



Dr Ellie Owen
PhD • 2005 - 2009

What did you do at the Lighthouse ?

I was a phd student based partly at the Lighthouse, partly at the Marine Lab in Aberdeen and partly at the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology. I worked on the long term fulmar study on Eynhallow, Orkney and Paul Thompson was one of my supervisors. I overlapped with some very inspiring and fun people at the Lighthouse and some pretty incredible animals too (the fulmars!).

What are you doing now ?

I am now a seabird conservation scientist at the RSPB centre for conservation science. I manage varied projects aimed at finding solutions to marine conservation problems. I have managed some of RSPBs ambitious seabird tracking projects and also employ the help of citizen scientists in my work.

What was the most valuable thing you learnt at the Lighthouse?

I learnt many valuable things at the Lighthouse but if I had to pick just one it would be how to manage and protect long term datasets. A physical image of this was that the old notebooks from the start of the fulmar fieldwork in the 1950s, and still bearing the oily signature of the birds defensive vomit on the pages, are given the protection of a fire-proof cabinet at the Lighthouse. Rightly so. I loved the connection to a line of researchers before me. When I train researchers now, the proper collection and management of field data, is one of the most important things I try to instil.

