

Role Description

Conservation farmer – Ynys Enlli

Seeking a couple or family looking to live and work on Ynys Enlli as the farmers.

Contract length: Up to 5 years, with a 1-year probationary period

Where: Ynys Enlli, Gwynedd (Year-round)

When: Moving to Enlli in September 2026, with handover periods during 2026 with existing tenants.

Contracted by: Gareth Roberts, Bardsey Island Farm Tenant

Deadline: 4th January 2026

To apply: Please send CV/CVs and a covering letter outlining why you are interested in the role and how you meet the skills/experiences of the role and could deliver on the key expectations of the role. Please send these to post@enlli.org

Recruitment process:

We plan to shortlist candidates in early January 2026, with a view to interviewing initial shortlisted candidates towards the end of January or early February 2026. Interviews will be in person in Pen Llŷn.

Due to the high number of applications we expect to receive following the interest during the Expression of Interest stage we are likely to have a second round to the recruitment process for those shortlisted which will include a day on the island to see the house and outbuildings. This will be confirmed to shortlisted candidates.

Key expectations of the role:

- Be an integral part of the year-round small working community of Enlli. During the winter boats are irregular, maximum one boat a week, average is one boat a month.
- Year-round grazing and stock management in Enlli
- Delivery of S16 Conservation Management Plan Priority 1 Plans when noted as being delivered by Farming Tenant (available on request)
- Liaise with BITL on management and monitoring of the land in line with the Conservation Management Plan, with BBFO (Bardsey Bird & Field Observatory) and NRW involved in monitoring.
- Maintenance of fencing, gates, and stiles
- Ensure machinery is kept in good working order
- Be involved in additional land management and infrastructure projects
- Being practical and resilient are key to this role
- Time off the island – other than sickness needs to be agreed to ensure cover to be flexible around key responsibilities.

The offer:

Accommodation

Accommodation provided in an off-grid three-bedroom farmhouse. Details of the farmhouse include:

- Basic electrical provision from solar and a back-up generator
- New wood burning stove installed in 2025
- Inside bathroom with bath
- Outside compost toilet
- Oil-fuelled Rayburn
- Wifi throughout property but no phone signal across most of the island
- Use of yard outbuildings

Stock

- All grazing livestock provided as part of collaboration with Cwrt farm – Gareth Roberts, Bardsey Island Farming Tenant.
- 300 Welsh Mountain Sheep which are part of the Innovis Pro Hill programme
- 20-30 Cattle – Stabilizers
- Space for chickens, goats, ducks
- Percentage of stock sales to be earned by farmer (to be agreed on)

Machinery

- All machinery is provided, including Quad, shared use of a small tractor with lifter & PTO, chipper.
- Machinery maintenance is the responsibility of this role.

Additional opportunities and contracts

- Fencing – each year a particular section of fencing will need re-fencing
- Space for growing vegetables, including a polytunnel frame with potential for a small market garden selling produce to visitors.
- Café business, which has historically been run from the farm
- Opportunity to fish as part of the island’s lobster and crab fishery
- Opportunities for other small-scale businesses

This list of extra contracts and opportunities is not exhaustive, and it is expected that the successful candidates will undertake some of these tasks, but that the uptake will vary depending on various candidates’ experience, ability and appetite.

Essential experience/skills

- Understanding of land management and farming, with NVQ level 3 or above in a land-based qualification
- Understanding of importance of conservation grazing and land management
- Experience as a farmer, smallholding, or working on a farm
- Experience in lambing, shearing, dosing
- Has experience working with cattle, including calving

- Fencing, gates, stiles and ongoing maintenance of these
- Experience of working with tractors, diggers, quads
- Welsh speaker

Desirable

- Experience of land management on National Nature Reserves or SSSIs.
- Has own sheepdog
- Experience of small boats, or an interest in lobster/crab fishing

Package value

Potential total value of £27,000 dependent on experience (not including additional contracts and enterprise opportunities).

This role will be contracted by Gareth Roberts as the Farming Tenant of Bardsey Island, but will work closely with the Bardsey Island Trust and other island stakeholders.