

Skomer Island: Seabird Monitoring 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.

Seabird Monitoring Volunteer

Our seabird monitoring volunteer forms an integral part of the island team, assisting with seasonal monitoring of our internationally important seabird populations.

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

The successful applicant will gain experience in seabird monitoring techniques using JNCC methodologies on a National Nature Reserve. Additionally, you will gain experience in the use and operation of VHF radios and working on the island boat, with training being provided in the use of relevant equipment.

Dates

Dates for the 2026 season are as follows:

Start date	End date	Positions available
Saturday 23 rd May	Tuesday 23 rd June	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

Our seabird monitoring volunteer is responsible for the following:

- Working both individually and as part of a team to complete the whole-island population counts of cliff nesting seabirds. These counts take place from both land and sea.
- Conducting census plot counts of Manx Shearwaters at various locations around the island as part of a small team in all weathers.
- Preparation and maintenance of census equipment.
- Accurate record keeping and backing up of data.
- Creating content for the Skomer Island blog and social media channels.
- 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 long-term volunteers.

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 seabird monitoring volunteer. Training provided will vary but will most likely be Powerboat Level 2.

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

A bursary of £200 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.
- Hardy nature and willingness to work long hours on a small boat in all weather conditions.
- High levels of motivation and initiative. Experience of working independently and as part of a small close-knit team.
- Willing and able to learn.
- Excellent communication skills.
- 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, especially cliff nesting seabirds.
- Experience of shared living and contributing towards positive household dynamics.
- Experience on boats.

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 Saturday 28th February**. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

Please use **'Seabird Monitoring Volunteer'** 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!