

# **Module Specification**

# Ecology and Ecosystem Protection

Version: 2025-26, v2.0, Approved

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# Part 1: Information

Module title: Ecology and Ecosystem Protection

Module code: USSK5F-30-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2025-26

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: College of Health, Science & Society

School: CHSS School of Applied Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Applied Sciences

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: Life on Earth 2025-26

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

# Part 2: Description

**Overview:** This module introduces the basic principles of ecology (interrelationships between living organisms and their environment), and explores the application of these principles in relation to habitat and ecosystem management and protection.

Pre-requisite; Students must have passed USSK5C-30-1 Life on Earth before starting this module.

Features: Not applicable

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**Educational aims:** This module aims to develop student understanding of fundamental ecological principles, and the skills of applying those principles to real-world ecological management and protection

Outline syllabus: The indicative syllabus of this module is:

## Principles of ecology:

Food chains and webs, energy flows and nutrient cycles; principles of population dynamics including population regulation; mutualism, competition, herbivory, predator-prey relationships; intra- and inter-specific competition and niche theory; community ecology and succession; global biodiversity and the factors affecting its distribution; major biomes. Concepts of naturalness in relation to ecosystems.

## Human impacts on ecosystems:

General causes of habitat destruction and habitat disturbance including pollution, climate change, introduced species and over-exploitation. Effects of habitat disturbance especially pollution. Climate Change – evidence for impacts on ecosystems including phenology and range changes; possible future impacts on global biomes. Restoration of degraded habitats and creation of new habitats including translocation. Ecological impacts of introduced species.

## Ecosystems management:

The structure and function of a range of habitats in Britain including woodland, grassland, heathland, wetlands and coastal habitats. Current threats and appropriate management strategies. Management plans in principle and practice.

## Ecosystem Protection:

Concepts of wildlife protection through land protection; types of land protection at a national and international level; the effectiveness of current land protection policy in the UK and internationally.

# Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

**Teaching and learning methods:** This module is taught using a range of lectures and practical sessions.

**Module Learning outcomes:** On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

**MO1** Describe in detail the ecological principles that have shaped the living world.

**MO2** Apply an understanding of ecological principles to real world problems of ecosystem management across a range of habitat types in the British Isles.

**MO3** Recommend appropriate ecosystem management regimes for a range of habitat types, including techniques for monitoring and evaluating their effectiveness.

**MO4** Evaluative the effectiveness of current ecosystem protection in conserving wildlife and ecosystem function.

#### Hours to be allocated: 300

#### **Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

**Reading list:** The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link <u>https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ussk5f-</u><u>30-2.html</u>

# Part 4: Assessment

**Assessment strategy:** Assessment: Written Assignment (Maximum 4,000 words) Students will evaluate specific habitats/ecological communities, and develop wellsupported recommendations for site management. They will draw on fundamental ecological principles, site visits, primary and/or secondary data. They will evaluate existing protection measures for these habitats/ecological communities, as well as recommending strategies for ongoing monitoring.

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Opportunities for formative feedback are built into the practical classes

### Assessment tasks:

Written Assignment (First Sit) Description: Written Report (4000 words) Weighting: 100 % Final assessment: Yes Group work: No Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

## Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Written report (4000 words) Weighting: 100 % Final assessment: Yes Group work: No Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

# Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study: Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science {Foundation} [Frenchay] MSci 2023-24 Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science {Foundation} [Zoo] BSc (Hons) 2023-24 Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science [Frenchay] - WITHDRAWN MSci 2024-25 Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25 Biological Sciences {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24 Biological Sciences {Foundation} [Frenchay] MSci 2023-24

Environmental Science {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

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