

Welcome to ARU Animal & Environmental Biology, School of Life Sciences

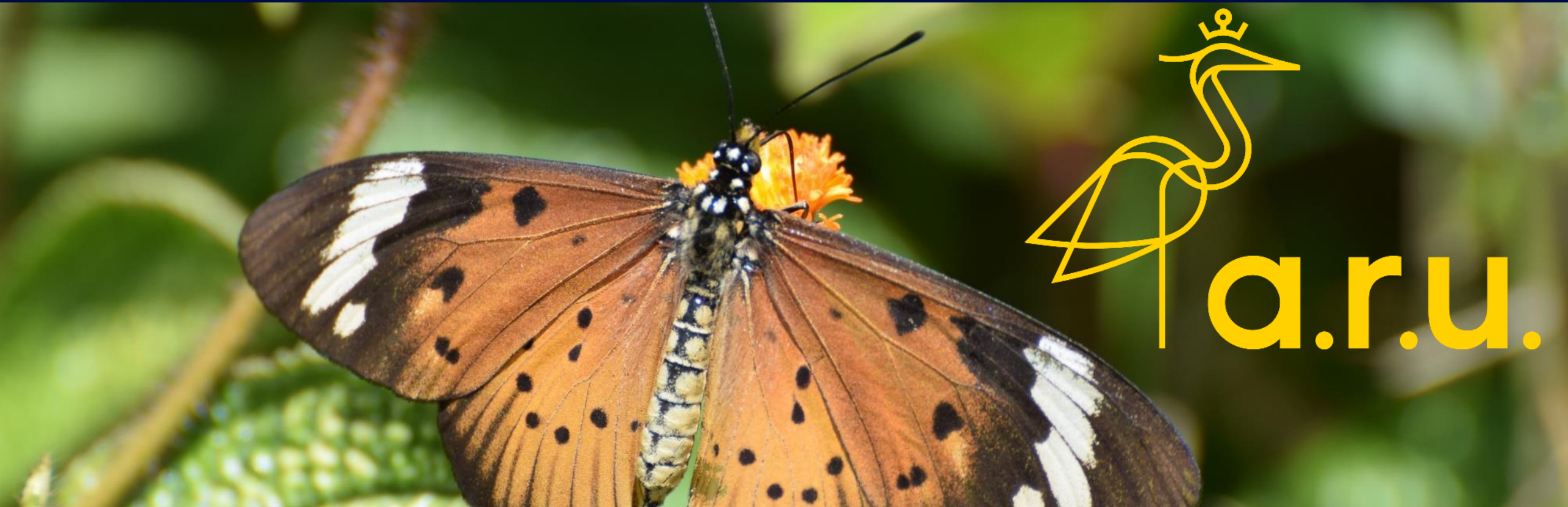


Image: *Acraea encedon*, Madagascar, the 2022 Tropical Ecology module fieldtrip. Photo credit: Dr Alvin Helden.

Courses and Careers in Environment,
Ecology and Conservation

Dr Jim Littlemore, ARU Cambridge

29 Apr 2026

Anglia Ruskin University, ARU

- Times Higher Education **University of the Year**
- ARU rated **Gold** in the Teaching Excellence Framework
- Transforming lives through innovative, inclusive, and entrepreneurial education



Bird community surveys, RSPB Titchwell, Norfolk



ARU

- Top 15% in the UK for graduates in employment or further study 15 months after graduating
- Third in the UK for graduates who are employed as managers, directors, or senior officials 15 months after graduating
- Careers support from Day 1



Water quality monitoring for freshwater ecology
in Devon 2025



Who we are – A quick glance

- Animal and Environmental Biology has undergraduate courses, postgraduate courses, and a thriving PhD community!
- 80 students in each year undergraduate cohort
- 21 academics, teaching & research
- Dedicated labs, a team of technical staff, specialist equipment



Cambridge is the perfect place to be for biology

- A beautiful, historical city, which is at the heart of UK and international conservation efforts – the Sir David Attenborough Building is just down the road from us!
- We are an active member of the Cambridge Conservation Forum, a network of conservation practitioners and researchers, including Birdlife International, the IUCN, University of Cambridge, TRAFFIC, etc.

See <https://www.cambridgeconservationforum.org.uk/>.



