

Skomer Island: Long-Term Volunteer 2026

Introduction to Skomer Island

Skomer Island is located just off the coast of Pembrokeshire and is one of Britain's most important seabird colonies. Skomer is internationally important for seabirds with over 40,000 Atlantic Puffins, 30,000 Guillemots, 10,000 Razorbills and almost half the world's population of Manx shearwaters – a staggering 350,000 breeding pairs. The island is also home to an abundance of other wildlife, including breeding Chough, Curlew and Peregrine, Atlantic Grey Seals and its own endemic sub-species of bank vole, the Skomer Vole. Skomer welcomes up to 250 visitors a day and provides accommodation for 16 overnight guests with a series of events run throughout the year.

Long-Term Volunteering

Our long-term volunteers form an integral part of the island team. They assist with the day-to-day running of the island and support the wardens, visitor officer and field worker with visitor engagement and wildlife monitoring.

The nature of the role requires successful applicants to spend approximately three months on Skomer with limited access to the mainland. Work can be physically demanding and is carried out in all weather conditions. We think, however, that it is incredibly rewarding!

Successful applicants will gain experience in visitor engagement and monitoring techniques (i.e. seabirds, breeding birds, butterflies, moths, marine mammals, etc.) on a National Nature Reserve. Additionally, long-term volunteers will gain experience in path and infrastructure maintenance with training being provided in the use of relevant tools and equipment.

Dates

Dates for the 2026 season are as follows:

Start Date	End Date	Positions available
Saturday 28th March	Saturday 4th July	1
Saturday 25th April	Saturday 1st August	1
Saturday 4th July	Wednesday 30th September	1

Restrictions

Unfortunately we are unable to accept applications from under-18s.

We also regret that we cannot accept applications from overseas nationals who require visa sponsorship for this position as the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales is not an approved sponsor. As such, we can typically only accept applications from foreign nationals for the following reasons:

- Dual citizenship
- Settled or pre-settled status
- [Youth Mobility Scheme visa](#) (Australia, New Zealand and a few other countries – this must be sorted before coming)

We apologise for any disappointment this may cause.

Responsibilities

Long-term volunteers are responsible for the following:

- Delivering short welcome talks to day visitors as they arrive on the island.
- Managing and engaging with day visitors as they leave the island.
- Assisting with overnight guests. This will include delivering short introductory talks and supporting the team with moving luggage.
- Seasonal monitoring of species on Skomer. This will include:
 - Spring – Seabird counts; Breeding Bird surveys; species mapping and productivity monitoring – Chough, Curlew, Jackdaw, Razorbill; Rabbit counts.
 - Autumn – Atlantic Grey Seals; Rabbit counts; Butterfly transects. There are also opportunities to get involved in Manx Shearwater research, moth trapping, bee transects, reptile transects and cetacean surveys.
- Maintenance tasks and cleaning of visitor accommodation and facilities.
- Monthly biosecurity checks.
- Path maintenance and burrow repairs.
- Public engagement and education work. This may include assisting in the running of events as well as answering general queries from day visitors and overnight guests.
- Supervision and instruction of weekly volunteers in public engagement and practical tasks.
- Instructing weekly volunteers in the methodology for reptile transects and cetacean surveys and ensuring prompt, accurate data entry and submission.
- Creating content for the Skomer Island blog and social media channels.
- Supporting with general maintenance tasks.
- Assisting with other essential tasks when required.

Benefits

We provide free accommodation (including bills) on Skomer for the duration of your volunteering placement. Please note that rooms may be shared with other long-term volunteers from time to time.

Travel expenses to and from Skomer (from within the UK) are also covered including parking where required. Travel to and from the island via the boat is also provided free of charge.

We have a training budget for our long-term volunteers. Training provided will vary depending on the time of year but may include a brushcutter or first aid course. Personal protective equipment (PPE) will be supplied.

Uniform and binoculars are provided for the duration of your time on the island.

A £400 bursary is also available from the [Friends of Skokholm and Skomer](#) upon completion of a report which will be included in their newsletter.

Please note, all expenses must be claimed back through the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales. We are unable to pay for travel or parking upfront.

Person Specification

Successful applicants should have the following experience, skills and personal attributes. We would recommend looking at these criteria and providing clear examples when completing your application.

Essential

- Passionate about nature conservation in the UK.
- Public engagement experience and excellent communication skills.
- High levels of motivation and initiative.
- Experience of working independently and as part of a small close-knit team.
- Hardy nature and willingness to work long hours in all weather conditions.
- Willing and able to learn.
- Flexibility - life on islands has a habit of throwing curveballs so you will need to be able to adapt to changing plans.

Desirable

- Knowledge of UK wildlife/experience in wildlife monitoring techniques.
- Experience of shared living and contributing towards positive household dynamics.
- Bilingual communication skills (Welsh and English).

How to apply?

Please complete the relevant application form. Your answers should reflect why you are interested in this position, what you could bring to the island team and what you hope to gain from this experience. **Please note that cover letters and CVs should not be included as part of your application.**

Application forms can be found on our website:

<https://www.welshwildlife.org/volunteering-opportunities/skomer-island-long-term-volunteering>

All completed application forms should be sent to skomer.volunteer@welshwildlife.org by **23:59 on Friday 31st January**.

Applications received after this date will not be considered.

Please use **'Long Term Volunteering'** and **your name** as the subject of your email and title of your attached form.

We welcome applications from under-represented groups. Please see our website for how we promote [accessibility and inclusivity](#).

For any queries regarding long-term volunteering, please email skomer.volunteer@welshwildlife.org.

We look forward to receiving your application. Pob lwc!