HARPER ADAMS UNIVERSITY
Programme Specification

1	**Awarding Institution:**	Harper Adams University
2	**Teaching Institution:**	Askham Bryan College
3	**Course Accredited by:**	Not Applicable
4	**Final Award and Level:**	BSc / BSc (Hons) (top-up) (Level 6)
5	**Interim Award(s) and Level(s):**	BSc (Level 6)
6	**Award Title:**	Conservation and Ecology
7	**UCAS Code:**	C3T4
8	**HECoS and CAH2 Group(s):**	HECoS: 100347 – Ecology 40% 100864 – Ecosystem Ecology and Land Use 20% 101318 - Biodiversity Conservation 40% CAH03-01-03
9	**QAA Benchmark Statement(s):**	The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014) Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry Food and Consumer Sciences (2016) Business and Management (2015)
10	**Language of Study:**	English
11	**Mode of Study:**	Full-Time/Part-Time
12	**Course Duration:**	See section below
13	**Date Approved or Revised:**	Validation Event held on 3rd May 2023 Revised Programme Approvals Committee – 16th July 2024 and 24th September 2024 **(Applicable to 2024-25 and 2025-26 Entry Cohorts)** (September 2023 – August 2029

CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

The BSc/BSc (Hons) Conservation and Ecology (top-up) programme has been designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills to enter careers related to wildlife conservation and environmental ecology. Areas relating to recent advances, the sustainability of the industry and environmental change are incorporated within this BSc/BSc (Hons) top-up programme. The programme is the specified progression route for students wishing to top-up to honours from their FdSc Wildlife and Environmental Conservation award at Askham Bryan College, but students may progress to honours from other HND and Foundation Degree courses with advanced standing. Students will study a range of animal wildlife, developing survey and management skills and understand how conservation projects and organisations are managed. Knowledge of business principles and management skills is developed, allowing students work effectively at management level within a company.

Securing the Skills Needed by our Industries and Professions

- All our proposed programmes are developed following consultation with the Technical Advisory Group (TAG). With a strong practical element to the programme skills for employment are integrated to the programmes.

Working with New Technologies

- The programmes will encompass aspects of digital and innovation in teaching and learning, supported and enabled by the staff within the University Centre Askham Bryan (UCAB) Digital Skills Academy.

Turning the Climate Change Debate into Action

Askham Bryan is committed to environmental sustainability and carbon reduction and to adopting appropriate measures to support the Government's net zero emission by 2050 target as set out in the change Act of 2008 (Askham Bryan Sustainability Statement 2022-2023).

Informing Consumer Views about Food, Animal Wellbeing, and the Environment

The institution recognises that to bring about a positive change to the sustainability agenda and environmental enhancement, there is a need to look at organisational, personal and community behaviour to facilitate changes in business practices, and ensure individuals make personal decisions that support a healthy environment, for now and the future generations.

Contributing to UK Economic Prosperity

Animal health, welfare and science is an area of growth for the UK economy with a need for sustainability and self-sufficiency Askham Bryan College HE programmes contribute to this through the meaningful integration of the Education for Sustainable Development Goals. These goals are mapped to both the programmes and the modules to ensure that students are developing an applied knowledge of environmental, social, and economic sustainability which in turn contributes to the UK economic prosperity.

Students studying the course may enter a wide variety of roles in the industry, working in ecology, animal and environmental research, habitat restoration, species reintroduction, conservation and ecological consultancies. Students may also progress to higher level study such as Masters or PhD.

GENERIC AIMS

All BSc/BSc (Hons) Conservation and Ecology (top-up) degree awards aim to provide the following:

1) To develop in each student subject knowledge and understanding appropriate to individual interests and developing vocational needs.

2) To develop each student's intellectual powers, their understanding and judgement, their ability to see relationships within what they have learned and to examine the field of study in a broader perspective.

3) To develop the personal effectiveness and employability of students, in particular their ability to learn, to communicate, to work with others and to solve problems.

4) To develop those skills of professional scholarship required for career management, lifelong learning and innovation.

5) To inculcate an awareness of the wider consequences of economic activity and a determination to minimise harmful effects on the environment and on people.

6) To provide a lively, stimulating and challenging educational experience.

AWARD-SPECIFIC AIMS

The BSc/BSc (Hons) Conservation and Ecology (top-up) degree award aims to provide the following:

1) To develop each student's ability to apply detailed scientific knowledge to conservation and ecology.

2) To equip students with a thorough understanding of business concepts relating to conservation.

3) To equip students with the ability to identify, analyse and solve a range of commonly encountered problems within conservation.

4) A knowledge of experimental, statistical and computing techniques to generate a realistic and imaginative research project using a range of knowledge from a chosen area.

