“Excellent introduction to this topic, delivered by enthusiastic and very knowledgeable staff.”

a participant on ***Ecology and Conservation of Bats***

“Good amount of information and tools to take the subject forward in the workplace.”

a participant on ***Habitat Fragmentation and Wildlife Corridors***

University of BRISTOL

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Professional Training Courses for Countryside Staff

University of BRISTOL

School of Biological Sciences

2005

University of BRISTOL
School of Biological Sciences

The University of Bristol offers a programme of high quality, intensive one- to three-day courses providing training and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for people working in the environment sector. The courses are suitable for ecologists, countryside officers, environmental consultants, national park staff, countryside rangers, conservation officers and other staff and volunteers involved in countryside management.

This brochure provides a summary of the courses scheduled for 2005. For further information or to place a booking please contact Dr Andrew Kennedy, School of Biological Sciences, University of Bristol, Woodland Road, Bristol, BS8 1UG.
Tel: 0117 928 9035.
Fax: 0117 925 7374.
Email: andrew.kennedy@bris.ac.uk

"Very well structured and presented with a good balance of practical and classroom work"
a participant on *Reptiles: Surveying and Monitoring Techniques*

Public Inquiries – Presenting and Defending your Case in Public.

Date: 21-23 February 2005. Venue: Burwalls Centre, University of Bristol.
A well-established and successful three-day residential course that trains participants to prepare, present and defend evidence at formal hearings such as Public Inquiries, Committee meetings and Planning Assemblies. The programme includes the statutory and administrative background to Public Inquiries, preparing and presenting evidence, and cross-examination. You will be taught by practising advocates and a Planning Inspector. The course revolves around a realistic mock public inquiry based on a planning proposal in an area with high environmental sensitivity. The training aims to give confidence and effectiveness to staff who need to present evidence on behalf of their organisation to a public inquiry or other hearing.
Course code = B04H060AGR. Fee = £925.

Amphibians: Surveying and Monitoring Techniques. Date: 4-5 April 2005.

Venue: King's Stanley, Gloucestershire.
A two-day course giving an introduction to amphibian biology and ecology. The programme includes a site visit, life histories of frogs, toads and newts, and demonstrations of common terrestrial and aquatic monitoring techniques. Survey methods will be practised in the field at a local conservation area where great crested newts are present and mitigation techniques are in place. The course also reviews current legislation, environmental impact assessment and mitigation techniques.
Course code = G04H002AG. Fee = £235.

Reptiles: Surveying and Monitoring Techniques. Date: 26 April 2005.

Venue: Bournemouth, Dorset.
A one-day course offering an introduction to the biology and ecology of British reptiles. The programme covers the life histories of British snakes and lizards and outlines a range of effective surveying and monitoring techniques. The course reviews current legislation affecting reptiles and outlines the issues involved in managing habitats for reptiles. There will be a site visit to a Herpetological Conservation Trust reserve to see signs of reptiles and to practice field identification techniques.
Course code = D04D001AGA. Fee = £128.

Woodland Identification and Surveying Techniques. Date: 4 May 2005. Venue: East Mendip Study Centre, Somerset.

A one-day course aimed at people who require a basic understanding of woodland ecology, species identification and surveying techniques. The programme includes Phase 1 Habitat Survey; an introduction to the National Vegetation Classification for woodland; the use of taxonomic keys to identify woodland species; and a site visit to carry out field exercises in plant identification, survey techniques and evaluation. At the end of the course, participants are expected to be able to identify key woodland plant species and to feel confident at putting woodland surveying techniques into practice in the field.
Course code = S04D005AGA . Fee = £118.

Grassland Identification and Surveying Techniques. Date: 11 May 2005. Venue: East Mendip Study Centre, Somerset.

