

# LIVE

Teaching Through Nature



## Writing a newspaper article *Being a newspaper journalist*

### Puffin Facts

The Puffins on Burhou spend most of their lives at sea. They only leave the water to breed and raise their young chicks. On Burhou the Puffins appear in the later spring and leave the island in July or August.

During this breeding season no tourists are allowed to step foot on Burhou and private boats are encouraged not to take tourists to the island. These steps have been taken to protect the colony of Puffins during the breeding season.



### Activity – Protecting Burhou's Wildlife

You are a reporter working for the Wildlife Trust. Write an article about Burhou's wildlife. Explain why the State of Alderney have taken the action to ban visits to the island between March and the end of July.

**What would happen if Tourists were allowed to visit Burhou during the summer months?**

### Curriculum links English Key Stage 2

- Choose a form and content to suit a particular audience
- Effectively create a layout, presentation and organisation

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# Writing a newspaper article

## Protecting the Wildlife on Burhou

### Why are tourists not allowed to visit the island?

You are a newspaper journalist. Read the article below. Find out why Tourists are not allowed to visit the island during the summer months and what steps the State of Alderney have taken to enforce this law.



### Burhou Island

*Burhou Island is a low-lying uninhabited island lying one and a quarter miles northwest of Alderney. Despite being only half a mile long and one fifth of a mile wide, Burhou is a bird sanctuary and home to 11 species of breeding birds. It is in part because of Burhou's wealth of breeding seabirds that an area of Alderney was granted a Ramsar designation in 2005.*

Due to the importance of Burhou's breeding seabirds the States of Alderney implemented a closed season from 15th March until 1st August and only those carrying out scientific surveys and the Burhou warden are allowed to visit during these months by prior permission from the States of Alderney.

The island has a small hut containing rough accommodation and can be rented for a small sum during the months that the island is open. Alternatively, boat trips depart from Alderney on advertised days during the summer months taking visitors on a round island trip and to tour the Ramsar site, including the impressive gannet colonies on Les Etacs and Ortac and the Atlantic seal colony near Burhou Reef. The boat's crew have an intimate knowledge of the local waters, coupled with a good knowledge of ornithology and the history of the Island including the stories of the shipwrecks.

### History

The cottage on Burhou was built in the early 19th century as a shelter for fishermen and wrecked mariners. This cottage fell into decay but was repaired in 1900 by a French couple who attempted to farm on the island. Various people lived there until it was destroyed during the German occupation.

After the war the States of Alderney acquired the island and a hut was erected in 1953 and then greatly improved in 1978 by local Alderney men, one of whom was Mr Midget Dupont who later became the States appointed warden of Burhou, a post he maintained until he passed away in September 2007.

**Read the article: Sail to the island of Alderney**

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**Interview a member of the Alderney Wildlife Trust on why Tourists should not visit Burhou during the summer months?**

Prepare a set of questions for a member of the Alderney Wildlife Trust.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

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Remember a good newspaper article contains lots of information. List In the boxes below the important facts you plan to use in your article.

### Facts and Details

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As a journalist it is your role to write an article telling people about the Burhou's wildlife. The article should give lots of details so readers can understand the challenges facing the Alderney Wildlife Trust as they protect the wildlife during the summer months.

Headline

Opening paragraph

Image 1

Article

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Article

Image 2

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Choose 2 of these images to illustrate your article

