

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE MODULAR SCHEME

Sheet updated: December 2010

Module Code EE81	Module Title Reptiles (I): Background Biology, Survey Techniques and Legislation	Module Leader Phil Davidson BSc CEnv MIEEM
School which owns module	Real Estate and Land Management (RELM)	
Programme(s) to which module belongs	Applied Ecology for Professionals (elective)	
Module Level 7	Module Credits 7.5	Pre-Requisites None
Minimum Study Time 75 hours	Contact Hours within Study Time 12 hours plus additional tutor support	Teaching Period 1 day October onwards
<p>Module Content</p> <p>This one-day course is aimed at professional ecologists who wish to learn about reptile ecology, survey techniques, and relevant legislation, with particular reference to development projects. This course aims to provide: background information on reptile biology, status and distribution so as to understand when, where and how reptile surveys should be carried out; information on legislative protection; information on sources of desk study records. This course also demonstrates: identification, capture and handling techniques for the more widespread reptiles (common lizard, slow-worm, adder and grass snake) in the field; routine survey techniques to assess reptile habitat and identify the presence or absence of common species. Emphasis is placed on acquiring (through lectures) and practising (in the field) the ecological skills necessary to protect reptiles and their habitats.</p>		
<p>Module Outcomes</p> <p>To achieve credit for this module, attendees must be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluate the behaviour, ecology and distribution of British reptile species, and how these influence when, where and how surveys for these species should be devised and justify their implementation. 2. Assess and evaluate the suitability of habitats for the more widespread British reptiles. 3. Demonstrate an ability to identify and safely handle the more widespread British reptile species. 4. Demonstrate an ability to use appropriate survey techniques for the more widespread British reptiles to determine their presence or absence, sex and age classes. 5. Demonstrate a clear understanding of the legislation and licensing requirements relating to reptiles. 		

Assessment	Description	Weighting
Coursework	Students will be asked to submit a written evaluation report of no more than 3,000 words	100%
<p>Key Text: Students should be familiar with the content of at least one of the following: Beebee, T. and Griffiths. R.H. (2000). <i>Reptiles and Amphibians. A Natural History</i>. Harper Collins, London. Gent, A.H., & Gibson, S.D., eds. (2003). <i>Herpetofauna Workers' Manual</i>. 2nd Ed. Peterborough, Joint Nature Conservation Committee.</p>		
<p>Other supporting information English Nature (2004). <i>Reptiles: Guidelines for Developers</i>. English Nature, Peterborough. http://naturalengland.etraderstores.com/NaturalEnglandShop/IN151</p> <p>Edgar, P., Foster, J. and Baker, J. (2010). <i>Reptile Habitat Management Handbook</i>. Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Bournemouth. Moulton, N. and Corbett, K. (1999). <i>The Sand Lizard Conservation Handbook</i>. English Nature, Peterborough. http://naturalengland.etraderstores.com/NaturalEnglandShop/IN292</p> <p>It is planned to use some elements of e-learning as part of delivery of the module to support module attendees. Copies of PowerPoint slides, key references and web resources will be made available online, along with email support for assignments.</p>		