A one-day course giving an introduction to grassland identification and surveying techniques. The programme includes Phase I Habitat Survey and an introduction to the National Vegetation Classification for grassland; the use of keys to identify grassland species; and site visits to carry out field exercises in plant identification, survey techniques and evaluation. The course is aimed at those starting out on ecological careers who require a basic understanding of grassland species identification and surveying techniques. It would also suit those requiring a refresher course in grassland species identification. At the end of the course participants are expected to have gained an understanding of the principles of grassland ecology and to know how to use botanical keys to identify a range of common grassland plants. They should also feel confident at putting surveying techniques into practice in the field.
Course code = S04D006AGA Fee = £118.

Aquatic Habitats: Surveying and Monitoring Techniques. Date: 16 June 2005. Venue: Willsbridge Mill, Bristol.

A one-day introductory course covering surveying and monitoring techniques for aquatic habitats. The programme covers the principles of aquatic surveying techniques and reviews a range of common methods including kick sampling, scooping, RIVPACs and generating BMWP scores. The course will cover aquatic plants, invertebrates and vertebrates. Field work is included where participants can enhance their aquatic identification skills and gain practical experience of different survey techniques.
Course code = B04D121AGA Fee = £128.

Alien Species Introductions

Date: 27 June 2005. Venue: Burwalls Centre, University of Bristol.
Introduced species can cause serious damage to the environment and high economic costs to man. Alien species are a particularly serious threat given their ability to displace native plants, to change the composition of native plant communities and to alter a range of ecosystem processes such as nutrient cycling and disturbance regimes. This one-day course will look at the distributions of alien species, their impact upon native species as competitors, prey species, predators, pollinators and parasites, their impact upon ecosystem properties and how they are accommodated in food webs. Control methods such as biological control and the mechanical removal of plants and vertebrates will be discussed. The focus of the course is on alien species introduced to the U.K. but some overseas examples will be used to illustrate the general principles.
Course code = B04D122AGA Fee = £118.

"Excellent course"
a participant on *Woodland Identification and Surveying Techniques*

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING COURSES FOR COUNTRYSIDE STAFF 2005

"The field trips were extremely useful and reinforced what was learnt on the course greatly"
a participant on *Understanding Agricultural Systems*

Restoration Ecology.

Date: 28 June 2005. Venue: Burwalls Centre, University of Bristol.
Restoration ecology can be viewed as the study of how best to repair man-made damage to ecological systems. This one-day course will address one of the key problems faced by restoration ecologists: how can you restore ecological processes in areas damaged by human developments? Examples of such processes include food web linkages, seed dispersal, decomposition and pollination. When, and under what circumstances, can a restoration project be deemed a success?
Course code = B04D123AGA. Fee = £118.

Introduction to the National Vegetation Classification.

Date: 11-13 July 2005. Venue: Kingcombe Centre, Dorset.
A three-day residential course introducing the National Vegetation Classification (NVC). The course is intended to provide an independent approach to the value and uses of this essential tool. The programme includes a review of the origins of the NVC and its relationship with other survey methodologies. The way the NVC is used (and abused) will be considered along with its strengths and weaknesses. Field work will take place within the Dorset Wildlife Trust's spectacular Kingcombe Reserve where a number of different grassland, mire and scrub communities will be sampled to practice the NVC methodology. Data collected from stands at Kingcombe will be analysed using various statistical packages. Students joining this course should already have some knowledge of common flowers and grasses in the field (students unsure of their ability to identify plants may wish to attend the courses on woodland and grassland identification techniques on 4 and 11 May 2005).
Course code = D04L001AGR Fee = £395.

Understanding Agricultural Systems.

Date: 25-27 July 2005. Venue: Charterhouse Centre, Somerset.
A three-day course that aims to give people working in the environment sector a clear understanding of agricultural systems to enable them to work effectively with farmers, landowners and estate managers. The programme provides an overview of current farm systems and how they have developed over the last 50 years. Livestock, dairying, arable and organic enterprises will be described and students will have the opportunity to discuss farm management with local farmers during field visits to nearby farms. Specialist lectures on farm diversification, agri-environment schemes, CAP and the greening of agriculture are included. A session on crop identification has been added to this year's programme. The course is designed to give countryside staff essential information about current farming practices and an appreciation of the issues affecting modern agriculture.
Course code = S04L001AG Fee = £345

Ecology and Conservation of Bats.

