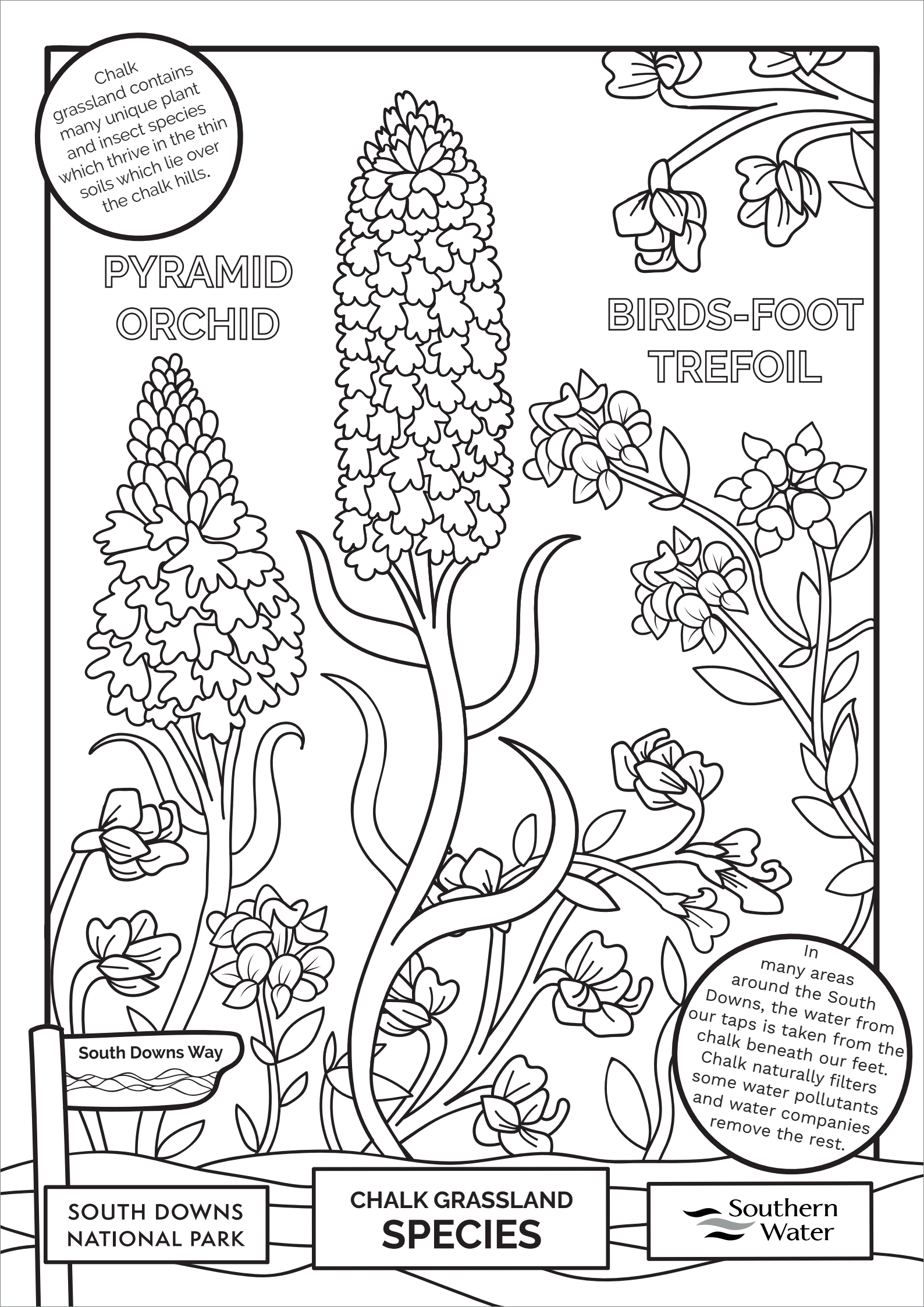
Chalk grassland contains many unique plant and insect species which thrive in the thin soils which lie over the chalk hills.

PYRAMID ORCHID

BIRDS-FOOT TREFOIL



In many areas around the South Downs, the water from our taps is taken from the chalk beneath our feet. Chalk naturally filters some water pollutants and water companies remove the rest.

