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

GIS/CAD Technician (Volunteer)

Reports to Engineering Director
Time commitment To be agreed with the Engineering Director

Background

The Wilts & Berks Canal Trust is the longest canal restoration in the UK and has recently developed its 25-year vision and five-year business plan. This is an exciting time to join the Trust and contribute to the nine communities along the route.

We are looking for a GIS/CAD Technician to provide maps and plans from Ordnance Survey (OS) data sets and other survey sources, supporting the Heads of Planning, Engineering Design and Communications. The role will help the Trust respond to planning consultations and deliver engineering and other projects with accurate, accessible mapping and spatial data, and will contribute to developing our digital mapping capabilities.

Key Activities

GIS and Digital Mapping

- Assist in the maintenance of the Trust's GIS systems, ensuring that base mapping, land information, Trust data and other spatial datasets are accurate and up to date.
- Create, update and manage digital maps to support engineering design, masterplanning, planning applications and responses to planning consultations.
- Produce specialist, site-specific and local-area maps for feasibility studies, technical assessments, projects, reports, presentations and promotional materials.
- Prepare and export spatial data in suitable formats, including shapefiles, as required by colleagues, project partners and external consultants.

Masterplanning and Spatial Data Management

- Assist in the maintenance and development of the masterplan database and its associated datasets, layers and supporting information.
- Advise colleagues on the structure, management, accessibility and effective use of GIS data.
- Identify opportunities to improve the quality, consistency and usability of spatial information and mapping resources.
- Maintain appropriate records of data sources, updates and any relevant limitations or assumptions.

CAD, BIM and Technical Support

- Support the preparation and interpretation of engineering drawings and spatial information using appropriate CAD tools, where required.
- Where skills and software are available, assist with integrating GIS data with CAD drawings and Building Information Modelling (BIM) systems.
- Explore opportunities to improve the interoperability of mapping, engineering and masterplanning data.
- Provide technical advice and support to colleagues on GIS, digital mapping and associated data-management processes.

Working Relationships

- **Engineering Director** – providing technical mapping and spatial data support.
- **Head of Planning** – supporting planning activities, applications and consultation responses.
- **Communications Director** – producing maps and visual materials for communications and promotional purposes.
- **Project Managers** – providing project-specific mapping, spatial analysis and data outputs.
- **External Consultants** – coordinating the exchange and use of spatial data, maps and technical information.

Experience

Essential

- Demonstrable knowledge and practical experience of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), including creating, editing, managing and presenting spatial data.
- Competence in producing clear, accurate and appropriately formatted digital maps.
- An understanding of spatial datasets, coordinate systems, data formats and the principles of GIS data management.
- Good organisational skills, with the ability to maintain structured databases and manage information accurately.
- Attention to detail and a commitment to the quality and consistency of mapping outputs.
- Ability to work independently, manage priorities and deliver agreed tasks.
- Good communication skills and the ability to collaborate with colleagues and external stakeholders.

Desirable

- Experience of GIS and ideally CAD software, and the interpretation or preparation of technical drawings.
- Familiarity with Building Information Modelling (BIM) software and workflows, and experience of integrating GIS, CAD and BIM data.
- Knowledge of planning, engineering, infrastructure or masterplanning projects.
- Experience of working with land ownership information, site boundaries, constraints mapping and other planning-related spatial datasets.

- Familiarity with spatial data formats such as shapefiles, GeoPackage, GeoJSON and georeferenced CAD drawings.
- Experience of spatial analysis, data visualisation and the presentation of technical information.

Nature of the Appointment

This is a voluntary role offering the chance to contribute specialist GIS, mapping and technical skills to the Trust's engineering, planning and masterplanning work. The post holder will work within agreed priorities, project requirements and Trust procedures.