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**LUNDY 2023**

# Position Title: Volunteer Assistant Warden

Reporting to: Lundy Warden

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The Island:

Lundy is situated at the entrance to the Bristol Channel about 23 miles from Bideford, the nearest port. The Island is about 3½ miles long by ½ mile wide and rises some 400 ft from the sea. Much of the Island is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the sea surrounding the Island is England’s first statutory Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) with a No Take Zone (NTZ) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

Lundy is owned by the National Trust and managed by the Landmark Trust under the terms of a 50 year lease. Visitors can stay in any of the islands 23 self-catering cottages or the small camp site which accommodates 40 people. During the summer there can be 140 people staying on the Island and over 260 day visitors.

For more information: Please refer to the islands website:

<https://www.landmarktrust.org.uk/lundyisland/discovering-lundy/>

The main benefit for the applicant will be the experience of island living and working on a high profile conservation site. The applicant will gain knowledge in various monitoring techniques, practical management and visitor engagement. Previous volunteers have gone onto further study, jobs with Natural England, the National Trust and the Wildlife Trusts and, in exceptional circumstances, with Lundy Island.

**Job Description:**

The Volunteer Assistant Wardens are required to assist the Warden in duties in the MCZ, NTZ, SAC (known as the Marine Protected Area: MPA) and SSSI over the busy summer season. The work will be varied but will mainly involve conservation monitoring (seabirds, migrating birds, Atlantic Grey Seals, our endemic Lundy Cabbage, etc), Ranger support e.g. fencing and dry stone walling, visitor engagement as well as more general island duties such as recycling and bed making.

**Monitoring –** Must be confident, after training provided, lone working doing survey work, for example: Seabird productivity monitoring, biosecurity checks, Atlantic Grey Seal population surveys, butterfly transects, moth trapping, rockpool communities, etc.

**Visitor engagement** - Talking to and educating visitors about Lundy’s wildlife and advising visitors on which areas of the Island to visit. This will include greeting visitors wishing to see our breeding seabirds. You will also be responsible for regularly updating the information boards and to provide material for social media.

**Ranger support** – There will be opportunities to support the Ranger team in areas such as fencing, ground maintenance, path clearance and dry stone walling.

**Educational groups** – Assist members of staff with educational activities including the delivery of discovery walks across the island, teaching local school groups about the wildlife, history and geography of the island along with the importance of conservation and sustainability.

**General Island Duties** – In a small island community there is often a need for all hands to the pump so you may be asked to assist with other duties from time to time. Additionally, there is an opportunity for you to work in the Tavern and/or Housekeeping Team in order to obtain complementary food for the duration of your stay.

**Personal criteria for all long term volunteers**

* You must be prepared to live and work on a remote island in basic, shared, mixed gender accommodation and in inclement weather conditions.
* Be prepared to camp (with shower and cooking facilities provided) in the event of accommodation being needed for island infrastructure work. This has not been necessary in previous years but may be needed this year.
* Must be over the age of 18 and speak a good level of English.
* Have a good level of health and fitness- especially the Atlantic grey seal role.
* The ability to work unsupervised in potentially hazardous terrain e.g. coastal slopes near cliffs.
* The volunteer must have excellent communication skills and be able to fit into the small working community on Lundy.
* Respect and adhere to the islands code of conduct set out by the Lundy Company.
* Keep communal areas of accommodation clean and tidy, these areas are shared by contractors and visiting researchers e.g. RSPB and it reflects poorly on the company and volunteers if they are not kept to high standards.

**General Information:**

Lundy has its own passenger and supply vessel, *MS Oldenburg* which brings everything and everyone to the Island, with up to three sailings per week in summer. Long term volunteers should not expect to travel to the mainland during their placement but if the applicant already has commitments prior to this application, depending on the circumstances, time off the island can be worked out. The Island generates its own electricity and the generator is switched off around midnight and comes on at 6.00AM. The Island is self-sufficient as far as utilities are concerned and there is a well-stocked shop and Tavern. Candidates are encouraged to arrange to have short term visitors to the island but we cannot house partners or family members. The island has no cars so volunteers will need to arrange transport at their own expense to the port (Ilfracombe or Bideford). Candidates cannot bring pets. The Island is rodent free so please check any luggage before departure.

