



VOLUNTEER RESIDENTIAL ISLAND WARDENS

Who are we looking for?

Volunteer Role: Looe Island Volunteer Wardens

Department: Nature Reserves

Location: Looe Island

Support Officer: Jon Ross, Looe Island Warden

Type of Role: Outdoor Conservation Practical & People Engagement

Application Deadline: 14th April 2021

Interviews: 16th April (video) followed by 29th/30th April (on Looe Island) 2021

Start date: 17th May 2021

End date: Mid Sept 2021

As a volunteer, the information below is given for clarity and reflects the expectations within the volunteer role.

What we are looking for?

A couple or two good friends who can commit to living and work closely together on the island for 4 months. You should both be aged over 18.



The Skills You Need

Interest in wildlife and understanding how to protect wild places
Wider knowledge of general environmental issues
Enthusiasm and ability to work with the public
Some practical conservation skills useful
The ability to carry out some physically demanding tasks
Willingness to work outside in all weathers
Following training, one person will need to be able to drive a compact tractor
First aid at work certificate desirable

Practical Considerations

The couple or two friends need to be able to live together in the Island's Bell Tent and work closely together for the whole 4 months.
The role will involve around 10 days on then 4 days off duty.
Sorry, no pets.
Access to the mainland is dependent on tides/sea state and availability of the boatman.
Cornwall Wildlife Trust uniform and PPE will be provided.
The Island's supply of water and electricity is limited, so should be carefully conserved.
Island wildlife comes first and best practice is followed regarding minimising wildlife disturbance.

What's in it for you?

You get to volunteer for a fantastic charity; one that really helps local wildlife, people and the environment. This role will give you the opportunity to gain valuable conservation work experience.

It offers the chance to learn what is involved in the daily running and wider management of an island nature reserve. There's opportunity to develop communication skills with members of the public. You will have the chance to learn about the island's main wildlife highlights such as Gulls, Cormorants, Oystercatchers and Seals.

This role enables you to become fully immersed in living offshore, surrounded by wildlife and with few trappings of the modern, convenience lead world. Island life will teach you to carefully manage resources and to be well organised and self-sufficient.

Above all you will be able to make a genuine contribution to wildlife conservation and awareness raising of this amazing nature reserve with the general public.



Other essential information

What will the residential volunteers do?

The work varies from day to day and hour to hour depending on the tides/sea state and running of public boat trips.

Visitors can arrive from around 8.30am and stay until around 6.30 and you will be involved in preparations to welcome guests, and as well the shut down once guests have left.

While we are open to the public you are likely to help manoeuvre the tractor (after one of you has been trained) and beach landing trolley so that visitors can safely land/board the boat. You will meet and greet visitors, explaining a little about the island and what they can expect from their time on the island. You will be available to answer visitor's questions about wildlife, island life and its management and general questions about Cornwall Wildlife Trust. You may be requested to direct visitors to points of interest and show them wildlife or to assist with other matters. This might include possible shop sales, keeping paths clear, litter picking and maintenance/cleaning of facilities. You will manage visitors as they board the boat and leave the island.

At all times you will need monitor the island's shores and engage with people who have landed without permission.

You will also be involved with practical management tasks and collecting records of wildlife.

Practical work might include cutting, clearing and burning dead vegetation; helping to repair paths/steps or fence lines and gateways; painting sheds and moving supplies.

Monitoring wildlife might involve keeping records and photos of seals, weekly butterfly transects, and assisting with monitoring breeding sea birds.

Managing livestock will include daily checks of the small flock of sheep. You will also assist with looking after the hens (watering/feeding/coup cleaning and collecting eggs) and the vegetable plots (watering and harvesting etc).

Overall island life is unpredictable and you should be willing to help with tasks as they occur , even with mundane jobs, respect wildlife and wild places and feel comfortable with talking to people.



Who can apply?

Any couple/two friends so long as they are over 18, able to demonstrate that they can fit in with island life, capable of carrying out the tasks described and able to commit for the whole 4 month period. When applying it is important that you give as much information as possible. That way we can make sure that you are suitable for the role and we can take all necessary steps to ensure your safety and wellbeing.

All information you give us will be kept strictly confidential.

Do I need any special skills or experience?

You will not need special skills for most of the volunteering tasks and where necessary training will be given e.g. First Aid at work. Good wildlife (marine and terrestrial) identification skills are helpful, but what is more important is recognising that something is different/special and knowing where to look for answers. We ask you to keep your own wildlife records and we ask you to encourage visitors to submit their sightings to the relevant organisation.

The key skills are a willingness to help, even with mundane jobs, as is respecting wildlife and wild places and feeling comfortable with talking to members of the public.

You will be an advocate for Cornwall Wildlife Trust so we need people who are reliable and responsible.

Is there any charge to living and volunteering on the island?

Access to the island is via small boat and we are able to cover the cost of your initial and final boat crossing fee, along with 1 return trip per person per week. It is your responsibility to cover the cost of any other transport to and from the reserve. We will provide basic accommodation in the Bell Tent, including gas for the 2-ring camping stove but you will need to bring charcoal if you wish to use the BBQ. You will need to provide and cook all your own food/drink (except drinking water which we will provide in 5L containers) and bring any personal welfare/cleaning products. You may be able to negotiate access to surplus supplies from the island's garden and hens.

As appropriate, training will be provided and pre-agreed expenses will be re-imbursed where necessary

Where will I be staying?

The Bell Tent is provided which basic equipment such as a double or two single mattresses, a 2-ring gas powered camping stove and cooking utensils, cutlery and crockery and a portable cool box. Away from the tent there is access to a small fridge (only powered for a few hours per day)



and a system for refreezing cool blocks. There is a small outdoor BBQ that can be used on a fire-safe concrete base away from the tent. There's an outdoor table and bench immediately in front of the tent as well as a couple of fold away camping chairs.

You are advised to bring food that is easy to store without a fridge, such as longlife/dried/packet/tinned food and have enough supplies to last around two weeks. During your stay you will be able to organise trips to the mainland with the boatman to obtain further supplies in Looe.

A short distance downhill from the Bell Tent there is compost toilet dedicated to residential volunteers. Water conservation is a key element of island life. The compost toilet area has access to a sink with a limited supply of cold water (non-portable). Occasional access to warden's shower room and washing machine can be arranged.

There is no heating or electricity in the Bell Tent or compost toilet. Low energy equipment can be charged in a shed near Jetty Cottage, as and when there is sufficient electricity. Limited access to WiFi can be arranged.

We expect you to maintain the volunteer Bell Tent and compost toilet by keeping it safe and clean and to immediately report any breakages so that arrangements can be made to repair/replace any items.

You will need to bring your own pillowcase and sheets or a sleeping bag. Pillows and blankets are provided.

All buildings and accommodation are non-smoking.