



Manx
Wildlife Trust
Treisht Bea-Feie
Vannin



Biosphere Photographer in Residence 2025

Supported by Visit Isle of Man

Role Descriptor



1. Overview

Working with [UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man](#), Manx Wildlife Trust is delighted to be hosting the inaugural Biosphere Photographer in Residence, a year-long residency supported by [Visit Isle of Man](#). This follows the success of the Biosphere Artist in Residence programme, supported by [Isle of Man Arts Council](#), which is now in its third year. The residency will connect new audiences with Manx nature and landscapes through the medium of photography. The aim being to enable more people of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy photography and the Isle of Man whilst inspiring them to act for Manx nature. The funding will support one photographer or photography collective to develop their community-focussed and socially engaging practice, over the course of a year, with opportunities to deliver physical and/or digital interventions across the Island.

2. Brief

The Isle of Man enjoys a reputation as an Island that cares, and has a conscience for, the unique culture, heritage, and community of its past and present. Few other places can identify such a clear and intimate connection between its society, environment, and economy. The landscape and seascape of the Island is an inspiration to its creative communities and treasured by residents and visitors alike. The Biosphere Photographer in Residence programme brings together the vision of a sustainable future for Ellan Vannin by bringing people closer to nature and promoting our unique Manx culture and distinctiveness as central to the Island's image both nationally and internationally.

Biospheres connect people to the world around them, prompting awareness, care, and action. This has never been more important. Our membership of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme affords us the chance to collaborate with, and learn from, other Biospheres worldwide, and they to learn from us, as we all seek sustainable solutions. As the only 'entire nation' Biosphere, the Isle of Man is enabling people to more easily connect with, care for and realise the importance of our nature, culture, heritage and community life.

Visit Isle of Man is the official tourism organisation dedicated to showcasing the unique charm and beauty of the Isle of Man. Offering a diverse range of experiences, from scenic landscapes and outdoor adventures to rich cultural heritage and historical landmarks, Visit Isle of Man provides visitors with everything they need to explore the Island. Whether you're looking for tranquil coastal walks, or a deep dive into the Island's fascinating history, Visit Isle of Man is your guide to discovering all that this special place has to offer.

Manx Wildlife Trust knows that a society where nature matters is key to our wellbeing. We believe in developing creative partnerships to get people outdoors experiencing and enjoying Manx landscapes and seascapes. This residency brings people closer to nature at our sites, reaches local communities including those who don't normally engage with MWT, and offers opportunities across the Island to take part in creative and cultural activities that improve our Island understanding of nature, our Biosphere, wellbeing, and quality of life.

This Biosphere Photographer in Residence programme's ambition is for an Isle of Man that inspires people of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy our culture and the arts. We welcome proposals demonstrating innovative, adventurous, and creative responses to this brief.

3. Deliverables

Photographic output may take a range of formats, media, and themes and this brief is not intended to exclude any options by the content in this section. Proposals should demonstrate a clear theme for the work that supports the objectives of Biosphere Isle of Man, Manx Wildlife Trust (MWT), and Visit Isle of Man. With the focus outlined in section 2 (Brief) on community, participatory, and socially engaging work, this residency should result in the following minimum outputs:

- At least five public events, education opportunities, activities, live or other interventions delivered across the Island. The audiences should be varied and:
 - At least one must be delivered at an MWT Site (Nature Reserve or Nature Discovery Centre).
 - At least two must be delivered not at MWT sites (potentially in Douglas), with the aim of engaging those who don't normally visit MWT places.
 - One of the five must be a flagship photographic intervention around which interest and awareness of the residency can be generated.
- Exploration and development of creative and technical practice to expand knowledge and skills, and/or explore new horizons through innovation, media, and technology.
- A reflection by the photographer or photography collective towards the end as part of the legacy of the residency. The format of this is not fixed and should be outlined in the proposal.
- Digital engagement: a webpage/website, social media, and a blog by the photographer or photography collective.

4. Funding and Support

Funding is ring-fenced in this residency to support the photographer or photography collective to develop their practice during the year. This is a fixed amount to cover a minimum of 25 days to complete the outputs agreed in the proposal, and in-kind contributions from MWT to provide office space, support from MWT staff, and use of equipment at their Headquarters in Peel. This aims to invest in the Island's creative community for success and sustainability; help develop knowledge, skills and understanding within our creative and cultural industries; and inspire and enable people to explore new horizons through innovation, media, and technology. Part of this support will be in evaluating the impact of the residency, which will involve the awardee both delivering and participating in evaluation. Specialist support will be provided, and funds are ring-fenced to facilitate this. The Photographer in Residence may apply for further funding for specific projects from other sources including corporate sponsorship and support will be provided for this via the MWT Engagement Team.

5. Budget

The total budget for this residency is £16,000 and includes the following core components:

Budget Line	No. of Items	Rate	Total	Notes
Photographer Stipend	25	£240	£6,000	This equates to five weeks of work across the year.
Budget	1	£8,000	£8,000	For equipment, materials, training and event costs
In-Kind contributions from MWT	1	£2,000	£2,000	Hosting costs for the residency including office space/ phone and computer equipment/ email hosting/ social media support/ Biosphere expertise
TOTAL			£16,000	

This table is provided for the information of the Biosphere Photographer in Residence to understand how they will be supported throughout the residency.

6. Timeframe

The start date for the inaugural Biosphere Photographer in Residence is negotiable. Our hope is that the residency can start in early spring 2025 (February/March). Once a start date has been agreed, all work, outputs and events must be completed within a 12-month period. Proposals including activity outside of this timeframe will not be eligible and no funds will be awarded retrospectively for work already completed. The panel will review the proposed timeframes for delivery in submissions to assess for feasibility.

7. Intellectual Property (IP)

Images captured during, and for the specific purpose of, the residency will remain copyright to the photographer and no exclusivity is assumed. Therefore, the photographer is free to use and sell the images elsewhere. There will be an agreement in place giving usage rights only to Manx Wildlife Trust, UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man and Visit Isle of Man. This agreement will continue beyond the residency year (legacy).

8. Key Contact

For an informal conversation or for queries about the brief, contact:

Graham Makepeace-Warne

Head of Engagement, Manx Wildlife Trust

graham@mwt.im