Our undergraduate BSc (Hons) courses

- Zoology

<https://www.aru.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/zoology>

- Biology

<https://www.aru.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/biology>

- ARU Writtle

[Course search – ARU](#) (Animal Mgmt; Animal Science; Equine; Veterinary Physiotherapy; Animal & Canine Therapy)

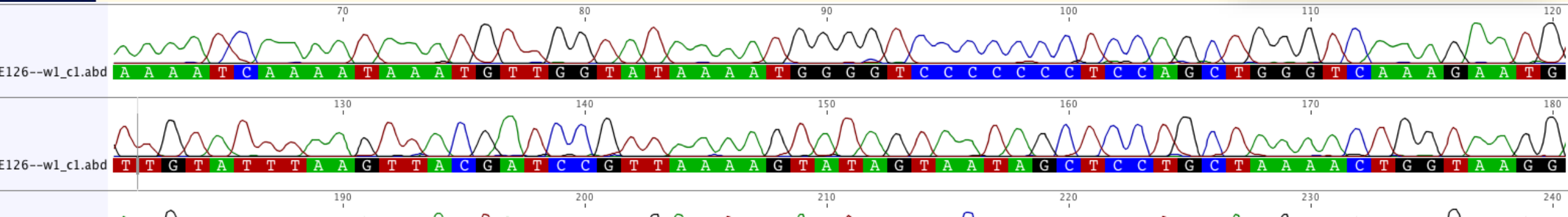


Observing the behaviour of colobus monkeys, Uganda



What will you learn?

- Research & written communication skills
- Field skills (Devon, Shropshire, Netherlands, Peru, France)
- Practical & lab skills, incl. genetics (e.g., eDNA)
- Computer literacy skills, including mapping (GIS) & bioinformatics
- Data processing & statistical analysis
- Complex societal & ethical issues e.g. conservation, animal welfare



Applied Field Skills



Tropical ecology. Peru



Field Skills in Biology, Devon



Zoos & Zoo Animal Management
The Netherlands



Practical Skills for Employability



Course Accreditation



Royal Society of
Biology

Accredited Degree



Taught & Supervised by Active Researchers

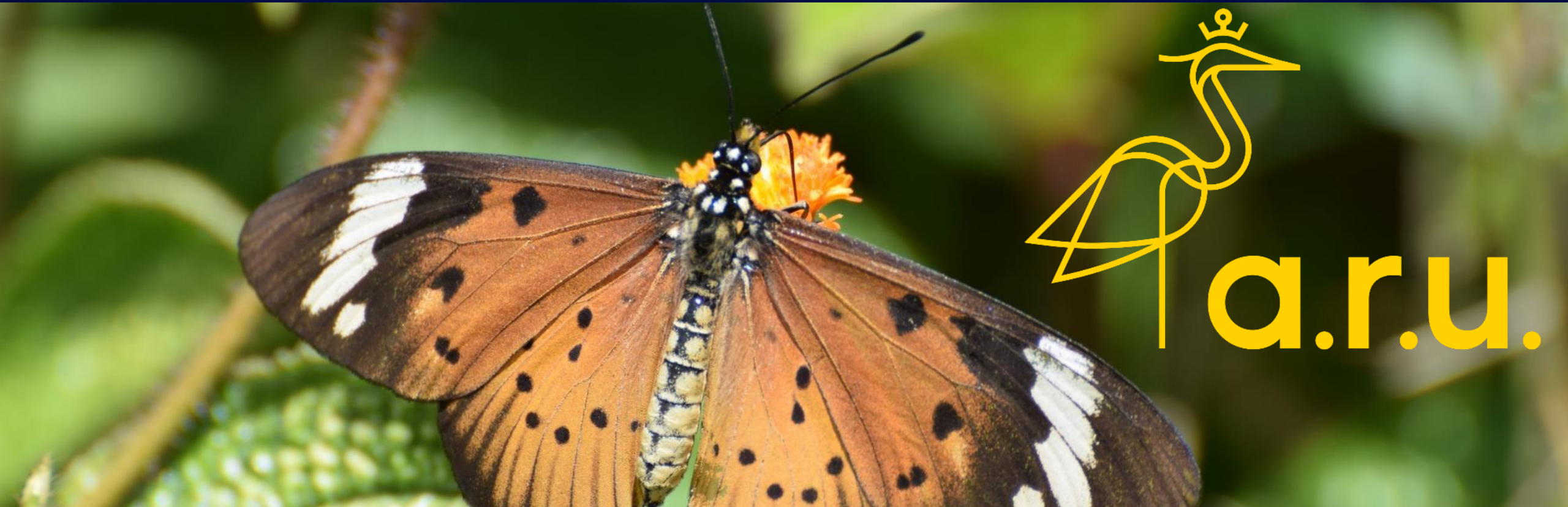


Image: *Acraea encedon*, Madagascar, the 2022 Tropical Ecology module fieldtrip. Photo credit: Dr Alvin Helden.

