

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION - Undergraduate COURSES

1	<b>Awarding institution/body</b> University of Worcester
2	<b>Teaching institution</b> UW and Herefordshire College of Technology (Holme Lacy Campus)
3	<b>Programme accredited by</b> Chartered Institute of Foresters
4	<b>Final award</b> BSc Hons
5	<b>Programme title</b> Sustainable Woodland Management
6	<b>Pathways available</b> Single Honours defined course only
7	<b>Mode and/or site of delivery</b> Programme delivered at Holme Lacy campus and UW
8	<b>Mode of attendance</b> FT and PT
9	<b>UCAS Code</b> D500 L BSc/SWM
10	<b>10 Subject Benchmark statement</b> Earth Science, Environmental Sciences, Environmental Studies (ES3) (2007) QAA 151 02/07
11	<b>Date of Programme Specification preparation/revision</b> May 2006/ revision August 2009

### 12 Educational aims of the programme

The course is designed to equip students with the following technical skills, associated knowledge and understanding:

- a) To provide students with an understanding of the scientific principles upon which tree management within the broader context of environmental management is based and to develop the knowledge of the principles and practices necessary to maintain healthy trees;
- b) To enable students to understand the establishment and maintenance of trees as a crop;
- c) To enable students to appreciate the role and nature of business in environmental management.
- d) Understand and evaluate relationships that exist within and between the component parts of the course, as an essential concomitant of intellectual maturity.
- e) Develop a capacity for sustained independent work and to be able to work with others as part of a team.
- f) Acquire the flexibility of mind and purpose needed to apply advanced learning and skills in new and unfamiliar situations.
- g) Acquire, through the study of the course, a high level of knowledge and skill to provide a sound basis for a range of subsequent occupations, but particularly in sustainable woodland environments, or for continuing academic study beyond honours degree level.

### 13 Intended learning outcomes and learning, teaching and assessment methods

At the end of the course and within the cognate field and context of Sustainable Woodland Management, students will have acquired the ability to:

- a) Demonstrate knowledge of material and an understanding of a range of concepts and issues within Environmental Management as related to forests and woodland.
- b) Search for, select, interpret and use written, computer stored, graphical and oral material.
- c) Use computers for word-processing, data analysis, using specialised software, *etc.*

- d) Work safely in the laboratory and field situation and be aware of the health and safety of themselves and others at all times.
- e) Process, present and critically evaluate data and advanced concepts, and understand the relevance of, and be able to use, mathematical and scientific modes of expression.
- f) Comprehend and evaluate new facts and hypotheses and relate personal ideas and responses to established knowledge.
- g) Recognise how personal values and convictions may affect judgements and decisions and to analyse situations and problems objectively, logically and critically.
- h) Express ideas and information clearly through a variety of means of communication so that they can be understood by a variety of audiences.
- i) Appreciate and be in a position to predict the potential and limitations of environmental management techniques and interventions.
- j) Recognise relationships within and between modules within the course and recognise, from the study of these components, that knowledge, understanding and skills relevant to employment, future life and further study have been gained.

The course will be taught via lectures, practicals, workshops, case studies, field visits, field work and practical forestry using a broad range of assessment methods including traditional examinations, tests, open book or seen examinations, oral presentations, case studies, essays, laboratory and field reports and practical reports,

<b>Knowledge and understanding:</b>	<b><i>These aspects are covered in all modules and are delivered through lectures, seminars, tutorials, laboratory classes and field trips, particularly in mandatory modules but also in optional modules. Students will also be directed to journals, text and web based materials. Assessments are varied and incorporate a large element of course work with some examinations</i></b>
<b>Cognitive and intellectual skills:</b>	<b><i>These aspects are delivered in all modules through lectures, seminars, tutorials, laboratory classes and field trips. The skills are developed within modules through discussion exercises and application to real or simulated situations, also through the use of VLE (Blackboard). Assessments are varied and incorporate a large element of course work (for example the production of management plans) with some examinations.</i></b>
<b>Practical skills relevant to employment:</b>	<b><i>These aspects are taught and practised in a number of modules particularly those which have a strong laboratory or field work element. Students engage in practical environmental analysis working both in the laboratory and the field learning and practising skills which they will later utilise in the work place. Full use is made of the estate at Holme Lacy for learning and practising skills. Assessment is often through the production of laboratory reports or files, practical examination, production of environmental assessment and management reports, etc.</i></b>

