

Diploma in Field and Conservation Ecology

The diploma gives progression after gaining the Certificate of Higher Education in Field Ecology. The courses offered through the Diploma are designed to extend field and conservation knowledge, understanding and skills. The knowledge and skills gained are those essential for any job in the environmental field, providing hands on experience and developing identification skills that are often neglected in other Higher Education courses.

The courses are specifically tailored for people who cannot contemplate full time study due to other commitments and are ideal for professional development to broaden your knowledge and skills base. The completed Diploma would enhance your CV and give you skills highlighted by the Environment Research Funders' Forum (ERFF) as most wanted by employees in the environmental sector. In the past, students have gained employment in many of the environmental agencies and charitable trusts. Alternatively, the courses offer an interesting challenge to anyone fascinated by the living world.

The Diploma in Field and Conservation Ecology is awarded after the completion of 120 credits, of which 50 credits must be taken from the core courses. This includes your final research project of 7000 words (30 credits). You can then choose a minimum of 70 credits from the optional courses. This can be made up of a maximum of 20 credits from the level 4 optional courses offered in the Certificate of Field Ecology. The optional courses provide a choice in field and conservation topics. The Diploma in Field and Conservation Ecology is equivalent to level 5 National Qualifications Framework (NQF). You can take up to 5 years to complete the Diploma.

The specified number of courses in each of the core and optional boxes are required to attain the Diploma. Additional courses may be taken but would not count towards the Diploma. Any number and combination of courses can be taken by students not focused on gaining the Diploma, but some courses have prerequisites.

The Certificate in Field Ecology (120 credits) needs to be completed before beginning the Diploma. The CHE and Diploma, together, equate to 240 credits.

Any module available to study online (self-paced learning) is highlighted in yellow.

Core Courses

All 60 credits required:

Ecology 2 (10 credits level 2)

Conservation Strategies – Principles and Practice (10 credits level 2)

Dealing with Data: an introduction to statistics (10 credits level 1) [prerequisite for the Project]

How to design a scientific project (10 credits level 2) [prerequisite for the Project from 2022-23]

Field and Conservation Ecology Project (30 credits level 2)

Optional courses

All modules listed are Level 2 and 10 credits unless otherwise stated. A maximum of 20 credits may be selected from Level 1 courses offered as part of the CHE.

Land Use History and Recording

A Guide to Environmental Impact Assessment

Pollution Monitoring

Bird Survey

Vegetation Analysis (20 credits)

Biomass Crops and Biodiversity

Freshwater Habitats

Landscapes and their Conservation

The Geological History of Wales

Habitat Reconstruction and Creation

Soil Interpretation and Ecosystem Management

Our Countryside: Change and Community

Further Plant Identification

Marine Life and Conservation in Cardigan Bay

Butterfly Survey