

Wild Brownsea

Youth Activity Groups



Dorset
Wildlife Trust



A Guide to...

Shore Rangers



**Get
in Touch:**
01202 709445



#WildBrownsea

with thanks to Project Partners:





What is Wild Brownsea ?

We're Dorset Wildlife Trust's exciting new project to improve Brownsea's facilities & engage more people with its amazing wildlife – we're National Lottery Heritage Funded for three years & kindly supported by donors.



Left:
Brownsea
Red Squirrels
reproduced
with kind
permission
© Paul Williams

We want to spark the imagination of as many people as possible from all sorts of backgrounds by sharing the magic of Brownsea Island and its wildlife ...as well as engaging people with nature more broadly.

Young people tell us you want ways to **'think globally & act locally'** to address the ecological & climate emergencies. We can help!

The project encompasses new & upgraded facilities, habitat works, plus new volunteering opportunities, courses, traineeships, free to schools & outreach programmes... and activity groups, including **Shore Rangers!**

Explore Brownsea...

Over three years, visitors will see improvements to the island's facilities:

- **The Lookout** - a brand new visitor welcome centre & bird hide
- **Refurbishment** of our existing bird hides
- **Wildlife & Wetland Centre** renovated for overnight stays
- **New Sensory Trail** to fully immerse yourself in nature
- **New Boardwalks** getting you closer to the island's wildlife



Questions or want to join?

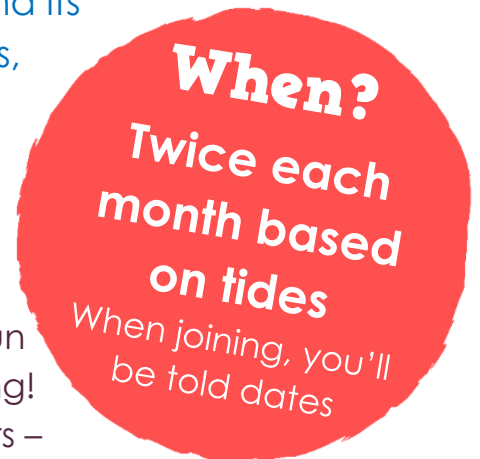
Contact Jonny: jowen@dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk | 01202 709445



What is Shore Rangers ?

Shore Rangers is a kayaking conservation group for ages 16 to 25. Come to Brownsea by boat before kayaking around its shoreline to enjoy a range of practical marine tasks, surveys and coastal / marine workshops. Dorset Wildlife Trust's 'Wild Brownsea Project' manages the group in partnership with Oceans to Earth, Jurassic Watersports & National Trust.

Our mission is varied... from coastal wildlife surveys & fun workshops to habitat-based tasks to get blood pumping! Join an inspiring team & learn new skills with our rangers – all while having fun & making a difference. This is a great way to see what conservation is about and a stepping stone to nature-based careers.



Is Shore Rangers right for me ?

- Are you aged between **16 & 25** ?
- Are you interested in **wildlife, especially marine** ?
- Do you enjoy being **outside** even if it's wet out ?
- Do you care about the **ecological emergency** ?
- Do you want to **learn new skills & species** ?
- Are you thinking about a **marine or nature-based career** ?
- Would you like the chance to **kayak Brownsea's coast** ?
- Do you want to **make a difference** to nature near you ?



If you said 'yes' to some of these questions, this could be right for you!

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What are the benefits of Shore Rangers ?

Spending time in nature is great for healthy bodies and happy minds! Scientists have proven that getting outside is vital for health & wellbeing. If you're serious about helping wildlife or a marine nature-based career, this is the group for you. There are too many benefits to mention! Here are just a few...

Record of Achievement

Make Friends

Learn about Wildlife

New Skills

Cake!

Make a Difference!

Fun!

Mental/Physical Health & Wellbeing

Try New Things

Time on Brownsea & on the water

Help Nature

Meet Experts

Careers



Water Quality Testing
© Jonny Owen

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What kind of activities will we do ?

