



Working party – pre event information and advice for volunteers

Dear Volunteer,

Thank you for giving us some of your time to help maintain and protect the canal. The information below is to ensure you know about what to expect on the day(s) and what to bring with you, so you have an enjoyable time – and join us again !

If you are a regular volunteer there may be things you need to remember, so please read on...!

Thank you.

Start and finish

The working party will take place between the hours of 10-4pm. You do not need to stay all day, but it would be helpful if you could arrive for the start time to ensure everyone can hear the briefing at the same time. If you cannot come for both days, that's fine too.

Aim of the work party and tasks to be undertaken

The tasks to be undertaken will be fully outlined at the start of the day by the Working Party Organiser (WPO).

Dates, location, parking and transport

Dates and location – will be available on our website and Facebook page, or by contacting the WPO by phone/email.

Parking – there are usually a few places to park. Please park considerately, we do not want to antagonise local neighbours.

Public transport – In most places there is a local bus service.

If you need a lift, please email the WPO who will see if anyone else can pick you up.

Bicycle – please ensure you bring a bike lock so your cycle will be secure

Clothing, PPE and footwear

Please bear in mind the weather forecast, in case you need a coat or sun cream etc. However, please ensure you wear the following:

- * Footwear – sturdy boots, preferably with steel toe caps
- * Gloves – working gloves if you have them
- * PPE – please bring a hi viz vest and hard hat if you have them.
- * Clothing – wear things you don't mind getting muddy or torn! Clothing should allow ease of movement, but not loose so it gets in the way of tools you are using. Dress in layers so you can add/remove layers as you need to, according to the weather.

Refreshments

We will supply hot drinks and biscuits but please bring your own packed lunch. Also bring any cold drinks or fruit juice that you may want between breaks, especially if it is hot weather.

Toilets and washing facilities

We cannot provide toilet facilities on the day. We cannot provide hand washing facilities either, which is another important reason to wear gloves. However, we will have hand sanitiser available.

Training

You do not need specific training for most of the tasks we undertake. However, you will need training for tasks involving use of chainsaws, strimmers, diggers and dumpers. We keep records on the task competencies of our volunteers so we know what training you need and would like.

Tools and equipment

Hand tools will be provided: spades, pick axes, slashers, forks, brushes, rakes, loppers, saws, etc. If you would like to bring your own tools, please do so – however, the WPO will need to check over them to ensure they are safe to use.

Phones, personal possessions and cameras

Please keep these safe at all times. Ask a car owner if you can lock them away, or keep them secure in pockets.

We like to record our work, so please let the WPO know if you do not want to be included in any photos.

Medical conditions and illness

Pre-existing medical conditions – please make the WPO aware of any which may affect you during the day (eg: allergies).

Next of kin – in the unlikely event of an accident, please provide a name & phone number to the WPO on the day.

Temporary illness – if you have a cold or other illness, don't feel guilty for not coming along – we don't want you making yourself worse or passing on any germs! However, if you could let the WPO know beforehand, that would be useful.

Children

Children are welcome to come along. However, they are your responsibility; please make sure you look after them at all times and they follow the instructions on the day for their own safety and enjoyment.