**Transferable/key skills:**

***These aspects are delivered in all modules. All students are required to communicate effectively in various media and these skills are introduced at Level 4 and developed and reinforced throughout the course. In particular assessments may include the production of management plans, the verbal presentation of material, reports etc.***

**14 Assessment Strategy**

The approach to assessment is to use a wide range of assessment techniques. Normally each module at least two different types of assessment. Every module will carry at least one form of formative assessment and will deliver extensive feedback on assessments to allow students to improve their performance.

The assessment structure has been developed to support student learning by providing assessment procedures that reflect the nature and learning experience of each module, and by ensuring that the students are able to demonstrate ability in a wide range of qualities and skills appropriate to the course.

BSc Sustainable Woodland management is a very practical course. As such there is a large amount of coursework, although examinations are also utilized. The wide range of assessment methods has been devised to test a wide range of student skills. Assessments may range from formal examination, through essays, practical files, field logs, management plans to presentations and production of maps and field sketches. Additionally opportunities are made within modules for formative assessment both formal and informal and these assessments may take the form of question and answer sessions, quizzes and mathematical work. Throughout all modules assessments are made in line with assessment criteria and in accordance with the University's Assessment Policy and full use is made of UW grade descriptors when awarding grades to assessments. A table showing how assessment methods at each level are mapped to modules is included in the student handbook for this course.

**15 Programme structures and requirements****AWARD MAP FOR SINGLE HONOURS AWARD****Title: BSc Sustainable Woodland Management Level 4**

LEVEL 4				
Module Code	Module Title		Prerequisites (Code of Module Required)	
ENVS1001	Introduction to Environmental Science	15	M	None
ENVS1003	Environmental Case Study	15	M	None
ENVS1004	History of the Landscape	15	M	None
BIOS1002	Introduction to Ecology	15	M	None
ENVS1004	History of the Landscape	15	M	None
DSWM1002	Practical Silviculture	15	M	None
DSWM1003	Forest and Woodland Produce			
DSWM1004	Forest and Woodland Produce	15	M	None

**Single Honours requirement at Level 4**

Single honours students must take all eight mandatory modules.

**AWARD MAP FOR SINGLE HONOURS AWARD****Title: BSc Sustainable Woodland Management Level 5**

LEVEL 5				
Module Code	Module Title		Prerequisites (Code of Module Required)	
		Credits	Single	
ENVS2001	Analysis of Environmental Materials	15	M	ENVS1001, or BIOS1002, or GEOG1011
ENVS2002	Landscape Ecology	15	M	ENVS1001, or BIOS1002, or
BIOS2032	Woodland Ecology and Management	15	M	BIOS1002
BIOS 2033	Field Techniques in Ecology	15	M	BIOS1002
DSWM2001	Woodland Protection and Design	15	M	DSWM level 4 modules
DSWM2002	Silvicultural Systems and their Products	15	M	DSWM level 4 modules
DSWM2003	Research Methods in Environmental Management	15	M	DSWM level 4 modules
DSWM2004	Woodland Management	15	M	DSWM level 4 modules

**Single Honours requirement at Level 5**

Single honours students must take eight mandatory modules listed above.