All sorts! There will be a mix of practical tasks, wildlife surveys and fun learning activities. Before each session, we'll cover safety & the reasons for the work so you learn how the activities benefit local wildlife.

We get involved in social media, photography and writing. You will have the chance to help shape the programme so whilst it's a good idea to step outside your comfort zone, you will never be made to do something you really don't want to.

Here are some examples of what we will get up to...

You will always have an expert with you. Proper training and equipment will be provided so don't worry if you have never done this stuff before.

Below:

Snakelocks anemone on Brownsea's shoreline



- **Shoreline Habitats** : controlling vegetation using hand tools full training & supervision.
- **Litter-picks** : Helping keep our oceans clean.
- **Surveys** : e.g. helping us monitor birds, seals & other marine species plus plankton trawls
- **Social Media** : helping shout about wildlife!
- **Shoreline Monitoring** : reporting antisocial behaviour such as unauthorised landings.
- **Workshops & Education** : time with experts getting the know-how.
- **Special Events** : From time-to-time we'll do something a bit special like a social event or trip – these are optional and may involve a small cost.



What do I need to bring to Shore Rangers ?

Most of the equipment will be provided. If you are involved in any practical volunteering, you will be told what the task is before you come as well as any special advice about what to wear.

As a general rule, we suggest that you wear / bring:

- **Old Clothes** : stuff you don't mind getting snagged, dirty or wet.
- **All Weather Gear** : if it threatens rain, make sure you have waterproofs. In warmer months bring swimwear & T-shirt or long-sleeved T-shirt, sunscreen & insect repellent. If it's cold, you may prefer a wetsuit. **A towel is also advisable.**
- **Footwear** : trainers with laces that you don't mind getting wet are best.
- **Gloves** : a cheap pair of riggers or gardening gloves for shoreline tasks.
- **Lunch** : please make sure you bring enough to eat in a suitable container. We will provide cake / biscuits (assuming no COVID restrictions).



- **Drinking Water** : please bring a full water bottle – we recommend at least a litre. We provide free refills.
- **Medications** : remember any you need such as inhalers or EpiPens.
- **Hand Sanitiser** : to clean hands out on the water.



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How do I get to Brownsea for Shore Rangers ?

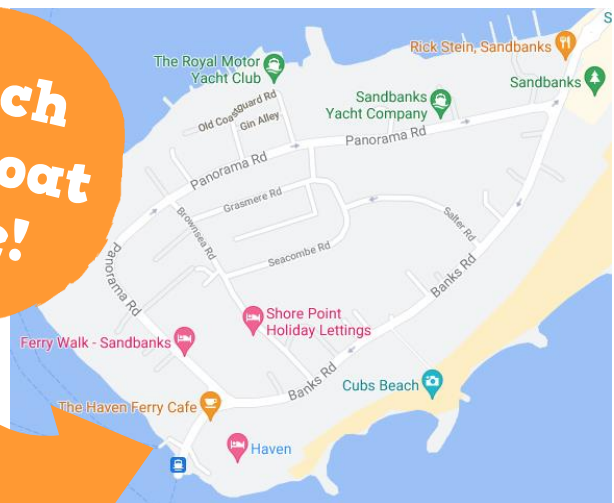
We will organise boat travel for you. All you need to do is get to the jetty at Sandbanks. Here are some FAQs...

● Where from?

You catch the little staff boat from the National Trust jetty at **Sandbanks, BH3 7QN**.

This is to the right of the chain ferry slipway as you look out to sea.

Catch the boat here!



Buses: The Morebus 50 & 60

routes have a bus-stop nearby. Your Activity Leader will come and meet you at Sandbanks and travel on the boat with you the first time you come. After that, you will be met on the Brownsea side.

● **How long is the boat journey?** The crossing is about 5 minutes.

