



# WBCT Volunteer Advertisement

## **Role Title: Environmental Specialist**

The Wilts & Berks Canal Trust is seeking to expand and improve its activities by forming a small team of environmental specialists. We are looking for volunteers with practical experience or qualifications in the environmental sciences to strengthen the capability of the trust to understand, interpret and create the environmental plans and projects which are as central to the aims of our trust as are our restoration and construction projects. The enhancement of the biodiversity associated with our canal restoration is essential.

We need volunteers who can contribute to at least some of the tasks: understand the biodiversity issues raised by our activities and those of proposals by other parties, identify environmental risks, carry out field surveys, develop mitigation and improvement proposals, guide construction of good habitats, and monitor results. "Environment" is a wide field, volunteers will most likely specialise in one or more areas of it.

The Wilts and Berks Canal Trust is a registered charity, committed to returning this historic waterway to full navigable status. The Trust has been working for over 30 years to re-establish the historic canal which was formally abandoned in 1914 but the line is now protected by local authority policies. Many short lengths have been restored already and work is in hand to restore much more in small local projects and major development projects, often where a new route has to be created because the old one has been lost.

The canal will restore an important link in the national waterways network, but the project will also be part of anti-flooding schemes, green infrastructure for the region, creating connections between existing wildlife, aquatic and wetland habitats for endangered species. Working with our partners we aim to restore the canal route, provide wildlife habitats, cycle ways, and fully accessible routes for walkers along the restored towpath.

When completed the canal will put Swindon back at the heart of the southern English canal system. Routes to the Kennet and Avon canal, the Cotswold Canals and the Thames at Abingdon will link up to the entire English waterways network, all 2,000 miles of it.

Our volunteers work in our central teams, in project teams and in our local branch teams centred on the towns along the route according to the task. The voluntary roles can be carried out at home with field work, site meetings etc, as necessary. The tasks can often be designed to suit a preference for a locality or timeframe. Basic computer skills are essential.

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04/06/2020