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

CHALK GRASSLAND
SPECIES

Southern Water

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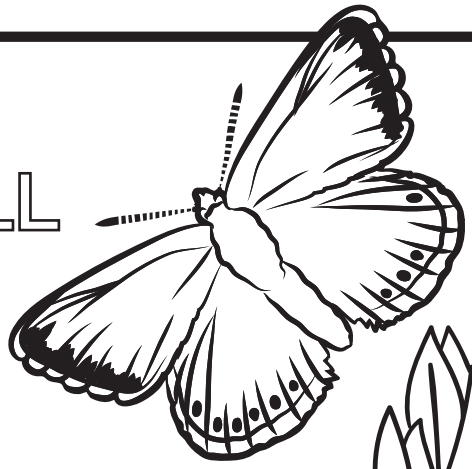
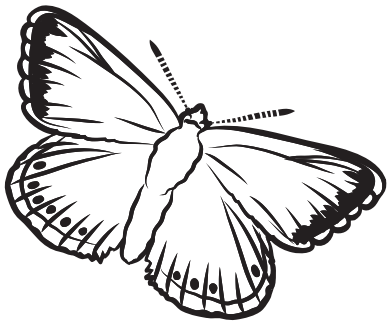
CHALKHILL BLUE





BEE ORCHIDS

South Downs Way

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CARLINE THISTLE

ADONIS BLUE

ROUND-HEADED RAMPION

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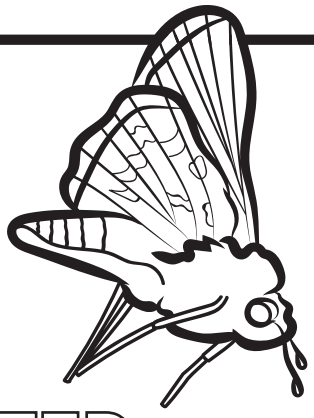
CHALK GRASSLAND
SPECIES

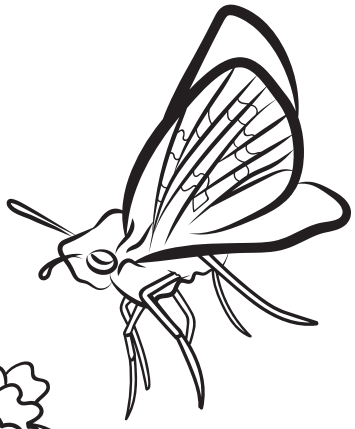
Southern Water

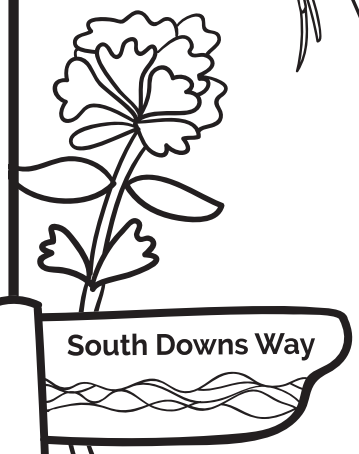
Chalk grassland is as rare and precious as tropical rain forest and needs to be looked after by grazing animals such as sheep on it.



SILVER SPOTTED SKIPPER

WILD THYME





Chalk is formed of the skeletons of tiny marine organisms which lived millions of years ago and contains tiny holes like those in a sponge which allow it to hold water.

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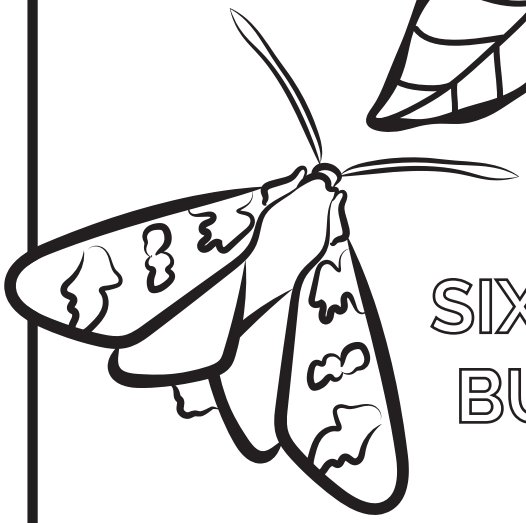
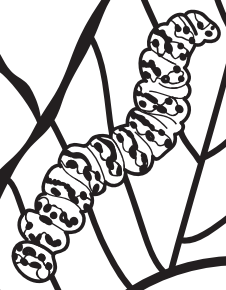


