

Historic Landscapes Online Access Module – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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How do I study?

This module takes a blended learning approach to study which comprises of three parts:

1. Live classes – There are 12 weeks of lectures for the course, a 2-hour class each Monday from the 28/1/20 to the 29/04/20 (Easter Break takes place for two weeks after the 25/03/20 and the course resumes on the 15/04/20). These sessions are live and you can enter the class via Video Conferencing software that you will be able to download for free once you are enrolled on the course.
2. Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) – There is a VLE resource for the module that you will be able to access once enrolled through a facility called Brightspace (similar to a web page). Here you will find resources such as reading lists, lecture notes, powerpoints of the slides from class, useful links and exemplars of past assignments. All of the live classes are recorded and you will also find links to watch these back, should you miss a class or want to go back and re-watch something. Additional bi-weekly seminar series will also be held through the VLE should you wish to attend. These are focussed on discussing assignments and academic papers.
3. Self-Directed Study – This is the time for you to do the background reading for the classes and to complete your assignments. You can also use this time to explore the VLE resources.

How much does the course cost?

The costs for the course are:

- Scotland or EU students £215.00
- Rest of UK students (online) £1020.00
- International students £1850.00

For more details on fees go to <https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/studying-at-uhi/first-steps/how-much-will-it-cost/>

How do I apply?

If you wish to apply for this course then please email Dr Scott Timpany – scott.timpany@uhi.ac.uk for an application form.

What are the assignments for the module?

There are two assignments for this module and both are linked to the same study of an area of Landscape of your choice and you should use the feedback from Assignment 1 to help to develop and enhance Assignment 2. You can also make use of the Seminar Sessions to discuss how you are getting on with your assignments and to work through any issues or problems that arise from your research.

1. **PowerPoint Presentation** (25% of overall mark) – Here you will make a 5 minute presentation (roughly 7-10 slides) on the landscape you are investigating. You should briefly introduce the landscape under investigation, provide background to how this landscape has changed through time (e.g. map regression) and outline the archaeological features present in this landscape. Consider the age of the landscape, and identify whether certain periods or points in history have exerted a particularly strong influence over the development of the landscape (e.g. do most of the archaeological features present come from one time period?). You may also wish to include reference to studies and the results of which that have taken place within this landscape such as archaeological excavations, palaeoenvironmental studies (e.g. pollen), historic building surveys etc. Lastly you should include information on how you would investigate this landscape using non-invasive methods. In essence this assignment is Assignment 2 in miniature.
2. **Desk Based Assessment** (75% of overall mark) – For this assignment you will be producing a DBA (Desk-Based Assessment); a key skill and component of archaeological research. Within this assignment you will research an area of landscape (remember this is the same area of landscape as in Assignment 1) in order to show what archaeological features are present and provide information on what is known of these features. You will also discuss how you would investigate this landscape using non-intrusive archaeological methods (i.e. where you don't dig a trench or conduct any excavations as part of the investigation - Week 2 Class). Within your report you should include details on any archaeological investigations that have taken place in your chosen landscape and you may also think about including palaeoenvironmental studies. In this assignment you will be making use of a number of online resources including Pastmap and Canmore (Scotland only). You can also include elements of archival research, oral history and place names if you so wish. If you choose an area of landscape close to where you are based then it is recommended for you to go and experience this landscape first hand to see if you can find and document some of the archaeological features discovered through your research.

Is there an Information Pack for the Module?

Yes and this will be sent on to you prior to starting on the module and will contain details such as class timetable, weekly reading lists, useful links and full assignment details.

What are the Learning Outcomes for the Module?

At the end of this module, you be able to demonstrate that you:

1. Have developed an understanding of landscape change, the role people have played in shaping landscape and current landscape debate.
2. Have gained detailed knowledge of the range of methods that can be used to study landscape change.
3. Understand how to put into chronological context different types of features, route-ways and field systems found in the landscape.

What is the key reading for the module?

The key texts for this module are given below and it is recommended that you buy copies of the core texts. You will also have access to E-Books and E-Journals once you are enrolled so you will be able to access all of the weekly reading for the classes.

Core Texts

- Aston M. 1985 *Interpreting the Landscape, Archaeology & Local History*. Routledge.
- Bowden N. 1999 *Unravelling the Landscape: An Inquisitive Approach to Archaeology*. Tempus.

Recommended texts

- Edwards K.J. and Ralston I.B.M. 2003 *Scotland after the Ice Age: Environment, archaeology and history*. Edinburgh University Press.
- Fowler P.J. 1983 *The Farming of Prehistoric Britain*. Cambridge University Press.
- Muir R. 2000 *The New Reading the Landscape: Fieldwork in Landscape History*. University of Exeter Press.
- Pryor F. 2006 *Farmers in Prehistoric Britain*. Tempus.
- Vallance H.A. 1996 *The Highland Railway*. House of Lochar.
- Wickham Jones C.R. 2001 *The Landscape of Scotland: A Hidden History*. Tempus.

What software do I need to take the course?

In order to be able to VC into the classes you will need a computer/laptop that has a working microphone and camera. You will also need a good internet signal to be able to connect into classes. Once you are enrolled onto the module you will be able to download for free all the resources you need for the module including: Cisco Webex (VC software) and Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Excel etc.). For more details and instructions on the software available to you see: <https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/lis/software-downloads/>