



13/10/2022

British Ecological Society: Expression of Interest for digital development of educational platform

We are seeking a digital developer to deliver updates and new functionality for an existing web-based platform used for education and engagement. The contract will involve work taking place between November 2022 and March 2023 (flexibility in dates possible) with a budget of between £15,000 - £20,000 (inc. VAT) dependent on deliverables proposed. More details of the technologies involved are provided within this document.

1.0 Introduction to the project:

The British Ecological Society, working with MammalWeb Ltd., Middlesex University and SMASHfestUK are working on a project in North-East England connecting young people and families with nature. This [‘Connecting schools with nature in North-East England’](#) project involves digital and in-person workshops, plus training teachers and volunteers in how they can engage their pupils with the natural environment.

As part of this, participants are being invited to sign-up and use a new web platform called “Encounters”. This platform provides a gamified learning system for pupils, teachers and volunteers to log the activities they are carrying out to help connect them to nature. The platform also hosts a ‘resource hub’ and community areas for teachers and ecologists to share learnings and materials.

1.1 British Ecological Society

The BES was established in 1913 and has been fostering the science of ecology ever since. It has 6,000 members around the world and brings people together across regional, national and global scales to advance ecological science. Membership is open to anyone, anywhere. Our vision is for nature and people to thrive in a world inspired by ecology.

We publish scientific research journals and books, award grants for furthering ecology and supporting our community, and organise a number of diverse, innovative events throughout the year including our Annual Meeting conference for ecologists. In addition we support our members and combine their knowledge to promote ecological science and evidence informed solutions to policymakers.

We also help our members communicate ecology to diverse audiences, through the provision of science communication training, funding and the opportunity to attend events including public exhibitions, festivals, and schools outreach programmes. Relating to the ‘Connecting schools with nature’ project specifically, we offer training and development programmes in addition to careers support for ecologists of all career stages.

1.2 Background

The National Heritage Lottery fund ran a funding competition in 2021 called the Green Recovery Challenge Fund (‘GRCF’ Round 2), developed by Defra and its Arm’s-Length Bodies, including Natural England, the Forestry Commission, and the Environment Agency. The GRCF supports nature projects across England with funding worth up to £40m.

In July 2021, the BES along with its partners (MammalWeb Ltd. and SMASH-UK) were successful in securing £248,700 funding for the 'Connecting schools to nature in North East England' project. The project aims to engage primary school pupils, teachers, and early career ecologists to deliver a green transformation to 50 schools in disadvantaged areas of North-East England and create the 'Environmental Educators of tomorrow'.

The programme will benefit wildlife through the creation of wildflower areas, hedgehog-highways, bird-feeding stations, nest-boxes and insect 'hotels'. Pupils will then become citizen scientists, monitoring the wildlife around their schools. Through these activities, the programme will increase young peoples' connection to nature, with an estimated 10,000 pupils getting involved. Importantly, the project will centre around the digital "Encounters" web platform for engaging pupils and hosting resources for teachers and volunteers throughout the project and beyond.

1.3 Description of existing digital platform - "Encounters"

The [Encounters web platform](#) is a microsite which exists on the [Mammalweb website](#). There are currently four user types on the platform: pupils, teachers, volunteers, and administrators.

Encounters is intended to be a gamified platform in which pupils, teachers, and volunteers are assigned avatars (animals which represent them) and can then find a range of tasks and activities related to the project (such as litter-picking, or creating an 'insect hotel', or watching a nature documentary). Users can log these activities on the platform to unlock 'badges' and earn them and their school points. The activities users can participate in are currently split into in four categories, focussing on different organisms: 1) Mammals 2) Insects 3) Birds 4) Nature (general category). Each categories have tasks/activities, badges, artworks, and facts to unlock.

Each user type has a different view and dashboard with differing tasks and activities available to them. The tasks and activities that appear for each user are set in the underlying database. In addition to logging tasks / activities, teachers can also view their students' progress and an admin user can view all participants' progress and generate project reports on items such as how many resources have been uploaded.

Please see Appendix A for a detailed 'how to' guide for the platform. This guide is intended to give an overview of the platform for teacher, volunteer, and pupil users. In addition, there is an admin user who can see and download reports on various aspects of the platform, including activities completed and resources uploaded (see Appendix B for screenshot). We are happy to meet with anyone wishing to tender for this work to give a more thorough overview of the existing site and the servers it is built on.

1.4 Purpose of the Tender Document

The majority of development of the platform has been carried out, and the platform is fully functional and is being used in its current state. This tender is to improve the functionality of the platform to enhance the user journey as both a public user and as a project administrator. The tender also includes work to upgrade the current servers to ensure long-term sustainability of the platform. By the end of this development phase, we hope to have a full-functioning robust platform that can be rolled out to large networks of school users.

2.0 Requirements

We have broken down the development requirements into sections based on work to be done within each type of user account, work to be done for all users, and work to be done on the MammalWeb platform (including updating MammalWeb servers). For each section we have given a summary of the overall work and then a more detailed bullet-point list for you to base your quotation on.

Environmental educator / volunteer accounts: These will now be combined with teacher accounts to make one overall 'educator' account. We envision this to be a two-step process of first changing environmental educator accounts into teacher accounts (which have more functionality) and then a re-naming of teacher accounts to be 'educator accounts'.

- Change existing environmental educator accounts into teacher accounts
- Remove sign in option for environmental educators on project landing page

Teacher accounts: As mentioned above, teacher accounts will re-named 'educator accounts'. The majority of development will happen on this type of account. A lot of the development in this section is to ensure that teachers can sign up and utilise the platform easily and with little input from a project administrator.

- Change the wording of 'teacher accounts' into 'educator accounts' in all areas of the platform
- Add a sign-up page for educators to sign up to the site themselves, including inputting information on their school. The same underlying sign-up process as MammalWeb can be used but we would like the sign-in page to have Encounters branding rather than MammalWeb branding.
- Add ability for educators to set up their own projects on MammalWeb and an email to be sent to an admin user to approve
- Ability to generate pupil accounts with a limit on how many users they can create
- Activities assigned tags such as subject area that can then be searched by the user
- Re-design of how activities are displayed (currently in consultation with teachers on how to display activities – please budget for 6 days of work for this and we will work with you to come up with final designs)
- Links from activities page to resource hub and vice versa
- Bronze / silver / gold automatic awards (a downloadable certificate) when a certain number of points reached
- Alter messaging function so messages go to admin users only and when a message is sent the user receives an email notification
- Ability to reset points and badges (for the start of the new academic year)

Pupil accounts: A small amount of development will be done on the pupil accounts to improve the look of these accounts and make them simpler to use.

- Re-design of the badges page to show greyed outlines of all badges which are then filled in when the badge is completed. Pupils hover over each badge to see a fact about that species.
- Clearer progression of awarding badges so higher levels of badges are only unlocked once the first level is completed.
- Remove individual points count from pupil's page and, in underlying database, remove pupil accounts from overall school's points total.

All accounts: This work is to be done on all accounts.

- Walk through tutorials on sign up
- Better integration of MammalWeb and Encounters including:
 - Linking directly to quizzes on MammalWeb
 - Once a task is done automatically taking you back to Encounters and receiving the badge
- Checking that all accounts are compatible on mobiles and iPads and cross-browsers (they all currently should be but we have had reports of problems on iPads and certain browsers so more checks are required)

MammalWeb: This works relates specifically to work that is to be done on the overall MammalWeb system, including upgrading the system to new servers.

- Automatic MammalWeb kiosk set up for each school (see how-to guide at bottom of page for explanation of kiosk)
- All accounts to automatically go to kiosk when clicking through from Encounters with ability to toggle to normal MammalWeb
- Automated output of records to National Biodiversity Network (NBN). This will involve setting up an SQL query to create a table from the database which can then be stored separately to be accessed by NBN. Preliminary work on this has already been undertaken so we envision the remaining work should take no more than 4 days.
- Error messages to appear when collection date is set to before deployment date or collection or deployment is set to date in future
- Upgrading the MammalWeb AWS Linux server for improved performance
- Upgrading to Joomla 4.00 to pre-empt discontinuation of support for Joomla 3.9 (which MammalWeb currently uses) in summer 2023.

