

# Biodiversity

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## Student Module

### Section 1.

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

##### Background

The common has a wide variety of flora and fauna that have co-existed with using the common for grazing animals, for centuries. Since 1715 the common has also been used for military exercises and camps until 1997 when the site was bought by the Greenham Common Trust.

**1.** Each student group (ideally 3 – 6 pupils in each group) will choose one species from a list of species of either flora or fauna, known to be found on Greenham Common and preferably on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan listing. (See appendix)

Each group will then use the web site 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.

**2.** The site was originally grazed as common land by cattle and other animals. The rights of some local people (“commoners”) to graze animals had applied before the Air Ministry took over the land in 1941. After the War, it became public land again when the land reverted to the council and the commoners in 1946, but was then taken back in 1951 for the US Air Force. Eventually the management of the common was taken over by Newbury District Council in 1997.

Students will form into two groups. The 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.



# Biodiversity - continued

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## Student Module

### Section 2.

#### Field Trip and Ramblers Guide

##### Background

When the council took over the common in 1997 it was to be opened up for the use of the commoners and public. To help people find their way around the common and to inform them of the flora and fauna, you will as a group, produce a Ramblers Guide to the common.

**1.** On the field trip to Greenham Common students 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

Add to your reports all the information gathered above.

**2.** Finish writing your reports with a section on whether the regeneration of the airbase site had a positive or negative effect on your chosen species, including any effects on your species from grazing on the common.

**3.** As a class use the information contained in your reports to produce a Ramblers Guide to Greenham Common for use by the general public.