

**Christopher McKenna**  
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**07813 944 668 – [cmckenna@sucs.org](mailto:cmckenna@sucs.org)**

Since late 2006 I have had a variety of formal and informal employed and voluntary roles interspersed with short and long term personal projects and caring responsibilities.

I have travelled to Europe and extensively within in Great Britain, visiting a wide variety of places of historical and cultural significance. I have used this travel to develop my photographic skills and have sold images to organisations including the Institute of Civil Engineers, Caerphilly County Borough Council and individual authors. I have also been contracted to take photographs of corporate events by a small company.

I have engaged in voluntary work providing computer technical support, as a proofreader for several online authors, as a moderator on a musician's internet forum and as a superuser on a busy interactive discussion forum. I am a senior member of a large, well respected London Underground forum, where I have provided assistance to many people looking for information and advice about public transport in London. Since 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007 I have run a daily quiz for people to identify Transport for London stations, setting over 3000 questions and taking almost 90% of the photographs.

I have been an active editor on Wikipedia and sister projects since Christmas 2004, and an administrator since mid-2005. For the calendar year 2015 I was elected as one of 15 arbitrators on the English Wikipedia's Arbitration Committee, the highest dispute resolution body on the site. As part of this high-profile role I was also responsible for dealing with confidential information about users and article subjects and dealing with the appeals of blocked and banned contributors in a timely manner.

During 2008, and again from 2010 I have been an active member of the local archaeology group for the west Essex and north-east London area, taking part in several archaeological excavations and carrying out many geophysical surveys.

Between September 2010 and December 2013 I studied for a photography degree at the University of East London, successfully completing the first two years and most of the final year before suspending my studies for family reasons. I intend to resume these studies, but not before the 2017-18 academic year. From September 2014 I acted as a carer for my partner following a significant medical operation, this was initially a full time role, gradually decreasing through the approximately six months recovery period.

## **FORMAL EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

### **Wikimania Support Contractor**

May – August 2014

### **Wikimedia UK**

I was one of a small team contracted to assist with the planning and implementation of Wikimania, the major international conference for Wikipedia and sister projects. I was responsible for many aspects of the organisation, particularly taking a lead on the recruiting, training and assisting the large number of volunteers required to run the conference. Additionally I issued letters assisting qualified conference attendees to gain the necessary UK visas.

During the conference I was one of the principle photographers alongside providing assistance to volunteers and attendees as necessary.

### **Rural Development Advisor**

Feb 2005 – Oct 2006

### **Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)**

As part of Defra, the Rural Development Service I was responsible for the creation and management of schemes to maximise the environmental benefit from farmed land in England. Rural Development Advisers were responsible for end-to-end processing of scheme agreements between Defra, farmers, land owners and other land managers.

- Administrative checking of new applications and requested amendments.
- Planning and undertaking extensive fieldwork to produce and check farm environmental plans.
- Administrative input into high-level computer system to produce new or amended scheme documentation including maps. Checking of maps and documents produced to ensure accuracy.
- Processing of claim agreements for existing agreement holders, ensuring the accuracy of the claim.

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I took on additional responsibilities which included production of maps of the team area to facilitate allocation of work and contact with potential agreement holder. Production of maps showing joint character areas, rural designations and other statutory datasets which were utilised as references for the whole team.

Through my employment with Defra I was technical support for the national electronic buddy system utilised by the lone workers within Defra. This responsibility included maintenance of the dedicated computer, regular testing of the system, and ensuring buddy cover was maintained. I liaised with and liaison with the Regional Health and Safety Officer regarding the continuing fitness for purpose of the existing system. On a recommendation from the National Health and Safety committee I undertook research into the use of the existing system and potential replacement systems available. I made a recommendation to the National Health and Safety Committee for a replacement which was taken forwards to the Senior Management Team.

**Cartographer**

Nov 2001 – Jan 2005

**Department for Environment Food  
and Rural Affairs (Defra)**

Cartographers were responsible for the creation and amendment of digital maps of farm-scale agreements.

- Creation of digital maps from hand-drawn drafts.
- Update and amend existing digital maps from information provided by field-based Project Officers.
- Running computer checks of land against various statutory datasets, for example sites and monuments records and nitrate vulnerable zones.
- Reconciling areas found from digital mapping with the national land registration database (IACS) and on-the-ground measurements.
- Maintaining a high degree of accuracy when producing maps and schedules.
- Identifying and resolving problems while processing case files.
- Respecting confidentiality of agreement holders.

During a European Union-initiated national reconciliation exercise, I took on the responsibility of collating the statistics for the Bristol, Taunton and Dorchester offices. As part of this I redesigned the monitoring form and streamlined the local database, significantly improving the efficiency of the process. I volunteered to become a first aider for the Bristol site, and after completing the four-day First Aider at Work qualification, served as a duty on-call first aider for three years.

**Branch Administrator**

Sept 2001 – Nov 2001

**Pre-School Learning Alliance**

Pre-school Learning Alliance is an educational charity that provides training, advice and support to voluntary pre-school education establishments in England. Based in the South West Region office the Branch Administrator provided office support to the home-based Development Workers.

- Answering the telephone, taking messages and dealing with queries from staff and service users.
- Arranging appointments between Development Workers, pre-school committee members and other service users.
- Managing a database of pre-school establishments in the branch for mail-shots and statistical analysis.
- Production and distribution of mail-shots and newsletters to ensure service users were fully informed about training opportunities, meetings and other branch services.
- Taking minutes at branch meetings.

Whilst employed by the Pre-school Learning Alliance I was chosen to develop and streamline the database of pre-schools, introducing efficiencies in the distribution of the branch newsletter and mail-shots.

**June 1998 – August 2001**

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During this period I held a number of positions including, Catering Assistant, Waiter, Hospitality Host, I also undertook a university course. Further details of these positions are available on request. These roles required a variety of skills including;

- Communication and interpersonal-skills dealing with customers and colleagues
- Accuracy in cash handling
- Maintaining health and hygiene standards in a catering environment
- Positive attitude whilst working in a high pressure environment

## **COMPLETED EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

### **Wikimedia UK**

Accredited trainer

Project management

### **Internal Training (Defra)**

- Memory Skills
- Health & Safety at Work
- St John's First Aid at Work (Expired)
- Business Writing
- On-farm Health and Safety

**A-level:** Computing (B), Psychology (B), Geography (C)    1996-1998    Kings of Wessex, Cheddar

**GCSE:** IT (A\*), Double Award Science (A,A),

Geography (B), Mathematics (B), English Language(B)    1994-1996    Kings of Wessex, Cheddar  
English Literature (C), German (C), Art Graphics (D)