GENERIC OUTCOMES

On successful completion of BSc/BSc (Hons) Conservation and Ecology (top-up) degree awards, students will be able to:

A	Knowledge	Demonstrate a detailed and specialised knowledge of a range of theories, ideas, terminology and contexts associated with the discipline, with a clear appreciation of the ways in which knowledge is developed and the provisional nature of knowledge.
B	Problem Solve	Select, devise and evaluate the use of appropriate strategies to solve complex, unpredictable, ambiguous and real-world problems.
C	Analysis	Analyse complex data using appropriately selected techniques; draw out robust findings in this process; and, thoroughly evaluate the effectiveness of the analytical strategy.
D	Synthesis	Select and combine ideas and/or data to generate meaningful and convincing composite evidence or arguments with a clear purpose.
E	Evaluation	Review complex and unpredictable information to address unpredictable, ambiguous or real-world problems, with a good awareness of the limitations of both the material under review and the analytical approach.
F	Digital Competence	Select, use and evaluate technologies to enable or enhance the performance of specific tasks, and appreciate the evolution of technology in their discipline.
G	Team Work	Work effectively with others, with minimal or no supervision, to achieve positive outcomes; demonstrate leadership and management capabilities within a team situation; and, critically assess their personal contribution to the team.
H	Career Dev	Recognise, pursue, record and reflect on personal development to pursue personal career goals and appreciate the changing nature of the workplace and the need for personal resilience and **lifelong learning.**
I	Communications	Communicate effectively and professionally for a range of different purposes and through different modes, with consideration of audience needs as well as other contextual factors such as commercial sensitivity, impact maximisation and accessibility requirements.
J	Practical Comp	Perform practical operations in complex, unpredictable, real-world situations that require the selection of combined or novel practical skills and critically review personal effectiveness in practical tasks with reference to relevant professional standards.
K	Autonomy	Act independently and autonomously with minimum supervision in academic and practical tasks.
L	Research	Select and use research to inform the development of knowledge and understanding, and to inform decision-making.
M	Sustain Practice	Evaluate the sustainability of practices, processes or developments, with attention to different stakeholder perspectives, unintended consequences, economic and social dimensions, or environmental considerations.
N	Global	Compare and contrast international examples or case studies that are associated with the discipline and work with an active awareness of global factors or trends that have an impact on specific areas of study.

O	Ethics	Locate a range of ethical issues associated with their own research or professional behaviours, and demonstrate personal responsibility for ethical choices, including adherence to professional codes in complex ethical dilemmas.
P	Placement	Not applicable
Q	Honours	Effectively plan and undertake research.

AWARD-SPECIFIC OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the BSc/BSc (Hons) Conservation and Ecology (top-up) award, students will be able to:

R. Critically review the recent advances within the animal industry.

S. Evaluate the basis of a range of conflicting perspectives on the management of animals.

U. Critically appraise how conservation projects and NGOs are organised and funded.

V. Critically assess the role that humans play in the degradation and conservation of biodiversity.

RELATIONSHIP WITH EXTERNAL REFERENCE POINT(S)

The aims and outcomes of this Honours Degree programme reflect the level descriptors for higher education qualifications, part of the QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014).
The award is reflected in the benchmark statements for Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Food, Nutrition and Consumer Sciences (2019) and Biosciences (2023) as well as Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies (2022). In addition, the themes of sustainability and globalisation are embedded.

The College holds a regular Technical Advisory Group and feedback from employers help to shape the curriculum from an industry perspective.

PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION ARRANGEMENTS

None.

COURSE PROGRESSION, MODULE COMPENSATION, TRANSFER, ADVANCED STANDING AND INTERIM AWARDS

Progression

The full-time programme will be completed in one year, with each academic year consisting of two semesters, each typically of 12 weeks duration, including directed study weeks and examination periods.

The part-time honours programme will be completed in two years, with a minimum of 60 credits of modules being studied in each academic year. Part time students can choose which modules are studied in each year in order to provide more flexibility in the timetable structure. Part-time students studying for the BSc degree without honours would typically study 40 credits per academic year.

The maximum period of registration is two years beyond the expected course duration, to allow for periods of approved postponement or repeat study.

For progression from BSc to BSc (Hons) level a student must have a minimum of 80 credits after re-assessment at Level 6 with an overall grade of 55% or over.

On successful completion of the programme students may be eligible to study the MSc Zoo Management and Conservation.

Module Compensation Exclusions

The following modules are not eligible for compensation within the BSc (Hons) Conservation and Ecology (top-up) programme:

40-credit Research Project.

The following modules are not eligible for compensation within the BSc (Ord) Conservation and Ecology (top-up) programme:

Sustainable Development in the Animal Industry (elective)
Sustainable Conservation Education (elective)

Transfer

For an Ordinary Degree BSc Conservation and Ecology degree candidate to progress to Honours Degree they must have completed a minimum of 80 credits after re-assessment at Level 6 and achieved a mean grade of >55%.

