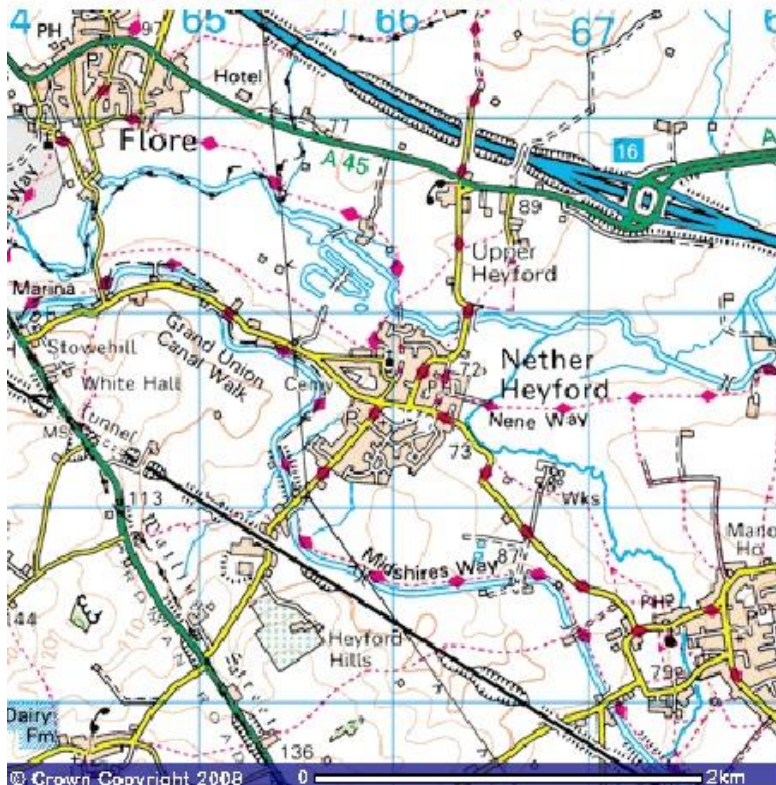


Using Topographical Maps to Analyse Population Distribution and Settlement Patterns.

Introduction: As Geographers it is extremely important that you understand what topographical maps are and how to use them.

Topographical maps are used by soldiers, engineers, biologists, hikers, forest rangers and teachers of Geography among other professional. Topographical maps show both natural and man-made features.

SETTLEMENT



This includes:-

Its location – Where is it?

Its shape – (linear, star shaped, nucleated)

Its pattern – (nucleated, dispersed or evenly spread)

The map above is a topographical map of a section of Oxfordshire in the United Kingdom. To analyse settlement pattern please pay attention to the following:

1. Study the key or legend as well as the scale to have an idea as to where you are studying and possibly the size of the area.

2. Identify the type of settlement, is it rural or urban based on the known characteristics of both.

3. Identify the settlement pattern-is the settlement isolated, nucleated, dispersed or linear.

4. Refer to the Site and Situation of the Settlement

5. Find relationships (if asked) between settlement and other features for example, settlement may be impacted by the presence of water supply. Additionally you may notice that relief (terrain) affects settlement.

Describing Population Distribution

When describing population distribution on a topographical map ask and answer these questions.

1. Is the population **evenly** or **unevenly** spread?

2. Where do **most** people live?

3. Where do **least** people live?

4. How does the pattern change across the area?

5. Are there exceptions to the pattern described above?