



Blue Natural Curriculum Session 1 – Key Scientific Terms

Biome

A biome is a large region of the world with a specific climate, soil, and types of plants and animals. In marine environments, the main ocean biomes include the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Southern, and Arctic Oceans. Sussex lies within the Atlantic Ocean biome, specifically the Eastern Channel. (Source: National Geographic & WWF)

Ecosystem

An ecosystem is a community of living organisms (plants, animals, microbes) interacting with the non-living parts of their environment (like air, water, and soil). These components are linked through energy flow and nutrient cycles. (Source: Natural History Museum UK)

Habitat

A habitat is the natural home or environment of an organism. It provides the right conditions for animals or plants to live, grow, and reproduce. Examples include chalk reefs, mudflats, and seagrass meadows in Sussex. (Source: DEFRA)

Biodiversity

Biodiversity is the variety of all living things in a particular area—this includes different species, their genetic variation, and the ecosystems they form. Healthy habitats usually have high biodiversity. (Source: Convention on Biological Diversity)

Abiotic & Biotic Factors

Abiotic factors are the non-living elements of an environment (like temperature, salinity, pH, and sunlight). Biotic factors are the living components (like plants, animals, fungi, and bacteria). (Source: British Ecological Society)

Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)

A Marine Conservation Zone is a protected area in the sea where human activities are managed to preserve biodiversity and important habitats. Examples near Sussex include Beachy Head East and Selsey Bill. (Source: Marine Conservation Society UK)

Carbon Sequestration

Carbon sequestration is the process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide. Habitats like seagrass meadows and kelp forests help absorb CO₂ and reduce climate change impacts. (Source: Natural England & Blue Carbon Initiative)