

# Biodiversity

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<b>Topic</b>	Biodiversity, Design
<b>Level and Subject/s</b>	KS3/4 Biology and Environment
<b>Duration</b>	6 Hours (2 x 3 hr units)
<b>Background</b>	Greenham Common was originally common land, until it was taken over for use as a RAF airfield in 1941. It was used as an American Airbase from 1950's until 1992. Following the removal of fuel storage tanks and the runway in the 1990's, it was decided to allow the common to revert to its original state as a common land.
<b>Aims</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To develop an understanding of biodiversity.</li><li>2. To critically evaluate the methods for re-establishing biodiversity.</li><li>3. To understand the importance of the positive/negative impact of grazing on the common and to understand the importance of positive/negative impact of human activity on the common.</li></ol>
<b>Enterprise outcomes</b>	Students will develop the following enterprise capabilities; <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✦ Gathering and analysing information</li><li>✦ Report writing and presentation techniques</li><li>✦ Designing guides for use by the public</li></ul>
<b>Project outline</b>	This activity aims to engage the students to consider the impact of biodiversity past and present on Greenham Common. This will be completed in a group report of a particular species either flora or fauna, a group presentation on their chosen species and a class-produced ramblers' guide, incorporating known facts and areas of each group's particular species.
<b>Tasks</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Teacher introduces the activity and explains the aims.</li><li>2. Teacher introduces Greenham Common using the Power Point presentation on its history over the last 100 years (i.e. common land to airbase to quarrying). Teachers could also highlight that the surrounding areas are important as well to biodiversity (e.g. The Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust reserves and Sites of Special Scientific Interest [SSSI's]).</li></ol> <p>Teacher Note: The following two sections must be done consecutively.</p> <p>Continues overleaf</p>

# Biodiversity - continued

## Section 1.

### The biodiversity of Greenham Common – What is there?

3. Teacher organises students into groups (ideally 3 – 6 pupils in each group). Each group will then choose from a list of species either flora or fauna, known to be found on Greenham Common and preferably on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan listing.

4. Each group will then use the website resources to start a report on their chosen species to include information on the following:

- ★ The species biodiversity
- ★ Its lifecycle
- ★ Its place in the food chain/web
- ★ Is there competition for habitat or for food from other species
- ★ Are there predators or prey that may affect the chosen species survival

The report will be completed in section 2.

5. Teacher organises students into two groups. First group will write a short report on the impacts (positive and negative) of grazing animals on the common. The second group will write a short report on the impacts (positive and negative) of human activity on the common.

## Section 2.

### Field Trip and Ramblers Guide

6. Field trip to Greenham Common. Students and teachers can use the visit to:

- ★ make field sketches of the common and of their species habitat
- ★ make counts of their species, where possible
- ★ have talks from local wardens and wildlife groups (these will need to be arranged in advance)

add all this information to the students reports

7. Conclude the reports (from section 1) by finishing with a section on the whether the regeneration of the airbase site had a positive or negative effect on their chosen species, including the effects of grazing the common.

8. Use the information contained in the reports to produce a Ramblers Guide to Greenham Common for use by the general public.

**For school visits to Greenham Common please contact the Thatcham Discovery Centre – see visits on website**