**Fieldwork Studies – Human Impact Assessment**

This activity is a simple subjective measure of human impact on the landscape. You will need to find a piece of used footpath and open access land. If you are unsure, please contact [learning@southdowns.gov.uk](mailto:learning@southdowns.gov.uk) and we can give you a hand in finding an area.

What do you need to prepare?

Print a recording sheet and choose a location that has used footpath and open access land relatively close to each other. You will also need a quadrat and a 30cm ruler

Consider explaining the difference between footpaths and open access. Can the pupils make a prediction as to what they will find on each?

Activity

1. Complete the sheet in groups in the two different locations

Discussion points:

* Why do we use these measurements to show human impact?
* Which measurement shows the largest human impact?
* Which type of land is more beneficial for species living in the area?
* Is human impact always bad?

Location area: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| **Measurement** | **Used footpath** | **Open Access land** |
| Describe what the ground looks like |  |  |
| Tallest growing thing (cm)  (Erosion) |  |  |
| Number of different plants spotted in quadrat |  |  |
| Number of different animals spotted in quadrat |  |  |
| Items of litter spotted |  |  |

**From conducting this fieldwork, we know:**

Try to use key words: Impact, erosion, diversity, less, more, beneficial, detrimental