

Native Species Ecosystems

An ecosystem is a community of interacting living things (plants, animals and organisms) and their physical environment (rocks, rivers, weather, soil etc.) .

Draw a native ecosystem that exists in the UK. For example, a lake or woodland.

Ensure that you include both biotic (living) and abiotic (non-living) aspects.

Once you have created this ecosystem, add in an environmental condition that will affect the model.

Some environmental conditions that can impact an ecosystem include:

- Change of climate
- Agriculture
- Development of land
- Flooding

How does this environmental condition impact on the model? Does it all work the same?

Did you know:

ZSL Whipsnade Zoo has a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest). The site is special as it is lowland chalk grassland. Rare herbs such as wild basil can be found at the site as well as rare orchids. Management of the site includes allowing sheep to graze at specific times on the site. Surveys also have to be conducted at different times throughout the year.

Why do surveys have to be done at different times of the year?

Model 1: An intact, working ecosystem

Model 2: An environmental condition that will impact on the ecosystem.

Model 3: Ecosystem affected by an environmental condition.

Now that the ecosystem has had an environmental impact pressure applied to it, how would you manage this ecosystem?

Discuss with other groups the different environmental changes they have made to their ecosystems—did all the changes end the same way?