2.4 General

Some general points to be addressed:

- Cross browser support: The pages must be viewable in all major web browsers as of the completion date. (Internet Explorer, Chrome, Opera, Firefox and Safari).
- Speed: Load times must be acceptable for users.
- With regards to IP, we intend that the site to be developed should remain the property of BES.

2.5 Device Accessibility

The site should be available on the following devices and platforms:

- Windows PCs and laptops
- Apple PCs and laptops
- Apple iPads

3.0 Technical Requirements and Project Management

Both MammalWeb and Encounters are hosted on Amazon Web Services, built on the Joomla! Content Management System. Technologies used include AWS, S3, Linux, MySQL, Apache, PHP and Javascript. Any documentation uploaded to the 'Resource Hub' is stored in S3.

The overall project is managed by the BES. The successful developer will be working in consultation with staff at the BES, as well as project partners (MammalWeb Ltd., SMASH-UK) and a development consultant who has constructed the platform so far.

4.0 Budget

It is anticipated that quotes for work described will be in the region of £15,000 to £20,000, exclusive of any VAT payable. Candidates should please indicate if their work is VAT inclusive/exclusive. Preference for payment to be made on satisfactory completion of the website development, although please do inquire about alternative payment schedules you may require, and we will be happy to work with you.

We would please ask that quotes budget for 10% of overall development time to be 'collaboration time'. We envision this collaboration time to be weekly meetings with BES staff and (where necessary) partners from MammalWeb Ltd and SMASH-UK. Meetings will be a chance to discuss the progress of development, making sure all parties are in agreement on the work to be done, and to discuss any problems or different options for platform design.

5.0 Timeline

The following delivery schedule should inform your expression of interest:

Timeline	Action
14th October 2022	Opening date for expression of interest
28th October 2022	Initial expression of interest as outlined in Section 5.2 received by 12:00 BST
02nd November 2022	Final quotation and plan of work received
07th November 2022	Preferred project initiation
28th February 2023	The project changes must be completed

5.1 Guidelines for submission of expression of interest:

Please submit the following:

- CV (2 page max)
- A 1 page document including:
 - A. With reference to the technologies identified in Section 3.0, please confirm your ability to address all aspects defined by the headings within the requirements section 2.0. Please clearly outline your capacity to, and experience of, delivering such works and include descriptions / examples of relevant past work. In lieu of being able to show examples of work due to copyright issues, please submit descriptions.
 - B. A quotation of day rates and a breakdown of how many days of work you would budget for each bullet point outlined in section 2.0.
 - C. Confirmation of availability during periods listed in table above (5.1)

All responses must be sent as in PDF to Sammy Mason (BES) sammy@britishecologicalsociety.org and Philip Stephens (Durham University / MammalWeb Ltd.) philip.stephens@durham.ac.uk before 1200 BST, 28 October 2022.

Suppliers may be asked questions about their response to allow the selection process to be made, please note this may involve a face-to-face meeting on Teams or Zoom. Upon shortlisting, there will be the opportunity to speak to the team, view the platform in more detail, and be briefed on the technologies involved.

Please note that the BES will review submissions on a rolling basis and reserve the right to select a suitable candidate prior to the closing date.

Appendix A: BES Encounters how to guide

BES Encounters Platform How-to Guide

1. Introduction:

Welcome to the BES Encounters platform! This platform is part of the British Ecological Society's (BES) 'Connecting Schools to Nature in North-East England' project where teachers and pupils can log their achievements throughout the year and interact with our volunteer Environmental Educators. For more details on the project itself, head over to our project website where you can download a full briefing document and read more about our plans for the different modules: [Connecting schools with nature - British Ecological Society](#)

1.1. Access and MammalWeb connection

You can access BES Encounters via the following link:

<https://www.mammalweb.org/en/bes-encounters>.

The platform currently exists as an extension of the MammalWeb website. MammalWeb Ltd. are one of our main project partners. The MammalWeb website is a citizen science hub where people from across the UK upload and classify camera trap data to help build a better picture of the distribution and ecology of mammals.

Given connection between the two projects, there are a number of links that take you between the BES Encounters and MammalWeb platforms when completing certain activities like quizzes or classifying images. Additionally, you can use the [MammalWeb project portal](#) to view your school's progress by clicking on your school's logo from the list of options. This section of MammalWeb is public facing, meaning that any camera trap data you upload is visible to the public. The camera trap location will be obscured but if you would like to be removed from this list of public projects, please contact the BES team and we will remove your school's name from this portion of the website.

The BES Encounters platform is currently only accessible to our partner schools and project volunteers so any content uploaded by participants is only viewable to this group.

If you get lost between the two websites, it's always worth going back to the main BES Encounters home page linked above.

1.2. Future Development

At the moment, only a select number of schools and environmental educators have access to the BES Encounters platform however, we hope to expand the platform in the coming years and open it up to more schools looking to connect with nature.

The BES Encounters platform was created in March 2022 but is under constant review and we aim to improve the website based on feedback from users (i.e. yourself!). The platform will therefore undergo a series of redevelopment phases and as such, you may notice slight changes in design and/or functionality of the platform throughout 2022 and beyond.

1.3. Who to contact

If you experience any technical issues or bugs on the platform, please report these to one of the team by emailing outreach@britishecologicalsociety.org. Where possible, please include the following information, as this helps our developer troubleshoot what might be causing the issue:

- Type of account e.g. teacher, pupil, or educator
- The time the issue occurred
- The browser you were using to access the platform

Similarly, we very much welcome any general feedback or comments you have about how the platform could be made better. Please email any thoughts to the team and these will be considered ahead of any major digital development periods.

2. Accounts and logging in:

2.1. Account types

There are three different types of account on the platform:

1. *School child*
2. *Teacher*
3. *Environmental Educator*

Each account looks slightly different with various features available to it depending on which type you have been assigned to. For example, only teachers and environmental educator accounts have access to the Resource Hub.

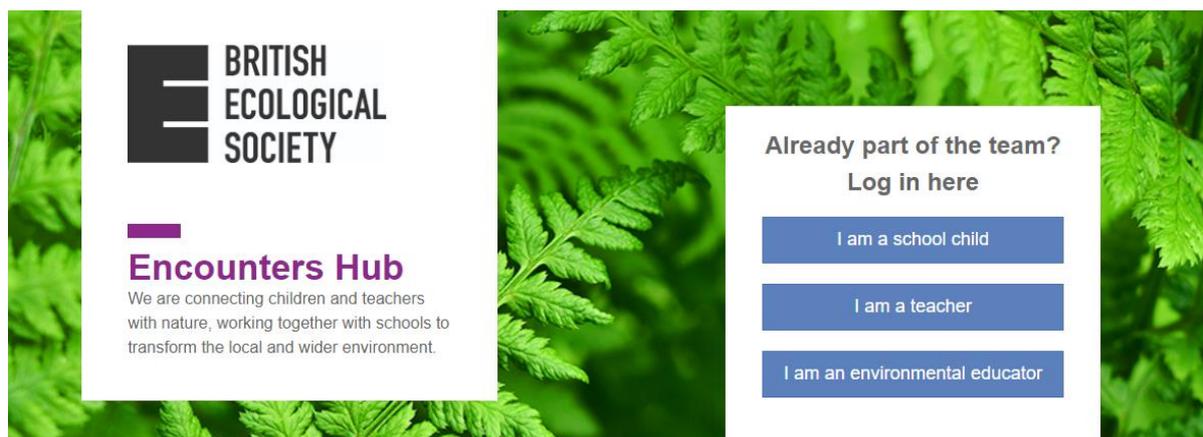
2.2. Creating and linking accounts

Please get in touch with the team if you would like to set-up an account. For teachers, please send details of your school and how many pupil accounts you would like to have, so that we can set this up as a unique school on the system. You can deactivate or request additional teacher and pupil accounts as and when you like.