● **What if we are late for the boat?** The boat times will be confirmed when you join. These are usually 10am from Sandbanks and 3.20pm back to Sandbanks although this could change slightly. Please arrive early – the boat service runs to a regular schedule and cannot wait for people. **If you are delayed and might miss your boat, please ring your Staff Liaison at least 15 minutes prior to your boat departure or call the Brownsea Office directly on 01202 709445.**



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- **What about additional access needs?** Please contact us well in advance to discuss additional access or mobility needs.
- **What are the rules on the boat?** Please follow instructions from the boat skipper who is responsible for safety on the water. There is hand sanitiser available at the quay / jetty which must be used before embarking unless medically exempt. During the pandemic, please remember social distancing on the boat. If boats are unable to operate in bad weather for safety reasons, we will contact you at the earliest opportunity and offer you an alternative date.



What does it cost to join Shore Rangers ?

Absolutely nothing! You do not need to pay anything. Result!

The costs of your activities including boat fees, reserve entry, staff time and resources have been covered by the Dorset Wildlife Trust's *Wild Brownsea Project*, supported by our donors and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.



Occasionally, if we do an optional special event, there may be small charge to cover costs but this will be kept to a minimum.

Left:

You will also get the chance to try land-based activities like these volunteers who are making tern shelters for Brownsea's lagoon.

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What do we expect of Shore Rangers ?

As a group, we will form a behavioural agreement that we are all happy with. The welfare of the wildlife is paramount. The safety & comfort of yourselves, staff and other visitors is also very important.

- **Behaviour** : We are sure you will be extremely well behaved. However, we do need to make you aware that if we see poor behaviour or safety instructions ignored, we will discuss this with you and remind you of the expectations. If anyone is unable to stick to the behavioural agreement, we may have to ask them to leave. We hope this will not be necessary and you have a great time.
- **Attitude** : The more you put in, the more you will get out! Bring a positive, can-do attitude and have a go! Be kind to others who may not know as much as you do – we are all here to learn.
- **Knowledge & Skills** : Don't worry if you are a little apprehensive at first – this is normal. We don't expect you to come with any knowledge or skills – this is where you can start from scratch to gain them!
- **Safety** : You must adhere to all safety instructions and tell your activity leader straight away if you are worried about anything.
- **Equality, Diversity & Inclusion** : Everybody is welcome. Bullying or discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated, so you will be safe and respected no matter your race, gender identity, sexuality or any other characteristic.



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What can I expect from Shore Rangers ?

Our staff & volunteers are friendly & well trained. We want to help you get the most out of this experience. We all care about the next generation of conservationists!

- **Staff Liaison** : My name is Jonny Owen - I am a Wild Brownsea Project Officer and your staff liaison. Please feel free to get in touch if you need anything. My contact info is at the bottom. Our Volunteers and I are DBS crime-checked as necessary and trained in leading groups, Safeguarding Young People & Vulnerable Adults, Health & Safety, Fire Safety, First Aid, Mental Health First Aid, Equality & Diversity, Autism & Disability Awareness.



Guardians, Mums & Dads

This is a good bit for you to read as well. Please get in touch if you want any more info or if you have any queries.

- **Health & Safety** : We work hard to ensure risk is minimised, although this can never be completely eradicated. Associated risk assessments can be made available to you if you wish.

The Shore Rangers Partnership will supply all necessary safety equipment including buoyancy aids, helmets, whistles & throwlines.

The group will be supported by a qualified kayak instructor.

A licenced support boat will accompany us at all times.

