[2018 Schools' Conference](#)

We are pleased to be hosting the 6th annual schools' conference at Amberley Museum & Heritage Centre on Wednesday 21 March 2018. Booking is open to all primary and secondary teachers, governors and senior leaders from schools in and around the South Downs National Park. Inspiring key-note speakers and hands on workshops make this conference a ... [Continue reading BOOK YOUR SPACE at the](#)

[7 REASONS TO VISIT THE SOUTH DOWNS WITH YOUR CLASS THIS](#)

Search Learning Zone

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK Learning Zone

About The National Park

Wildlife & Habitats

Geology & Landscapes

Culture & Heritage

Farming & Land Management

Economy & Industry

Access & Recreation

Resource Finder

FILTERS

Key Stages

- All ages
- EYFS
- Key Stage 1
- Key Stage 2
- Key Stage 3
- Key Stage 4
- Key Stage 5
- HE & FE

Subject

- General
- History
- Art & Design
- Citizenship
- English
- Geography
- ICT
- Maths
- Languages
- Music
- RE
- Science
- Technology

All Resource Types

RESOURCE FINDER

Looking for a specific resource – use the filters to search through our collection.



BE A WATER HERO – SOUTHERN WATER

We live in a water-stressed area and it's important we use this precious resource wisely.

All ages

Key Stage 1

Key Stage 2

Citizenship

Science

Technology

PDF

Geology

Geology & Landscapes

Rivers

DOWNLOAD



HEATHLANDS REUNITED PROJECT AREA SCHOOLS

Check if your school is eligible for free visits (including transport costs) to heathland sites in the National Park.

