



Inland Waterways Association - Canal & River Trust Restoration Conference 2024 Connected Working in Restoration

Speakers' Briefs

Session 1:

Environmental constraints and opportunities on restoration projects

Eoin Harris, Head of Environment & Climate Action at Canal & River Trust

Our natural environment is of critical importance to us as a society – from the protection of endangered species, preserving ecosystem functioning for wider societal benefits, climate regulation through to delivering high quality places for people to enjoy. Our elected bodies are understandably seeking to steer policy and regulation to deliver the best outcomes for environment with a complex range of legislation. In this session, Eoin will look at the key environmental drivers relating to canal restorations and provide some insights on how to deliver maximum benefit and adhere to the broad environmental regulations in place.

Session 2:

Temporary works

Mark Bevan, Directors at Kuso Construction and Francis Holden, Temporary Works Coordinator

- Introduction to temporary works
- What are temporary works and why do we need them
- What temporary works do we require
- How to manage temporary works
- What the law says we have to do
- How can KUSO support the project

Morning Breakout Workshop Options

A: No two people are the same - Overcoming mental and physical challenges in restoration volunteering

Claire Cavender, Volunteer with Buckingham Canal Society and Jenny Hodson, Volunteer Manager at IWA

In the UK there are more than seven million people of working age with a disability or long-term health condition, so how many is that if we include retired who also continue within volunteering roles.

Jenny and Claire will discuss issues that are pertinent to being able to help you to feel safe and secure when including people with a number of different health issues.

The session will discuss a wide variety of challenges individual have then be looking at ways that organisations can accommodate these challenges and groups out there to support you.

B: Creating capacity for restoration

Chris Madge (Derby and Sandiacre), George Rogers (Chesterfield) and Terry Cavender (Buckingham), IWA Restoration hub High Level Panel

Many restoration trusts are facing challenges to get access to the range of skills necessary to restore canals safely, efficiently and within budget. Individual trusts cannot create a pool of skills to cover all eventualities and may not be experienced in contracting with and managing contractors and consultants. The Restoration Hub goes some way towards addressing this, but there are still many gaps. The High Level Panel of the IWA Restoration Hub asked three members to undertake research to determine the range of skills required, the current capacity for delivering those skills and how the IWA might support the restoration sector to increase the capacity.

The session will be introduced by Nick Dybeck (IWA Vice Chair for Restoration). Following this, Chris Madge (Derby & Sandiacre), George Rogers (Chesterfield) and Terry Cavender (Buckingham) will each lead one third of the group in a roundtable discussion, focussing on the skills required for restoration, how the groups currently meet (or otherwise) the skills and how they are looking to fill any skills gaps they have. After the session, Chris, George & Terry will collate all of the feedback and follow up with individual groups as appropriate, before presenting the findings back to the High Level Panel and Trustees in July.

Session 3:

Managing and growing the skills on your restoration sites

Mike Palmer, Chairman of Waterway Recovery Group

If there is one clear message that comes both from and to the IWAs Restoration Hub it is that Restoration Projects require a considerable variety of skills, and that the mix of those skills is continuously evolving.

Which brings two challenges – how do you ensure you have the skills available as you require them, and then how do you manage the work so that the skills are applied safely and effectively?

Mike Palmer will discuss some of the barriers to those two challenges and present some examples of overcoming them.

Afternoon Breakout Workshop Options

C: Diversifying your volunteer base

Jenny Hodson, Volunteer Manager at IWA and Darren Starling, Volunteer Team Leader London East at Canal & River Trust

An interaction-based session conversing around the issues and ideas of how we can attract a wider range of volunteers. How do we go about it? Why do we struggle with it? Where can we try? Why do we as an individual society even want to? Who do we know within our present volunteers wider networks? Benefits and pitfalls, concerns we may have around more diverse participation, cultural or religious issues and how to overcome or are they all in our heads.

D: What lies beneath... One small team, giant support for organisation. Campaign and Membership Management within a small team

Lisa Mant, General Manager at the Cotswold Canals Trust

Lisa will be joined by Aimee Malcolm, who worked as Cotswold Canals Trust's Fundraising Ambassador from 2019 to November 2022. Together they kept the charity running through Covid, delivered PR for A38 Whitminster Roundabout, managed a fundraising campaign 'Stay Afloat' and so much more... they have agreed to share insights about how to manage a small office and meet the requirements and sometimes demands of volunteers, the public and funders.