

Enabling Scientists with the Government of Jersey and Earthwatch

<p>Name of Earthwatch's key environmental focus Climate Change, Biodiversity loss and advancing Citizen Science</p>	<p>Lead contact details: Julia Clively <a href="mailto:j.clively@gov.je">j.clively@gov.je</a> Senior Environment Officer – Access Natural Environment Land Resource Management Howard Davis Farm</p>	<p>Second lead contact details: Adam Dallas-Chapman <a href="mailto:a.dallaschapman@gov.je">a.dallaschapman@gov.je</a> Access Support Officer Natural Environment Land Resource Management Howard Davis Farm</p>
<p>Project title</p>	<p>Monitoring visitor pressure across two ecological Sites of Special Interest (SSI)</p>	
<p><b>Aims &amp; Objectives</b></p> <p>On a small island like Jersey, many sites designated as Sites of Special Interest (SSI) for ecological protection also act as important recreational sites where members of the public can access the countryside, de-stress, and appreciate nature. It is therefore important that the management of these sites is well informed, and evidence based to ensure conflict does not arise between the needs of the public versus the need to protect our natural environment.</p> <p>The aim of this project is to determine the number and type of visitors accessing two sites of special interest (SSI):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Les Landes SSI</li> <li>• Noirmont SSI</li> </ul> <p>Objectives of this project are to determine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer visitor pressure at Les Landes SSI and Noirmont SSI</li> <li>• How visitor use across Les Landes SSI has varied since 2022.</li> <li>• How visitor use across Noirmont SSI compares to winter data.</li> <li>• Whether the installation of new signage at Les Landes SSI has influenced visitor behaviour on site.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Project description</b></p> <p>Les Landes SSI is the largest area of maritime heathland in the Channel Islands. Providing an important ecological link between St. Ouen's Bay and Jersey's north coast, the site also contains several recreational, geological and archaeological features which attract regular visitors.</p> <p>Noirmont SSI is a vital stopping ground for migratory birds, offering them a welcome place to stopover. The headland at Noirmont gives wide ranging views of Jersey's south coast whilst WWII infrastructure shows the islands recent history. The site is therefore a popular spot too for families and walkers.</p> <p>Natural Sites of Special Interest (SSIs) are places that are of public importance because of their special zoological, ecological, botanical or geological interest, or a combination of these and other special qualities. Management of many SSIs is undertaken by the Land Resource Management (LRM) team in Natural Environment.</p> <p>This project will inform the ongoing ecological and visitor management of both Noirmont and Les Landes SSIs. Interns will monitor the total number of visitors across both sites and will also monitor the type of visitor (walker, cyclist, horse rider etc). Monitoring will be undertaken following a methodology provided by LRM but will involve the use of cameras positioned</p>		

onsite to capture images of footfall at defined locations.

The intern will have the opportunity to work within LRM to provide visitor survey evidence that will support the ongoing management of SSIs and the protection of species into the future. The intern will have the opportunity to work onsite and to undertake visitor surveys. Data collected will then be compared to data collected in 2022 and interns will perform analysis to show similarities/differences between the two years. The project will include a written report of findings which will be used internally by Natural Environment to inform the ongoing management of Les Landes SSI and Noirmont SSI.

In more detail, the intern will:

- Undertake onsite visitor monitoring at Les Landes SSI and Noirmont SSI.
- Review camera footage to count the total number and type of visitor recorded at each site.
- Compare 2023 data to 2022 data using data analysis.
- Compile a report showing the findings of the 2023 survey and how they compare to the 2022 survey.

The methodology for this project will be provided by the Land Resource Management team, with support available to the intern if needed. Interns will become familiar with ecological sensitivity of both sites and evidence collected as part of this project will help inform both the long-term management of visitors and the continued protection of ecology at both sites.

Link to policy

[Countryside Access Strategy for Jersey 2016](#) – aims “to have an extended and connected access network that is safe for all users whilst ensuring minimal impact on Jersey’s landscape and its associated wildlife.” This project will support this aim by providing evidence that will inform management of the access network, ensuring it remains safe to all users with minimal impact to the landscape and associated wildlife.

[Biodiversity Strategy for Jersey](#) - The selection of Natural SSIs is based on scientific criteria which are explained in this strategy. These criteria are used to decide whether an area of land is of special interest. By providing evidence of visitor pressure at two SSIs, this project will help inform the ongoing management of SSIs to allow species to be continually protected.

[Common Strategic Policy 2023 to 2026](#) Children and Families We also want to begin to create schools that are hubs within our communities, hosting multiple services for children and families, and making the best use of our education facilities. We will make sure Jersey’s children and young people can be physically active and access green space wherever they live, learn and play.

[Government Plan 2023 to 2026](#) Countryside Access & Wellbeing maintenance of the Island’s countryside and protected sites and securing the future upkeep of countryside access paths.

[Delivery Plans 2023](#) Projects and Programmes GP20- CSP5-2-02 Countryside Access PRO28254 Countryside Management (CEF)

Additional Funding

This Earthwatch Internship project meets part of the requirements set out in the approved proposition. A strategic outline business plan is currently being drawn up to cost the project in its entirety. However, any additional funding for this project will be made available from Government of Jersey.

**Duration**

The project will commence Summer 2023 and will run for 8 weeks.

**Specific experience or skills required**

The project is an 8-week Earthwatch Internship based in Jersey during the summer and includes access to the Earthwatch on-line Community Science Camp.

An interest in the conservation and being outdoors would be an advantage.

It would be desirable if you had your own transport. It will be possible to claim mileage.

**Community Benefits/Customer(s)**

1. Government of Jersey: This project will provide evidence to support the ongoing management of Noirmont SSI and Les Landes SSI. Both in terms of ecological management and visitor management. This project will allow the management of both sites to be tailored to ensure ecology is continually managed effectively whilst at the same time ensuring access to both sites is not lost. Implementation of the [Countryside Access Strategy for Jersey 2016](#)
2. Island community: This project will support the ongoing management of visitors to Noirmont SSI and Les Landes SSI. It will therefore benefit members of the public by ensuring safe access is maintained at both sites for all types of users.
3. Enabling individuals: Support new scientists who are on the path of becoming conservation scientists with a passion for and expertise in engagement, who need further support on their journey. Investing in emerging scientists now will help secure a generation of connected, inspired and inspiring individuals who see the value of field science to provide knowledge about the world around us.