Date: 5 September 2005. Venue: Woodchester Mansion, Gloucestershire.
A one-day introductory course looking at the ecology and conservation of British bats. The course will be taught by bat experts from the University of Bristol and held at Woodchester Mansion which has one of the largest colonies of the rare greater horseshoe and lesser horseshoe bats in the country. The programme covers the biology and ecological needs of bats and introduces the British bat species, basic bat biology, echolocation, diets, habitat requirements, roosts and reproduction. The course includes practical sessions on bat identification and an introduction to bat surveys. The course culminates in a twilight evening session at Woodchester Mansion providing a unique opportunity to see various bat species in the wild and to listen to their echolocation calls on bat detectors.
Course code = G05D001AGA. Fee = £158.

"The course was exactly as I had hoped"
a participant on *Grassland Identification and Surveying Techniques*

Bat Surveying for Ecological Consultants.

Date: 6 September 2005. Venue: Woodchester Mansion, Gloucestershire.
A one-day course that aims to provide attendees with the practical skills needed to carry out field surveys to the increasingly high standards demanded by English Nature.
The course has been designed for ecological consultants and habitat managers who require detailed information on bat surveying. Topics covered include techniques for surveying bats in the field, the range of equipment available for monitoring bat calls, the preparation of consultancy reports, legal requirements for bat surveyors, and guidance on methods of habitat management and impact mitigation. The course assumes a basic knowledge and understanding of the ecology of bats and preferably some experience of batsound analysis. Applicants unsure of their ability may also wish to attend the introductory course *Ecology and Conservation of Bats* on 5 September 2005.
Course code = G05D002AGA Fee = £138.

Habitat Fragmentation and Wildlife Corridors.

Date: 19 September 2005. Venue: Burwalls Centre, University of Bristol.
Fragmented habitats are a key factor in the loss of biodiversity. This one-day course looks at the effects of habitat fragmentation on wildlife and the implications for conservation. The programme includes a general introduction to habitat fragmentation, a discussion of its effects on wildlife and biodiversity, the importance of edge effects and a description of various management techniques applicable to UK habitats. A computer simulation model will be used to illustrate the effects of reproductive and dispersal rates on extinctions. The principles of habitat fragmentation will be illustrated using a selection of case studies from the U.K. and overseas. A field trip, during which real data are collected and analysed, forms an integral part of the programme. This course will be particularly useful for ecological consultants and reserve managers involved in landscape planning and sustainable countryside management.
Course code = B05D001AGA Fee = £118.

Restoring Ecological Services

Date: 20 September 2005. Venue: Burwalls Centre, University of Bristol.
The healthy functioning of ecosystems provides free services essential to mankind. Examples of such services include pollination, water filtration, pest control and decomposition. Unfortunately ecosystem functioning and the delivery of ecosystem services are at risk from species loss caused by habitat destruction, climate change and alien species introductions. The task now facing conservation biologists is to predict how species loss will affect ecosystems and their functioning and to work out how best to fix damaged and degraded ecosystems so that they still provide essential ecosystem services. This one-day course will provide an introduction to ecosystem services, their value to man and will explore whether we can realistically fix them when they are damaged.
Course code = B05D002AGA Fee = £118.

"Much enjoyed course – excellent!"
a participant on *Amphibians: Surveying and Monitoring Techniques*

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING COURSES FOR COUNTRYSIDE STAFF **2005**

"The course was thought provoking and informative!"
a participant on *Restoration Ecology*

Further information

Bristol University is committed to providing high quality Continuing Professional Development through the School of Biological Sciences. Our Professional Training Courses for Countryside Staff build on our established strengths in ecology and are tailored to suit the needs of people working in the environment sector. The courses provide intensive vocational training in specialist subjects over periods lasting from one- to three-days.

Prior to the start of each course, participants will be sent Joining Instructions containing full details of the course, maps, timetables and any special preparation required for group work and individual contributions to the sessions. At the start of the course, participants will be given a Course Manual, lecture notes and/or supplementary course materials. Additional documentation (e.g. taxonomic keys) may be distributed according to the subject matter. Certificates of attendance will be provided at the end of each course.

