

Handout Sheet 2



This CREST-accredited project can be put towards achieving a CREST Bronze Award

Environment Manager

Background

As part of this project you will need to investigate one aspect of the environment in and around your school. For this information sheet we have asked Gerrit, an Environment Manager at HS2, to write a diary entry.

A little bit about me: I am Gerrit, an Environment Manager at HS2. It is my job to investigate the impact of HS2 on the environment, to create strategies to make sure that impacts are minimised and that the project meets with environmental laws and regulations. I have a master's degree in Environmental Science and a bachelor's degree in Physics.

- **8.30 am** - This morning I am working with Civil Engineers to identify how we can reduce the impact of noise from HS2 on communities who will live close to the tracks. Using noise modelling software, we can predict the noise impact and adjust the design of the railway to reduce it. The way that we are working is very similar to your investigation, except you are measuring the existing noise environment, rather than using a digital model to simulate train noise on top of existing noise sources.
- **10.30 am** – My next meeting of the day is with the ecology team. We are working on plans for a section of the green corridor, which is a network of habitats that run alongside the railway. In this area we are creating a wetland habitat, as we have found protected species in this survey area such as newts and reptiles. We also want to find the right combination of flowering plants to support wider biodiversity and match the surrounding landscape. You could try something similar in the grounds of your school to promote pollinating insects and support bee populations.
- **11:30 am** - My next appointment is with the historic environment team. HS2 is running close to the grounds of an 18th century historic building, and we are creating a plan to integrate the railway into the landscape so that it does not interrupt the view from the historic gardens. We will be planting native trees here to restore some of the natural woodlands and to help screen the railway.
- **1.30 pm** – My last activity of the day is to mentor some of our HS2 apprentices. Apprenticeships are a good way to get into a STEM career as you can learn as you work and get real industry experience. Working with apprentices is one of my favourite parts of this job. I always tell my apprentices that the most important essential skill in my job is aiming high; my job is very varied, I have a chance to make a real difference for future generations, and having a positive attitude to new challenges means that I continue to learn and gain new skills.

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENT PLAN (PRACTICAL PROJECT)



Figure 1. A HS2 worker planting trees to expand a woodland habitat.



Figure 2. Planting a variety of flowering plants helps to promote pollinating insects, including bees.

Things to think about

- How could you increase biodiversity at your school?
- How could you promote pollinating insects at your school?
- How could you reduce noise in and around your school?
- How could you promote improving the environment within your school community?