

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Aim

To understand how ecosystems change over time and to relate changes in the ecosystem to the main physical factors affecting the environment.

Introduction

- The development of ecosystems over time.
- Stages of succession and the influence of named species on the environment.
- Definitions, climax community and succession.

AM: Grassland through to woodland succession

- Line transect of ground flora showing successional changes from grassland, through scrub to woods.
- Point frame to sample species
- Measurements of abiotic factors

PM: Compare two woodlands at different stages of succession.

- Random sampling of ground flora and canopy cover using gridded quadrats
- Measure abiotic factors.

Follow up

- Construct kite diagrams with the transect data
- Undertake Spearman's Rank to analyse abiotic data
- Discuss results and draw conclusions
- Discuss limitations

RECOMMENDED DAY LENGTH

9.30 – 16.00

SAFETY All activities and sites are risk assessed. Recommended 1 adult per group.

CLOTHING Appropriate outdoor clothing. Indoor & outdoor footwear.

BEHAVIOUR Teachers are responsible for good behaviour and lunchtime supervision.

RESOURCES All resources are provided.

ICT There is the option of using a digital camera to record techniques.

ASSESSMENT
Progress assessed by open ended questioning, peer discussions, presentations and use of knowledge and skills in different situations.

PRIOR LEARNING
Simple definitions and terms

FUTURE LEARNING
Consider effects of human influences on the environment