



Student Activity Sheet
A Case for the Countryside

Cross Curricular

A Hole lot of Fuss



1. You will need 3 groups of 8+ pupils:
One group will be the 'Extractors'
Second group will be the 'Highworth Against Gravel' (HAG)
Third group will be the 'County Planning Committee'

'The Extractors'

This is the group which wishes to extract gravel from Eastrop Farm. They will include a representative(s) of the developing company, the consultants who give them expert advice and the farmer.

'Highworth Against Gravel'

This is a group of local residents who may not be keen to have a new gravel pit in their area. They may include a parish councillor, school teacher, local tradesman, golf course owner and their expert advisors such as wildlife conservationists.

'The County Planning Committee'

This group has the job of making a decision on the planning application for extracting gravel. It will include the Chairman (County Councillor), other councillors and County Council officials.

2. Within each of these 'home groups' there are a number of roles.
Information on these is provided below. For your group look at the role descriptions and agree on who will take each role.
3. Expert knowledge is going to be needed in all 3 groups.
This will include:
 - aggregate extraction
 - agriculture
 - geology
 - conservation: wildlife - pollution
 - land restoration
 - archaeology
 - transport
 - market opportunities for gravel

Decide within your group who is going to become an 'Expert' on each of these topics.

A Student Information Sheet, maps and photographs and a draft planning proposal are provided to assist your research.

4. Those responsible for the same topic from each home group can work together on their research in small 'expert' groups.
5. When the research is completed (your teacher will set a time limit on this), experts should return to their home groups.
Each home group now works separately to prepare their position.

The Extractors will prepare their planning application and team presentation to the Planning Committee.

HAG will prepare their case against the application and decide who will put their arguments to the Planning Committee.

The County Planning Committee will discuss with their advisors the advantages and disadvantages of extracting gravel from Eastrop Farm. They will need to be well informed so that they can make the right decision at the meeting when the application is presented.

6. Meeting of the County Planning Committee to hear the application for gravel extraction from Eastrop Farm and the objections to this. The Extractors present their application first. This should be a team presentation with each expert using evidence to support the proposal.

The case against the application follows. Representatives of HAG will use their evidence to object to the proposal.

Finally, members of the Planning Committee discuss the case and give their decision.

PRESENTATION

Each group should consider how they can best present their case. Think about different ways to do this, using different resources - maps, illustrations, figures. You may be able to use audio visual aids - discuss this with your teacher.

PROJECT MANAGER

- You are a qualified surveyor working for Tarmac Quarry Products Ltd.
- You are in charge of preparing the planning application.
- You are responsible for commissioning consultants' reports.
- You are responsible for how the application is presented to the County Council Planning committee



To help you:

- Use Student Information Sheet section 7 - Steps to secure planning for a new quarry
- Read the Draft Planning Application

GEOLOGIST

- You are a qualified geologist working for Tarmac.
- You should know all about rocks and aggregates and how they are extracted.
- You are responsible for providing a report for the Project Manager, on the geology of Eastrop Farm and how much aggregates can be extracted.



To help you:

- Use Student Information Sheet section 1 on Aggregate Extraction
- Read 4.1 Geology and Geotechnics Statement (Page 5) and Appendix 2 - Eastrop Farm the Geologist Report (Page 10) in the Draft Planning Application.
- Use Map 4

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

- You are a qualified Landscape Architect working for Tarmac.
- You are responsible for providing a report to the Project Manager which takes an overview of the whole process - you should describe the landscape before, during and after the extraction.
- You are responsible for the restoration plans. You may have an assistant working for you.



To Help you:

- Read 4.2 Landscape Appraisal Report (Page 6) and Appendix 3 - Report from Landscape Architect (Page12) in the Draft Planning Application
- Look at all the Maps and Student Information Sheet

NOISE EXPERT

- You are a consultant commissioned by the Tarmac Project Manager to report on the effect of extraction on noise levels in the area.
- You will need to find out who will be affected and how much nuisance this will cause.
- You are responsible for making recommendations on how to reduce the noise problem. You may wish to conduct an experiment to demonstrate noise levels.

