**Calf Volunteers: Roles and Expectations**

**Our Values**

Manx Wildlife Trust strives to be **local**, **friendly** and **expert** in the way that it approaches all

aspects of its activities. It aims to find common ground with others, to develop trusting

relationships and build lasting partnerships based on mutual respect and shared responsibility.

This applies to all aspects of our work, including working with volunteers, who are an integral and important part of the work we do. In fact much of what we do would not be possible without the support of volunteers.

**Health and Safety**

Your health and safety is of the highest importance. We all have a duty to look after others and ourselves.

Staff and volunteers have a responsibility to look after themselves and consider the safety of others, who may be affected by their actions or what they do not do.

Due to the remote location of the Calf, working there is more challenging and getting help, if needed, is more difficult. Therefore, being safe whilst working is paramount. Much of the work is not hugely risky but common sense is required. On windy wet days, for example, avoid cliff edges and steep slopes. The wardens can provide more site-specific information depending on the tasks for the day. However, please ensure that when you arrive you read all the relevant safety documents and risk assessments.

Take further advice from the wardens relating to health and safety and any activities that are not covered by the above documents.

Physical health is not our only concern, mental wellbeing is too. This is especially relevant for long term volunteers who stay for several months. The Calf can be isolating and contact with the rest of the world more challenging. Also, in a small space with other people clashes of personality may occur. Therefore, if you ever feel unhappy on the Calf, first talk to one of the wardens or alternatively a member of MWT at the office in Peel. Several staff have had mental health first aid training and will be able to talk to you about how you are feeling. We will try to help to alleviate any issues, which can include you leaving the Calf. In the worst-case scenario, we reserve the right to remove you from the Calf, if it is in your best interest or those around you.

**Our expectations**

The Calf can be a rewarding place, where you can learn new skills and meet friends for life. However, we need enthusiastic volunteers who can pitch in where needed and with a variety of tasks. Space is limited on the Calf and we need to make the most of the volunteer support we receive. The more you put in the more you’ll get out of your time on the Calf.

Please note: the limited capacity on the Calf, its isolation and unique characteristics all add to the experience and sense of place but also means we may need to close operations, take off volunteers or visitors, and stop volunteer involvement. All at short notice. We will of course always be in close communication about such scenarios.

**General role**

Often you will be in small teams undertaking a task so everyone can get stuck in. In addition to the outside tasks, you will be expected to keep the Observatory tidy and help with the cleaning duties in communal areas and your bedroom.

**Estate volunteer roles**

It will be a varied role helping support the Wardens with their duties, on a day-to-day basis. Work may include ditch clearing, helping with the rat eradication programme, contributing to the daily log, habitat management and wildlife surveys. Helping to assist with Ornithological work may be required.

**Ornithology volunteer roles**

It will be a varied role helping support the Wardens with their duties, on a day-to-day basis. Work may include ringing, nest monitoring and contributing to the daily log. Helping to assist with Estate work may be required.

Reviewed: 13/10/2023