

Teachers pack - Big Bang Highways England Biodiversity session

Lesson: More than a road – how road builders make decisions about nature.

Learning objective


To understand the impact of road building on the local habitat, how this links to understanding the role and value of biodiversity and how Highways England (road operator) plays a role in looking after these habitats.

Activity

Students to imagine they are an Ecologist who is involved in the delivery of a Major Road Scheme, responsible for ensuring that the environment which surrounds the Road is not severely impacted, and remains biodiverse.

Students to use Biodiversity Game Excel spreadsheet to complete the task.

Rules:

1. You can choose any habitat from the drop downs for the five blank spaces shown. More information about the habitats can be found in your ____.
You should review this to ensure you select the best options possible.
2. You must choose one square to be the construction site () , which must then go back to being its baseline habitat once construction has finished.
3. You must end up with two Wheat crop fields by the end.

Bonus points available for:

Chalk Grassland: If you can get 3 in a row for Chalk Grassland, you get an extra five points - you have connected priority habitats which is good.

Enhance square: You can choose one square to leave as its original habitat, and enhance it. It scores double points for that square but must be the same habitat as before.

Your Enhance square cannot be the same as your Compound square

Farmer Bonus: The farmer would like easy fields to harvest. If you have two Wheat Crop fields next to each other, you get an extra 2 points

Useful resources

- Habitat type descriptors
- Map of the Baseline habitat