If you have an existing MammalWeb account, you will be able to use these details to sign-in as normal.

If you think you've been given the wrong account type or have been linked to the wrong school or environmental educator, please email outreach@britishecologicalsociety.org to correct this.

2.3. Logging in



Once your account is all set-up, you will be able to use your details to login [here](#) by selecting the relevant account type. On your first login, you will be prompted to choose an avatar – pick your favourite animal!

The main log-in page for Encounters

On the log-in page, you can also find our launch video, plus general project updates and info if you scroll down.

3. Using the platform

3.1. Home Dashboard

The home dashboard will have a summary of your or your school's progress so far, including the number of points earned and any recent activity or milestones that have been achieved in the 'Events feed'. You can also keep track of how many points your school needs to reach the next award level (e.g. Bronze, Silver or Gold award).

There are two key panels you can see from this dashboard to help you navigate the website:

- 1. The overview – this is the top panel in purple and white that summarises your account and scores per module (mammals, inverts, birds, and nature). The log out button is normally located to the right of this for easy access.
- 2. The tab panel – this sits below the overview and contains a list of options to explore, including the 'Resource Hub' and 'Activity Tab' explained below.

The screenshot shows the 'My School' tab of the BES Encounters dashboard. At the top, the user 'BES_Alexa_T' is logged in, with a total score of 560 points. The dashboard is divided into three main sections: a 'BES Demo' scoreboard, a 'Congratulations!' message, and an 'Event feed'.

Role	Mammals	Inverts	Birds
Naturalist	10	30	0
Researcher	220	0	0
Transformer	200	0	0
Activist	0	0	0
Creative	0	0	60

Congratulations!
Your school has reached Mammals Bronze award
30 points

Event feed
This week

- helenchappell completed the Ladybird specialist (beginner) badge
- helenchappell completed the Ladybird specialist (beginner) badge
- BES_Alexa completed the Invert Specialist (beginner) badge
- BES_Alexa completed the

The teacher dashboard ('My School' tab), including the event feed and scoreboard summary.

3.2. Resource Hub

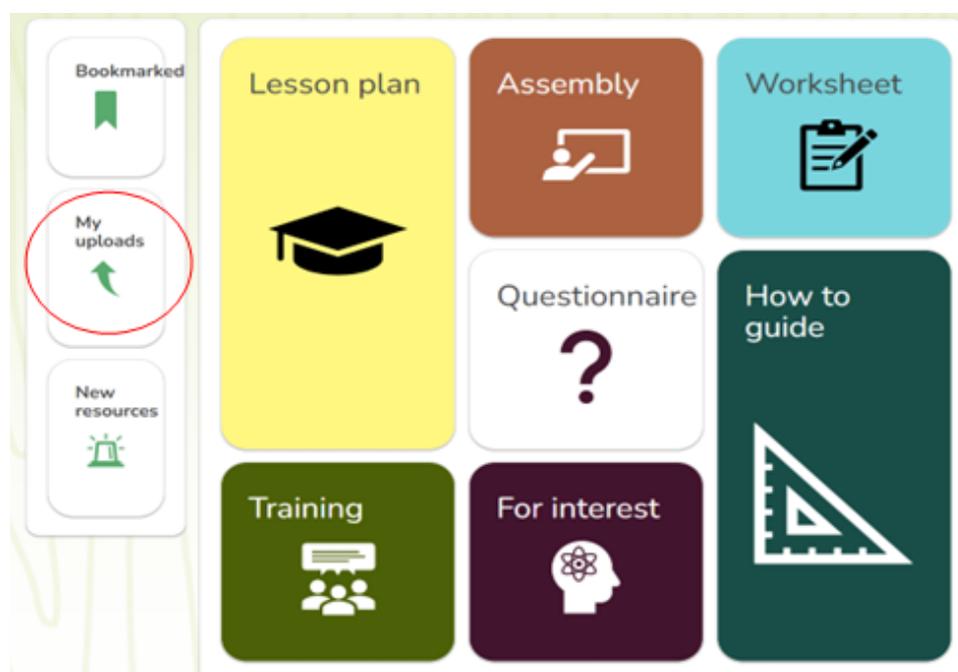
On the Encounters site, there is a bank of educational resources developed by BES staff, environmental educators and other organisations that have kindly contributed to the project. These resources can be used to aid lessons and workshops at your school, including lesson plans, worksheets, assemblies and more. It is also where we store all our training materials for participants to download and use at any time.

From more information on how to navigate the resource hub, please see our Resource Hub how-to [here](#).

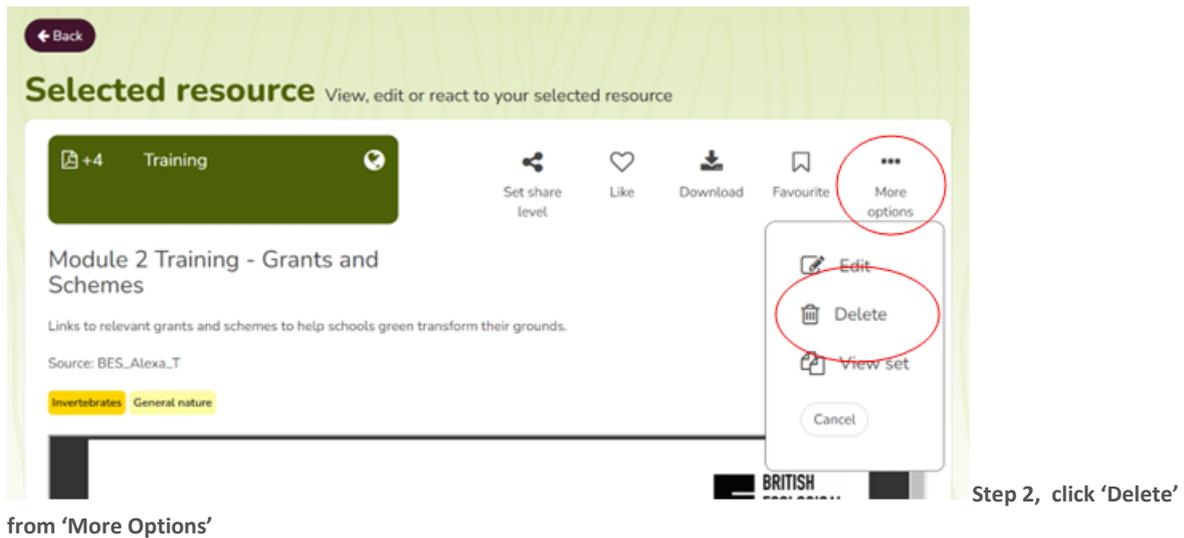
Please see our separate visual how-to guide uploading content to the Resource Hub [here](#), plus our top tips document [here](#) for extra advice.

3.2.1. How to delete content

If you wish to delete an upload you have made to the Resource Hub, go to the main dashboard and click 'My uploads' (circled red, step 1). From there, select the resource you wish to remove and click 'More options' on the far right side. You can then select to delete the resource (circled red, step 2).



Step 1, go to 'My Uploads'



3.2.2. How to report content

We ask that all project-related content is checked by BES staff prior to upload however, this is a shared platform and therefore some content may be unverified. If you see any inappropriate content on the platform, please contact conduct@britishecologicalsociety.org or outreach@britishecologicalsociety.org to raise this with the team so that we can take action and delete it immediately.

3.3. Activities tab

The Activities tab can be accessed from the main panel (circled red below) and includes a whole host of activity ideas for pupils, including quizzes, games, arts & crafts, and ideas to help pupils connect with nature and transform their school & home into more wildlife-friendly places.

