Programme specification
BSc (Hons) Conservation and Countryside Management

Faculty: Faculty of Arts
Entry in: September 2016
Awarding Institution: York St John University
Teaching Institution: Craven College
Delivery Location: Craven College
Programme/s Accredited by: Not applicable
Exit Awards: BSc (Ord) in Conservation and Countryside Management

UCAS Code / GTTR / Other: 4J21
Joint Honours Combinations: Not applicable
QAA Benchmark Group(s): QAA Bench Mark Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies

Mode/s of Study: BSc, Full-time 1 year, Part-time 2 years
Language of Study: English

Introduction and Special Features

Careers in the Conservation sector are increasingly varied, ranging from practical habitat management and environmental education to landscape scale planning and research. Professionals are expected to demonstrate a blend of academic knowledge, practical ability and project management skills. This course was developed with input from the National Park Authority and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to provide you with the knowledge, practical and professional skills required to work in the industry.

The BSc (Hons) in Conservation and Countryside Management allows you to build on the knowledge and skills gained at level 5 and apply these to case study situations and your own research. Environmental education, habitat survey skills and the ability to use GIS are desirable vocational skills and modules have been developed to enable you to practice in these areas. The dissertation and research reports in modules such as Habitat Restoration and Creation will develop the skills required for further academic study and research.

The focus and approach remains vocational but study at Level 6 will enhance your ability to research, analyse data, synthesise and apply knowledge, communicate information to specialist and non-specialists and initiate and manage projects. This should allow you to progress to further research or employment at graduate level.
The course is enhanced by the unique location of Craven College, situated on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, between two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This location provides excellent access for visits, case studies and field research. Staff and students utilise both the geographical location and close links with local Conservation professionals to visit a range of case study sites throughout the programme. These may include peat land restoration by the Yorkshire Peat Partnership, hay meadow research and conservation grazing by Natural England on the Ingleborough National Nature Reserve or habitat recreation at limestone quarries and gravel extraction sites. On these visits you will have the opportunity to study the application of research to practical situations and to propose your own solutions to future challenges.

The course is taught at Skipton Auction Mart Campus, this is a specialised land–based campus with a rural location and the site includes a working Auction Mart, a School of Drystone Walling as well as woodland and agriculture.

### Admissions Criteria

- FD Conservation and Countryside Management
  Or
- Relevant Foundation Degree or similar qualification in the conservation field

Applicants external to Craven College will be required to provide evidence of their level 5 qualification, including modules studied and learning outcomes, to ensure that the prior learning is compatible with this course. Additional guided reading may be provided where a need is identified.

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see [https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/](https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/))
Programme Aims

- To provide a high quality programme of study in the Conservation and Countryside Management field with a professional and academic focus;
- To widen participation in the Conservation sector and widen access to higher education;
- To develop a range of transferable skills, techniques, personal qualities and attitudes essential for successful performance in working life;
- To create reflective practitioners who are able to communicate, analyse and synthesise complex information;
- To develop autonomous learners capable of managing life-long learning and professional development.
- To develop practitioners that can successfully apply complex concepts and techniques to projects or research in the Conservation sector.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Level 6

Level 6 modules build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established at Level 5 and you will take increasing responsibility for the process of your own learning and your development as an independent learner. By gaining the award you will have demonstrated the following learning outcomes:

- Demonstrate a level of vocational and professional competence and understanding of conservation management to enable work as a subject specialist or project manager;
- Demonstrate a systematic understanding of scientific concepts, knowledge and practical techniques that are of relevance to the Conservation sector;
- Demonstrate an ability to consider conservation and management issues from a range of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary perspectives;
- Develop indicators and survey criteria and deploy them to assess the impact of existing and future practice;
- Critically analyse and systematically apply key theories and concepts to develop professional plans and reports;
- Demonstrate the academic and vocational competences required to conduct research, analyse data and communicate results;
- Select, use and evaluate professional survey techniques and ICT applications;
- Demonstrate the levels of professional scholarship and competency required for personal development, career management and lifelong learning;
- Communicate clearly, accurately and concisely in a manner and medium appropriate to the audience.
Programme Structure

You will study five compulsory modules at Level 6 (BSc (Hons) Conservation and Countryside Management). These allow you to synthesise knowledge gained at Levels 4 and 5, enhance your specialist knowledge and develop you as an autonomous learner and practitioner. The Dissertation allows you to use the research skills gained at Level 5 to research and develop knowledge in a specialist field of interest.

Modules for the Programme

Full-time delivery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Status of Module*</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CC10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Habitat Restoration and Creation</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>GIS and Habitat survey</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Environmental Education and Public Engagement</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sustainable Business Practice</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC13</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1 and 2</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*C*: Compulsory, CP: Compulsory for progression to the next level, CA: Compulsory for award, O: option or E: elective.

Delivery of the part-time course will vary from the above

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

The delivery of the programme consists of 30 contact hours per module which includes a blend of lectures, seminars, workshops, tutorials, visits and practicals. You can expect to undertake an additional 170 hours of individual work per module and this consists of supported open learning using the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and independent learning and assessment work. Your dissertation will be delivered as a mixture of initial lectures followed by individual tutorials with a subject specialist tutor.

At Level 6 vocational and professional skills will be developed to meet professional standards and the application of knowledge to the work place will be emphasised throughout. This ensures that at graduation you will be fully prepared for employment or progression to further study.

Teaching at Level 6 synthesises learning at Level 4 and 5 and applies that knowledge to complex situations. At this level you will be expected to undertake independent learning and the assessments and taught sessions will reflect this. The modules will allow you to demonstrate autonomous learning and offer you the opportunity to select your own sites and businesses to study. You will also plan and undertake a research dissertation on a conservation topic of your choice.

Delivery methods will include tutorials, lectures, ICT workshops, seminars, field visits, visiting speakers and fieldwork but these will be more reliant on your own independent
study and analysis than at levels 4 and 5. A variety of formative assessment methods will be used including project plans and peer review and summative assessment will include skills portfolios, essays, dissertations and survey reports.

**Progression and Graduation Requirements**

The University’s [general regulations for undergraduate awards](#) apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the [Programme Structure section](#).

**Internal and External Reference Points**

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission Statement](#)
- [Strategic Plan 2015-20](#)
- QAA subject benchmark statement Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies (2014)
- National Qualification Framework
- Professional and Statutory bodies IEEM, LANTRA
- Student Surveys
- Engagement with local employers Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, National Trust, Natural England, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

**Further Information**

Further information on the programme of study may be obtained from:

- Admissions entry profile (Student Services – Craven College)
- Regulations (Registry – Academic Quality Support, Craven College Scheme document)
- Course handbook
- Module handbooks

**Date written / revised:** 6/05/15