

## WRG TRAINING AWARD INFORMATION

The WRG Training Award has been set up to assist with the cost of training volunteers in skills associated with inland waterway restoration. Since the early years, restoration projects have gradually become more and more complex, requiring volunteers to operate large machinery, conduct extensive surveys and deal with increasingly demanding legislation, all to the very highest standards. The WRG Training Award aims to promote a more confident and skilled volunteer workforce.

The criteria for the award are set deliberately wide and encourage applications from individuals as well as canal societies who may wish to organise training for a group of volunteers. Although there is a list of 'preferred areas' (see red box) applications will be accepted for any area of training.

### RESTORATION SKILLS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST

Construction/ Restoration Techniques; Brickwork; Stonework; Woodwork; Ironwork; Bank Protection; Boat/ engine restoration; Lifting and Handling; Plant; Any plant or equipment covered by WRG Driver Authorisation Scheme; Tirfor winches; Chainsaw, Strimmers and Forestry; Plant Maintenance; Environmental Science; Ecology Surveys; Nature Conservation; Design of mitigation measures; Hedge-laying; Project Skills; Safety Management; Heritage Management; Planning; Leadership; Quantity Surveying; Engineering Design; Archaeology/ Recording Techniques; First Aid.

## GUIDANCE NOTES FOR APPLICATIONS

1. A single contact should be given for correspondence. Other people covered by the application (if any) should be listed on the reverse side of the form or as an appendix to it.
2. Applicants must include full details of the training, not to exceed four sides of A4 paper, which should be enclosed with the application. Applicants are advised to note the list appended to these notes regarding areas the judges feel that are currently lacking. However applications do not have to be in this group. Good opportunities to train in any area should be advanced if good value or other significant benefits to the waterways are offered.
3. We wish to encourage co-operation between different groups involved in waterway restoration. Any submission must have the backing of the management of at least one waterway restoration society. Submissions from several groups that are not specific to a particular site should still have the backing of a restoration society. **A suitable letter detailing this support should be enclosed with the applications.**
4. **The training course should provide a recognised qualification.** This would normally be one provided by a recognised training organisation. However, in exceptional circumstances, it may be an 'internal' course run by WRG, IWA's Restoration Committee or any local society should such skills arise, and if the judges are satisfied that the results would be beneficial to waterway restoration.
5. This award can provide up to **75% of the direct costs** (i.e. course costs, travel and accommodation expense) **up to a maximum of £750**. Costs should be given as 'per person'.
6. WRG will make up to a **maximum of 6 Awards per year**. Applications are welcome throughout the year. All submissions will be judged by the WRG Committee at their bi-monthly meetings.
7. The award is made subject to conditions, including publicity and verification of expenditure that will be detailed upon the grant of the award.
8. The judges' decision will be subject to ratification by WRG's Board, which will be final. WRG reserve the right to not discuss details regarding applicants nor make their reasoning known.
9. WRG Training Award will be granted either to the restoration group or the individual concerned upon proof of the expenditure (such as copies of invoices/ receipts/ etc).
10. Grant applications must be received in good time **before training has commenced** to allow time for review and discussion. We will not fund retrospective applications.



**Please send application form with accompanying details to  
WRG Training Grant, Island House, Moor Road, Chesham, HP5 1WA.**