

## ROYAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE MODULAR SCHEME

*Sheet updated: September 2010*

<b>Module Code</b> EE74	<b>Module Title</b> Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)/Appropriate Assessment	<b>Module Leader</b> Jon Davies, B.Sc., M.Sc., C.Env., Cresswell Associates
<b>School which owns module</b>	Real Estate and Land Management	
<b>Programme(s) to which module belongs</b>	Applied Ecology for Professionals (elective)	
<b>Module Level</b> 7	<b>Module Credits</b> 7.5	<b>Pre-Requisites</b> None
<b>Minimum Study Time</b> 75 hours	<b>Contact Hours within Study Time</b> 8 hours plus additional tutor support	<b>Teaching Period</b> 1 day course from October onwards
<p><b>Module Content</b></p> <p>This module is aimed at professional ecologists who are providing advice to developers and competent authorities on the requirements for carrying out Habitat Regulations Assessment/Appropriate Assessment for Natura 2000 sites (also known as European Sites).</p> <p>The one day course provides an introduction to Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) and Appropriate Assessment, including the legal background, who is responsible for carrying out the assessment, the various stages of the process itself and recent developments. Case studies are explored in detail.</p>		
<p><b>Module Outcomes</b></p> <p>To achieve credit for this module, students must be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Critically evaluate the HRA/Appropriate Assessment process.</li> <li>2. Implement the Screening stage to HRA/Appropriate Assessment.</li> <li>3. Produce a Statement to inform an Appropriate Assessment.</li> <li>4. Apply the HRA/Appropriate Assessment process by providing informal advice to clients with regard to the implications of development close to Natura 2000 sites.</li> </ol>		
<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
<b>Coursework</b>	Assignment. You have been asked to produce a screening report for a proposed development project in the vicinity of a European designated site. You will be expected to research the designated site(s) and qualifying features thereof, consider the likely impacts associated with the proposals and assess whether the impacts on the qualifying features would be significant (i.e. affect their integrity). Approx 2,500-3,000 words.	100%

**Key Texts:**

Students should be familiar with the content of at least one of the following:  
European Commission (2002). Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites. Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/42/EEC. European Commission, Luxembourg.

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/natura\\_2000\\_assess\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/natura_2000_assess_en.pdf)

Highways Agency (2009). Design Manual for Roads and Bridges: Volume 11: Environmental Assessment. Section 4: Assessment of implications on European sites.

<http://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/dmrb/vol11/section4.htm>

**Other supporting information**

Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (1994). HMSO, London.

Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC. (2007) Clarification of the Concepts of Alternative solutions, Imperative reasons of overriding public interest, Compensatory measures, Overall Coherence, Opinion of the Commission. January 2007.

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/guidance\\_art6\\_4\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/guidance_art6_4_en.pdf)

Hoskin, R. and Tyldesley, D. (2006). How the scale of effects on internationally designated nature conservation sites in Britain has been considered in decision making: a review of authoritative decisions. English Nature Research Reports. Number 704.

<http://naturalengland.etraderstores.com/NaturalEnglandShop/R704>

Scott Wilson and Levett-Therivel (2006). Appropriate Assessment of the Draft South East Plan. [http://www.southeast-](http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/key/app_assess/appropriate_assessment-nov06.pdf)

[ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/key/app\\_assess/appropriate\\_assessment-nov06.pdf](http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/key/app_assess/appropriate_assessment-nov06.pdf)

Scott Wilson, Levett-Therivel Sustainability Consultants, Treweek Environmental Consultants, Land Use Consultants (2006) Appropriate Assessment of Plans.

[www.levett-therivel.co.uk/index\\_files/AA.pdf](http://www.levett-therivel.co.uk/index_files/AA.pdf)

Interim Advice Note 110/08 (W) (2008) Assessment of Implications (of Highways Plans and Projects) on European Sites (including Appropriate Assessment).

<http://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/ians/pdfs/ian110.pdf>

Supplementary Guidance in Relation to the Assessment of implications on European Sites (AIES) IAN 110/08(W)

Tyldesley, D. and Hoskin, R. (2008). Assessing projects under the Habitats Directive: guidance for competent authorities. Report to the Countryside Council for Wales, Bangor.

[http://www.powys.gov.uk/rep\\_2009-04-23rw1\\_10b\\_en.pdf?id=47](http://www.powys.gov.uk/rep_2009-04-23rw1_10b_en.pdf?id=47)

Waddenzee Judgement (ECJ Case C-127/02)

<http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2004:262:0002:0002:EN:PDF>

For Habitats Directive habitats in the UK (including priority habitats and priority species):

<http://www.jncc.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=4479>

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 on-line, along with email support for assignments.