

Our island home

- The British Isles is a group of **islands** separated from the rest of Europe by the sea. While Great Britain and Ireland are by far the largest islands, there are many smaller ones. Some, like the Isle of Wight are **inhabited**, but others are small pieces of land in the sea.
- The UK is made up of four **nations**- England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- Great Britain (or Britain) is made up of England, Wales and Scotland but not Northern Ireland.
- England is divided into **regions**, such as the West Midlands and the South West. These are broken down into even smaller areas, such as **counties**.

The UK in Europe

Despite being an island, the UK has very strong links with continental Europe.

Channel tunnel-opened in 1994, this 38-km tunnel linking the UK and France is the longest undersea tunnel in the world.

Trade-imports include vehicles and electrical machinery. Exports include machinery and drugs used for medicine.

Travel-in 2017, almost 16 million people from the UK visited Spain, the most popular European destination.

Education-many UK students travel to European countries like France or Spain to brush up their language skills or study the geography.

Space and research-The European Space Agency is based in Paris, France. CERN operates in Geneva.

Learning about the UK using OS maps

Maps use symbols to show features such as roads and schools. These are explained in the key. Like all good maps it also has a title, a scale and a north arrow.

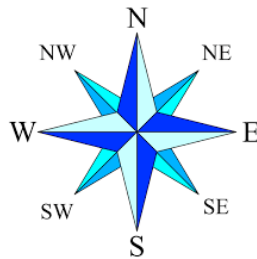
Land's End to John O'Groats

Have you heard of the phrase 'Land's End to John O'Groats'? It is a route that stretches the whole length of the British Isles. Land's End is in the far south-west of Cornwall. John O'Groats is in the far north-east corner of Scotland. In total, the route stretches for 1407km. The journey is below:

Introduction to the UK

Exploring the local environment

Your **local environment** may be an area close to your home or school. It could be a housing estate, a small village or a wood. Local environments can be mapped in several ways. Very accurate maps drawn to scale are published by the Ordnance Survey. Other maps include **mental maps** and **sketch maps**.



Cornwall



Dartmoor



Bristol



Welsh Border



St Helens and Merseyside



The Lake District



Scottish Lochs



Scottish Highlands



Journey's end – John O'Groats

Key terms

Island-a piece of land surrounded by water

Inhabited-lived on

Nation-a group of people with a strong sense of identity

Region-large area, often part of a country such as the South West region in the UK

County-historical administrative area, such as Yorkshire

National park-an area of outstanding beauty that is protected from development

Creative economy-an economy based on creative industries such as media and film

Continent-a large landmass, for example Europe or Asia

European Union-a group of European countries whose government work together

Trade-buying and selling goods

Imports-goods and services that enter a country

Exports-goods and services that leave a country

Local environment-a small area such as a housing estate or park

Mental map-a personal memory map of an area

Sketch map-a map of an area that has been drawn to scale

Redevelop-improve a run-down area, usually in a town or city

Re-wilding-restoring and protecting natural processes and ecosystem

Urban-in towns or cities

Rain garden-an area of grassland, flowers and trees that stores and uses up water to reduce the risk of flooding

Guerrilla gardening-converting a derelict or abandoned area into a garden, often without legal permission to do so

Ordnance Survey (OS) maps-very detailed maps of Great Britain available at different scales

Linear scale-a line on a map divided into equal parts, which shows how much map distance represents the real distance between places