



THE NEW LUNDY WARDEN

Simon Parker

I've just made the short hop from Flat Holm Island to Lundy after two years as Warden, looking after the gull colony and keeping the island running day-to-day. Before that, I spent 10 years in military aviation as an engineer, until in 2016, after redundancy from the RAF Search and Rescue based in North Wales, I hiked the Pacific Crest Trail in America. Spending so much time in the wilderness inspired me to work towards protecting the natural world, so on returning I switched paths and moved into conservation with various Wildlife Trusts. Flat Holm was where I discovered that engineering knowhow and island conservation make a pretty good mix.

Flat Holm taught me a lot about the pros and cons of simple Island living. It's very different to Lundy, and quite often only two people would be living there. It was also a huge privilege to live and work on a large Gull colony: up to 3500 gulls nest and raise their young there.

Islands have always drawn me in – the sense of space, wildness, and separation from the busy world. I'm excited to see what's ahead here on Lundy, especially with the renewable energy work and the potential treeplanting projects. The island has a fantastic history, and from a wildlife point of view, there's room for more. The seabird colony is still growing, and I'm keen to help keep that momentum going.

When I'm not out exploring with binoculars, you'll probably find me running the trails or learning the mandolin. Looking forward to meeting you on the island – happy to share a biscuit and brew anytime! Maybe just the brew...

◀ Simon Parker (photo: Chloe Thrussell)