To help you:

- Read 4.5 The Environmental Noise Assessment (Page 6) and Appendix 6 (Page 23) in the Draft Planning Application
- Use Map 3
- Read Student Information Sheet section 4 on Noise and light



ECOLOGIST

- You are a consultant commissioned by the Tarmac Project Manager to report on wildlife - plants and animals - on the extraction site.
- You are responsible for identifying if any wildlife will be harmed by the extraction.

To help you:

- Read 4.3 Ecological Appraisal (Page 6) and Appendix 4 - Wildlife Assessment of Eastrop Farm (Page 18) in the Draft Planning Application
- Read Student Information Sheet section 4 on Environmental Concerns and section 5 on Community Forests
- Read Student Information Sheet section 6 letters from English Nature and The Wiltshire Wildlife Trust



SOIL EXPERT

- You are a consultant commissioned by the Tarmac Project Manager to report on the agricultural value of the site of Eastrop Farm.
- You are responsible for clarifying the soil value, describing its value and making recommendations on how it should be handled.

To help you:

- Read 4.4 Agricultural Land Classification and Soil Handling Recommendations (Page 6) and Appendix 5 - Agricultural Land Quality (Page 21) in the Draft Planning Application
- Look at Maps 4 and 9
- Read Student Information Sheet section 2 on Agricultural Land Classification and section 6 letter from DEFRA



MARKETING ANALYST

- You are an employee of Tarmac Quarry Products.
- You are responsible for analysing markets for sand and gravel produced from Eastrop Farm.
- You should report on the value of the product and its likely markets by drawing graphs to demonstrate this.

To help you:

- Read 4.6 Analysis of Supply and Demand Forecasts (Page 7) and Appendix 7 (Page 26) in the Draft Planning Application
- Read Student Information Sheet section 1 on aggregate extraction
- Use Map 1 and an atlas



ARCHAEOLOGIST

- You work for Wessex Archaeology and have been commissioned to produce an evaluation of the archaeological remains on Eastrop Farm.
- You are responsible for making recommendations on safeguarding these remains during the extraction.

To help you:

- Read 4.7 Archaeology (Page 7) and Appendix 8 - Archaeological Brief (Page 27) in the Draft Planning Application
- Use Map 10
- Read Student Information Sheet section 6 letter from Wiltshire County Council entitled Mineral planning application site, Highworth: Archaeology



FARMER

- Eastrop Farm belongs to you.
- You currently farm the land proposed for the extraction site with wheat and barley (see the Maths Unit for yields).
- The proposed extraction means a big increase in income for the next 10 years and the land will be restored to agriculture in the end.
- You should be prepared to support the case for extraction with a personal statement.

To help you:

- Read the Draft Planning Application, especially the Landscape Architect's Report and Market Analysis (Appendix 3 - page 12) also 6.0 Conclusions (Page 7)
- Read Student Information Sheet and view maps to support your presentation.



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

- You work for the Council
- You are responsible for assessing the report provided by the Tarmac Company Landscape Architect.
- You will need to decide whether his/her conclusions are correct and make a recommendation to the Chair of the Planning Committee.

To help you:

- Read the Draft Planning Application Appendix 3 (Page 12) and Appendix 5 (Page 21) with Maps indicated.



PLANNING COMMITTEE

HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT OFFICER

- You work for the Council Environmental Services Department as Manager of Development Control.
- You are responsible for assessing the effect on transport and roads of this proposed development.
- You will provide a report to the Planning Committee and advise any changes that will be needed to the transport system.

To help you:

- Use Maps 1, 2 and 3
- Read Student Information Sheet section 6 letters from N J Samuel of Wiltshire County Council and Barbara Burke of Wiltshire County Council
- Read the Draft Planning Application, Appendix 3,3.6 (Page 14)



PLANNING COMMITTEE

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER

- You work for the Council Environmental Services Department.
- You are responsible for assessing any health problems associated with the gravel extract.
- You are concerned particularly with noise levels and interruptions to beautiful views.

