



Soil-Net - The development of an educational web portal for schools age

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The Soil-Net project represents an interdisciplinary, on-line soils learning resource for school students aged 5-16, with different components provided for both Primary and Secondary curricula. Parallel with the student materials, extensive aids are provided for teachers and parents, with a range of activities offered, suitable for use in the classroom, at home and outside. The project, launched recently, took two years to complete and is designed to assist across a range of disciplines including science, geography, chemistry, biology, physics and civic responsibility. The project, sponsored by the UK Government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural affairs, also represented a collaboration between a University science department and a College of Art and Design.

This paper reports on the design, development and implementation of the resultant web portal (<http://www.soil-net.com>) and its subsequent school trials in Hampshire, UK, noting how feedback from this was incorporated within the resource. The project was undertaken following an initial audit and review of existing soils awareness and educational materials available, and this is also reported on.