

Unpaid volunteer role: Monday 16th March - Saturday 11th Sept (23 weeks)

Overall purpose of role:

To work with the Handa Ranger and within a small close-knit team of volunteers to deliver visitor and conservation management on Handa Island wildlife Reserve.

Main duties (with **estimate** of work time occupied as a %): Note this can vary and is only a rough guide to the role.

Path maintenance (30%)

- Constructing and repairing boardwalk
- Aggregate path maintenance, clearing vegetation and footpath drainage
- Carrying out regular inspections and recording findings

Practical duties (20%)

- Beach cleaning
- Firewood collection
- Maintaining the bothy and its water system
- Assisting with management of the composting toilet
- Sign maintenance and any other duties as and when they arise

Landing visitors and providing information (30%- approx 2 days per week)

- Assist with disembarking and embarking of ferry passengers using the portable jetty
- Invite visitors to Visitor Shelter and present a 5-minute welcome and safety talk.

Monitoring (10%)

- Carry out some seabird, cetacean, plants and general biological recording (you are of course free to carry out more in your spare time if you'd like to)
- Assist with rat monitoring on a monthly basis.
- Data entry for biological recording

Supervisory Responsibilities (in latter half of internship)

- Provide cover for the Ranger
- Induct and supervise new members of the team
- Carry out reserve inspections
- Assist with financial duties and stock taking
- Assist the Ranger in the production of an annual report on the season's activities
- Any other duties as required

Personal Specification

Essential:

- A flexible attitude to working hours and communal living
- The ability to thrive in a communal environment, with minimal personal space

- Good practical experience and ability with a variety of hand tools
- Good level of health and fitness
- Self-motivation and the ability to work independently **and** as part of a tight team
- Great communication skills and diplomacy
- Confident to use initiative when faced with unplanned/unexpected situations
- Experience of wildlife monitoring
- Basic IT skills including working knowledge of MS Office programs
- A love of being outside- whatever the weather!

Desirable:

- Good all-round wildlife knowledge
- Desire to pursue career in conservation
- Experience of Handa Island
- Proven experience in similar role
- Degree or professional qualification in Ecology or related discipline
- Visitor management skills
- have some knowledge of seabird monitoring methodology and practice
- have some knowledge of marine and terrestrial natural history

Having your own transport is something you will find very useful, but this is not essential for the role.

Key Internal & External Contacts

- Handa Ranger, Reserves Manager and Reserve Project Officers
- Operator of the Handa Ferry, contractors and suppliers
- Volunteers
- Island visitors from a range of backgrounds (e.g. tourists/naturalists/academics)
- Various contacts within the Scottish Wildlife Trust

Before applying please make sure you read the “Essential Information for all Long-term Handa Volunteers”, “Volunteer Code of Conduct” and “Safety for Volunteers” documents, and watch the videos on the [Handa webpage](#).

Hours and days of work:

35 hours per week over 5 days (but not necessarily 9am-5pm) with some early morning or late evening work required for which you will be given time off in lieu. Days off will be taken dependent on weather and progress of fieldwork. You're welcome to leave the island on your weekday off if you wish, providing you catch the last boat back and communicate with the Ranger and Boatmen. The boatmen provide one free return trip for every 2 weeks of your stay, so if you wish to go off more frequently than this, you will have to pay the concessionary fare of £10 each trip.

Health and safety

It is crucial the successful candidate adheres to strict health and safety guidelines and lone worker procedures both when working and relaxing on the island. With extreme weather, difficult terrain and precipitous cliffs coupled with limited phone signal, Handa is an extreme living and working environment which the Ranger is responsible for at all times. Failure to adhere to the Handa Code of Conduct will see the placement terminated.

The Scottish Wildlife Trust will provide:

Basic, bunkhouse-style accommodation is provided free of charge in the Handa Bothy; limited assistance with travel expenses and subsistence whilst completing the unpaid internship (£20/week for food and up to £40

towards travel on provision of receipts); PPE contribution; 2-day Outdoor Emergency First Aid course; full training necessary to carry out maintenance, surveys & monitoring; all equipment and support throughout the season.

How to apply:

The placements on Handa are widely recognised as important field experience and provide the successful applicant with valuable experience and networking opportunities with the Trust, the RSPB and with several seabird researchers and academics. Many former volunteers have gone on to paid employment with the Trust and other organisations, and the majority are now employed fulltime within the conservation or academic sectors. As there are multiple placements being advertised, please indicate clearly which one(s) you are interested in, and indicate your first and second choices.

Send us your completed **Handa Long-Term Volunteer Application form** by email to volunteerhanda@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk or by post to **Handa Volunteer Coordinator, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Harbourside House, 110 Commercial Street, Edinburgh, EH6 6NF.**

NB: If you are interested in more than one of the advertised roles, please fill out **only one** application form and specify which roles you're applying for and order of preference. Make sure you include details of your suitability for all the roles in which you are interested in the **information in support of your application section.**

Closing date for applications: 9am Monday 10th February

Incomplete applications or those that do not closely match the specified dates will not be considered.

Candidate selection

If shortlisted for the position, you will be invited to take part in an interview with the Handa Ranger and/or Reserve Manager the week commencing **Monday 17th February**. This will be via Skype or by telephone. **We aim to appoint candidates by Monday 24th February.** We regret that due to limited resources, we are unable to contact unsuccessful candidates. If you have not heard from us within 2 weeks of the closing date for applications, please assume that you have been unsuccessful.

Good luck and thank you for your interest in volunteering with the Scottish Wildlife Trust.