To help you:

- Read the Appendix 6 - Environmental Noise Assessment (Page 23) and Appendix 3,4.0 - Visual Appraisal (Page 15) in the Draft Planning Application,
- Refer to the Student Information Sheet section 4 - Environmental Concerns

Wiltshire
COUNTY COUNCIL

PLANNING COMMITTEE

ARCHAEOLOGIST

- You are employed by the Council Education and Libraries Department as an Archaeologist.
- You are responsible for identifying any remains on Eastrop Farm.
- You will report to the Planning Committee making recommendations on whether the proposal should be accepted and on any special care which should be taken.

To help you:

- Read Student Information Sheet section 6 - letter from Wiltshire County Council entitled Mineral planning application site, Highworth: Archaeology
- Read Appendix 8 - Archaeological Brief (Page 27) in the Draft Planning Application
- Use Map 10 with Map 2

Wiltshire
COUNTY COUNCIL

PLANNING COMMITTEE

COUNTY COUNCILLOR - CHAIR

- You are the chair of the County Council Planning Committee.
- You should know a lot about mineral extraction and its value.
- You will take advice from the Council Officers who are experts.
- Your committee will receive the presentation of the planning application and hear the objections of the local residents and others.
- You will be responsible for making a decision on the application.



PLANNING COMMITTEE

To help you:

- Read the Student Information Sheet
- Use Maps 1, 2, 3 and 4
- Read the Draft Planning Application - 6.0 Conclusions

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

- You are an independent councillor from another district.
- You are expected to take a balanced view on this planning application.
- You should be knowledgeable about aggregate extraction.
- You will hear the views of the Council Officers.



PLANNING COMMITTEE

To help you:

- Read the Student Information Sheet
- Use Maps 1, 2, 3 and 4
- Read the Draft Planning Application 6.0 Conclusions (Page 7)

MINERAL PLANNING OFFICER

- You work for the County Council and provide a report for the Planning Committee on this proposal.



PLANNING COMMITTEE

To help you:

- Read Student Information Sheet section 1 on aggregate extraction
 - Read the Draft Planning Application, especially the Geologist's report Appendix 2 (Page 10) and Market Analysis Appendix 7 (Page 26)
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COUNTY ECOLOGIST

- You work for the Council and are responsible for preparing a report on the wildlife plants and animals on Eastrop Farm.
- You have to assess the likelihood of any valuable wildlife being disturbed.



PLANNING COMMITTEE

To help you:

- Read the Draft Planning Application Ecologist Report Appendix 4 (Page 18)
 - Read Student Information Sheet Section 6 - letters from English Nature and The Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
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PARISH COUNCILLOR

- You are Chair of the Parish Planning Committee and a District County Councillor.
- You live in Highworth in a house on Shrevenham Road.
- You are a retired business person who moved to Highworth five years ago.
- As a District County Councillor you are invited to present your views to the County Planning Committee.



HIGHWORTH AGAINST GRAVEL

To help you:

- Read Student Information Sheet section 1 on Aggregate Extraction and section 4 on Environmental Concerns
- Use Maps 1, 2 and 3.
- Read the Draft Planning Application Appendices 2, 3 and 7.

SCHOOL TEACHER

- You are the Head of the local Secondary School.
- You are responsible for 1,000 boys and girls.
- You live in Sevenhampton.
- You have concerns about the proposed sand and gravel pit, you want to find out more.
- You are invited to present your views to the County Planning Committee.



HIGHWORTH AGAINST GRAVEL

To help you:

- Read Student Information Sheet sections 1, 3 and 4
- Read Student Information Sheet section 6 letters from English Nature, The Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and N J Samuel of Wiltshire County Council
- Use Maps 1, 2, 3 and 8.
- Read the Draft Planning Application, especially Appendix 3 (Page 12)

SHOP OWNER

- You own one of the shops in Highworth.
- It is a general store selling convenience foods to local residents.
- You are not sure whether you are against the extraction as it may improve your business.
- You decide that you would like to attend the County Planning Committee meeting so that you can give your views.



