

Short Form Unit Details

Unit Title	Environment, Policy and Sustainability
Level	1
Reference No. (<i>showing level</i>)	LGE 1.299
Credit Value	15 CAT points
Student Study Hours	Contact hours: 60 Student managed learning hours: 90
Pre-requisite learning	None
Co-requisites	None
Excluded combinations	None
Unit co-ordinator	Dr Phil Pinch
Faculty/Department	Arts and Human Sciences / Urban, Environment and Leisure Studies
Short Description	A social science unit, centred about a residential field study visit, which examines contemporary environmental issues along with policies that seek to plan for sustainable development.
Aims	<p>This unit focuses examine contemporary environmental issues. Extensive use is made of case study material relating to minerals extraction, renewable energy supplies and agricultural land-use in order to investigate the policy challenges which emerge when attempting to plan for sustainable environmental futures.</p> <p>A residential field course to Cornwall aims to provide students with an opportunity to examine environmental issues, conflicts and policy issues at first hand. It combines site visits, surveys and meetings with policy makers and key informants.</p>
Learning Outcomes	<p>Knowledge and Understanding: Students will develop an understanding of contemporary environmental issues and related academic analysis; appreciate the recent growth of political and policy concern with the environment; and recognise the problems of effectively implementing related policy measures in a context of conflicting social, economic and political demands.</p> <p>Intellectual Skills: An ability to engage in critical analysis of contemporary public policy measures, both in written and verbal form.</p> <p>Practical Skills: An ability to seek, handle and interpret information. Field study techniques.</p> <p>Transferable Skills: The ability to manage and organise oneself and to relate to others. An ability to write a coherent and structured evaluation report.</p>
Employability	<p>Students will be able to demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an understanding of the impact of changing policy on the environment • an awareness of sustainability issues • the ability to produce a structured report.
Teaching and learning pattern	A five-day residential field trip in week 6, preceded by introductory lectures, and followed by a de-briefing session and subsequent review.
Indicative content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to unit: aims, objectives and assessment procedures; role of the residential field visit to Cornwall. • Mining, mineral resources and sustainable development: land-use planning and Cornwall's china clay industry - creating a balance between economic growth and the environment. • Agricultural change, sustainability and 'integrated rural development': the Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) of West Penwith - competing demands within an historic environment.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing people in sustainable communities. • Week 6: FIELDTRIP • Fieldtrip debriefing session. • Review of the unit: Uneven development and sustainable environmental futures.
Assessment <i>Elements & weightings</i>	<p>This unit is 100% assessed by coursework and the pass mark for the unit is 40%.</p> <p>Students will write an individual fieldtrip report (max 3,000 words) which describes and evaluates the land-use planning schemes and policy measures visited during the Cornwall fieldtrip. The aim is to assess the ways in which these schemes are attempting to promote more sustainable forms of development and the problems which are faced in achieving this. It will become apparent that whilst Cornwall has many distinctive and unique natural environments, it is also an area with high rates of unemployment and low average household incomes. A central challenge, therefore, is how to strike a balance between socio-economic development and environmental protection.</p>
Indicative Sources <i>(Reading lists)</i>	<p>Cullingworth, B and Nadin, V (2006) <u>Town and Country Planning in the UK (14th edition)</u>, Routledge, London</p> <p>Layard, A., Davoudi, S and Batty, S (2001) (eds) <u>Planning for a Sustainable Future</u>, Spon Press, London</p> <p>HMSO (1999) <u>A Better Quality of Life: A Strategy for Sustainable Development in the UK</u>, Cm 4345</p> <p>World Commission On Environment And Development (1987) <u>Our Common Future</u>, (the Brundtland Report), Oxford University Press</p> <p>Cornwall Fieldstudy guidebook</p> <p>http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/</p> <p>http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/</p> <p>http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/</p> <p>http://www.southwest-ra.gov.uk/</p> <p>http://www.edenproject.com/</p> <p>http://www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/schemes/esas/default.htm</p>