

Module code: MOD011339	Version: 1 Date Amended: 11/Apr/2025
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1. Module Title
Wildlife Conservation Skills

2a. Module Leader
Steven Allain

2b. School
Writtle School of Agriculture, Animal and Environmental Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level
5

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:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

A successful career in conservation relies on both knowledge and hands-on experience. In this module, you'll gain essential skills in species identification, wildlife surveying, mapping, evaluating and displaying data. You'll take a student-led approach to learning by choosing a species which is of interest to you and developing the skills to practically survey them. Learning will be split between semi-structured teaching spaces where you'll be able to explore your own ideas, as well as structured teaching to support your learning. A mix of classroom, digital and field-based sessions will cover all aspects of practical field conservation and help you develop skills in field-based conservation.

As part of your assessment, you'll write a report that draws on a range of sources and demonstrates your ability to evaluate challenges and propose evidence-based solutions. You'll also learn how to present your findings professionally, using clear structure, good grammar and visual elements like tables and figures where appropriate.

You'll also be encouraged to take responsibility for your own learning through additional reading and self-directed study, helping you to deepen your understanding of your topic and develop valuable research skills for your future career.

6b. Outline Content

This module will provide students with a level 5 knowledge and understanding of wildlife identification and surveying techniques. Students will learn how to plan and implement surveys, identify species, map areas and manage data. Methods of data visualisation via graphs and maps will be covered. Students will also be able to place these practices within the context of local and international legislation.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

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

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

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 techniques for surveying wildlife and presenting data.
2	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Demonstrate and apply practical conservation field and survey planning skills.
3	Knowledge and Understanding	Understand and evaluate policy relevant to wildlife mitigation in the field of ecology.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	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	18	1-3	These lectures will cover a range of practical and theory principals which are key to students being able to carry out the practical elements of this module.
Other teacher managed learning	18	1-3	Practicals will allow students to apply the knowledge they have gained in lectures, and develop their practical skills in planning and carrying out field surveys.
Student managed learning	114	1-3	Self-Directed Learning and further practical fieldwork
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-3	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Report (2500 words) - Students will complete a range of practical activities on an area of the ARU Writtle Campus of their choice, whereby they are required to evaluate the likelihood of a species of their choice to be present (such as bats or great crested newts), the reasons for this, provide evidence in the format of surveys, and suggest how the area can be better managed to assist the conservation of their chosen species. Students will also use examples from the literature and use legislation to rationalise their ideas.					

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]