Activities are split into four modules: 1. Mammals, 2. Invertebrates, 3. Birds, 4. General Nature. From there, there are 6 categories of tasks to choose from!

Task Categories:

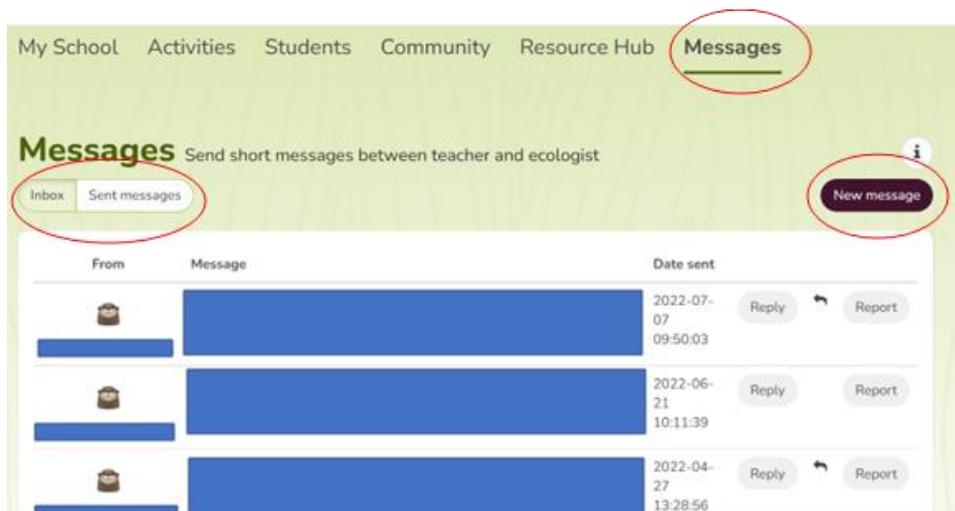
- Naturalist
- Researcher
- Transformer
- Activist
- Creative
- Sharer

Click on each category to see what you can find or have a read through our 'Choose a Task' how-to guide (pdf available [here](#)).



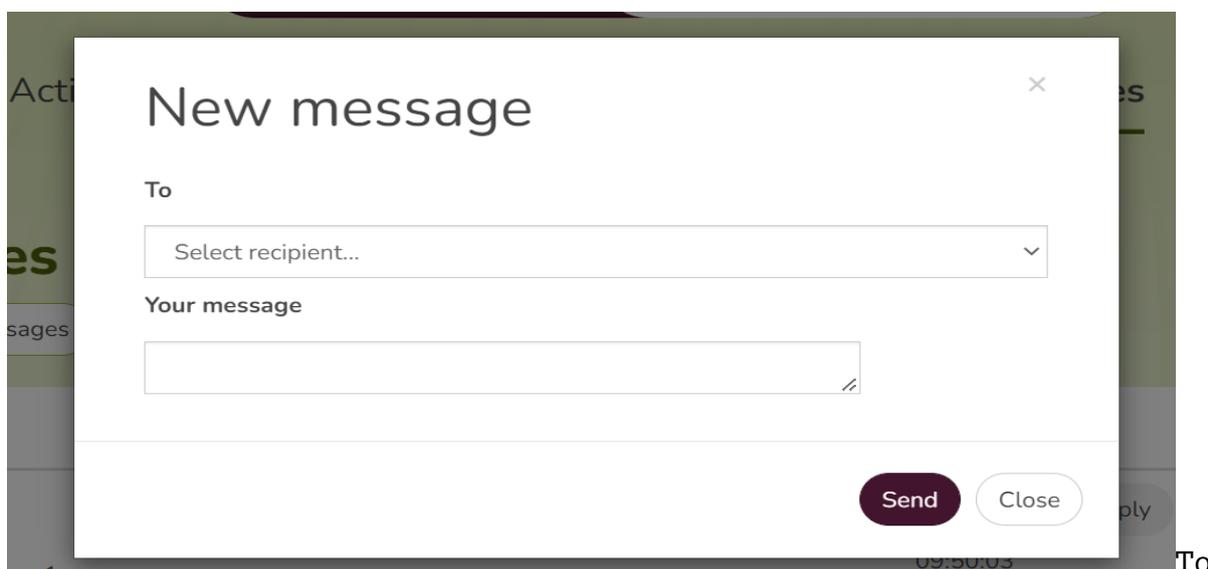
The Activities tab

3.4. Messaging service



The messaging service allows users to interact with one another via the platform and can be found via the 'Messages' tab. This allows volunteer educators to contact local schools and vice versa without sharing emails. Similarly, you can get in touch with BES staff.

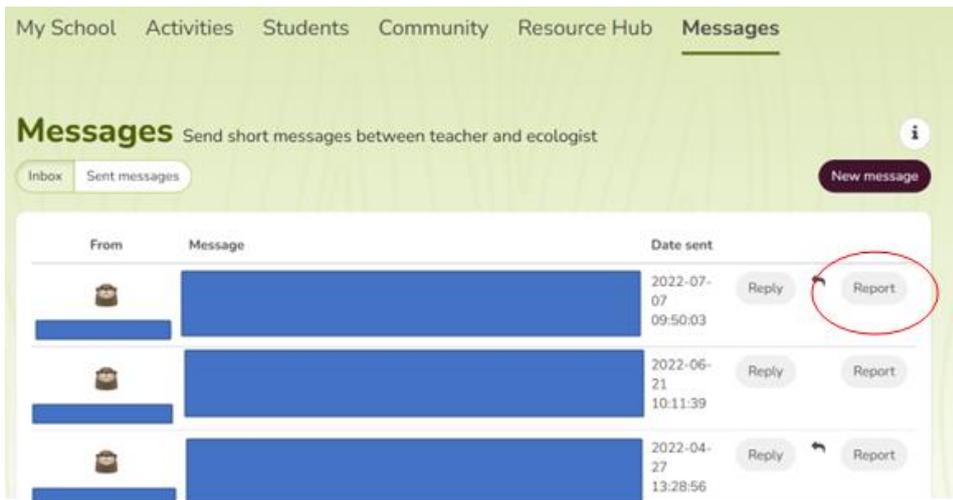
The messaging dashboard with an overview of recent communications and ability to toggle between incoming and outgoing messages (circled red).



send a message, simply click the purple 'New Message' button on the far right and compose your message in the white pop-up text box. You can then select the recipient under the 'To' field and choose from the list of options. To find a record of your sent messages, toggle between your 'inbox' and 'sent messages' on the left hand side of the messages dashboard.

