

LUNDY LONG-TERM VOLUNTEERING 2024

Volunteer Assistant Warden (various positions)

Reports to: Head Warden



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. Recently re-accredited as a Bird Observatory, 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 Special Areas 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 24 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.

Please refer to the island's website for more information:

www.landmarktrust.org.uk/lundyisland/discovering-lundy

The main benefit for the applicant will be experiencing unique island life on a high-profile wildlife conservation site. The applicant will gain rounded experience across various monitoring techniques, practical management and visitor engagement. Previous volunteers have gone on to further study or jobs with Natural England, National Trust, Wildlife Trusts and in some cases with The Lundy Company.

Job Description

The Volunteer Assistant Wardens support the conservation team manage, protect and interpret the island over the busy sailing season. Work will be varied, but predominately involve monitoring breeding seabirds, bird migration, Atlantic Grey Seals, Lundy Cabbage, a suite of invertebrate surveys and biosecurity checks. The candidate will also support the ranger team with practical management tasks and general island duties such as housekeeping, recycling and visitor engagement.

Monitoring: The candidate must be confident lone working in the field. Volunteer Assistant Warden positions specialise in seabirds, wider Bird Observatory and Atlantic Grey Seal studies.

Visitor engagement: As a public facing role, interpreting Lundy's rich wildlife is a vital aspect of the role. Responsibilities include regularly updating information boards and generating online content.

Ranger support: There will be opportunities to support the Ranger team maintaining island infrastructure and practical conservation such as fencing, ground maintenance, path clearance, Rhododendron seedling searches and dry stone walling as required.

Educational visits: Assist the conservation deliver educational activities and walks across the island, engaging with local school groups about the island's wildlife, history and geology underlining 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 candidates may be required to 'muck in' with other duties from time to time. Additionally, there is an opportunity for you to work within the Tavern and Housekeeping teams to earn complementary meals for the duration of your stay.

Personal Criteria

- Candidates must be prepared to live and work on a remote island in hostel-style, mixed gender accommodation.
- Happy working outdoors in all weather conditions.
- Be prepared to camp (with shower and cooking facilities provided) in the event of accommodation being needed for essential island infrastructure work.
- Must be over the age of 18.
- Hold a good level of health and fitness.
- Confident working independently in potentially hazardous terrain e.g. coastal slopes near cliffs.
- Excellent communication skills and adaptable to a small working community.
- Respect and adhere to the islands code of conduct set out by the Lundy Company.
- Keep communal areas clean and tidy, accommodation areas are shared by contractors and visiting researchers.

General Information

Lundy has its own passenger and supply vessel, *MS Oldenburg* which brings everything and everyone to the Island, with up to four 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 arranged. The Island generates its own electricity (the generator is switched off at midnight and comes back on at 6am). 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. 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. Please note, this will be shared with other staff or volunteers. It may be necessary for candidates to camp (with shower and cooking facilities provided) at times to accommodate essential infrastructure work. Therefore, we ask all volunteers to bring a sleeping bag and small tent. We have large tents and camp beds that can be borrowed if needed. If the weather is not suitable for camping (e.g. gales) there is always indoor shelter available.

There are also opportunities to work within the Tavern and Housekeeping teams to earn complementary meals for the duration of your stay. Sailing tickets will be provided for successful applicants and seasonal volunteers also benefit from concessionary rates in the Lundy Shop and Tavern.

Volunteer Assistant Warden Roles

- **Volunteer Bird Observatory Assistant Warden** – one position available: Ideally 1st March to 25th October. *However, role shares will be considered for exceptional candidates.* Candidates considering role shares (split spring/autumn) must be able to commit to at least 3 months.

Main responsibilities involve supporting all Bird Observatory studies, including the daily census, seabird productivity studies, bird ringing, wildlife recording and data collection. Candidates will also provide additional to Atlantic Grey Seal surveys in the autumn and assist the Ranger team and other departments as required.

Essential: Excellent identification skills of breeding and migrant birds.

Desirable: Ideal candidates will hold a bird ringing licence, C-permit or higher.

- **Seabird Volunteer Assistant Warden** - one position available: 26th March to 1st August.

The role focuses on surveying the island's breeding seabirds, conducting auk, gull and petrel productivity studies as well as supporting additional RSPB-led Storm Petrel surveys. Training will be provided, but familiarity with British seabirds will be advantageous. As with all positions, candidates are expected to assist other departments as required.

Essential: Confident identification of British seabirds. Willingness to work independently for extended periods on coastal slopes.

Desirable: Experience conducting wildlife surveys, exceptional candidates will have prior seabird productivity study experience.

- **Atlantic Grey Seal Volunteer Assistant Warden** - one position available: 1st August to 25th October.

The position revolves around Atlantic Grey Seal studies and protection. Conducting full island photo identification surveys, seal pup checks and "pup-sitting" to move on the public where pups or seals are hauled out at high footfall locations. As with all positions candidates are expected to assist the Ranger team and other departments as required.

Essential: Willingness to work independently for extended periods on coastal slopes.

Desirable: Experience surveying wildlife. Exceptional candidates will have previous marine mammal survey experience and photo identification skills.

Additional Information

Hours of work: Generally, 8am-5pm five days per week (including weekends) but flexible hours are an essential part of island life, especially during the height of the season. Early starts are required, particularly for Bird Observatory and Seabird positions.

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 lone working and candidates must adhere to risk assessments.

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

How to apply: Please send a completed Volunteer Assistant Warden application form to the Warden. Please note, the closing date for all applications is 11:59 pm on **29th December 2023**.

All interviews for this position will be held week commencing **15th January 2024**.

Any further questions or queries please contact the Warden.

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