Entry with Advanced Standing

Table 4.1 in **Section 4** of the *Academic Quality Assurance Manual* identifies the maximum credit that can normally be advanced for students wishing to enter with advanced standing from a Harper Adams' award, or an award from another institution.

Interim Awards
The requirements for interim awards associated with final awards are as follows:

BSc Conservation and Ecology (top-up)

The outcomes required for the ordinary award are:

A	Knowledge	Demonstrate a detailed and specialised knowledge of a range of theories, ideas, terminology and contexts associated with the discipline, with a clear appreciation of the ways in which knowledge is developed and the provisional nature of knowledge.
B	Problem Solve	Select, devise and evaluate the use of appropriate strategies to solve complex, unpredictable, ambiguous and real-world problems.
C	Analysis	Analyse complex data using appropriately selected techniques; draw out robust findings in this process; and, thoroughly evaluate the effectiveness of the analytical strategy.
D	Synthesis	Select and combine ideas and/or data to generate meaningful and convincing composite evidence or arguments with a clear purpose.
E	Evaluation	Review complex and unpredictable information to address unpredictable, ambiguous or real-world problems, with a good awareness of the limitations of both the material under review and the analytical approach.
F	Digital Competence	Select, use and evaluate technologies to enable or enhance the performance of specific tasks, and appreciate the evolution of technology in their discipline.
G	Team Work	Work effectively with others, with minimal or no supervision, to achieve positive outcomes; demonstrate leadership and management capabilities within a team situation; and, critically assess their personal contribution to the team.
H	Career Dev	Recognise, pursue, record and reflect on personal development to pursue personal career goals and appreciate the changing nature of the workplace and the need for personal resilience and **lifelong learning.**
I	Communications	Communicate effectively and professionally for a range of different purposes and through different modes, with consideration of audience needs as well as other contextual factors such as commercial sensitivity, impact maximisation and accessibility requirements.

J	Practical Comp	Perform practical operations in complex, unpredictable, real-world situations that require the selection of combined or novel practical skills and critically review personal effectiveness in practical tasks with reference to relevant professional standards.
K	Autonomy	Act independently and autonomously with minimum supervision in academic and practical tasks.
L	Research	Select and use research to inform the development of knowledge and understanding, and to inform decision-making.
M	Sustain Practice	Evaluate the sustainability of practices, processes or developments, with attention to different stakeholder perspectives, unintended consequences, economic and social dimensions, or environmental considerations.
N	Global	Compare and contrast international examples or case studies that are associated with the discipline and work with an active awareness of global factors or trends that have an impact on specific areas of study.
O	Ethics	Locate a range of ethical issues associated with their own research or professional behaviours, and demonstrate personal responsibility for ethical choices, including adherence to professional codes in complex ethical dilemmas.

R. Critically review the recent advances within the animal industry.

S. Evaluate the basis of a range of conflicting perspectives on the management of animals.

U. Critically appraise how conservation projects and NGOs are organised and funded.

V. Critically assess the role that humans play in the degradation and conservation of biodiversity.

Students will have obtained a minimum of 80 credits at level 6. This will normally include a pass in the following modules:

- Wildlife Disease and Population Management
- Practical Skills in Ecology
- Sustainable Development in the Animal Industry (elective) OR Sustainable Conservation Education (elective)
- Marine Conservation (elective) OR Sustainable Conservation Education (elective)

Entry with Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL)/ Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) will be accepted in accordance with the Askham Bryan College procedure and Harper Adams University regulations. No more than ⅔ credit for the award may be derived from APL. Within this limit, no more than half of the total credit value of the award may be derived from APEL.

Holders of Foundation Degree awards will typically already have 120 credits at level 4 plus 120 credits at level 5.

COURSE STRUCTURE, LEVELS AND CREDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERIM AND FINAL AWARDS

Harper Adams' programmes are based on a credit-accumulation system where 1 credit represents 10 notional hours of student study time. Modules are normally 20 credits or multiples thereof. Modules are also at different levels from Levels 3 – 7, according to their intellectual challenge. Courses leading to specific awards include **core modules, optional modules** from which students must select choices up to the number of credits required.

The minimum credit requirements needed to progress to interim and final awards are listed in **Section 4.4.5** of the *Academic Quality Assurance Manual*. These are reflected in the corresponding course structure study programmes, which follow.

