Prior to this project, I had been interested in the possibility of a career in academia. This made me keen to acquire some experience working in the area to decide whether this is an area I would like to explore further. The project gave me the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge of statistics and computational mathematics I had built through my prior years of study to work currently being done by an active research group at my university. I found it interesting to learn new statistical modelling techniques with a clear application, which has inspired me to take a module in Markov chains and processes this semester, and I also particularly enjoyed learning about the underlying biological and ecological parts of the project which is an opportunity I wouldn't typically have on my degree course. I enjoyed meeting and collaborating with researchers from bioscience backgrounds, including people who had collected the data which provided a valuable perspective on the project. Overall I found this project was an invaluable experience which allowed me to develop many new skills, both scientific and interpersonal, and helped consolidate my interest in doing a PhD and working in a research environment.