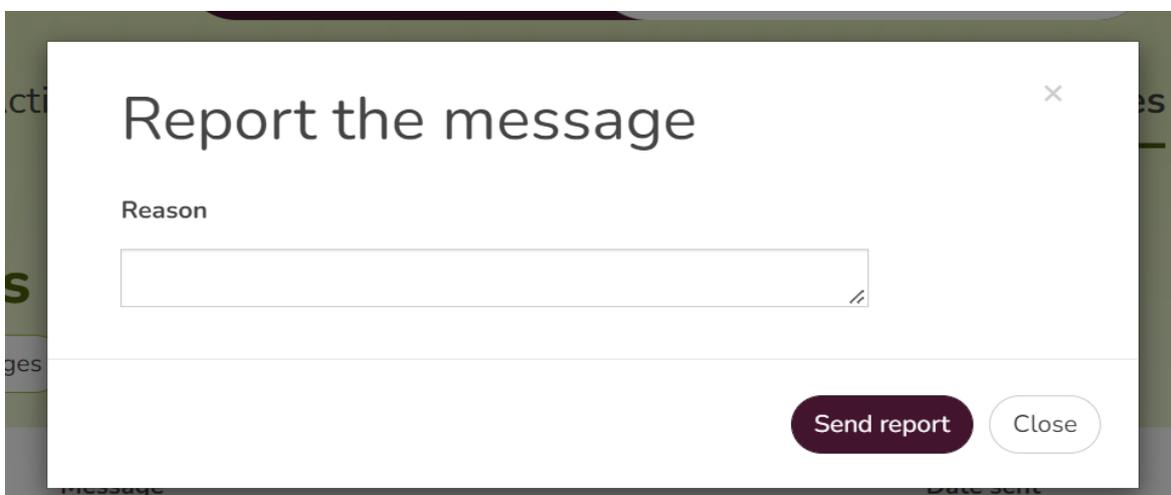
Composing a new message

3.4.1. How to report concerns



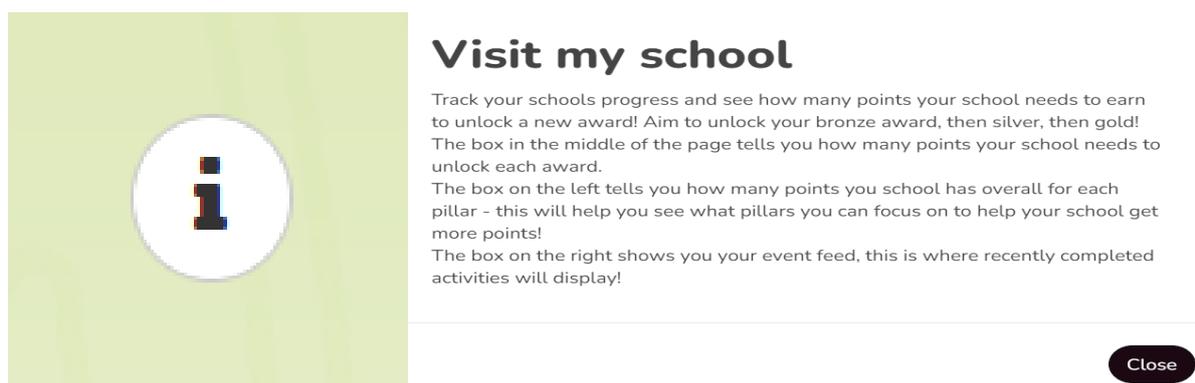
If you would like to report any concerns regarding contact you have received through the platform's messaging function, please use the report button (circled red, step 1) or email conduct@britishecologicalsociety.org or outreach@britishecologicalsociety.org to raise this with the team.

Step 1, reporting a message



Step 2, reporting a message

3.5. Info buttons



If you're ever unsure what certain buttons or tabs on the website do, look for our info buttons. These are white circles with an 'i' in them that show pop-ups with more info when clicked.

The info button with an example pop-up box containing additional information

4. Teacher View

We recommend you read through both this and the explanation of the 'pupil view' in Section 5 to understand how teachers can make the most of the platform, and how the two accounts link together.



The teacher dashboard, including the 'Students' tab explained below

4.1. Student tab

4.1.1. Managing student activities

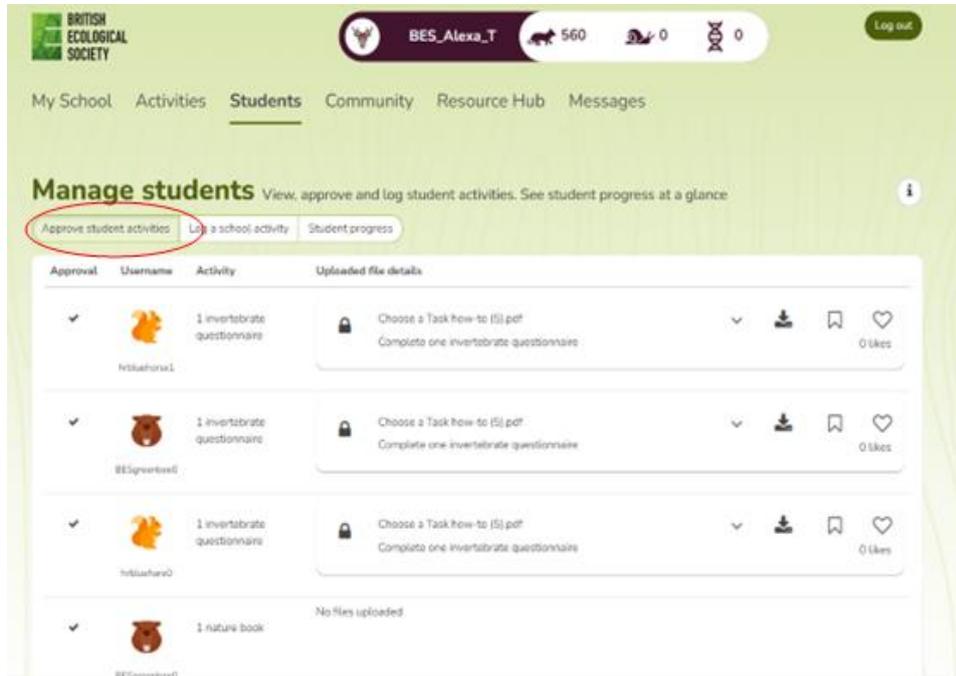
The main feature unique to the Teacher accounts is the 'Students tab' (circled red above). From here, you can manage student activity on either an individual or class basis. All completed tasks require teacher approval so any new activities will be listed in this dashboard for you to check. Click 'approve' on the latest task in your feed to help students unlock their badges. You can then see an overview of individual student activity via the 'student progress' tab on the far right.

1.1 Student Tab

1.1.1 Managing student activities

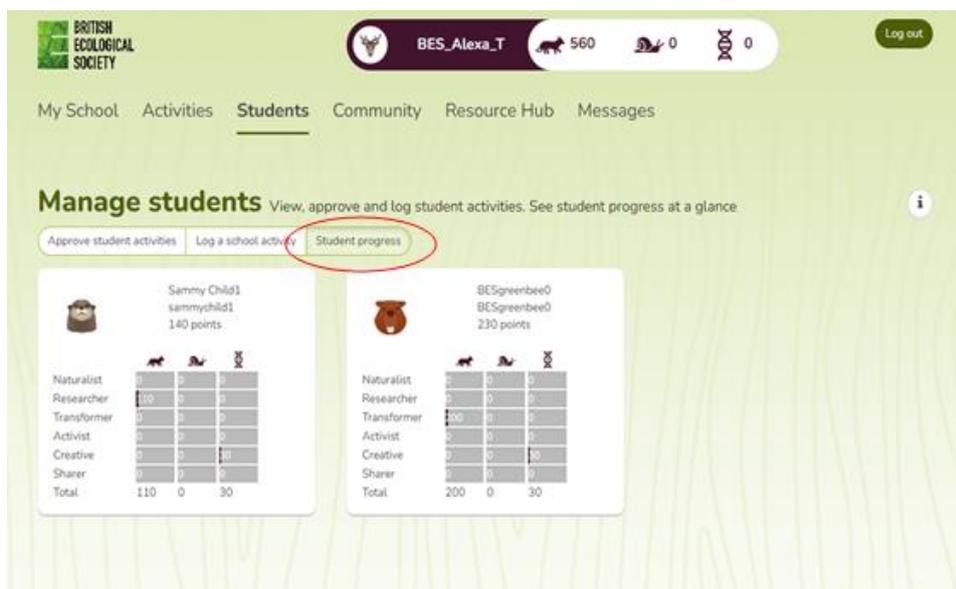
The main additional feature that is unique to the Teacher accounts is the 'Students tab' (circled red above). From here, you can manage student activity on either an individual or class basis. All completed tasks require teacher approval so any new activities will be listed in this dashboard for teachers to check. Click 'approve' to help

students unlock the latest badges. You can then see an overview of individual student activity via the 'student progress' tab on the far right.



