

Module code: MOD009622	Version: 2 Date Amended: 10/Jul/2025
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1. Module Title
Professional Field Ecology

2a. Module Leader
Toby Carter

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:	Ecology & Conservation, Marine Biology & Conservation, Zoology		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

Professional Field Ecology is comprised of a series of lectures and practical workshops in preparation for a residential field course at a UK ecology field station. On the field course you will learn advanced practical skills relevant to professional ecology and conservation in the UK including species identification, survey design, standardised survey techniques and project management.

The fieldwork will focus on the following 3 elements:

- i. Identify key Taxa from marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems to appropriate levels using biological keys.
- ii. Design and implement a variety of survey types and monitoring strategies, including habitat mapping and Ecological Impact Assessments.
- iii. Set objectives and take account of good practice and risk management in ecological surveys.

Your fieldwork skills and knowledge acquired from this field course will help you to develop key project design, project management and team-working skills on site at an ecology field station.

This field course would normally run at the end of Trimester 2 in your third year. Please see the additional fees section for any costs relating to this module on your course.

6b. Outline Content

Designing a range of survey types

Carry out plant and animal identification using appropriate keys

Field sampling, biological recording, species identification, monitoring & phase 2 surveys for protected, notable and / or invasive species

Habitat mapping, vegetation surveys & UK habitat classification (National Vegetation Classification; Phase 1; UKHab)

Environmental Impact Assessments

EcIA's & Preliminary Ecological Appraisals

Nature conservation legislation, wildlife licensing & policy

Planning & development,

Ecological mitigation, management strategies, Biodiversity Net Gain & the Biodiversity Metric

Project management, risk management, tenders, professional practice & ethics, ways of working & communication

Using technology in field surveys (cf. GIS, bioacoustics, UAVs)

Ecological reporting

Nature based solutions

6c. Key Texts/Literature

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

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

Access to a residential field course at a UK ecology field station with appropriate facilities. Suitable laboratory & technical support.

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Set appropriate objectives and expertly undertake biodiversity monitoring to solve practical real-world challenges.
2	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Design, lead, execute and critically interpret a range of biological recording and ecological surveys by adopting the recognised reporting format used by the ecological sector
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Effectively communicate the findings of an Ecological Impact Assessment, or other survey, to an appropriate audience
4	Knowledge and Understanding	Identify key Taxa to appropriate familial / generic or specific taxa using diagnostic keys.

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	16	1-4	8 x 2 hrs lectures/active learning
Other teacher managed learning	35	1-4	Field Course
Student managed learning	99	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	1-4	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Field Course Workbook (3000 words)					

Assessment components for Element 010				
Component No.	Assessment Title	Submission Method	Weighting (%)	Components needed for Mark Calculation?
010/1	Desk Study		30 (%)	All
010/2	Field Study		70 (%)	

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]