**AWARD MAP FOR SINGLE HONOURS AWARDS****Title: BSc Sustainable Woodland Management Level 6**

LEVEL 6				
Module Code	Module Title		Prerequisites (Code of Module Required)	
		Credits	Single	
BIOS3005	Research Methods	15	M	DSWM2003
ENVS3001	Independent Study in Environmental Sciences (taken as 2 modules in semester 2)	30	M	BIOS3005
ENVS3004	Environmental Pollution and its Management	15	O	ENVS1001 and preferably ENVS2001
ENVS3005	Integrated Approaches to Environmental Management (Capstone module)	15	M	ENVS2002

ENVS3006	Estate Management 1	15	M	DSWM level 5 modules
ENVS3007	Estate Management 2	15	M	DSWM level 5 modules
BIOS3031	Residential Ecology and Environmental Management Field Trip	15	M	BIOS1002 and preferably an ecosystem module at Level 5.
BIOS3033	Restoration of Ecosystems	15	O	BIOS1004
GEOG3005	Geographic Information Systems	15	O	GEOG1011

### Single Honours requirement at Level 6

Single honours students must take seven mandatory modules [**ENVS3001 (double module)**, , **ENVS3005** , **BIOS3005**, **BIOS3031**, **ENVS3006**, **ENVS3007**] Students must then select 1 optional modules from the remaining modules listed above.

Students who successfully complete eight level 1 or 2 modules will be eligible for a certificate of Higher Education.

Students who complete levels 1 and 2 will be entitled to be awarded a HND in Sustainable Woodland Management. Students who complete 16 level 1, 2 or 3 modules will be entitled to a Diploma of Higher Education.

## 16 QAA Academic Infrastructure

The course has been developed to follow, where possible, Environmental Science and Earth Science benchmarks. **(ES3) (2007) QAA 151 02/07** Both sets of criteria have been used to inform course outcomes. Hence the course has been designed to incorporate the aims, objectives, learning outcomes, skills and practices advocated within this benchmark statement. The course has also been designed to conform to the Framework for HE Qualifications to produce graduates with the knowledge and skills required for this subject area by careful choice of module design and content

**The course operates at certificate, intermediate and honours level of the higher education NQF.**

## 17 Support for students

- Students following this course will encounter a wide range of learning experiences, including lectures, seminars, group work, laboratory and field practicals, workshops, and tutorials.
- A comprehensive student handbook.
- One-week induction programme, with an additional pre-course summer school available for direct entry students.
- All students following this course will be provided with a study guide, given assistance where needed by staff, and have access to study skills assistance from the Equal Opportunities Centre.
- All students have a personal tutor who offers general support and encourages students to complete their Students Qualities Profile.
- Library induction and information skills packages.
- Opportunities are presented for students to complete a relevant IT module. The IT

service also provides training.

- Students will be supported by Learning Support Services (Library, IT, Media and Print).
- The University College's Careers Service provides training opportunities and career planning.
- A specific provision will be made to assist direct entry students from courses other than the UW HND prepare for their independent study. Students will be offered the opportunity of receiving assistance from tutors in the development of their independent study proposal in Week 15 of the Spring semester (this assistance will also be available for students moving directly from the HND at UW) or in the week prior to the commencement of the first semester at Level 3 in early September.

## **18 Admissions policy, criteria and procedures**

Entry requirements:

At least 200 UCAS tariff points covering at least 12 award units, including at least one award of 6 units or more.

Typical entry requirements:

- I. Five passes in GCSE examinations (grade C or above) including English Language and Maths, plus either
  - a) two GCE A levels at B or above
  - b) two GCE A level at C or better, with one AS level at C or better (in a different subject) or an additional GCE A level at E or above.
- II. Advanced GNVQ: Merit
- III. EDEXCEL (BTEC) National Certificate or Diploma: Pass

### Admissions procedures

Students should apply through UCAS or Registry Admissions Office for further information or guidance

### Admissions/selection criteria

Students are selected on the grounds of merit\_(academic results and/or relevant experience).

### Mature Students

UW values diversity in its student body and students over the age of 21 are very welcome. If you fulfil the standard entry requirements as detailed above, please apply through UCAS.

Students with few or no formal qualifications should contact the Registry Admissions Office (01905 855111) with details of their age, any work undertaken, including caring or organised voluntary work, and any other relevant experience gained since leaving school.

### Accreditation of Prior Learning.

Students with relevant previous study at HND or degree level or extensive experience may be considered eligible for accreditation of prior learning. Entry may be possible to level 4 or level 5 of the course dependent upon qualifications or experience gained. Credit can also be given for individual modules.