The Student tab, allowing teachers to approve recent pupil activity

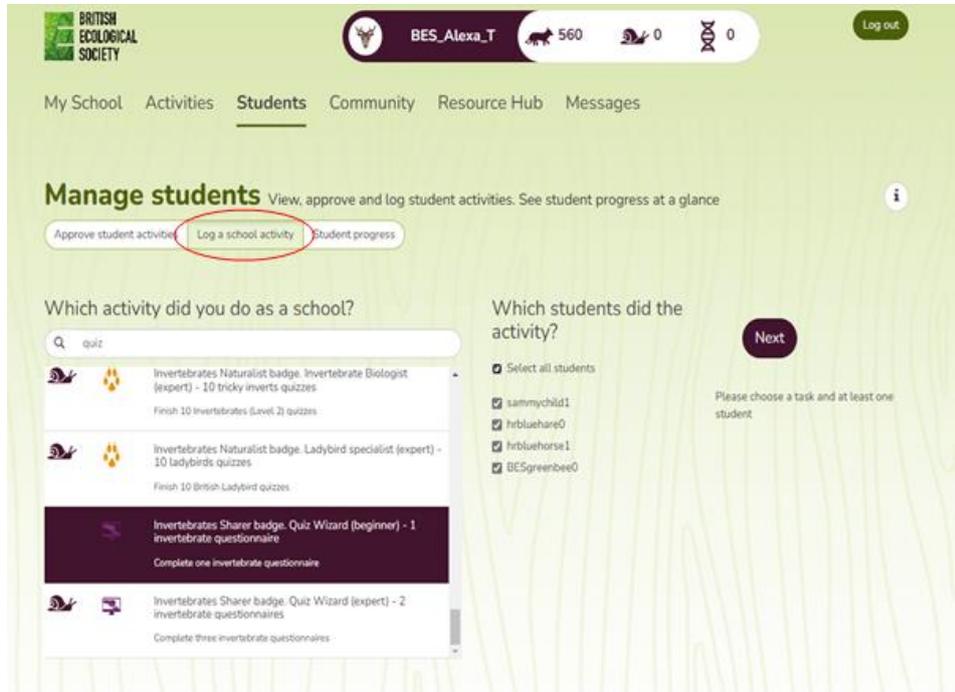
The Student tab,



You can also view student progress via the button on the far right of this tab to see how many points individual pupils have earned

1.1.2 Logging class activities

If you've completed a task or lesson as a class, the easiest way to log your activity is to use the middle 'log a school activity' tab. Type the task name into the top search bar before selecting which students took part on the right. Click 'select all students' if it was whole class activity. You will then be prompted to upload evidence – share your completed worksheets or a picture of what you got up to. The points will then automatically update on your pupil and school dashboard to show your achievements.

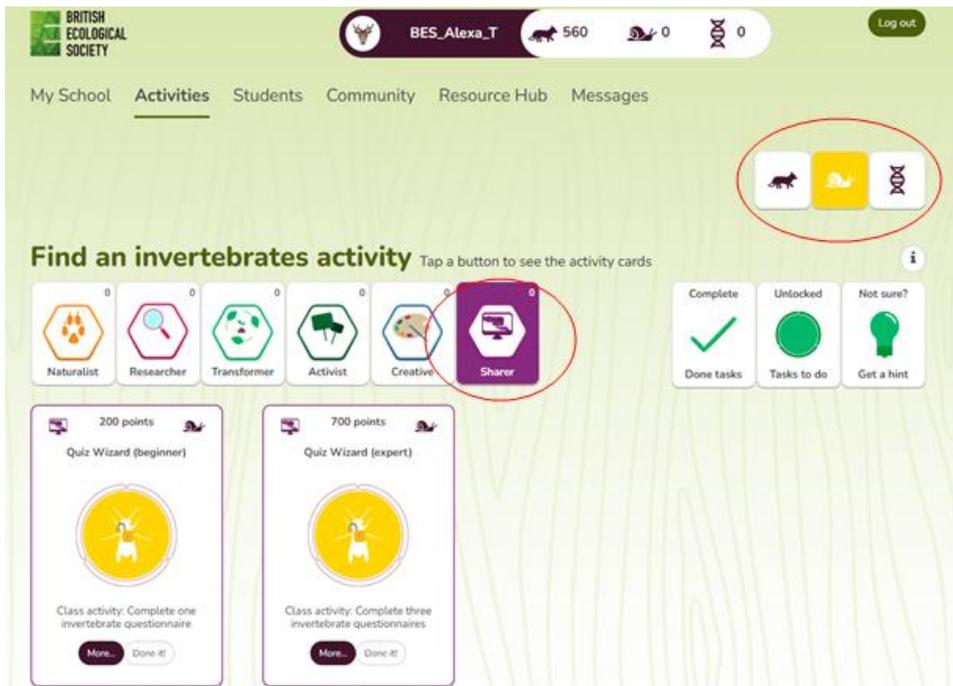


Log a class activity with the task and pupil search functions

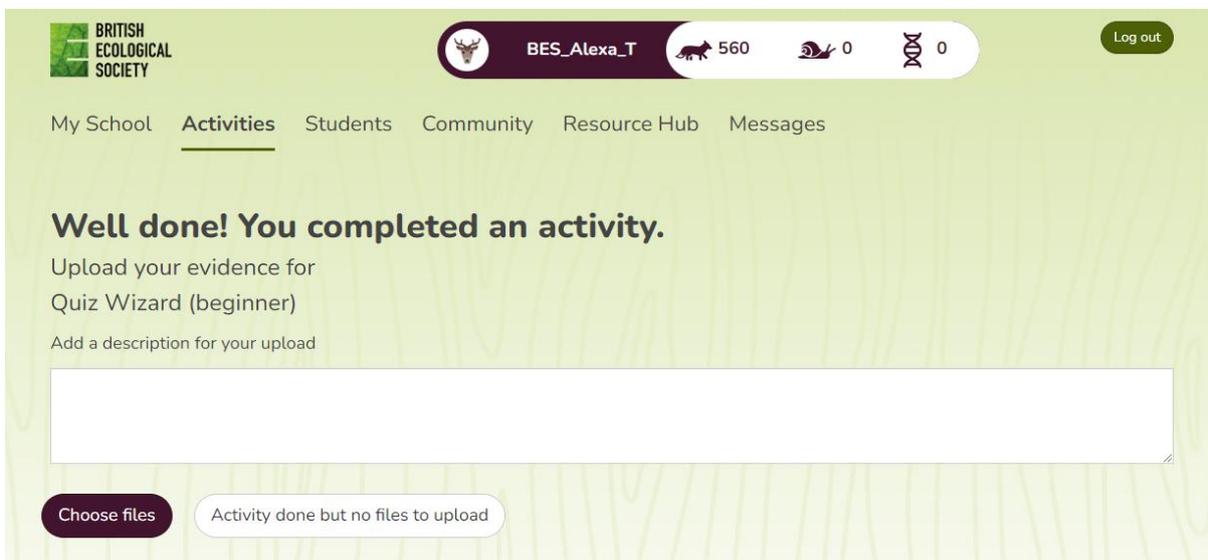
1.1 Uploading questionnaires

Each module is accompanied by a set of questionnaires for pupils to complete. This is invaluable data for the research portion of our project and lets us evaluate how much pupils learn throughout the course of the different modules. Any data you can submit to us is much appreciated.

As well as via email or post, you can submit these via the platform by clicking on the 'Activity' tab and selecting the relevant module. Remember you can toggle between modules in the top right if need be. The questionnaire task is stored under the purple 'Sharer' task category on the far right. Click 'Done it' below the correct task before uploading the relevant questionnaires. Points will then be added automatically.



Upload completed questionnaires via the purple Sharer task category. Toggle between modules via the icons in the top right.