Course Structure: BSc (Hons) Conservation and Ecology (top-up)

2024 Entry Cohort
UCAS Code: C3T4

Year 1 **All at level 6 unless indicated**			
CORE			
Semester 1		Semester 2	
Research Project ABC6200			40
Wildlife Disease and Population Management ABA6234	20	Practical Skills in Ecology ABA6229	20
ELECTIVES Choose 1 x Elective and 1 x Elective			
Sustainable Conservation Education ABA6232 (E1)	20	Marine Conservation (E2) ABA6227	20
Sustainable Development in the Animal Industry (E1) ABA6233	20	Reintroduction and Restoration (E2) ABA6231	20

Course Structure: BSc Conservation and Ecology (top-up)

2024 Entry Cohort
UCAS Code: C3T4

Year 1 **All at level 6 unless indicated**			
CORE			
Semester 1		Semester 2	
Wildlife Disease and Population Management ABA6234	20	Practical Skills in Ecology ABA6229	20
ELECTIVES Choose 1 x Elective 1 and 1x Elective 2			
Sustainable Conservation Education ABA6232 (E1)	20	Marine Conservation (E2) ABA6227	20
Sustainable Development in the Animal Industry ABA6233 (E1)	20	Reintroduction and Restoration (E2) ABA6231	20

Full-time Honours students will normally study at least 120 credits (equivalent to 1200 study hours) per year from a combination of core (compulsory) and elective modules. Pass Degree students would normally study the Sustainability in Animal Industries or Sustainable Conservation Education as an alternative to the Research Project.

Validation Date: 3rd May 2023
Date of Approval following Response to Validation Report: July 2023
Period of Approval: September 2023 – August 2029

COURSE DESIGN, LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment philosophy
Assessments will vary to reflect the academic, practical and professional skills development of students on the BSc/BSc (Hons) Conservation and Ecology (top-up) programme.

Learning and teaching methods
Teaching and learning methods used to deliver this curriculum are designed to provide experience, and, through reflection upon it, develop concepts which can then be explored through testing and experimentation. Methods vary according to the nature of each modules subject matter but include a wide diversity from more formal lectures to student centred activities including assignments, seminars, field trips, guest lectures and case studies. Students will be supported with their study via the college's virtual learning environment, which will prepare them for the autonomy expected of HE students.

Transferable skills
The programme has been developed to enable students to plan and execute research and development work. It encourages independent learning, professional and personal development, and the ability to present skills, exams and behaviour appropriate to a management career. The programme includes activities to develop core skills of communication, numeracy, IT and personal development planning as well as modules designed to develop teamwork and independent learning, problem solving and research. Practical work experience during directed study time is also recommended so that students can apply information and skills to real life situations.

Typical assessment
Assessment is considered an important part of the learning process. Modules are assessed in one, two or three pieces of assessment. Each assessment will provide summative feedback for the learning outcomes in the module. The contribution of each assessment to the end overall mark is indicated in the module descriptors. There is no threshold requirement in any assessment component. Formative assessments methods are diverse and will not be graded.
Unless otherwise specified in module descriptors the overall mark is derived from a weighted mean, with no threshold requirement in any assessment component.
A range of subject specific assessment methodologies will be included to develop practical and technical skills. These will include professional discussion, peer observation, case studies and practical assessments.
Group assessment includes group collection of both quantitative and qualitative data and information to facilitate decision-making. Practical assessment will include the design and setup of laboratory or field experiments, with analysis and presentation of collected data. Further assessment is facilitated by case studies and links with industry, including product evaluation.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS
For admission onto the Honours Degree programme, students must have achieved an overall pass in their Foundation Degree or Higher National Diploma award.

In addition, places are dependent on a reference from the student's Foundation Degree/ HND Course Manager reflecting their suitability for Level 6 study. Some applicants may be interviewed. Equivalent qualifications may be considered. Applications will be welcomed via one of the formalised pathways outlined in signed progression accords with other institutions.

Curriculum Map for BSc/BSc (Hons) Conservation and Ecology (top-up) (Level 6)

Award Outcomes	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
Research Project			X								X	X			X		X					
Practical Skills in Ecology		X				X				X			X					X			X	X
Wildlife Disease and Population Management		X		X			X		X					X					X		X	X
ELECTIVES																						
Sustainable Development in the Animal Industry	X	X					X	X	X				X				X					
Sustainable Conservation Education	X				X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X				X				
Reintroduction and Restoration	X		X		X									X				X	X			
Marine Conservation	X	X		X	X			X		X	X			X				X	X			

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O	Ethics	Locate a range of ethical issues associated with their own research or professional behaviours, and demonstrate personal responsibility for ethical choices, including adherence to professional codes in complex ethical dilemmas.
P	Placement	Not applicable
Q	Honours	Effectively plan and undertake research.
R	Recent Advances	Consider the recent advances within the animal industry.
S	Management	Compare the range of conflicting perspectives on the management of animals.
T	Business	Develop a critical analysis of the running of a business.
U	Conservation Project	Appraise how conservation projects and NGOs are organised and funded.
V	Humans	Critically assess the role that humans play in the degradation and conservation of biodiversity