

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE MODULAR SCHEME

Sheet updated: December 2010

Module Code EE84	Module Title Water Voles (II): Legislation, Impact Assessment and Mitigation	Module Leader Mike Dean, B.Sc., M.Sc., C.Env., Cresswell Associates
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 Water Voles (I)
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 those with existing knowledge of water vole ecology and survey techniques, and who wish to learn more about legislation, impact assessment and mitigation. This course will provide information on legislation protecting water voles and their burrows. This course will assess impacts of development projects on water voles, including: habitat loss; population/habitat fragmentation; incidental mortality; and introduction of predators. This course will also demonstrate good practice in mitigating development impacts through: avoiding habitat loss; displacing and relocation; and habitat creation, restoration and enhancement. Emphasis is placed on acquiring (through lectures, case studies and fieldwork) the necessary technical and ecological skills to protect this species and its habitat.</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. Demonstrate a clear understanding of the legislation and licensing requirements relating to water voles and their burrows. 2. Demonstrate an ability to carry out appropriate impact assessments for development projects on water vole populations and their habitat. 3. Design and critically evaluate appropriate measures to avoid, reduce or off-set the impacts of development projects on water voles. 		

Assessment	Description	Weighting
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: Strachan, R. and Moorhouse, T. (2006) <i>Water Vole Conservation Handbook</i>. 2nd ed. Wildlife Conservation Research Unit, University of Oxford.</p>		
<p>Other supporting information</p> <p>Natural England (2006) <i>Halting the Decline: Refuges and National Key Sites for Water Voles R386</i>. English Nature, Peterborough. http://naturalengland.etraderstores.com/NaturalEnglandShop/R386</p> <p>Natural England (2008) <i>Water Vole Guidance for Planners and Developers</i>. English Nature, Peterborough.</p> <p>Natural England (2008) <i>Water Voles and Development: Licensing Policy TIN042</i>. English Nature, Peterborough. http://naturalengland.etraderstores.com/NaturalEnglandShop/TIN042</p> <p>Natural England (2008) <i>Water Voles – the Law in Practice NE86</i>. English Nature, Peterborough. http://naturalengland.etraderstores.com/NaturalEnglandShop/NE86</p> <p>Strachan, R. and Jefferies, D.J. (1993) <i>The Water Vole in Britain 1989-1990: its Distribution and Changing Status</i>. The Vincent Wildlife Trust, London.</p> <p>Strachan, R. (2010) <i>Water Voles</i>. 2nd ed. Whittet Books.</p> <p>UK Biodiversity Action Plan for Water Voles http://www.ukbap.org.uk/ukplans.aspx?id=115</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>		