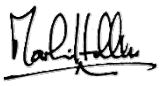
Wilts & Berks Canal Trust

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

Restoring 70 miles of canal and towpath for the benefit of local communities, wildlife and leisure

Document Details	
Document Number	POL PPL.06
Document Title	WBCT Policy: Membership and Volunteers
Internal Revision	2.0
Document Status	Approved

Document Review and Approval			
	Name and Position	**Signature**	**Date**
Prepared By	Johnnie Graham		5 Dec 2025
Checked By	Policy Working Group		5 Dec 2025
Approved By	Martin Holliss		5 Dec 2025

Revision History			
Rev.	**Amendment**	**prepared by**	**Date**
0.0	Original procedure		21 Sep 2004
0.1	Initial Draft revision	SJW	28 Dec 2016
0.2	Further revision	SJW	6 Jan 2017
1.0	BoT approval		26 Jan 2017
1.2	Revised	JL	26 Apr 2022
1.3	Further revision	JL	26 Apr 2022
2.0	Revised and reformatted; procedural elements removed	Johnnie Graham	5 Dec 2025

Revision History			
Rev.	**Amendment**	**prepared by**	**Date**

	Wilts & Berks Canal Trust	POL PPL.06 rev 2.0
	WBCT Policy: **Membership and Volunteers**	5 Dec 2025

Background

The Wilts & Berks Canal Trust (WBCT) exists to protect, conserve, restore and improve the routes of the Wilts & Berks Canal for the benefit of the community and the environment.

This policy sets out the principles that define the Trust's relationship with its members and volunteers. It affirms the values of mutual respect, inclusiveness, and shared responsibility in furthering the restoration and conservation of the canal.

Policy

The Trust is, and should remain, a volunteer-led membership organisation.

Volunteering

- The contribution of all volunteers should be recognised with appreciation and courtesy.
- The Trust will create meaningful volunteering opportunities (whether "dirty boots" or "clean shoes") that match individual availability and skills.
- The Trust acknowledges varying levels of commitment.
- As a general principle, Volunteers are actively encouraged to be Members of the Trust. Membership subscriptions form an important part of the Trust's core funding and provide a foundation for our volunteer work.

Membership

- Members should be viewed as vital stakeholders (e.g. through advocacy, fundraising, participation in activities and promotion of the Trust's aims) whether or not they are active volunteers.
- To encourage membership, Members should receive a number of benefits that are not available to non-Members.

Legal and Regulatory Framework

WBCT will follow guidance from the Charity Commission on managing our members and volunteers.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Trust undertakes to:

- Provide a welcoming and inclusive environment for members and volunteers.
- Offer opportunities that are safe, purposeful and aligned with the Trust's charitable aims.
- Respect the contributions and ideas of members and volunteers.
- Recognise and celebrate the role of members and volunteers in advancing restoration.

Members and volunteers undertake to:

- Act in ways that support the objectives and reputation of the Trust.
- Carry out tasks or responsibilities with commitment, courtesy and integrity.
- Respect fellow members, volunteers, officers and stakeholders.
- Uphold the Trust's values of co-operation, safety and inclusivity.
- Comply with this policy

The COO will be responsible for the communication, dissemination and implementation of this policy through the SLT and Branch Chairs.

This policy will be reviewed every three years.