

BES Annual Meeting 2018, Tuesday 18th Dec, 15:00 – 17:15
Thematic Session: Long-term ecological experiments forever! -
Unique challenges and opportunities.

Organisers: Jonathan Silvertown & Emma Sayer

This session will be a scientific celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the founding of the Ecological Continuity Trust (ECT), which was established with BES support by members of the society in 2008. The session will review and discuss the particular challenges involved in funding, establishing and maintaining long-term ecological experiments. Speakers will share what has been learned from the successes in this field and present some of the unique and unexpected opportunities that have arisen over time. The value of long-term ecological experiments increases over time-scales that go well beyond conventional funding cycles and although the UK has some of the longest-running experiments in the world, it has a diminishing number of them. The session therefore facilitates the exchange of experiences from long-term experiments on three continents and includes speakers from different research career stages to demonstrate how we can benefit from experimental platforms over several generations of scientists.

15:00	Jonathan Silvertown & Emma Sayer. Introduction to the thematic session
15:10	Bridget Emmett (CEH Bangor) CLIMOOR (Wales) Effects of long-term drought and warming on ecosystem processes
15:30	Raj Whitlock (University of Liverpool). Buxton (BCCIL, England) - Adaptive evolution of plants in response to climate changes.
15:40	Diane Campbell (UC Irvine). Rocky Mountain Biological Lab (Colorado, USA)-- Plant adaptive responses to changes in annual snowpack and pollinator availability
15:50	Ruth Mitchell (JHI, Aberdeen), MOORCO (Scotland) Impact of grazing on woodland establishment.
16:00	Merlin Sheldrake (University of Cambridge), Gigante Litter Manipulation Project (Panama) – Mycorrhizal function in response to changes in long-term nutrient inputs.
16:10	Alexandra Weigelt (University of Jena) , The Jena Biodiversity Experiment (Germany) – Above- and belowground plant complementarity.

16:20	Andy Hector (University of Oxford), RainDrop (England) – a long-term experiment to meet 21 st century research challenges.
16:30	Questions & Panel Discussion
17:15	End