



GENERAL BUILDER INFORMATION PACK

Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands

Job Title: General builder

Hours: 45 hours full time per week, 0730-1800. Usually Monday – Friday however this is dependent on many factors including weather

Rate: @ £25.00 - 27.50/hr plus all accommodation and subsistence included when deployed, plus travel from your country of recruitment to South Georgia

Location: South Georgia

Reports to: Operations Manager/Build Team Lead

Dates: mid-September 2026 to early April 2027

Closing Date: Friday 5th June 2026, with interviews the week commencing 15th June 2026

If you would like to submit an application, please submit a CV and covering letter to recruitment@gov.gs. Your covering letter should be no more than two sides of A4 and highlight your relevant experience and explain why you want to work in South Georgia



General Builder Job Description

Task Requirements and Responsibilities

The Build Team will be responsible for site maintenance tasks, reactive works and preventative maintenance of buildings and infrastructure in King Edward Point and Grytviken. Activities will follow a programme of works as set by the GSGSSI Operations team, and will include a varied assortment of tasks.

The candidate will be expected to:

- Repair and maintain interior and exterior of modern buildings and heritage mixed-use buildings.
- Be willing to take on a supervisory role as necessary and as directed by the Build Team Lead
- Liaise with the Build Team Lead on a daily basis to ensure good communication and workload efficiency
- Erect scaffolding and perform maintenance tasks at height.
- Carry out ground works for drainage purposes.
- Manage and prioritise own workload in order to complete repairs in a timely manner and in accordance with given timescales.
- Carry out planned preventative building maintenance in line with set programme of works.
- Shape or cut materials to specified measurements, using hand tools, machines, or power tools.
- Prepare, sand, clean, and apply various finishes to interior and exterior of structures, including primers or sealers.
- Move necessary materials around Grytviken and KEP as assigned, using heavy and light equipment, including vehicles and plant. Competency using the different plant equipment will be assessed once on site in South Georgia. Not everyone will be called upon to operate all the equipment.
- Follow established safety rules and regulations and maintain a safe and clean environment, including on-site hazard identification.
- Undertake weather dependent tasks, such as exterior painting, when the conditions are appropriate.
- Carry out such duties as required or delegated, including undertaking tasks in the absence of supervision if required.
- Undertake duties at the research station to assist the general running of the base, and playing an active role in domestic support, such as but not limited to cooking, and waste management.

Post Season

To facilitate planning and programming for subsequent seasons, the candidate is required to contribute to the following as part of the team:

- Recording in detail all work carried out, including scheduling data.

- Making necessary recommendations for future materials and equipment orders.
- Making necessary recommendations for future works in Grytviken and King Edward Point.

Experience:

- Demonstratable technical expertise and experience in building.
- Living and working in small teams in remote and/or extreme environments.
- Experience in a specific trade (plumbing, electrical, painting etc) is preferable.
- Driving various forms of plant equipment – telehandler, JCB Excavator, dumper

Personal Attributes and Talents:

- A flexible approach to working and commitment to delivering high standards of work activity outputs.
- A positive attitude to work and colleagues on station.
- A team player and the ability to work without direct supervision.
- Good interpersonal skills when living in an isolated community.
- Good time management with proven ability to meet deadlines and complete work as necessary to deal with multiple and competing demands on a regular basis.
- Effective communication skills with the ability to provide and receive clear verbal and written instruction relative to building maintenance activities and tasks.
- A desire for personal development and to be challenged through unique build tasks.
- Willingness to spend time off station (either camping or in a field hut) to carry out maintenance and inspections of remote installations
- Experience of living in small and/or remote communities is desirable

Qualifications and Technical Skills:

- Building qualifications and/or plant ticket competency or demonstrable experience
- Capable of receiving and following instructions and communicating with co-workers
- Able to read and adhere to labels, safety warnings, and guidelines
- Competent with working on multi-disciplinary work activities and prioritising these based on material availability, weather, and other task programming.
- Full driving licence – competency will be assessed once on site in South Georgia

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in a role with the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands. Below you will find a little more information about the Government, life at South Georgia and the role of the Build team.

About the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands is a UK Overseas Territory situated in the South Atlantic, 800 miles southeast of the Falkland Islands. The Territory is uninhabited, with the only population being a small team located at an administrative station at King Edward Point, Cumberland Bay and at a smaller research station at Bird Island. There is no airport, and the only way to reach the islands is by sea. The Territory therefore remains one of the most remote locations on the planet and is home to globally significant marine mammal and seabird populations.

The Government's main office is located in Stanley, the capital city of the Falkland Islands.

The administrative centre at King Edward Point is staffed by two Government Officers, alongside a small team from the British Antarctic Survey that operates the King Edward Point research station on the Government's behalf. The science conducted supports the Government's world-class conservation, environmental management, and sustainable fisheries objectives.