We deliberately limit the size of our training courses to enhance the learning experience of the participants. Each course usually accepts between 12 and 18 participants. Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis, and the courses sometimes fill up months in advance. *Consequently, early booking is strongly recommended*. We regret that bookings cannot be finalised until payment has been received.

All courses are non-residential unless referred to as residential in the text. Lunch and daytime refreshments are included in the price of non-residential courses. Accommodation and all meals are included in the price of residential courses.

Booking instructions

Bookings should be sent to Andrew Kennedy, School of Biological Sciences, University of Bristol, Woodland Road, Bristol, BS8 1UG, along with credit card details or a cheque made payable to the University of Bristol. If participants wish to be invoiced against an official order, details must be given on the enrolment form. A letter of acknowledgement will be forwarded confirming enrolment.

Cancellation

All cancellations must be received in writing. Refunds cannot be made for cancellations made within one month of the course date. Cancellations received more than one month before the course will be subject to a 10% administration fee. If you have enrolled on a course and are unable to attend you may arrange for a colleague to take your place but you must advise us in writing. The University of Bristol reserves the right to amend, alter or cancel any course for whatever reason. If a course has to be cancelled, the University of Bristol will refund the course fee only. The University of Bristol cannot reimburse travelling costs or compensate people for lost working time.

"An excellent practical course"
a participant on *Public Inquiries*

University of BRISTOL
School of Biological Sciences

ENROLMENT FORM

Please complete and return to: Andrew Kennedy, School of Biological Sciences, University of Bristol, Woodland Road, Bristol BS8 1UG (Tel: 0117-9289035 Fax: 0117-9257374)

TITLE _____ FORENAME(S) _____

SURNAME _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

_____ POSTCODE _____

TEL (Daytime) _____ E.MAIL _____

I wish to enrol on the following courses :

☐ _____ FEE _____

☐ _____ FEE _____

☐ _____ FEE _____

Cheques should be made payable to University of Bristol or if you wish to be invoiced against an official order please also detail invoice address above.

I wish to pay by MASTERCARD / VISA (please delete as appropriate)

NAME AND ADDRESS OF CARDHOLDER IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE _____

_____

CARD NUMBER ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

EXPIRY DATE ☐☐☐☐ SIGNATURE _____

We are required by the Higher Education Statistical Agency to collect the information below which will be sent to the Higher Education Statistics Agency for use in statistical analysis by HESA, Government Education Departments, Funding Councils and other authorised users of the data.

Do you have a disability? Yes/No

What is the nature of your disability? (please tick as appropriate)

- ☐ 00 None
- ☐ 01 Dyslexia
- ☐ 02 Blind/Partially Sighted
- ☐ 03 Deaf/Hearing impaired
- ☐ 04 Wheelchair user/mobility problems
- ☐ 05 Personal care support
- ☐ 06 Mental health difficulties
- ☐ 07 An unseen disability (eg diabetes etc)
- ☐ 08 Multiple disabilities
- ☐ 09 A disability not listed above
- ☐ 99 Prefer not to say

Nationality: UK ☐

Other (please specify) _____

Highest qualification _____

Ethnic Origin

- ☐ 10 White
- ☐ 11 White – British
- ☐ 12 White – Irish
- ☐ 19 Other White background
- ☐ 21 Black or Black British - Caribbean
- ☐ 22 Black or Black British - African
- ☐ 29 Other Black background
- ☐ 31 Asian or Asian British - Indian
- ☐ 32 Asian or Asian British - Pakistani
- ☐ 33 Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi
- ☐ 34 Chinese or other Ethnic background - Chinese
- ☐ 39 Other Asian background
- ☐ 41 Mixed – White and Black Caribbean
- ☐ 42 Mixed – White and Asian
- ☐ 49 Other Mixed background
- ☐ 90 Not known
- ☐ 98 Information refused

If you are enrolling for more than one person, please give details of names and addresses on a separate sheet.