HIGHWORTH AGAINST GRAVEL

To help you:

- Read Student Information Sheet section 1 on aggregate extraction
- Look at Maps 1 and 2
- Read the Draft Planning Application 6.0 Conclusions (Page 7).

NURSERY SCHOOL OWNER

- You own the children's nursery on the edge of the village on Shrivenham Road.
- Parents bring their small children to you in their cars at 8.30 am and pick them up at lunch time or 3.30 pm.
- You are worried that parents may be concerned about the safety of their children.
- You feel you should give your views to the County Planning Committee.



HIGHWORTH AGAINST GRAVEL

To help you:

- Read Student Information Sheet section 6 - letter from N J Samuel of Wiltshire County Council
- Look at Map 2
- Read the Draft Planning Application section on communications and transport Appendix 3,3.6 (Page 14)

CAFE OWNER

- You run a small cafe in Highworth.
- You do well out of passing trade.
- You think you may get extra business from workers on the extraction site.
- You are interested in hearing more about the proposed site and think you should attend the Planning Committee meeting.



HIGHWORTH AGAINST GRAVEL

To help you:

- Look at Maps 1 and 2
- Read the Draft Planning Application 6.0 Conclusions (Page 7) and Appendix 7 - The Market Analysis (Page 26)

GOLF CLUB OWNER

- You run the Wragg Farm Golf Course.
- You think your members come to Wragg Farm for a quiet day in the countryside.
- However, there is a possibility that you could extend the golf course when the land is restored.
- You have to decide whether to support the Planning Application at the Committee Meeting.



HIGHWORTH AGAINST GRAVEL

To help you:

- Look at Maps 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6
- Read Student Information Sheet sections 1, 3 and 4
- Read the Draft Planning Application Appendix 3,4.0 - Visual Appraisal (Page 15)

RESIDENT

- You are the Secretary of the Residents' Association.
- You have had a meeting of the Association and local residents are concerned about the noise, traffic and views being spoiled.
- You have undertaken to find out more about the proposal and present the Residents' views to the Planning Committee Meeting.

To help you:

- Look at Maps 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6
- Read sections 1, 3 and 4 of the Student Information Sheet
- Read Student Information Sheet section 6 - letter from N J Samuel of Wiltshire County Council
- Read the Draft Planning Application Appendix 3,3.6 (Page 14) and 3,4.0 (Page 15) and Appendix 6 (page 23)



HIGHWORTH AGAINST GRAVEL

LOCAL HISTORIAN

- You live in Highworth and have a keen interest in medieval and earlier settlement.
- You are aware of archaeological remains in the area and are concerned that these may be destroyed by the excavation.
- You wish to put your concerns to the County Planning Committee.

To help you:

- Look at Maps 2 and 10
- Read Student Information Sheet section 6 - letter from Wiltshire County Council entitled Mineral planning application site, Highworth: Archaeology
- Read the Draft Planning Application Appendix 8 (page 27)



HIGHWORTH AGAINST GRAVEL

REPRESENTATIVES OF WILDLIFE ORGANISATIONS

- You may come from the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) or the local Wildlife Trust or the Great Western Community Forest.
- You have concerns about damage to the environment.
- You want to make sure that wildlife issues are considered by the County Planning Committee.

To help you:

- Look at Maps 2, 7 and 8
- Read Student Information Sheet sections 3, 4 and 5
- Read Student Information Sheet section 6 - letters from English Nature and The Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
- Read the Ecological Report in the Draft Planning Application - Appendix 4.

The logo consists of the letters 'HAG' in a stylized, hand-drawn font. The 'H' and 'A' are connected, and the 'G' has a small tail.

HIGHWORTH AGAINST GRAVEL