



North York Moors National Park Education Service
Activities for KS 3 and above

Impacts of Footpath Erosion on a Moorland Environment

This session includes a fieldwork survey and an indoor presentation. All materials and equipment provided.

For the fieldwork survey students work in small teams to assess the distribution and abundance of different types of vegetation along a belt transect across a footpath. Characteristics of the soil can also be recorded if required including pH, depth, colour, texture and compaction. Results can be collated and analysed back at school to assess the impact of the footpath on moorland vegetation.

The presentation (up to an hour) provides an introduction to the North York Moors National Park and covers how humans influenced the development of the moorland environment and how and why it is now being maintained by human activity.

We look at why upland areas are important to humans, both locally and globally, ways in which they are being threatened and examples of how the National Park Authority is working to alleviate these threats and manage this area sustainably.

Duration: about 3 ½ hours plus a lunch break
Max. group size 50
Location: The Moors National Park Centre
Your transport: needed to take students to study site (10 minutes)

Curriculum links

Specific learning objectives will be discussed with you on booking.

Geography: understanding how human and physical processes interact to influence and change landscapes

GCSE Science: Biology – environmental change / distribution of organisms in an environment

A and AS level Science

Biology: measuring biodiversity; ecosystems - managing the conflict between human needs and conservation

Ideas for Extending Learning Around this Activity

An optional follow up teachers' pack is available containing photos and information relating to a badly eroded footpath and different techniques and options for repair. Students can use the information provided to discuss and then recommend the most appropriate and economical solution. The real life solution is also provided.

See '*Investigating Moorland*' in our resources section - a set of resources designed to increase pupils' understanding of a moorland environment including free worksheets on biodiversity, sustainability, management, conservation and climate change.

Find out more about moorland at: <http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/discover/moorland>

