



# CANAL CAMPS

2023



*Volunteer with us*

[WATERWAYS.ORG.UK/CANALCAMPS](https://www.waterways.org.uk/canalcamps)

## WHY YOU'LL LOVE VOLUNTEERING FOR WATERWAY RECOVERY GROUP

- Meet new people and make lifelong friends
- Be part of a friendly and diverse team
- Learn new practical skills
- Gain valuable work-related experience
- Help restore our industrial heritage

*I love the work and seeing the progress and difference we make on so many canals. I also love the social side and the fantastic family you all become!*  
JU

*I absolutely loved my first camp, so much so that I didn't go home after it, and ended up digging for another week on the Montgomery Canal. I met some amazing people and did work that I never thought I'd do and got really muddy. You may go on a camp without any skills, but you are sure you leave with some!*  
Becky

*I thoroughly enjoyed my first WRG camp, it was a great experience and I made some great friends. I can't wait to get involved on another camp and I would definitely recommend it to anyone who wants to do something different for a charity!*  
Matt

## CAMPS & DATES FOR 2023

### 18th March

- Waterway Restoration Conference (WC2023)

### 25th-26th March

- BCN Cleanup (BCN2023)

### 14th-16th April

- Family Weekend Camp Wendover Canal Tring, (FCC2023)

### 13th May

- Leadership Training Day (LTD2023) Warwick

### 27th-28th May

- Training Weekend (TW2023) Lichfield

### 1st-8th July

- Cotswold Canals John Robinson Lock (CC202302)

### 8th-15th July

- Cotswold Canals John Robinson Lock (NWPG) (CC202303)

### 15th-22nd July

- Cotswold Canals John Robinson Lock (KESCRG) (CC202304)

### 22nd-29th July

- Cotswold Canals Weymoor culvert (CC202305)

### 22th-29th July

- Lichfield Canal (CC202307)

### 29th July-5th August

- Cotswold Canals Weymoor culvert (CC202306)

### 29th July - 5th August

- Lichfield Canal (CC202308)

### 5th-12th August

- Lapal Canal (CC202309)

### 5th-12th August

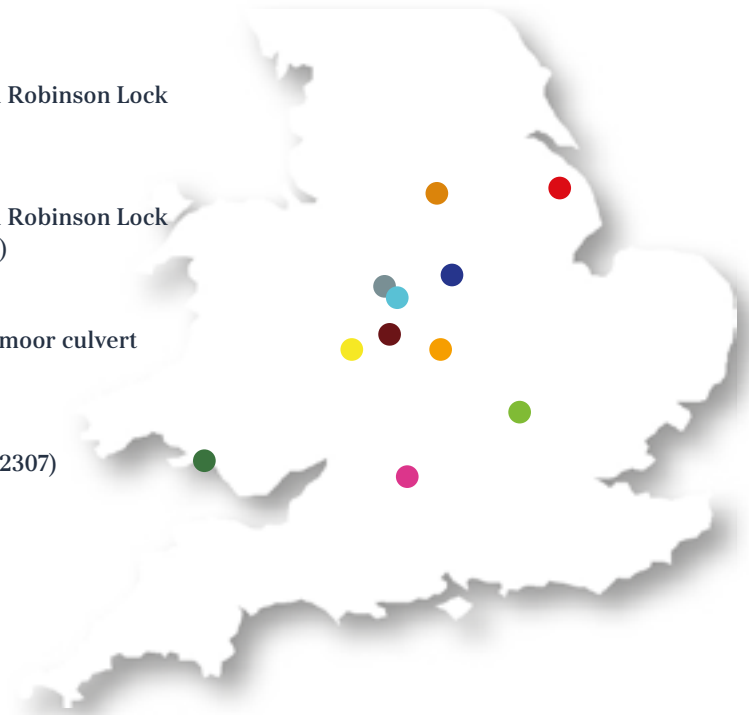
- Derby Canal (CC202310) TBC

### 12th-19th August

- Louth Navigation (CC202311)

### 18th-25th August

- Neath Canal (CC202312)





## DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

A Canal Camp is a great way to complete the residential section of your Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. All volunteers participating in the Award are expected to attend the Camp for the full seven days.

**JOIN OUR CANAL  
CAMP FOR JUST £80  
PER WEEK**

## JUST ADD VOLUNTEERS

Canal Camps are a great experience for anyone who *loves being outdoors* and enjoys *meeting new people* of different ages and from a variety of backgrounds. Run by the Inland Waterways Association's Waterway Recovery Group (WRG), Canal Camps allow participants to *learn new skills* whilst helping bring derelict waterways back to life.

