

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE MODULAR SCHEME

Sheet updated: December 2010

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| Module Code EE83 | Module Title Terrestrial Invertebrates | Module Leader Jon Davies, B.Sc., M.Sc., C.Env. |
| 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 8 hours plus additional tutor support | Teaching Period 1 day course October onwards |
| <p>Module Content</p> <p>This one-day course is aimed at professional ecologists who wish to learn about the biology and conservation status of British terrestrial invertebrates, survey methodologies, impact assessment and mitigation. This course provides background information on the biology and conservation status of British terrestrial invertebrates. This course will demonstrate survey methodologies, including: pit fall traps; hand searching; and sweep netting; and demonstrate how to carry out habitat assessment. This course will assess impacts of development projects on terrestrial invertebrate populations. This course will also demonstrate good practice in mitigating development impacts that affect reptiles and their habitats, including: seasonal programming to avoid disturbance, killing and injury; fencing; translocation; capture techniques; habitat manipulation; habitat creation and enhancement; and monitoring. Emphasis is placed on acquiring (through lectures) and practising (in the field) the ecological skills necessary to protect this terrestrial invertebrates and habitats.</p> | | |
| <p>Module Outcomes</p> <p>To achieve credit for this module, students must be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Critically evaluate the different levels of protection offered to British invertebrates. 2. Critically evaluate the types of habitat that should automatically trigger further invertebrate surveys. 3. Produce a site appraisal for invertebrates and evaluate the appropriate survey technique(s) for the site. 4. Implement simple survey techniques (pit fall trapping, hand searching, and sweep netting) and analyse the survey results. 5. Produce appropriate impact assessments for development projects on terrestrial invertebrate habitat and populations, and design appropriate measures to avoid, reduce or off-set these impacts. | | |

| Assessment | Description | Weighting |
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| Coursework | Students will be asked to provide 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: Kirby, P. (2001). <i>Habitat Management for Invertebrates: A Practical Handbook</i>. RSPB, Sandy, Bedfordshire.</p> | | |
| <p>Other supporting information Ausden, M. and Drake, M. (2006) <i>Invertebrates</i>. In: W.J. Sutherland, ed. <i>Ecological Census Techniques</i>. 2nd Ed. Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>Buglife (2010) <i>Managing Priority Habitats for Invertebrates</i>. Buglife - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust, Peterborough. http://www.buglife.org.uk/conservation/adviceonmanagingbaphabitats</p> <p>Drake, C.M., Lott, D.A., Alexander, K.N.A. and Webb, J. (2007) <i>Surveying terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates for conservation evaluation</i>. English Nature, Peterborough. http://naturalengland.etraderstores.com/NaturalEnglandShop/NERR005</p> <p>English Nature (2005a). <i>Organising surveys to determine site quality for invertebrates. A framework guide for ecologists</i>. English Nature, Peterborough.</p> <p>English Nature (2005b). <i>The butterfly handbook. General advice note on mitigating the impacts of roads on butterfly populations</i>. English Nature, Peterborough.</p> <p>Whitehouse, A.T. (2008) <i>Managing Aggregates Sites for Invertebrates: a best practice guide</i>. Buglife - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust, Peterborough.</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> | | |