***Accommodation is provided free of charge***. To note: this may be shared with other staff or volunteers. It may be necessary for volunteers to camp (with shower and cooking facilities provided) this year due to accommodation possibly being needed for island infrastructure work. Therefore we are asking all volunteers to bring a sleeping bag and their own tent. We have large tent and some camp beds that can be borrowed if needed.

If weather is not suitable for camping (e.g. gales) there is always indoor shelter available. The volunteer will have to provide their own food, although **there will be the opportunity to work additional Tavern and/or housekeeping shifts to pay for lunch and dinner**. Sailing tickets will be provided for successful applicants. Seasonal Volunteers also benefit from a 30% discount in the Lundy shop which stocks groceries and other essentials and 10% discount in the Tavern.

* **Volunteer Assistant Warden (Seabirds)** - 1 position: March 28th to 1st August.

Main responsibilities are surveying our Puffin, Fulmar and Gull colonies, possibly including Guillemots for more experienced candidates. Assisting RSPB with Manx Shearwater and Storm Petrel surveys. All training provided but previous experience will be beneficial for your application. As with all positions candidates are expected to assist ranger team and other departments when the time allows.

Essential: Willingness to work outdoors for extended periods on coastal slopes. High level of physical fitness. Desirable: Experience surveying wildlife or exceptional candidates may already have seabird surveying experience.

* **Volunteer Assistant Bird Observatory Wardens**- Ideally 28th March until 27th October OR Split role 28th March-1st August and 1st August to 27th of October considered for exceptional candidates.

Main responsibilities include helping with morning survey, updating sightings book. Assisting with seabird surveys in Spring and Atlantic Grey seal survey in Autumn. Candidates with relevant bird ringing experience or licencing will have opportunities to assist with various ringing projects on the island. As with all positions candidates are expected to assist the ranger team and other departments when the time allows. Those here in June and July will be helping the RSPB’s Manx Shearwater and Storm Petrel surveys.

Essential Skills: Confident on migrating bird identification. Desirable skills: Experience bird ringing or exceptional candidates may already hold a ringing licence.

* **Volunteer Assistant Marine Warden (Camping for duration)** - 1 position available: July 1st until September 7th some flexibility on dates possible for the right candidate.

Here for the summer you will be based down in the landing bay a lot of the time. Assisting with snorkel safaris, leading rock pool rambles, renting out snorkel kit and being a point of contact for day trippers and divers when they arrive on the island. A good UK marine biological knowledge is required, as well as being out-going and easy to approach. As with all positions candidates are expected to assist ranger team and other departments when the time allows.

Essential: Experience in Rocky shore identification. Desirable: Familiarity with SCUBA equipment or exceptional candidates may have gained a diving qualification.

* **Volunteer Assistant Warden (Atlantic Grey Seals)** - 1 position available: August 1st until October 27th.

Main responsibilities include full island photo identification surveys (when tides allow), seal pup checks, assisting with marine festival, “pup-sitting” to move on public if pups or seals haul out on high footfall locations, assisting with autumn migration surveys. As with all positions candidates are expected to assist ranger team and other departments when the time allows.

Essential: Willingness to work outdoors for extended periods on coastal slopes, high level of physical fitness. Desirable: Experience surveying wildlife or exceptional candidates may already have marine mammal survey experience including photo identification skills.

**Hours of Work:** Generally 8am-5pm, five days per week (will include weekends) but longer hours may well be necessary in the height of the season. Early starts may be required, particularly for Bird Observatory warden and Seabird Warden roles.

**Health and Safety:** All volunteers are expected to observe all Health and Safety at Work Regulations as set out by the Lundy Company or in accordance with other statutory requirements. The roles will involve some lone working and candidates must follow risk assessments and be able to work safely independently.

**Notice:** An initial two week probationary period will be in place during which time the position can be terminated at any time.

Any further questions or queries please contact the Island Warden.

Rosie Ellis

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