

**Sheet 16****Name:** .....**INVESTIGATING SOIL COMPACTION**

Locate a footpath across a field. Choose a 20 metre stretch of path. Measure the width of the path and mark out 2 metres on either side of the path to form a transect across the footpath.

At 7 points on the transect, position a 30cm length of drainpipe firmly in the ground (a hammer may have to be used).

Steadily pour 2 litres of water (bring 2 litre bottles with you – with water or fill on location) into the drainpipe. Carefully time with stopwatches, how long it takes for all the water to disappear at each site. Repeat for a number of sites.

<b>Site A</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Infiltration time (secs)</b>							
<b>Site B</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Infiltration time (secs)</b>							

**Section 6: Hedgerows, field margins and boundaries.**

From the earliest time farmers have found it necessary to divide the land into fields for crops or animals.

In Britain traces of the earliest fields dating from the Bronze Age can be found on the slopes of Dartmoor, the Yorkshire Moors and in other upland areas. As land was cleared for agriculture over the past 3,000 years farmers created boundaries around the fields according to the needs of the agricultural systems they were using and the materials most suited to the land they cleared. Some of the field boundaries we see today may be many centuries old.

Some hedgerows on farmland may date from Saxon times – look for hedges on high banks with deep ditches running alongside them and see whether the hedge runs in a straight line or whether it curves. Curving hedges on high banks could be part of a very old boundary.

Some old hedges have large trees growing in them at intervals. These trees were planted to give the farmer a supply of timber. If you see bluebells growing along the line of a very old hedge it could be that the hedge is the remaining edge of a very old piece of woodland that has been cut down and cleared for farmland.

Some other countries apart from Britain have hedges, some planted by farmers, some have grown naturally. In America for example some hedges have grown along the line of barbed wire fences that separated fields. Birds sitting on the wire have dropped seeds over the years, and the farmers have not ploughed really close to the wire so the seeds have germinated and a hedge has formed.