**EACH CANAL CAMP  
COSTS JUST £80  
PER WEEK**



### AGE LIMIT

WRG Canal Camp working holidays are open to anyone aged 18 and above.



### EXPERIENCE

It doesn't matter whether you are a complete beginner or already have some skills, you will be guided through every task by the Canal Camp leadership team.



### KIT LIST

We will provide all the necessary safety kit (Personal Protective Equipment), but you may prefer to bring your own steel-toe-capped boots or steel-toe-capped wellingtons.



### TRANSPORT

Car parking is provided. If you arrive by train or bus, we will pick you up from the designated station. We also provide transfers between the accommodation and site.



### ACCOMMODATION

Volunteers sleep in a village hall or similar with access to electricity, toilets and draught-free sleeping areas. Hot showers are provided at the end of the day. You will need to bring a sleeping mat or camp bed.



### FOOD

There will be a cooked breakfast, lunch on site and a home cooked evening meal along with plenty of tea and cake. Let us know if you have special dietary requirements.



### FREE TIME

Evenings are free to socialise with your fellow campers. Camp Leaders will organise activities such as bowling, cinema or go to the pub, so don't forget to bring some extra money if you want to join in.



### NAVVIES

Our magazine will update you on our restoration activities. First time volunteers will get one year's free subscription.

**Book  
Now**

**01494 783 453**

**WATERWAYS.ORG.UK/CANALCAMP**

## LEADERSHIP TRAINING DAY (Free)

**Location:** Rowington Village Hall, Warwickshire  
**Activities:** Leadership training  
**Dates:** 13th May

Every year we run a Leadership Training Day for volunteers running Canal Camps and for those who are interested in getting involved or considering giving it a go. Join us on this relaxed and inclusive day and find out more about what our Leaders, Cooks and Assistants do. We always welcome eager volunteers and will provide all the support and training needed to help you lead or assist a WRG Canal Camp.

## TRAINING WEEKEND (Free)

**Location:** Lichfield Canal  
**Activities:** Heritage training & plant operation  
**Dates:** 27th-28th May

Want to get a head start on your Canal Camp, learn how to use new tools and equipment or try your hand at operating an excavator? Our Training Weekend upsills volunteers involved with canal restoration or looking to give it a go! Learn transferable skills and get to grips with operations carried out on construction projects under the supervision of our fully trained Instructors.

## SITES FOR 2023

### BCN CLEANUP £18

**Location:** Walsall Canal, Birmingham  
**Activities:** Canal Cleanup  
**Dates:** 25th-26th March

Ever wondered what is lurking beneath the waters of the Birmingham Canal Navigations? Over the past 5 years, over 150 tonnes of rubbish has been cleared from the BCN – including lots of treasures such as an electric guitar, motorcycles, a safe, a sword, a coffin and of course lots of shopping trolleys!

WRG annual cleanup weekend is a great opportunity to have fun and meet new people whilst making a welcomed improvement to Birmingham's Canals.

## WENDOVER CANAL FAMILY WEEKEND CAMP £25

**Location:** Tring, Hertfordshire  
**Activities:** Environmental  
**Dates:** 14th-16th April (arrive Friday evening)

Due to popular demand, WRG Family Canal Camps are back! This year we are looking forward to welcoming families to Whitehouse's Pocket Park on the Wendover Canal for a weekend of fun environmental based activities. Families will be provided with accommodation at Green Park Outdoor Centre. The activities undertaken will make practical improvement to the canals, help enhance the waterways for wildlife and to teach children what it is like to 'live like a Navy'!

**OPEN TO FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN 6 AND 14**



## COTSWOLD CANALS JOHN ROBINSON LOCK £80

**Location:** Gloucestershire  
**Activities:** Lock Restoration  
**Dates:** 1st-8th July, 8th-15th July (NWPG), 15th-22nd July (KESCRG)

Our latest contribution to the restoration and reopening of the Cotswold Canals will be to rebuild the part-demolished and largely buried Westfield Lock (now John Robinson Lock) and to reinstate the aqueduct/culvert carrying a stream under its top end. We are running three camps this summer, with our friends in KESCRG (Kent and East Sussex Canal Restoration Group) and NWPG (Newbury Working Party Group) supporting two of them.