Key Stage 1

Key Stage 2

Key Stage 3

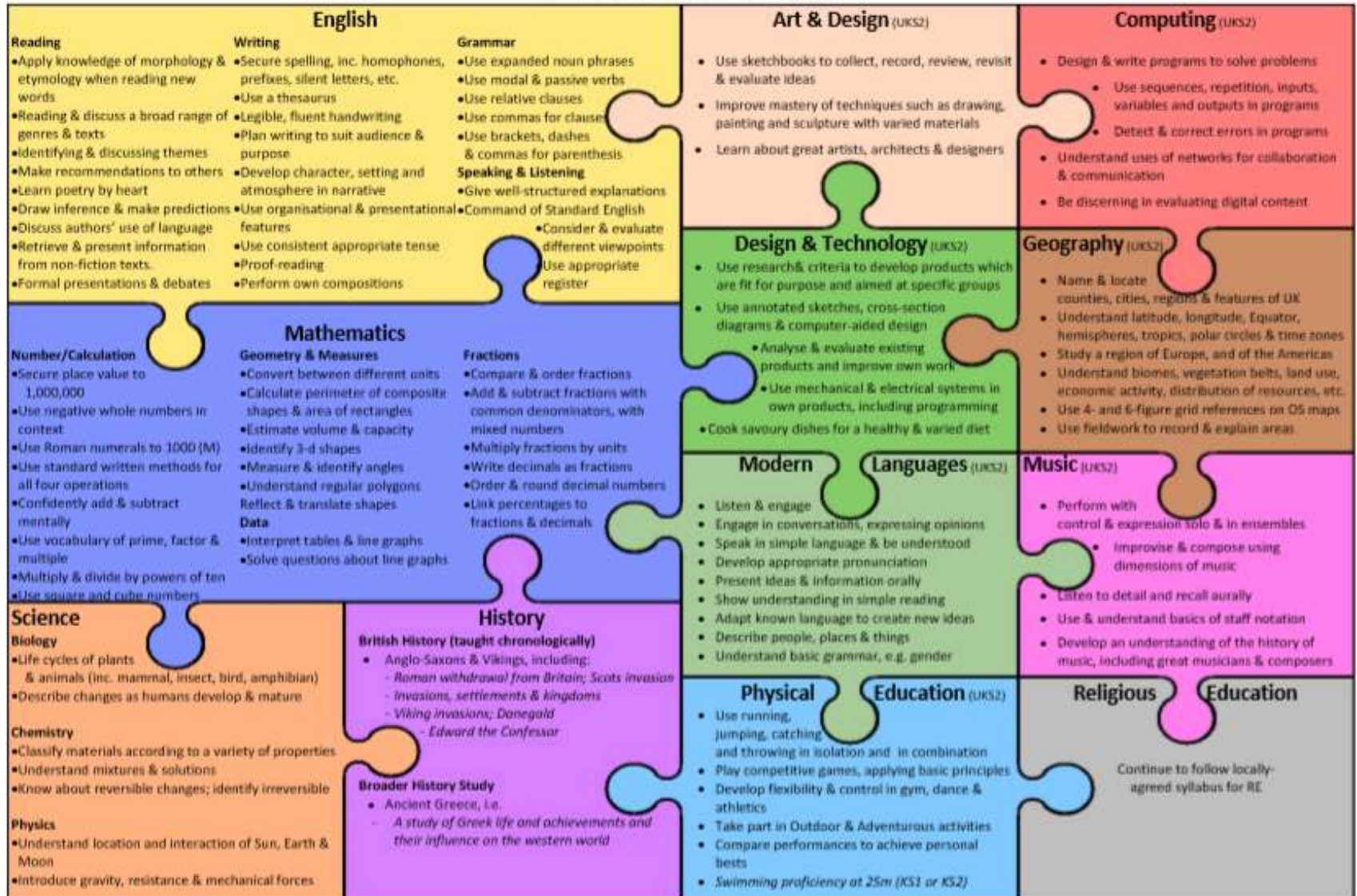
Key Stage 4

General

PDF

South Downs Curriculum

Curriculum Overview for Year 5



South Downs Curriculum



Plants

SDNP Species

Statutory requirements

Pupils should be taught to:

- observe and describe how seeds and bulbs grow into mature plants
- find out and describe how plants need water, light and a suitable temperature to grow and stay healthy.

Growing Schools

The Growing Schools website provide support and information on school grounds, in the local community and further afield.

Notes and guidance (non-statutory)

Pupils should use the local environment throughout the year to observe how different plants grow. Pupils should be introduced to the requirements of plants for germination, growth and survival, as well as to the processes of reproduction and growth in plants.

Note: Seeds and bulbs need water to grow but most do not need light; seeds and bulbs have a store of food inside them.

Pupils might work scientifically by: observing and recording, with some accuracy, the growth of a variety of plants as they change over time from a seed or bulb, or observing similar plants at different stages of growth; setting up a comparative test to show that plants need light and water to stay healthy.



Animals, including humans

Statutory requirements

Pupils should be taught to:

- notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults
- find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival (water, food and air)
- describe the importance for humans of exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food, and hygiene.



A visit to a farm during learning season would be an excellent way to learn about the basic needs of animals. Your local farmers welcome their

Where can I go?

- Places to go
- People to meet
- How to get there



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LEARNING MAP

Welcome to the South Downs National Park Learning Map

LEARNING

FOR CODE

DISTANCE

> 500m

VISIT OPTI


What

How


Who

When

Facilities



National Nature Reserve



Max: 32 students

Distance: 0.5

Address:

Brighton & Hove
East Sussex

Contact: Joanna Carter


Tel: 0300 060 4645

Email: Joanna.Carter@naturalengland.org.uk

Website: www.naturalengland.org.uk/castlehilnnr

Castle Hill

Visitors welcome: Castle Hill is a fine example of ancient, traditionally-managed chalk grassland. Open all year round, all ages are welcome and entry is free. We run a variety of events and ranger-led school visits can be arranged.



View from Castle Hill

Document Links

[Castle hill nnr welcome sheet](#)

[About Castle Hill NNR](#)

Print

School Travel Grant



- Over 200 eligible schools
- Up to £300 toward transport costs when visiting an eligible site
- Schools will be emailed in the summer term
- Check eligibility on the learning zone



What else?

