

Christopher McKenna
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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, developing 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.

I have engaged in voluntary work including providing computer technical support, proofreader for several authors, as moderator or superuser on multiple internet discussion forums.

I am a senior member of a large, well respected London Underground forum, where I have provided information and assistance to many people regarding public transport in London. Since 2007 I have run a daily quiz for people to identify Transport for London stations, setting nearly 4000 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 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 also dealt with confidential information about users and article subjects and dealing with the appeals of blocked and banned contributors in a timely manner. Since then I have been a functionary, responsible for promptly removing libellous material and unauthorised disclosure of personal information.

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 excavations and 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 2018-19 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

Wikimedia UK

May – August 2014

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

Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

Feb 2005 – Oct 2006

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 a 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.

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

Throughout my employment with Defra I was technical support for the national electronic buddy system utilised by lone workers. This responsibility included maintenance of the dedicated computer, regular

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testing of the system, and ensuring buddy cover was maintained. I liaised with the Regional Health and Safety Officer regarding the continuing fitness for purpose of the existing system. I undertook research into the use of the system and potential replacements. 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 officers.
- Running computer checks of land against various statutory datasets.
- Reconciling areas found from digital mapping. the national land registration database 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. 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

Based in the regional office, I provided office support to home-based workers providing advice and support to voluntary pre-school education establishments.

- Answering the telephone, taking messages and dealing with queries from staff and service users.
- Arranging appointments between staff, pre-school committee members and other service users.
- Managing a database of pre-schools in the branch for mail-shots and statistical analysis.
- Production and distribution of mail-shots and newsletters.
- Taking minutes at branch meetings.

I was chosen to develop and streamline the database of pre-schools, introducing efficiencies in the distribution of the newsletter and mail-shots.

June 1998 – August 2001

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

- Accredited trainer (Wikimedia UK)
- Project management (Wikimedia UK)
- Memory Skills (Defra)
- Business Writing (Defra)
- Health & Safety at Work (Defra)
- On-farm Health and Safety (Defra)
- St John's First Aid at Work (Expired) (Defra)

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