Volunteers will be at the start of this exciting project – both preparing the former Westfield Lock ready for the restoration, then investigating and repairing the structure. Above the lock the canal must pass over Oldbury Brook, which will eventually be channelled under the canal in pipes with inlet and outfall structures at either end. However to enable the restoration works on the lock we need to perform some temporary works to divert the brook away from the lock. This will both protect the initial lock works and enable some further investigation of the entrance to the lock. Expect lots of brickwork (preparation, repair and rebuilding).

## LICHFIELD CANAL £80

**Location:** Lichfield Canal, Staffordshire  
**Activities:** Towpath construction  
**Dates:** 22nd-29th July, 29th July-5th August

The Lichfield Canal covers a distance of over seven miles through 30 locks. Despite the challenges, such as new main roads built across the line of the canal since it closed, restoration continues to make significant progress. Our job for this summer is to construct 300m of new towpath through a canal-side copse as part of the Darnford Moors Ecology Park. The path will be made up with timber edging and a compacted stone infill. A contractor is currently on site building the canal channel and it is expected that we will also get to work on this section once they have completed their works.



## COTSWOLD CANALS WEYMOOR CULVERT £80

**Location:** Wiltshire  
**Activities:** Culvert installation and Channel works  
**Dates:** 22nd-29th July, 29th July-5th August

Restoration of the Cotswold Canals is one of the largest projects in the UK. In the past, WRG and local volunteers have rebuilt Weymoor Bridge to carry traffic across the canal channel.

This summer we will be spending a further two weeks diverting a nearby stream under the canal bed and then constructing the canal channel on top of the stream. The timing of this camp aims to allow the work to be carried out during low water flows in the stream.

## LAPAL CANAL £80

**Location:** Lapal Canal, Birmingham  
**Activities:** Access ramp construction  
**Dates:** 5th-12th August

The Lapal Canal Trust was established in 1990 by a group of environmental and canal enthusiasts with the objective of restoring the Dudley No 2 Canal, more popularly known as Lapal, from Selly Oak to Halesowen. The Trust is now focused on restoring the canal from Selly Oak to California. Works undertaken last year created a new wharf and turning basin on the Worcester & Birmingham Canal to enable visiting boats to enter the Lapal Canal. At present there is an informal path between a bridge and the towpath. Volunteers will be engaged in excavating the ground and building a new hardened path suitable for all users. This new access will consist of a switch-back ramp and pedestrian steps. A post and rail fence will be erected. The towpath there will also be upgraded.



## DERBY CANAL £80

**Location:** Derby Canal, Derbyshire  
**Activities:** Brickwork/masonry repairs  
**Dates:** 5th-12th August

The Derby Canal once ran from Sandiacre on the Erewash Canal westwards to Derby, then South to meet the Trent & Mersey Canal at Swarkestone. The length through Derby has been largely obliterated by redevelopment since the canal closed - but Derby & Sandiacre Canal Trust has a cunning plan to get back there using a combination of a section of new canal, a canalised length of river, and a new boat lift called the Derby Arm. WRG have held camps at Borrowash for several years and have been engaged in remedial work to the lock chamber. This Canal Camp is still at the planning stage. We hope to give details of the camp and open it for bookings soon. It is expected that the main work will involve rebuilding masonry canal walls.



## LOUTH NAVIGATION £80

**Location:** Louth Navigation  
**Activities:** Lock Chamber repairs  
**Dates:** 12th-19th August

Louth Navigation Trust has restored the historic Navigation Warehouse in Louth, improved the towpath, and carried out remedial work to some of the surviving locks.

We will be continuing this at Ticklepenney Lock, a barrel sided lock thought to be unique to the Louth Navigation. The brickwork is in a poor state of repair and volunteers will be engaged in restoring the lock chamber brickwork using brick recovered from the lock chamber using traditional heritage methods.

## NEATH CANAL £80

**Location:** Neath Canal, South Wales  
**Activities:** Drainage work and bridge building  
**Date:** 18th-25th August

A new organisation, the Ty Banc Canal Group, has been formed with the aim of enhancing and promoting the canal. We will be working with them on various aspects of their navigation.

At present, the Neath Canal flows over the towpath in wet weather at three locations and the drainage pipes are not large enough to carry water flow. Volunteers will install new drainage under the towpath at these three locations. In addition, two timber footbridges at locks have been removed preventing access to the lock island for vegetation management and these need to be replaced. Work could also include building an overflow weir, reinstating coping stones on an aqueduct and bridge, bank protection and vegetation clearance.