Please contact the Registry Admissions Office for further information or guidance on 01905 855111.

## 19 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

- Annual review of the Sustainable Woodland Management programme; plus inputs from the annual review of the Biology and Environmental Science programmes which contributes extensively to this course.
- External Examiner Reports.
- Student evaluations of each module.
- Staff/Student committees meet each semester and the Learning and Teaching Centre promotes learning across the institution.
- Peer assessment of learning provision by staff.
- An accreditation course (PG Cert in learning and Teaching in Higher Education) for new staff, and Higher Education Academy membership.
- UW Learning and Teaching Committee and the Learning and Teaching Centre promote learning and teaching across the Institutions.

## 20 Regulation of assessment

Students are assessed by a combination of course work, within module tests and examinations.

The minimum pass mark is D- for each module.

Students at Level 4 may be permitted to progress to Level 5 when they have passed at least 90 credits at Level 4.

Students at Level 5 may be permitted to progress to Level 6 when they have passed at least 90 credits at Level 5.

The following awards will be available to students who meet the following requirements:

Award	Requirement
CertHE	Passed 120 credits at Level 4 or higher
DipHE	Passed a minimum of 240 credits with at least 105 credits at Level 5 or higher
Degree (non-honours)	Passed a minimum of 300 credits with at least 105 credits at Level 5 or higher and a minimum of 60 credits at Level 6
Degree with honours	Passed a minimum of 360 credits with at least 105 credits at Level 5 or higher and a minimum of 120 credits at Level 6 including 30 credits from the Independent Study

The honours classification will be determined by whichever of the following two methods results in the higher classification:

- classification determined on the profile of the best 3 module (45 credits) grades attained at Level 5 and the best 8 module (120 credits) at Level 6 or
- classification determined on the best 8 module (120 credits) grades attained at Level 6 only

Institute Examination Boards review and confirm results for modules, and the Scheme Examination Board considers candidates' mark profiles to make decisions about progression, awards and degree classifications as appropriate.

## 21 Indicators of quality and standards

- Biological Science was assessed externally in February 2000 by Higher Education Funding Council assessors. It achieved 20 points.
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- University of Worcester has the Investor in People kite mark.
- HEFCE Performance Indicators, particularly completion and efficiency.
- Quality at UW is consistently found to be high; this is supported by evidence from recent subject reviews (see above), the QAA continuation audit in November 2001.
- In November 2005, the University was audited by the Quality Assurance Agency. The audit confirmed confidence in the University's management of the quality of its academic programmes and the standards of its awards. The QAA particularly commended the University's supportive ethos and range of departmental and central services provided to students and staff in support of its mission to deliver an excellent inclusive higher education.

## 22 Career Opportunities & Links with Employers

Sustainable Woodland Management is presented as a vocational course. Casual scans of employment sections in the *New Scientist* and the *Guardian*, for example, have shown a consistent requirement for students with ecological science and environmental management backgrounds, which are provided by this course, for the past few years. Students following this course have the opportunity to develop unique and diverse ranges of intellectual, practical, transferable and social skills, which will stand them in good stead for a wide range of career destinations. Specifically graduates will be able to compete for jobs with or in:

- Business (e.g. Environmental Consultancies, Environmental Policy Officers);
- Government Agencies (e.g. English Nature, Environment Agency, Countryside Agency, Forestry Commission);
- Non-Governmental Organisation (e.g. County Wildlife Trusts);
- Local Government (e.g. Environmental Planning, Environment Officers, Countryside Services, Agenda 21 Officers);
- Technical Posts (e.g. Environmental monitoring);
- Post-Graduate Research;
- Education (e.g. Facilitating learning at secondary and tertiary levels);
- Town and Country Planning;
- Management (e.g. retailing, financial services);
- Teaching via an appropriate PGCE course;
- And many others, directly or indirectly utilising the expertise developed in the course.

**Please note:** This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module study guide and course handbook. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

Key Sources of Information about the BSc Sustainable Woodland Management course can or will be found in:

1. Definitive Validated Document
2. Course Student Handbook (reviewed annually)
3. UW Prospectus.

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