LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION
A New Stadium for Rotherham United - A Siting Exercise

Introduction for Teachers

In this exercise students will gain experience of using GIS to help to reach a decision about the best site for a new football stadium in Rotherham. Google Earth is an excellent geographical tool to use in school and this exercise makes good use of it. Issues linked to land use are central to this exercise and students are given the opportunity to collect information about different places in and around Rotherham and use it to decide on the best site for a football stadium.

This exercise can be successfully completed as a classroom exercise using an Interactive Whiteboard but greater flexibility would be possible if a computer suite was used allowing each student the opportunity to make full use of Google Earth.

Three worksheets are provided for the students to use but the activities are simply suggestions and you may wish to adapt the basic exercise in your own way. The idea behind the exercise could be adapted in a number of ways to suit a variety of issues involving siting.

Worksheet 1 ~ A Labelled Diagram of the Key Siting Factors for a New Football Stadium.
Worksheet 2 ~ A Matrix Sheet for Scoring a Variety of Sites for a New Football Stadium.
Worksheet 3 ~ A Writing Frame for a Report on the Best Site for a New Football Stadium.

Using these worksheets a suggested sequence of activities for this exercise would involve:

- Initially students should be challenged to brainstorm the main requirements for a site and location for a new football stadium. This could be recorded on a whiteboard.
- Using Worksheet 1 listed above, students should complete a labelled diagram giving reasons why the siting factors named are so important.
- Locate the exercise on Goggle Earth and specifically the 4 suggested sites for the stadium. Students should zoom in to study the sites and locations in detail and

compare with the horizontal photographs of the sites.

- Using Worksheet 2 students should complete the matrix scoring each site using a variety of descriptors (using 1 as the most negative score and 5 the most positive). The matrix allows for individual students to pick out a 5th site of their own if the opportunity arises. Once each site's scores are totalled up the largest total will be the 'winner'.
- To complete the exercise each student should produce a report for the local council describing their chosen site and explaining clearly why it is the best site. Worksheet 3, a writing frame, can be used for this exercise. If possible a copy of a horizontal photo of the chosen site could be included in the report.

Extension work could include collecting up the results of the whole class to identify the overall winner and setting up a discussion about the relative merits of the different sites.