Academic Publications

Traffic noise triggers road rage among male Galápagos birds

Research finds yellow warblers near busy roads turn aggressive when traffic drowns out their territorial songs, and noise pollution could cause clashes



Common species contribute little to spatial patterns of functional diversity across scales in coastal grasslands

Hannah J. White^{1,2} | Robin J. Pakeman³ | Yvonne M. Buckley¹

REVIEW

Conservation Biology

A roadmap for ladybird conservation and recovery

António O. Soares^{1,2} | Danny Haelewaters^{2,3,4,5} | Olga M. C. C. Ameixa⁶ | Isabel Borges¹ | Peter M. J. Brown⁷ | Pedro Cardoso⁸ | Michiel D. de Groot^{3,9} | Edward W. Evans¹⁰ | Audrey A. Grez¹¹ | Axel Hochkirch^{12,13} | Milada Holecová¹⁴ | Alois Honěk¹⁵ | Ján Kulfan¹⁶ | Ana I. Lillebø⁶ | Zdenka Martinková¹⁵

Science

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HOME > SCIENCE > VOL. 364, NO. 6438 > REWILDING COMPLEX ECOSYSTEMS

REVIEW

Rewilding complex ecosystems

ANDREA PERINO | HENRIQUE M. PEREIRA | LAETTITIA M. NAVARRO | NÉSTOR FERNÁNDEZ | JAMES M. BULLOCK | SILVIA CEALUS | AINARA CORTÉS-AVIZANDA | ROEL VAN KLINK | TOBIAS KUEMMERLE | ANGELA LOMBA | GUY PÉTER | TOBIAS PLEININGER | JOSÉ M. REV BENAYAS | CHRISTOPHER J. SANDOM | JENS-CHRISTIAN SVENNING | AND HELEN C. WHEELER

SCIENCE • 26 Apr 2019 • Vol 364, Issue 6438 • DOI:10.1126/science.125720

News > Science

Fireworks can cause stress to birds in the wild, study suggests

A study was conducted by researchers on greylag geese in Austria.

Sam Russell • Thursday 03 November 2022 13:59 GMT



Our academics in the media, e.g.:

 INDEPENDENT Subscribe Menu

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Climate > News

Microplastics stunt growth of worms, study finds

Worms increase soil nutrients and inhibiting their work would seriously damage overall biodiversity

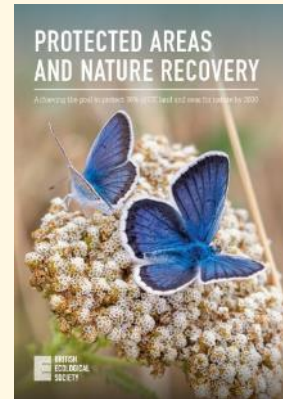
Phoebe Weston Science Correspondent

• Thursday 12 September 2019 06:25 • Comments





<https://www.independent.co.uk/climate-change/news/microplastics-worm-growth-ecosystems-pollution-study-a9100866.html> (Dr Dannielle Green)



MailOnline

National parks DON'T always boost biodiversity: British Ecological Society claims only 5% of protected land is 'delivering for nature' and warns more action is needed to meet government's 30x30 target

- The British Ecological Society has released a new report today
- It claims that only 5% of protected land in the UK is actually delivering for nature
- It warns that more action is needed to meet the government's '30x30' target, which aims to protect 30 per cent of the UK's land and sea by 2030

By SHIVALI BEST FOR MAILONLINE 

PUBLISHED: 00:01, 22 April 2022 | UPDATED: 00:41, 22 April 2022



 3
View comments

Funded by central government, the UK's National Parks are specifically designed to conserve and enhance natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage.

