



Placement from Saturday 1st June – Saturday 17th August (11 weeks)

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](#).

We are looking for a committed volunteer to become part of a small, close-knit team, to assist with all aspects of day-to-day management of the island, with a particular focus on visitor engagement.

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

Welcoming visitors, recruiting members, providing wildlife and reserve information (75%)

- **Generate financial support for the Trust by recruiting members;**
- Improve visitors' experience by providing a welcome, and information about the Scottish Wildlife Trust;
- Provide interpretation of natural history of Handa (particularly seabirds);
- 5 days/week, for an average of 80 people/day;
- Based at the cliffs, or Visitor Shelter, depending on weather conditions and recent sightings;
- Responsible for the Visitor Shelter and shop (promoting items for sale) in the afternoons;
- Assist with disembarking and embarking of ferry passengers.

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.

Path maintenance (7.5%)

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

Practical duties (7.5%)

- 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.

The Information Assistant **MUST have:**

- A passion for wildlife and the outdoors, and the ability to communicate this passion and inspire others;
- The ability to encourage visitors to consider membership of the trust without being overbearing;
- A flexible attitude to working hours and communal living;
- A good level of health and fitness;
- Self-motivation and the ability to work independently **and** as part of a tight team;
- A love of being outside- whatever the weather!

It **would be good for the Information Assistant to have:**

- Good all-round wildlife knowledge;
- A desire to pursue career in conservation;

- Prior UK seabird and or marine biology experience;
- Previous experience in sales or information provision.

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

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.

Responsible to: Handa Ranger; and Scottish Wildlife Trust Reserves Manager.

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 (£30/week for food and reasonable contribution for travel on provision of receipts); PPE contribution; 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.

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 Wednesday 1st May 2024.

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 13th May**. This will be via Skype or telephone. **We aim to appoint candidates by Friday 17th May.** 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.