Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD007045	**Version:** 7 **Date Amended:** 13/Jun/2024

1. Module Title
Sustainable Land Management

2a. Module Leader
James Littlemore

2b. School
School of Life Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level
6

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions

Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	Marine Biology with Biodiversity and Conservation; Zoology		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

The way in which we manage our land has profound implications for biodiversity, and ecosystem function and resilience. If you are interested in halting the degradation of our ecosystems biodiversity by managing environmental impacts to help build and building a sustainable future, then this module is for you. This module addresses issues concerned with the sustainable use of land by examining habitats, wildlife, landscapes and the natural and anthropogenic factors influencing them. Moreover, it also examines how economic activities such as farming, planning and development can be managed in an environmentally acceptable way for multi-purpose objectives. Building on your prior learning, you will develop and apply the practical and theoretical skills required to evaluate the ecological impacts of land management practices. You will acquire these skills through a combination of lectures, field trips and GIS computer workshops that will address the sustainability of current UK land management and development practices. Topics include the national and international nature conservation. legislative framework, ecological restoration, ecological impact assessments, the sustainable management of farmed and historic landscapes, charity-led initiatives, and trade-offs in ecosystem service provision. You will also develop key employability skills relevant to those considering careers in ecological environmental consultancy. , Moreover, you will undertake your own UK ecological impact assessment and prepare a technical summary report assessing the ecological impact of a proposed development. You will also critically evaluate and debate the environmental and social trade-offs associated with alternative land management practices. Guest speakers and field visits will provide first-hand insights into how different organisations including environmental consultancies, local authorities, NGO's and landowners implement land management and conservation measures in practice. There will be an emphasis on UK systems, but consideration will also be given to overseas case-studies.

Please note that there will be a requirement for gentle field walking during the scheduled inclusive and accessible field visits.

6b. Outline Content

UK biodiversity conservation, habitat classification schemes including Phase-1 habitat surveys and UKHab, environmental legislation, survey competencies for notable, protected and invasive species, minimum standards for environmental assessment, Ecological Impact Assessments, agriculture, historic landscape conservation and agri-environment schemes, ecological restoration and mitigation, management planning, green and blue infrastructure, conservation evidence, charities and conservation, ecosystem service provision and trade-offs.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

Technical support for field equipment

GIS support

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	**Type**	**On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:**
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Evaluate how environmental policy, anthropogenic impacts and societal pressures influence land use and biodiversity conservation
2	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Conduct an ecological impact assessment of a proposed development site using data collected during habitat surveys and computer scoping exercises.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Collate and evaluate appropriate data to build cohesive and persuasive arguments regarding the sustainability of land management practices based on sound conservation evidence.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Clearly communicate complex issues regarding the ecological value of different land management and development practices to a range of target audiences using the spoken and written word.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	**Occurrence**	**Period**	**Location**	**Mode of Delivery**
2025/6	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	**Hours**	**Learning Outcomes**	**Details of Duration, frequency and other comments**
Lectures	12	1-4	1.5 hours of lectures for 7 weeks; 1 hour lecture for 1 week.
Other teacher managed learning	30	2-3	1.5 hours of seminars for 7 weeks; 2 hours of GIS computer workshop for 1 week; several field trips totalling 18 hours.
Student managed learning	108	1-4	Background reading, online activities, preparation for lectures and practicals, and completion of assessments
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	**Assessment Method**	**Learning Outcomes**	**Weighting (%)**	**Fine Grade or Pass/Fail**	**Qualifying Mark (%)**
010	Coursework	1,2	60 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Written report 1800 words					
Assessment No.	**Assessment Method**	**Learning Outcomes**	**Weighting (%)**	**Fine Grade or Pass/Fail**	**Qualifying Mark (%)**
011	Coursework	1,3,4	40 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Coursework 1000 word equivalent					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:
(a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
(b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]