

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE MODULAR SCHEME

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Module Code EE73	Module Title An Introduction to Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA)	Module Leader Jon Davies, B.Sc., M.Sc., C.Env., Cresswell Associates
School which owns module	Real Estate and Land Management	
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 from October onwards
<p>Module Content</p> <p>This module is aimed at ecological professionals who undertake Ecological Impact Assessments (EclA). This course evaluates the principles of EclA in the context of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)/Strategic Impact Assessment (SEA).</p> <p>The one day course provides an introduction to the various components of the EclA process, notably the legislative process, scoping and valuation, impact characterisation and assessment, and mitigation. These issues are explored in the context of appropriate case studies from development projects.</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. Evaluate the main aims of EIA/SEA and justify them within a national legislative context. 2. Critically evaluate how EclA fits into the formal framework of EIA. 3. Appraise the relative importance of the different stages that are components of the EclA process (in their appropriate order). 4. Apply the EclA process following 'best practice' guidelines. 		
Assessment	Description	Weighting
Coursework	Assignment: You are presented with a site and proposed development project, a list of ecological receptors and a set of likely development activities. You are asked to evaluate the receptors and select Key Ecological receptors from these, and then complete a summary impacts table for three of these receptors. This written assignment should be of approximately 2,500-3,000 words.	100%
<p>Key Text:</p> <p>Students should be familiar with the content of the following:</p> <p>IEEM (2006). <i>Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the United Kingdom</i>. IEEM, Winchester, UK. http://www.ieem.net/ecia/index.html</p>		

Other supporting information:

Byron H., Treweek J.R., Sheate, W.R. and Thompson, S. (2000). Road Developments in the UK: An Analysis of Ecological Assessment in Environmental Impact Statements Produced Between 1993 and 1997. *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management* **43(1)**: 71-97.

English Nature (1993). *Roads and Nature Conservation. Guidance on Impacts, Mitigation and Enhancement*. English Nature, Peterborough.

English Nature (1994). *Nature Conservation in Environmental Impact Assessment*. English Nature.

Forbes, J. and Heath, J. (1990). *The Ecological Impact of Road Schemes*. Nature Conservancy Council and the Department of Transport, Peterborough.

Highways Agency (2008). *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges: Volume 11: Environmental Assessment*.

<http://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/dmrb/vol11/section1.htm>

IUCN, UNEP and WWF (1991). *Caring for the Earth. A Strategy for Sustainable Living*. Gland, Switzerland.

Oxford M. (2000). *Developing Naturally, A Handbook for Incorporating the Natural Environment into Planning and Development*. English Nature, Peterborough.

Sherwood, B., Cutler, D. and Burton, J. (eds.) (2002). *Wildlife and Roads, The Ecological Impact*. Imperial College Press, London.

Spellerberg, I. and Minshull, A. (1992). An Investigation into the Nature and Use of Ecology in Environmental Impact Assessments. *British Ecological Society Bulletin* 13, pp 38-45.

Spellerberg, I. F. (1992). *Evaluation and Assessment for Conservation: Ecological Guidelines for Determining Priorities for Nature Conservation*. Chapman and Hall, London.

Treweek, J. (1996). Ecology and Environmental Impact Assessment. *Journal of Applied Ecology*, 33(2): pp191-199.

Treweek J. (1999) *Ecological Impact Assessment*. Blackwell Science Ltd. Oxford.

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.