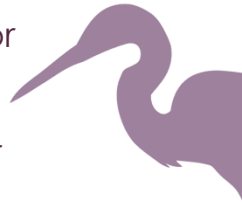
For on-island activities, tick bites pose a risk of Lyme's disease if not removed quickly. We will train participants in Tick Awareness and prompt regular tick checks. Please refer guardians to the NHS webpage before taking part: www.nhs.uk/conditions/lyme-disease



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- **Safeguarding** : No member of staff or volunteer will ever be left alone with a young person. Dorset Wildlife Trust has a robust Safeguarding Policy which you are welcome to read.
- **First Aid & Emergencies** : The Brownsea Team works in partnership with *National Trust & the Poole Harbour Island Safety Group* (which includes emergency services) to ensure adequate emergency provision for participants while on the island. There are certain considerations because Brownsea is an island – e.g. unlike on the mainland, your first emergency contact is your DWT Staff Liaison, not 999. Your DWT Staff Liaison will then coordinate with the Duty Officer to initiate an emergency response. If your Staff Liaison is not available for any reason, do not call 999. Instead, please contact the Duty Officer directly via their **24hr Emergency Number: 07786 683226** (Please note: this is for emergencies only and is not a customer service helpline).
Your Staff Liaison will carry a first aid kit and VHF radios.
There'll be a licenced support boat with GPS & VHF radio close by.



What skills & experience do I need ?

This is a group for people who want to learn. You are not expected to be a kayaking pro or a wildlife expert! Mostly we look for passion and a genuine interest in coastal ecology and/or related career path.

We ask that you're a reasonably confident swimmer & can swim 25m unaided.

You do not need any experience kayaking although it may be helpful to have a little go at it before you come. There are lots of kayak instructors in & around Poole harbour – a quick web search will bring up lots of providers. Look for one that is 'AALA' accredited.



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What if I'm a bit nervous or I have additional needs?

When we try new things, our brains release adrenalin - the 'fight or flight' hormone which can make us feel a bit nervous.

This is 100% normal.

Additional educational needs or disability may increase anxiety.

Again, this is 100% normal.

Everyone is likely to be sharing similar feelings. As you get to know people, you'll probably feel more relaxed. If you'd like support, please speak to Jonny.

We are here to help.

If you would like a pre-visit to help you get settled and to meet the team, please just ask - you can bring a guardian if you like.



I'm onboard! ...how do I join Shore Rangers ?

Please complete an application form and return it to the email at the bottom of this page. You have an opportunity on the form to tell us why you are the perfect candidate. The form also includes medical info & guardian consents for under 18s.

You may be invited to a brief, informal interview discussion – usually done virtually via zoom. There may be a waiting list if the group is currently full – we will let you know if this is the case. Before you come for your first session, you are welcome to come for a pre-visit to get your bearings and to meet us. Your guardian or parent can come along too if you like. Once you start, you will be given full training and induction.

Please get in touch if you haven't got an application form.



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How can I support Shore Rangers ?

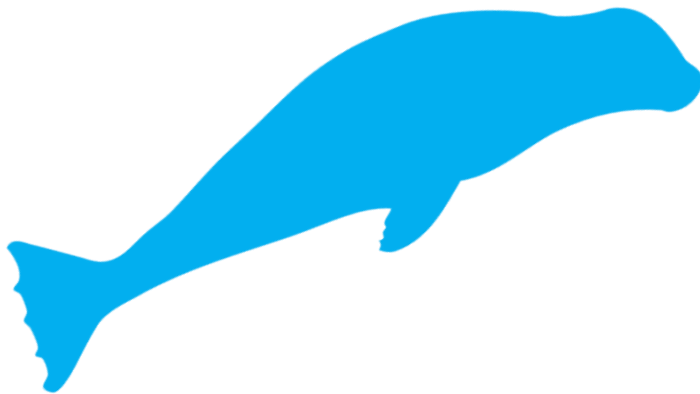
We are extremely grateful to all our volunteers, funders, supporters and partners. You have helped make the vision of Wild Brownsea a reality! We need ongoing funds to continue our work – any help is much appreciated!

If you would like to support the Wild Brownsea Project, please visit:

www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/support-us/wild-brownsea-appeal



**Thank
You!**



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