Summer Examinations 2016

Module Title: Ecological Survey & Consultancy
Level: Six
Time Allowed: Three hours

Instructions to candidates:
- Enter your student number **not** your name on all answer books.
- Answer **all** questions.
- All questions are **not** equally weighted, the allocation of marks is stated overleaf.
- Begin each question on a separate page; label each page clearly with the number of the question you are answering.
- This is a seen paper. Questions have been distributed to candidates two weeks prior to the examination.
- *Wardell Armstrong (2015)* Barn owl survey is provided.
- Neither books nor notes may be taken into the examination.

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Answer all questions.

1. Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) were recently commissioned by Conalgen Enterprises to undertake a Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) survey of the former Rushden and Diamonds Football Club ground at Station Road, Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire. On behalf of the client, critically evaluate the survey methodology and conclusions outlined in this report. Does the report and do the key findings conform with expectations from the newly revised Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (2016)\(^1\)?

   (30 marks)

2. In their discursive paper, Hill & Arnold (2012)\(^2\) stated ‘it can be difficult to predict the significance of positive measures resulting from habitat creation or ecological enhancement measures (associated with ecological mitigation)’. Critically appraise this statement by reviewing and outlining the apparent evidence base for ecological mitigation in terrestrial systems.

   (40 marks)

3. The translocation of wildlife species or even complete habitats is often perceived as a costly, last resort conservation measure. Critically analyse the evidence-base for translocation as a measure for the protection and conservation of wild plants (cf. Markwell & Halls, 2008)\(^3\).

   (30 marks)

End of Paper

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