

INTERACTIVE MANAGEMENT OF A NATURE RESERVE'S ECOLOGY



Following the success of the interactive Domesday Discs, the British Broadcasting Corporation has introduced a new AIV videodisc – the Ecodisc.

The Ecodisc offers a simulation of real life problem solving in the management of a nature reserve, Slapton Ley in South Devon. The interactive videodisc brings together a vast collection of information in the form of photographs, film sequences, graphic displays and data all under the control of a computer program.

The reserve is made up of a large lake and its shore line, a shingle ridge, reed beds, marshes



and extensive woods. Within the reserve is a wide-ranging collection of plants and animals, including an important coarse fishery, a habitat for otters and a bird sanctuary. With additional opportunities for sailing, shooting and rambling, the area represents an obvious attraction for tourists. But Slapton also provides rich farming and agricultural possibilities.



THE ECODISC



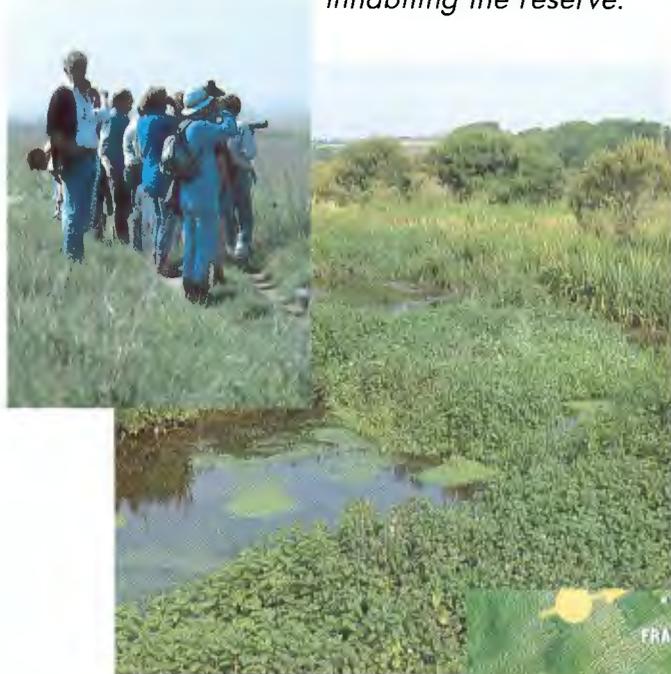
The objective of the Ecodisc is to simulate this real place with all its activities and conflicting demands. The users of the videodisc take on the role of Nature Reserve Manager and are encouraged to study the environment in as much detail as they like, weighing up the present situation and how it would change in time, together with the long-term effects of their final decisions. Needless to say they will be encouraged by outside opinions, ranging from the local council to vast armies of bird spotting enthusiasts to effect quite different ideas. However, with the use of the interactive videodisc simulation, students will be able to appreciate for themselves every ecological complexity and the problems associated with the management of an environment such as Slapton Ley.

You will be able to see films introducing you to the reserve. You can walk around the area, take a boat out on to the lake to get a different perspective or look down from a helicopter to gather an aerial survey.

In fact, you can cover every blade of grass in Slapton Ley without stirring from your seat.

A unique feature of the Ecodisc is that all these views are available for both summer and winter and you can switch instantly between them at the press of a button. This is the first time that this type of observation has been made so readily available.

You can discover in every detail the population of plants and animals by going into the reserve and sampling. You can investigate the vegetation of the woods and reed beds, the fish in the lake, and the birds and mammals inhabiting the reserve.

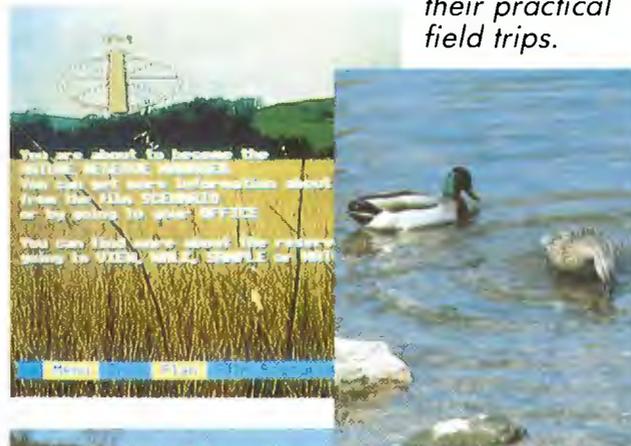


You can even look at what might happen over the next fifty years if the reserve is left to follow its natural course. At any stage you can get advice from a variety of experts who have a special working knowledge of ecological and environmental issues.

Coming up with a plan to balance the interests of wildlife and people on and around the reserve requires some understanding of the scientific processes involved in sampling a variety of species – birds, fish, mammals, plants, modelling the results and drawing conclusions. The Ecodisc offers a new and exciting way of doing that together with the fun of planning how to solve such a problem and observe the results of putting the plan into action.

There are no assumptions about right or wrong answers, purely reactions from a diverse group of local concerns.

The Ecodisc has not been designed to replace genuine fieldwork but to complement and prepare all biology and ecology students for their practical field trips.



The Ecodisc has been designed with the new GCSE curriculum in mind for use with ecology

studies. It will also prove to be a resource of great value in other areas such as Geography, Environmental Studies and Computer and Technology courses.

Complete with a set of working papers that takes you through step by step, the Ecodisc represents an exciting, fascinating and enjoyable forum for the study of an increasingly significant scientific discipline.

▶ £169.00 excluding VAT.

THE ECODISC

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

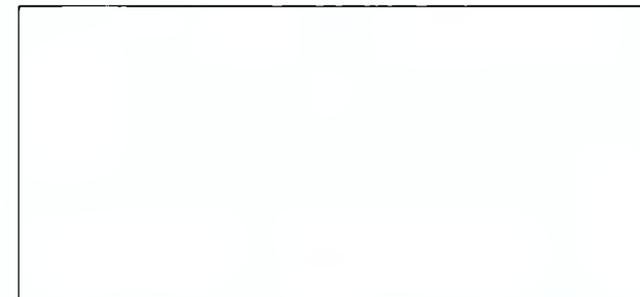


(LV-ROM format compatible with BBC AIV System)

The LV-ROM format allows analogue video frames, sound and digital data to be stored on the same disc.

BBC AIV System consists of a) BBC AIV Microcomputer, an enhancement of the Master 128 series made under licence by Acorn Computers Ltd and includes the turbo co-processor, the Small Computer Systems Interface, a trackerball and a Video Filing System ROM; b) BBC AIV VP415 videodisc Player, a front-loading LaserVision videodisc player specially developed by Philips Electronics to record and transfer digital data to a host computer system and to display video pictures from a LaserVision ROM disc; c) Colour Monitor, a 14" medium resolution monitor with amplifier/loudspeaker.

If you would like further detailed information about the products described in this leaflet or other BBC AIV discs and related accessories please contact the approved dealers. A list is obtainable from Education and Training Sales, BBC Enterprises Ltd, Woodlands, 80 Wood Lane, London W12 0TT, Tel: 01-576 0521.



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