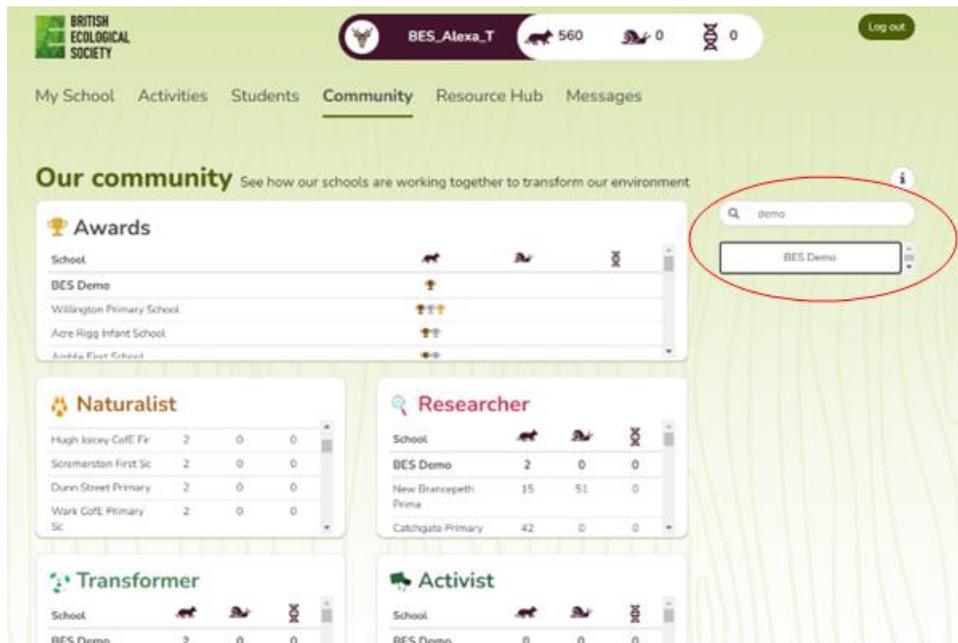


Upload the questionnaires or select 'Activity done but no files to upload' & share the results via other means (email or post)

1.2 Schools dashboard

Check out what other schools are up, and where you place in the overall leaderboard, by clicking the 'Community' tab on the top panel of options. You can see the overall scoreboard at the top, including which awards the different schools have earned. Below, this there is a breakdown of the leaderboards per task category (Naturalist,

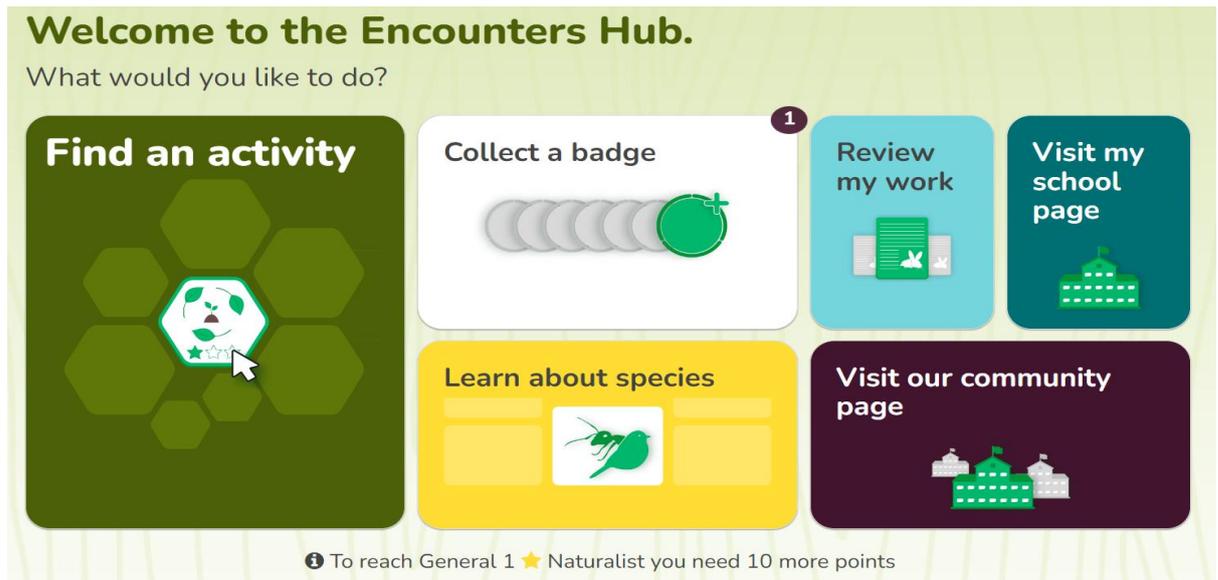
Researcher, Transformer, Activist, Creative & Sharer). Have a scroll through to see what everyone's been up to.



If you're having trouble finding where your school is on the leaderboards, use the far right search bar to type in the name of your school. Your points will then be highlighted per leaderboard.

School leaderboard – type your school in the far right search bar to highlight your progress at the top.

2 Pupil View



The pupil accounts are a simplified version of the teacher accounts. Pupils can complete activities independently, such as quizzes or activities,

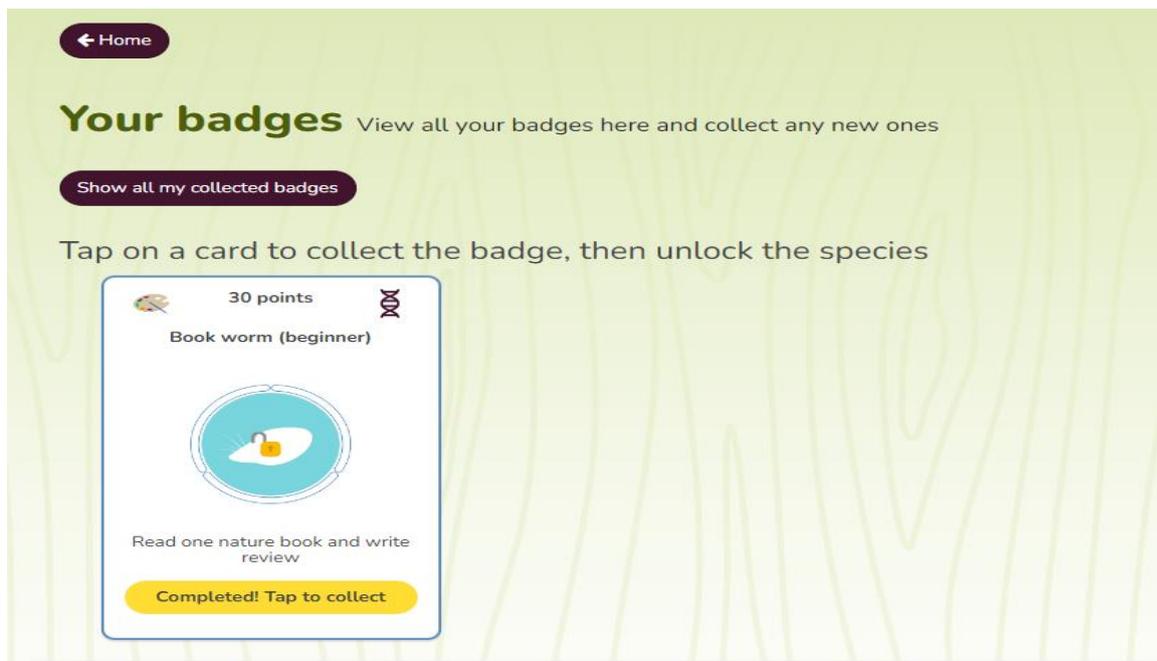
The pupil homepage. This dashboard has been simplified and therefore has less functionality than the teacher homepage.

