



**Scottish
Wildlife
Trust**

Handa Role Description 2024 Volunteer Assistant Rangers (leading on Seabird Fieldwork)

Unpaid volunteer role: Saturday 23rd March – Saturday 7th September (24 weeks approximately)

We are looking for 2 committed volunteers 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 seabird monitoring.

Duties: Note this can vary and is only a rough guide to the role.

Monitoring

- Carry out 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 the Handa Skua monitoring;
- Assist with rat monitoring on a monthly basis.

Landing visitors and providing information

- 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.

Path maintenance

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

Practical duties

- 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.

You will Lead On:

- Carrying out population and productivity counts for kittiwake, fulmar, guillemot and razorbill.
- Writing up the seabird monitoring section of the seasonal report

Person Specification

You must have:

- Prior wildlife monitoring experience
- Be comfortable working at heights and around cliffs;
- A flexible attitude to working hours and communal living;
- The ability to thrive in a communal environment, with minimal personal space;
- Good level of health and fitness;
- Self-motivation and the ability to work independently **and** as part of a tight team;
- Good communication skills;
- A love of being outside- whatever the weather!

It would be good to have:

- Prior seabird monitoring experience;
- Good practical experience and ability with a variety of hand tools;
- Good all-round wildlife knowledge;

- Desire to pursue career in conservation.

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.

Line Management: You will be managed by the 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 expenses for 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.

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**.

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](#).

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.**

Closing date for applications: 9am Monday 5th 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 12th February**. This is likely to be via Skype or telephone. **We aim to appoint candidates by Monday 19th 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.