SIX-SPOT BURNET

BEE HAWK MOTH

WAYFARING TREE



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South Downs Way

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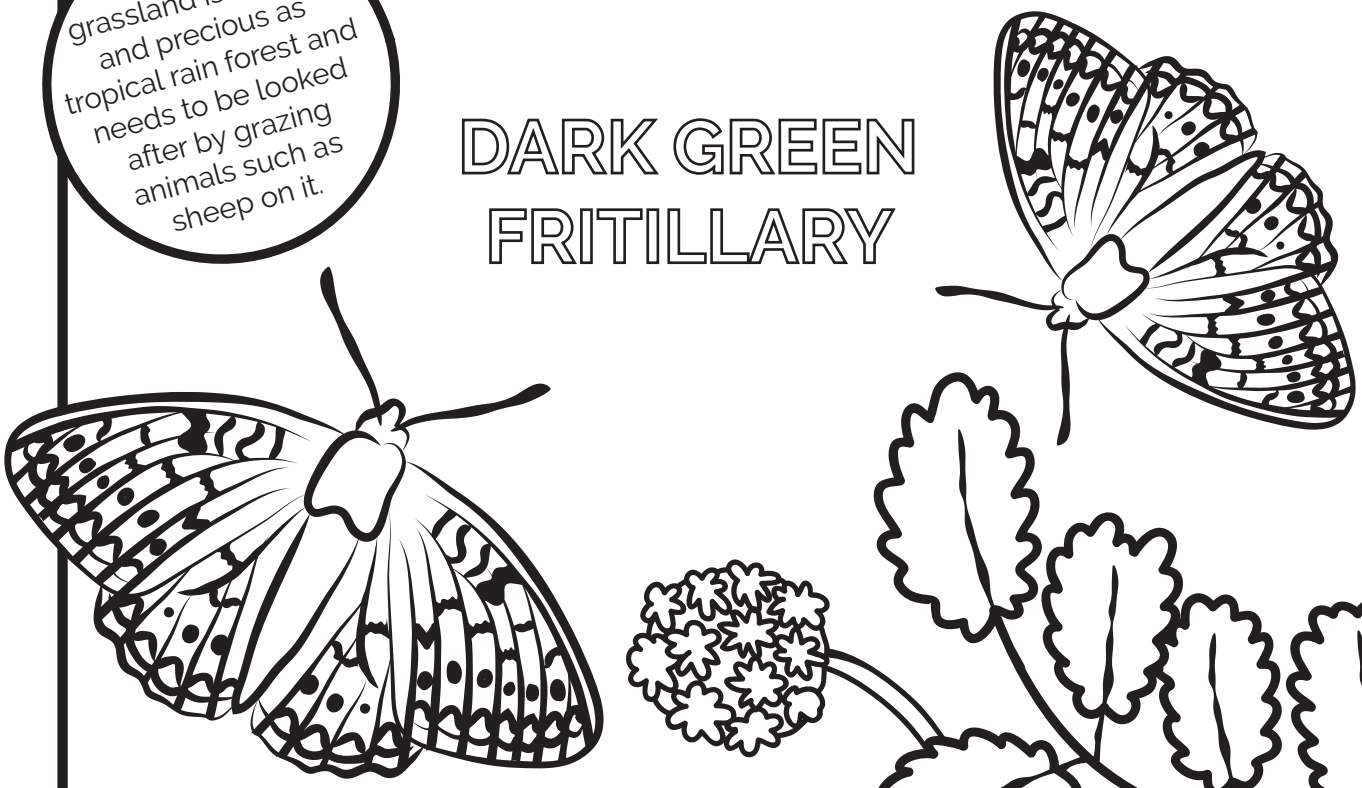
DARK GREEN FRITILLARY



SALAD BURNET

South Downs Way

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