2.1 Completing activities & collecting badges



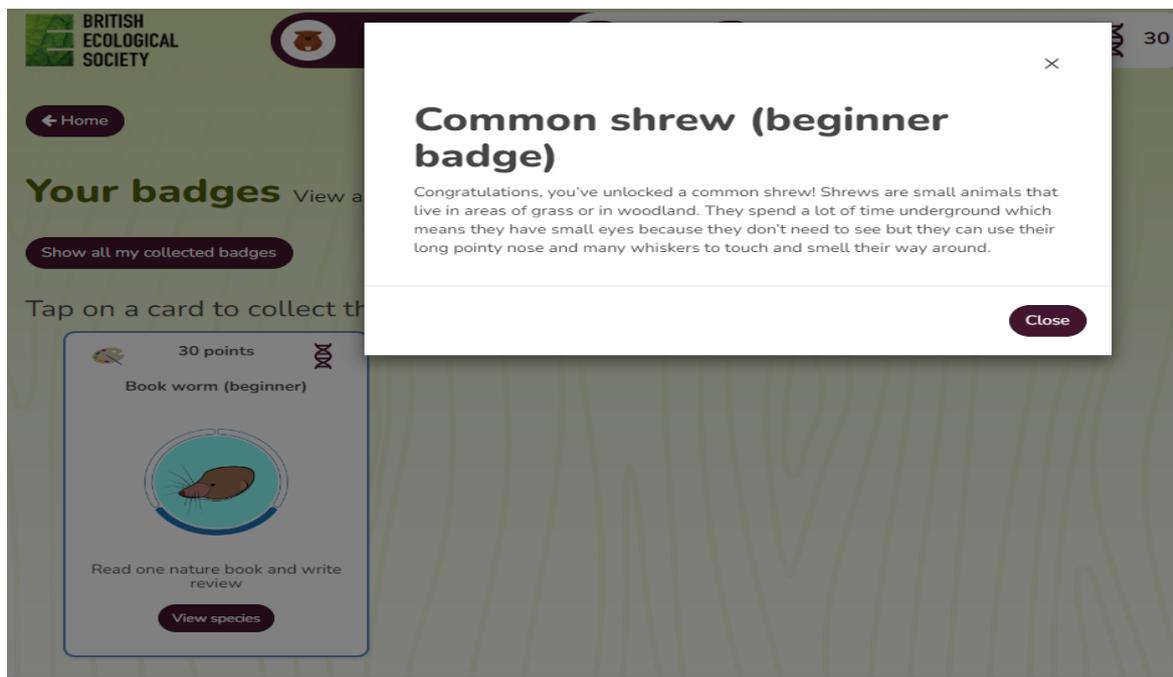
Click 'Find an activity' and choose which module you're interested in (mammals, invertebrates, birds or general nature activities!). See our handy task guide if you're having trouble navigating or finding the task you'd like to do (pdf available [here](#)).

Choose which module you want to learn about!



Once you've completed your task, go back to your home dashboard and click 'Collect a badge' – you'll see a notification at the top right of the panel to indicate new content. Who have you found? Click on your new badge to find out more!

Click on the badge card to find out which animal you've collected!



Each badge reveals information about the species you have collected. Work your way through the different tasks and levels to see what you can find out! You can review your collection by toggling between 'Visit badges page' and 'Visit species page' to learn more. Similarly, you can access this info from the yellow 'Learn about species' button or by clicking the blue 'review my work' button from the main dashboard.

Tap on the badge to find out about the animal on your badge

2.2 Schools' leaderboard

BRITISH ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY BESgreenbee0 2 3 200 0 30 Log out

← Home

Our community

 See how our schools are working together to transform our environment

Awards

School	🦊	🐌	🧬
Willington Primary School	🏆🏆🏆		
Acre Rigg Infant School	🏆		
Amble First School	🏆		
Beechhill Primary School	🏆		

Naturalist

School	🦊	🐌	🧬
New Brancepeth Prima	0	4	0
Willington Primary S	3	0	0
Laurel Avenue	3	0	0

Researcher

School	🦊	🐌	🧬
New Brancepeth Prima	15	51	0
Catchgate Primary Sc	42	0	0

Transformer

School	🦊	🐌	🧬
Willington Primary S	78	0	0

Activist

School	🦊	🐌	🧬
Beechhill Primary Sc	100	0	0

Search schools...

- Acre Rigg Infant School
- Amble First School
- Bader Primary School
- Barnard Grove Primary School
- Beechhill Primary School
- Berwick St Marys CofE First School
- BES Demo

Remember to check your progress on the schools' leaderboard by clicking on the top right 'Visit my school page' button from your main pupil dashboard. This will show you what you've achieved so far in each module, as well as how many points your school needs to reach the next level. Who knows, you might even reach Gold award by the end of term! You can also see what other schools nearby are up to via the purple 'Visit our community page' button.

The schools' leaderboard showing how many points neighbouring schools have per module and which awards they've achieved.

3 Environmental Educators View

Most of the functionalities available to Environmental Educators are explained in section 3 of this guide and the basics of using the platform. Educators can upload educational materials, chat to teachers, and even complete quizzes on behalf of their partner schools to help boost their points via the 'Activities' tab. You can also keep up with your school's progress via the event feed on your main dashboard or the 'Community' tab to track overall points.

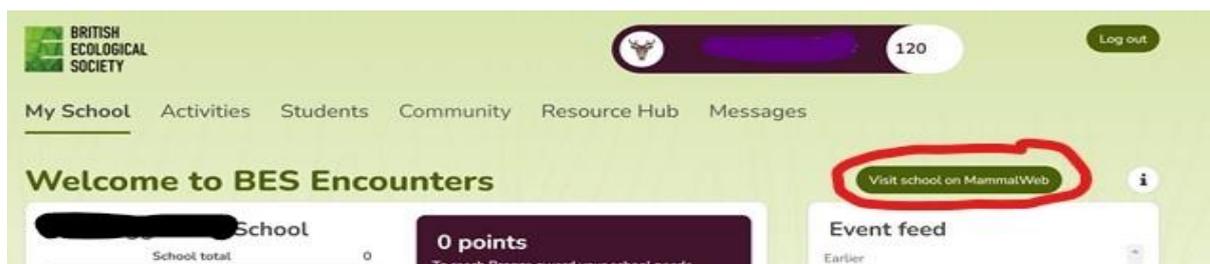
If you have suggestions for additional features you would like to see above the current access that Environmental Educators have, get in touch – we'd love to hear your ideas!

4 Kiosk Encounters

4.1 Overview

Kiosk Encounters was launched specifically for schools looking to focus on getting younger pupils involved with the 'Connecting schools to nature project'. It has been designed as a stand-alone version of the BES Encounters platform that is more user-friendly for younger audiences.

Your school will have been notified about whether or not you have access to a kiosk version. If your school has been set up with a kiosk, the lead teacher will be able to access it by selecting the green 'Visit school on MammalWeb' button available on the 'My School' homepage of BES Encounters:



Find the kiosk version of Encounters by clicking 'Visit school on MammalWeb'

This will take you to a home page a bit like the image below with your school's name and a selection of options.



The kiosk version of Encounters for younger years

4.2 Top tips

The kiosk version allows you to more easily use it to earn points as a class and do some classifying/quizzes together. It has a simplified menu and number of options. Once logged in, we recommend pressing 'F11' on your keyboard to go full screen as this hides the menu bars and creates a cleaner visual.

4.3 Kiosk access

The kiosk version was released in March 2022 so only a small subset of schools have been given access to this. We are hoping to set up all schools with this kiosk version of the platform in the near future however, this is dependent on digital capacity. If you are working with younger years and are interested in getting this set up for your own school, please let us know and we can look into it.

5 Final Notes

Thank you for using the BES Encounters platform – we hope you enjoy exploring the different activities and resources available! We'd love to hear how you get on, whether that's completing a badge or activity, or sharing feedback about the platform itself so please do reach out with any thoughts or questions (via outreach@britishecologicalsociety.org).

Thank you & enjoy!
The BES Outreach Team

Appendix B: Admin user dashboard screenshot



Admin dashboard

Users
36
active users

[User admin](#)

Resources
97
files uploaded

[View](#)

Mammals
75
activities completed

[View](#)

Invertebrates
51
activities completed

[View](#)

Birds
13
activities completed

[View](#)

General
22
activities completed

[View](#)