Around the bay from King Edward Point lies the remains of Grytviken, a former whaling station which closed in the 1960s and which is now managed for its heritage value. Here you will find South Georgia Post Office, the Government's workshops and the South Georgia Museum which is operated by a charity. Many thousands of visitors come to South Georgia every year, primarily on cruise ships and yachts during the austral summer. In recent years, sustainable tourism has become an increasingly important part of Government operations. Grytviken also contains some of the infrastructure that supports the human population of Cumberland Bay, including a hydroelectric power station.

About the role

The role attracts a remuneration of £25.00 - 27.50/hr, paid as a regular salary payment at the end of each month. Flights to and from your country of recruitment at the start and end of your contract, as well as transport to and from South Georgia from the Falkland Islands are included.

The role is based on South Georgia, with all accommodation and subsistence while on South Georgia included. Due to the limited services available on the island, the successful candidate must successfully pass a British Antarctic Survey (BASMU) medical and dental assessment.

Whilst there is no facility to leave South Georgia for a holiday during the contract period, the Build Team have the potential to take on-island "field work days" during which you can explore the wider travel area around King Edward Point. For the full season contract, the role will be eligible for up to 4 field work days.

Living in South Georgia

The Build team are members of the multidisciplinary team living at King Edward Point. Comfortable shared accommodation is provided, with up to two personnel sharing a bedroom with an ensuite shower room. Food is provided, and those living in the same accommodation block work on a rota system to cook evening meals. All station personnel are expected to assist in the smooth running of station life, including coordinating cooking and cleaning with their housemates, and doing any other station tasks as directed by the Government Officers.

The Build Team will spend the majority of their time working at Grytviken, a 1km walk or cycle around a gravel track from King Edward Point. The commute can be exciting, with snow flurries even in the middle of summer, as well as curious fur seal pups engaging with you as you travel to and from work.

King Edward Point is situated in the midst of South Georgia wildlife. Elephant seals and fur seals give birth on the beaches outside the houses, and king penguins often wander up the high street. During breaks between visiting vessels and during field work days there are plenty of opportunities to get out wildlife watching, hiking and cross country running.

There is always a wide diversity of people living at King Edward Point, with around 30 people on station during the height of summer. Recreational activities are varied, and their popularity depends on those on station.

Recruitment

Recruitment will be conducted in two phases. An initial paper sift, followed by an interview. All interviews will be assessed around the person specification criteria. Any offer of employment would be conditional upon receipt of satisfactory medical and dental results. The Government will meet the costs of any assessments.

The role cannot be offered to those whose nationality prevents them from boarding the airbridge connection from RAF Brize Norton to the Falklands Islands, which is operated by the UK Ministry of Defence. A list is appended at the bottom of this document.

For more information about the position please read the job description. For an informal discussion, and to talk about living and working in South Georgia please contact recruitment@gov.gs.

If you would like to submit an application, please submit a CV and covering letter to recruitment@gov.gs. Your covering letter should be no more than two sides of A4 and highlight your relevant experience and explain why you want to work in South Georgia.

The closing date for applications is Friday, 5th June 2026. We expect to conduct interviews during the week commencing 15th June 2026.

Due to the anticipated volume of applications, only those applicants selected for interview will receive feedback, upon request. A request must be made at the time of interview or in writing, no later than 5 working days after the interview. Feedback will be received no later than 21 days after an appointment is made. Candidates not selected for interview will be informed promptly and, in any case, no longer than 21 working days after the published closing date.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Successful Community Conduct and Collaboration

Living and working in South Georgia requires a high degree of emotional intelligence and mutual respect. Because professional and social boundaries are naturally blurred, every individual is a custodian of the community's well-being. This is a remote location, and we must care and look after each other.

Collaborative Living and "Self-Starting"

Proactive Contribution: You are expected to contribute to communal duties beyond your specific job description (e.g., cleaning, cooking rotations, or station maintenance).

Initiative: If a task needs doing, do not wait for a formal request. A "self-starter" attitude is vital for the safety and efficiency of the station.

Support: Look out for colleagues. Collaborative success is measured by the team's collective output, not just individual achievement.

Workplace & Social Integration

Professionalism: While your social life and work life are linked, professional standards must be maintained at all times and when interacting with other teams.

Conflict Resolution: Issues should be addressed early and calmly. If personal friction arises, it must not interfere with operational duties or the safety of the station. Government staff in the Falkland Islands and beyond are available to offer support.

Managing Stress: Recognise that isolation can increase pressure. Personnel are encouraged to use available support systems and respect others' need for quiet time or privacy.

Authority and Reporting: All personnel must follow the directives of the on-site procedures to ensure station harmony and safety.

Management: While you are part of the South Georgia team, line management sits with the Build Team lead, with the Operations Manager available to provide additional support. Open communication with your manager is essential for long-term support.

Environmental Stewardship

As residents of a protected territory, all community members must strictly adhere to biosecurity and environmental protocols to protect the local ecosystem.

Airbridge

List of nationalities not authorised to travel on the Airbridge:

BELARUS
HONG KONG
MACUA
EGYPT
IRAN
LIBYA
NORTH KOREA
RUSSIA
SYRIA
TAIWAN
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC)

UKRAINE
VIETNAM

This list is subject to change without notice.