But a new study has warned that National Parks – such as the Yorkshire Dales

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-10740157/National-parks-DONT-boost-biodiversity-British-Ecological-Society-report-claims.html> (Dr Joseph Bailey)

We Embed & Develop Employability

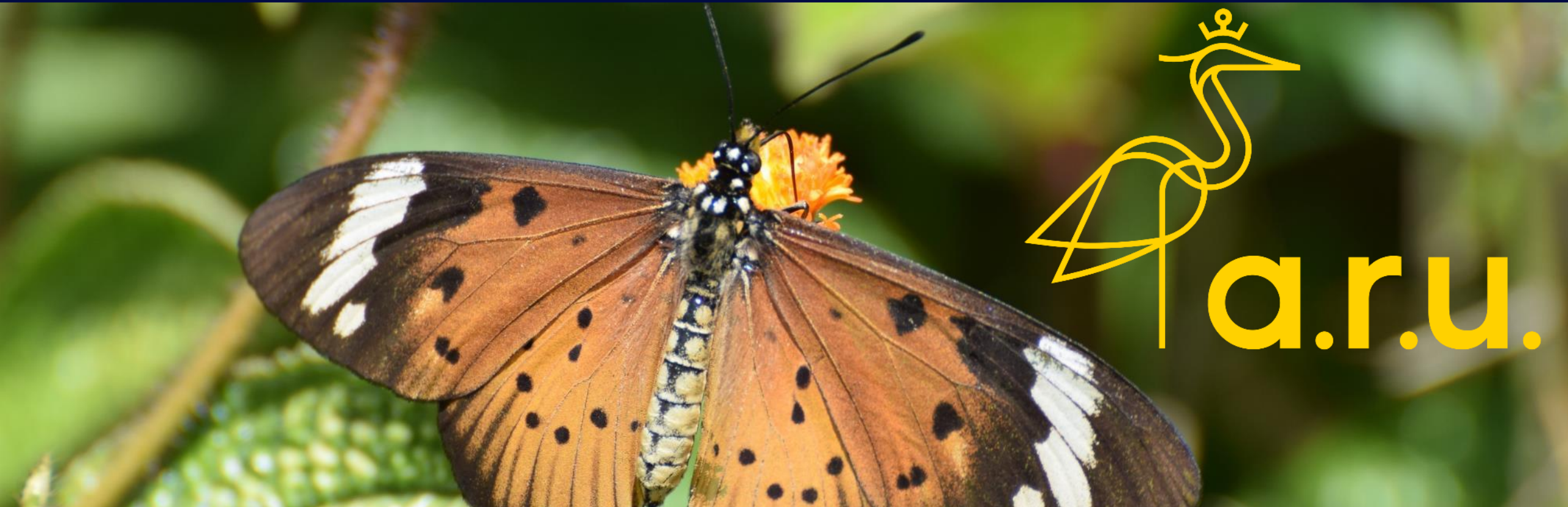


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Embedding Employability: Live Briefs



Embedding Employability: Careers events

- Annual careers fair
- ‘Getting into....’ seminars
- Internships & projects
- CPD extra-curricular events
- Technical training
- Speakers, conferences
- Outreach partners



ARU_Biology

@ARU_Biology

real buzz at the Animal & Environmental Careers Fair this week. Many thanks to all the fantastic employers for joining
[#aruproud](#) [#employability](#) [#environment](#)



9:44 AM · Nov 3, 2023 · 286 Views



Embedding employability: Extracurricular

- We provide opportunities for skills development wherever we can within, but also outside your main studies.

e.g.: Great crested newt survey training with Froglife, botany, conservation work parties (*right*)



ARU_Biology @ARU_Biology · Feb 22

More forest loving students enjoyed undertaking some practical woodland management including cross cutting felled trees using the rather imposing two person saw! Acquiring #employability skills are at core of our philosophy here



https://twitter.com/ARU_Biology/status/1628346380761677824



Embedding Employability: Extracurricular

- **SHoKE** ([Students at the Heart of Knowledge Exchange](#)) project offers extracurriculum opportunity to engage with employers on short term projects
- School of Life Sciences' **paid summer internships** programme, e.g., Holly, *right*, working with lecturers Joe and Alvin, and Natural England!

Tweet and video at: https://twitter.com/ARU_Biology/status/1693605924680708541



ARU_Biology
@ARU_Biology

Meet Holly, a 2nd year Forensic Science student who recently carried out a summer internship investigating Tansey beetle ecology with [@josephjbailey](#) and Dr Alvin Helden from [@ARU_Biology](#) showing how knowledge and skills are versatile and flow between fields [@ARU_BFS](#) [@aru_fse](#)

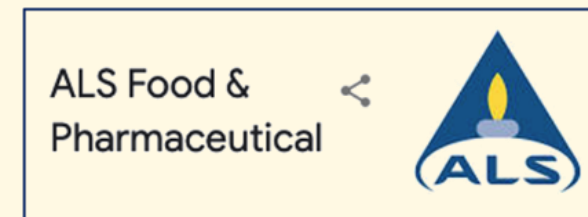


You just get to be out in nature
and it's just so much fun.



