

Volunteer Role Description

Documentary Research Volunteer

1. Description of role

As H2H documentary research volunteer, you will be part of a team that will help Morecambe Bay Partnership, collect, document, report and archive research on a specific cultural heritage sites situated around Morecambe Bay.

Full free training is provided, through workshops run by Dr Richard Newman and Cat Peters of Wardell Armstrong Archaeology and volunteers will receive a comprehensive 'how to' guide. Volunteers will be trained and supported on how to approach the research of a site, where and how to look for evidence, and how to analyse and report results. This training will include the opportunity to visit the county archives and undertake site visits (optional).

Volunteers will use their newly developed research skills to gather data relating to a site, either through internet searches, visits to local /county libraries and archives, and aerial photographs. Once the data has been gathered it will be analysed and collated to produce a report. This report will be produced by the volunteers, with guidance from the Wardell Armstrong team and will detail all the findings about the archaeological and historical background and archaeological potential of an area.

This report will be archived with the Historic Environment Record and Archaeological Data Service (ADS) so that other researchers can access the information you have gathered in the future.

2. Why we need you

Morecambe Bay has a fascinating and varied cultural heritage, which we want to explore, understand and document for future generations. Through Heritage Lottery Funding we have been given the opportunity to train local communities to help us undertake valuable research and understand the historic landscape of the area in more detail. As Morecambe Bay Partnerships is only a small team, we need your help to carry out research and tell others about our findings through reports, illustrations, displays/exhibitions and talks. This will help widen our understanding of the archaeology of the Bay and provide valuable material for future archaeologists and researchers.

3. Main Tasks

- Attend training workshop(s);

- Work as part of a team to collect and analyse data/documents and report the results;
- Undertake individual research on a topic of your choice, that relates to the research site;
- Contribute to the data analysis and reporting (this could include illustrations, photography, writing a section of the report, archiving)

4. Location of role

Various locations across the Morecambe Bay area depending on the archaeological sites. Examples include Silverdale/Arnsdale area, Furness Peninsula, Glasson area.

5. Time commitment

Two to three full day training workshop(s). Approximately 5-10 hours voluntary research time (e.g. internet research, collection of data from archives/local studies library, reading for historical background, producing databases, analysing aerial photographs, report illustrations and text (your choice)).

6. Skills or qualities required

- Interest in history/archaeology;
- Interest in helping to enhance the understanding historic sites around Morecambe Bay
- Basic reading skills
- Basic writing skills
- Good general health in order to visit libraries/archives/sites (NOTE THESE VISITS ARE OPTIONAL)
- Some knowledge of the internet and basic computer skills (e.g. MS Word) would be helpful (Volunteers will be supported where required)

7. Training

Training workshops and drop-in sessions will be provided for volunteers and will include the following topics:

- Basic research skills
- Data collection
- Data analysis
- Aerial photography
- Report writing and archiving.
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8. Reporting to:

Louise Martin, Cultural Heritage Officer

Dr Richard Newman and Cat Peters, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology