

## Conservation Science

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**Start date** 8<sup>th</sup> April 2016 **End date** 10<sup>th</sup> April 2016

**Venue** Madingley Hall  
Madingley  
Cambridge

**Tutor** Ed Turner **Course code** 1516NRX119

**Director of Programmes** Emma Jennings

**For further information on this course, please contact** Public Programme Co-ordinator, Clare Kerr  
[clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk) or 01223 746237

**To book** See: [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk) or telephone 01223 746262

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### Tutor biography

Ed is Academic Director and Teaching Officer in Biological Sciences at ICE. He is an affiliated researcher in the Insect Ecology Group, University Museum of Zoology and a Fellow at Clare College, Cambridge. He also coordinates research at the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Function in Tropical Agriculture (BEFTA) Project, based in Sumatra, Indonesia.

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## Course programme

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### Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00 Dinner

20:30 – 22:00 **Key challenges in global conservation.** This presentation and group discussion will introduce the main threats facing the natural world

22:00 Terrace bar open for informal discussion

### Saturday

07:30 Breakfast

09:00 – 10:30 **Biodiversity decline.** This (slightly depressing) session will introduce the evidence that species diversity is declining globally and ways that this can be measured and monitored

10:30 Coffee

11:00 – 12:30 **Practical session in the Madingley grounds.** This practical session will give participants a chance to monitor biodiversity change themselves in the Madingley grounds!

13:00 Lunch

14:00 – 17:00 **Field Trip to Hayley Wood.** This fieldtrip will allow us to explore the varied habitats and conservation management strategies of this beautiful ancient woodland. Please bring appropriate footwear and clothing.

17:00 – 18:30 Free

18:30 Dinner

20:00 – 21:30 **Reasons to conserve biodiversity.** This talk and discussion will explore some of the reasons why biodiversity matters and why the natural world should be conserved

21:30 Terrace bar open for informal discussion

### Sunday

07:30 Breakfast

09:00 – 10:30 **Human interactions with the natural world.** This session will explore the value of the natural world for people, including the economic benefits of pollinators and the health benefits of exposure to green-space

10:30 Coffee

11:00 – 12:30	<b>The future of conservation.</b> In this final session, we will explore what conservation projects may look like in the future and innovative projects that are bringing wildlife back into our most built-up urban environments
12:45	Lunch

**The course will disperse after lunch**

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## Course syllabus

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### Aims:

- 1) To give students a broad overview of modern conservation science
- 2) To explore some of the major threats facing the natural world
- 3) To discuss modern approaches to conservation, including methods for encouraging wildlife into the most built-up urban areas
- 4) To give students the chance to develop and employ practical monitoring skills for conservation in a garden setting and to observe the effects of conservation action in a woodland nature reserve

### Content:

This course will provide a broad overview of modern conservation science. We will begin by exploring some of the myriad threats facing natural ecosystems worldwide and what impacts these are having on biodiversity and the functioning of ecosystems. We will go on to explore new approaches to tackling these threats including strategies to prioritise conservation action, engage members of the public and even big business in conservation, bring wildlife into city centres, and even replace extinct species.

### Presentation of the course:

The course will consist of presentations by the tutor, backed up by short videos and directed discussions to develop participant understanding of key issues in modern conservation science. The course will also consist of a practical session in the Madingley Hall grounds, which will allow students to learn about and also to practice monitoring methods to answer conservation questions. There will be a fieldtrip to Hayley Wood SSSI, where students will be able to observe the importance of conservation management first hand.

### Outcomes:

**As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should:**

- 1) Gain a sound understanding of important issues in modern conservation science and threats to species diversity worldwide
- 2) Develop a heightened ability to discuss conservation issues in a group setting
- 3) Develop an appreciation of monitoring in conservation projects and an understanding of how projects can be carried out in the field
- 4) Be able to discuss the changing role of conservation in the modern world

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## Reading and resources list

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Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

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Author	Title	Publisher and date
Andrew Balmford	<i>Wild Hope: On the Front Lines of Conservation Success.</i>	University of Chicago Press, 2012
Norman Maclean	<i>Silent summer. The state of wildlife in Britain and Ireland</i>	CUP 2010
Richard Lewington and Ken Thompson	<i>Guide to Garden Wildlife</i>	British Wildlife Publishing, 2008

## Website addresses

For those interested in getting involved with conservation monitoring in the UK, the below list represents a range of opportunities on offer:

[www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch/](http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch/)

[www.nationalmothnight.info/](http://www.nationalmothnight.info/)

[www.ukbms.org/](http://www.ukbms.org/)

[www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/bbs](http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/bbs)

[www.bsbi.org.uk/](http://www.bsbi.org.uk/)

**Note** Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

*Information correct as of:* 06 January 2016