Placements (short & Sandwich)

Professional placement between years 2 and 3, e.g.:



Animal & Environmental Biology, School of Life Sciences

Alexander Bentley

Agroforestry & Woodland Officer



a.r.u. | Anglia Ruskin University

Graduate of BSc (Hons)
Marine and Terrestrial
Conservation, Class of 2023

Skills

Employability

Impact

My advice for current students to kickstart their careers

Get stuck in, as the more 'strings to your bow' then the easier it will be to thrive professionally. I would strongly recommend becoming a student member of the [CIEEM](#), as the opportunities and support network that they provide is second to none! Volunteering is also really important, not just for the practical skills and education, but the network of people it gives you access to (often future colleagues and employers).

Interesting (non-academic) fact

Apparently, I'm related to the 3rd Earl of Huntingdon who was rumoured to be Robin Hood!



[Connect](#)

with me on LinkedIn



Course Information



Who am I?

My name is Alexander. After completing my Degree, I worked as an Ecologist in the public sector, before taking up a new role as North Lincolnshire's Lead Officer for the [Northern Forest Project](#) and other woodland/forestry schemes.

My academic journey

After growing up deep within Yorkshire's countryside, I finished my A-Levels and jumped straight into University! After developing my skills, I got drawn into the intricate world that is the public sector – an area in which ecology is growing rapidly. I have worked previously as a volunteer or acted as a stakeholder with many organisations. My main interests lie in farmland ecology and sustainable land management.



Joe Price

Graduate Zoo Intern



Graduate of BSc (Hons)
Animal Behaviour, Class
of 2024

Skills

Employability

Impact

Who am I?

I'm Joe - I graduated from ARU Cambridge with a 2:1 in Animal Behaviour and I am now working at [Colchester Zoo](#)

My academic journey

On my Degree, there were key modules that helped me advance along my chosen career path. I combined these with work placements with Essex Police dog kennels and at a local vets.

The field courses throughout my studies really helped me achieve my ambition – for example, the Netherlands zoo trip was a great insight into how international zoos work. I took up a placement year on my course and got accepted to do this at Colchester Zoo where I now work.

My advice for current students to kickstart their careers

Volunteering in a field that you are interested in will help forge connections, as well as seeing what the job is really like, as it can be different from what you might think. A placement year can well work too. The main thing is to take every opportunity that comes your way and make the most out of them!

Interesting (non-academic) fact

I played American football for the ARU team which was a great way to release stress and help wind down to help create more of a work / life balance!



[Connect](#)

with me on LinkedIn



Course Information

Animal & Environmental Biology, School of Life Sciences



a.r.u. | Anglia Ruskin University

Amy Pinkney

Graduate Ecologist

Graduate of BSc (Hons)
Zoology, Class of 2022

Skills

Employability

Impact

My advice for current students to kickstart their careers

1. Apply early: particularly relevant for Graduate schemes.; 2. Don't be disheartened: you might face several rejections before you get that dream job.; 3. Go beyond what's expected of your degree: Volunteer, summer internships, do as much extra as you can possibly fit into your schedule, and you won't regret it.; 4. Be confident and go after what you want! Confidence is a skill, and like any skill, the more you practice it, the stronger it becomes.

Interesting (non-academic) fact

I'm an enthusiastic scuba diver with rescue diver certification!



[Connect](#)

with me on LinkedIn



Course Information



Who am I?

Hello, my name is Amy. I'm 26 years old from Cambridge, and a proud ARU Alumni. I work as a Graduate Ecologist at [Arcadis](#).

My academic journey

My academic journey in higher education began at ARU, where I enrolled in their 1-year Science Foundation course. Almost seamlessly, I transitioned onto the BSc Zoology. Upon completing a Masters (and many a sleepless night later), I was fortunate to secure a position as a Geo-environmental Consultant at Arcadis, focusing on contaminated land remediation. However, after 11 months, I couldn't bear not working with animals any longer so made the jump over to ecological consultancy.

Final slide: What happens now?

Check out our recent updates and follow us:

- X: https://twitter.com/ARU_Biology
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ARUAnimalBiology/>

Book on our next open day on **Saturday 6th June in Cambridge**

- <https://www.aru.ac.uk/study/open-day>

Find Animal and Environmental Biology staff on the School of Life Sciences webpages or go to <https://www.aru.ac.uk/contact-us>.

