

Hebridean
Whale &
Dolphin
Trust

Do HWDT Research Surveys meet the requirements of the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Residential section?



1. WILL YOU BE AWAY FROM HOME FOR A MINIMUM OF FIVE DAYS AND FOUR NIGHTS AND DO YOU HAVE AN APPOINTED ASSESSOR?

Yes, HWDT surveys are seven to twelve days in length, so exceed the minimum requirements. The Science Officer for the survey will be your Appointed Assessor.



2. WILL YOU BE UNDERTAKING A SPECIFIC COURSE OR SHARED ACTIVITY WHERE ALL THE GROUP SHARE THE SAME AIM AND EXPERIENCE?

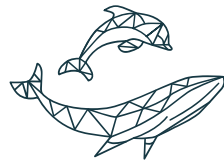
Yes, six citizen scientists join us on each trip with the joint aim of surveying the Hebrides and collecting valuable data on whales, dolphins, porpoises, and basking sharks. Everyone on board gets involved in all elements of the trip.



3. WILL IT BE LED BY AN ORGANISED GROUP, REGISTERED CHARITY OR APPROVED ACTIVITY PROVIDER?

Yes, the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust is a registered charity.

We have been established for more than 25 years and have been running Silurian expeditions since 2003.



4. WILL THE ACTIVITY BROADEN YOUR EXPERIENCE AND INTERESTS?

Yes, we hope so. Our research surveys give you an opportunity to increase your knowledge about the marine environment as well as marine mammals and birds of the European Atlantic. You will gain experience identifying these animals in the field and carrying out biological recording by following a scientific protocol and using specialist research equipment. In addition to the research, you will visit remote and isolated areas of the Hebrides, often only accessible via boat, and have an opportunity to learn more about the geography and heritage of Scotland through these visits. There is also the chance to learn more about sailing, by talking to and supporting our experienced crew with the sails and helm during your time off in the rota.



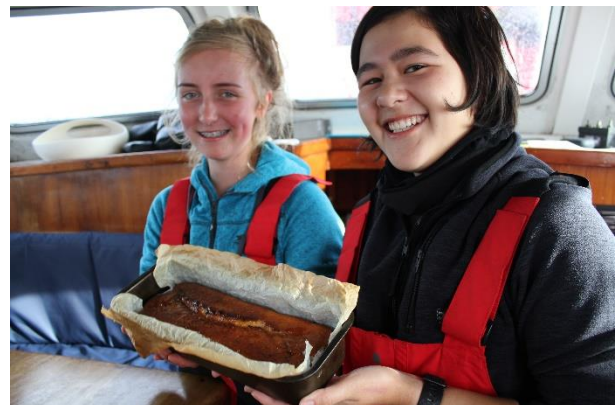
5. IS THE GROUP COMING TOGETHER FOR THE RESIDENTIAL NO SMALLER THAN FIVE PEOPLE INCLUDING YOU?

Yes, a full team on board Silurian consists of six citizen scientists, one Skipper, one Science Officer, one First Mate and an Assistant.



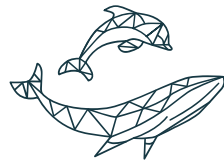
6. IS THE ACCOMMODATION AWAY FROM HOME AND IN AN ENVIRONMENT WHICH IS UNFAMILIAR TO YOU?

We would expect so. The accommodation on board the research yacht Silurian is a shared cabin with one other citizen scientist. Each evening we tend to anchor in a remote bay or near a small community.



7. ARE EVENINGS OF THE RESIDENTIAL SPENT WITH THE GROUP, WHETHER ORGANISED ACTIVITIES OR SOCIALISING & COOKING TOGETHER?

Yes. The evening activities change depending on the trip and the group's requirements, but some things you can expect to do include; a shore visits to explore your surroundings, a plankton party – a fun look at the microscopic beasts in the water, science presentations from staff and a variety of



team games. Each evening two citizen scientist will pair up and cook dinner for the team. There are also a number of simple, yet essential chores we share out, to keep the boat clean and tidy.

8. ARE YOU JOINING THE RESIDENTIAL ON YOUR OWN AND NOT AS PART OF AN EXISTING GROUP OF YOUR FRIENDS OR OTHERS YOU KNOW?

Most people join our surveys on their own, which is great and everyone quickly gets to know each other. In fact, many people leave having made lifelong friends. Sometimes people join as a pair which is also okay for the DofE requirements, as there will be eight other people you don't know.

9. WILL YOU RECEIVE SOME TRAINING OR BRIEFING BEFORE DEPARTURE?

Yes, our crew will brief you on the domestic aspects of living on a boat, as well as running through a comprehensive safety briefing. Before we depart we will also provide you with training on how to identify marine mammals, the common animals we are most likely to encounter and their distinguishing features. In addition, we will explain our survey protocol and have a practice before we set off so everyone is clear and confident with their role.

10. WILL THE REST OF THE GROUP BE JOINING AS INDIVIDUALS/WITH PEOPLE THEY DON'T KNOW, AND IN AN UNFAMILIAR ENVIRONMENT? Yes, see Q8.



11. IS THIS YOUR PRACTICE OR QUALIFYING EXPEDITION, WORK EXPERIENCE OR AN INTERNSHIP?

No, this is not work experience or an internship. We do offer long-term volunteering opportunities to gain valuable experience in research, education and outreach. These placements are advertised online at <https://hwdt.org/volunteering>.

12. YOUR LICENSED ORGANISATION MUST APPROVE THE RESIDENTIAL BEFORE YOU COMMIT YOURSELF TO ANY EXPENSE OR DEPART.

If you would like to join one of our Silurian Research Expeditions please visit <https://hwdt.org/silurian-timetable>, choose the survey you wish to join and complete the booking form. Please add in the (How did you hear about HWDT? *) that you would like the trip to count as your Gold D of E Residential section. If you have any questions about our Silurian trips please contact Morven @ volunteercoordinator@hwdt.org