*Book Now*

CONTACT US |  01494 783 453

# LOVE YOUR WATERWAYS

Over five hundred miles of the UK's waterways have been saved from dereliction since the Inland Waterways Association (IWA) was founded in 1946. Many more miles are gradually being brought back to life thanks to the work of IWA and WRG volunteers as well as the extraordinary hard work and dedication of restoration groups all over the country.

WRG is part of IWA and together we aim to support, enable and champion restoration nationally. IWA spends around a third of its membership subscription income to benefit WRG's practical hands on work. And it's not just financially that IWA supports restoration. Volunteers regularly lobby politicians, provide advice, expertise and publicity and combined with WRG volunteers our aim is to ensure the future of our waterway heritage.

Interested in volunteering with IWA at your local waterway? Sign up to find out more:  
<https://waterways.org.uk/volunteer>

Help us continue to campaign to protect the waterways you love. Join IWA as a member – your support can make a difference: <https://waterways.org.uk/join>

## PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS CAMPAIGN

IWA is deeply concerned about the threat to our waterways posed by funding cuts and has therefore launched a new campaign to #ProtectOurWaterways. IWA will not let the waterways network fall into disrepair, but we need your support.

**TEXT IWA TO 70085 TO DONATE £5**



If you don't wish to hear more from us, text IWANOINFO instead. If you'd like to donate an amount other than £5, between £1-£20, you can do so by including a number after IWA in your message e.g. text IWA 10 to donate £10. Texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message.

# NEW VIRTUAL RESTORATION HUB

The Inland Waterways Association's Restoration Hub was formed in 2017 to provide a centralised service for advice and resources, plus practical hands-on support, to enable waterway restoration groups to manage their waterway projects. The Hub supports the creation of a robust and vibrant waterway restoration sector, delivering re-openings of waterways and preserving our unique waterway heritage structures.

As part of the Hub, we have recently launched IWA's virtual Restoration Hub which is a shared space for waterway restoration volunteers, organisations and other groups.

Like many waterway restorations this area of the site is a work in progress and we will regularly be updating the site with the latest news and information.

The virtual Restoration Hub contains useful resources such as:

- Series of toolkits on fundraising, safety, technical and environmental issues
- Restoration TV
- Details of the Annual Waterways Restoration Conference, events and workshops
- WRG's Driver Authorisation – forms and information

**This is a free resource but donations are always welcome to help continue our support to restoration.**

*Keep up to date with WRG*




@WRG\_NAVVIES



FACEBOOK.COM/WATERWAYRECOVERYGROUP

*Contact us for more details*


**WATERWAYS.ORG.UK/RESTORATIONHUB**



*I can always ask for help and guidance and no one minds, everyone always has a smile on their face.*  
**Matt**

*One of my favourite parts of the week was the frequent involvement with copious amount of mud and the things lurking in it! I would definitely be returning for another camp and would recommend that anyone else considering it should go for it wholeheartedly.*  
**Will**

*By the end of the first work day you have a new bunch of friends and by the end of the week a great sense of achievement!*  
**Stuart**



*Over the years I've been involved with WRG, the women I've met have taught me to be unapologetic about having an 'unusual' interest, which is a very valuable life lesson.*  
**Jess**

*WRG has some legendary characters, many of whom are, or were, women with a solid layer of strength running through their core. They taught me to have a voice, they taught me to never be afraid to have a go, and they taught me that you will find kindness if you look in the right places.*  
**Ali**

## WOMEN IN WATERWAY RESTORATION

WRG would love more women to get involved in Waterways Restoration and readdress the gender imbalance. Although there is no shortage of women in WRG restoration projects, there seems to be less female involvement with regards to training, which is a real shame as our WRG women's experience of learning to drive plants and vehicles is extremely positive! It could be a great opportunity to learn something different in a wonderfully welcoming environment, where gender stereotypes are ignored.

After a few camps, you might be happily operating every piece of plant and vehicles available on site!

WRG met four IWA stalwarts inspiring more women to get stuck into waterways work. To find out more: [www.waterways.org.uk/women-in-restoration](http://www.waterways.org.uk/women-in-restoration)

*Visit our website to find out more:*  
**WATERWAYS.ORG.UK/CANALCAMP**





**WATERWAY  
RECOVERY**  
GROUP



**[WATERWAYS.ORG.UK/CANALCAMPS](https://www.waterways.org.uk/canalcamps)**

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WRG reserves the right to decline bookings without a specified reason. Photos supplied by WRG volunteers.