



Canal & River Maintenance Investigation

The canals in Britain have been around for hundreds of years, and have been sources of great engineering innovation, important transport infrastructure as well as vital environments for wildlife.

The Canal & River Trust look after 2000 miles of canals, as well as lots of bridges, docks, aqueducts and much more. We need to make sure that the canals are well-maintained and safe, as well as being great places for wildlife to live.

Lots of boats travel on the canals every day, and lots of people visit the towpath (the path by the side of the canal) so it is important that our engineers think carefully about the structure of the canal banks. However, as you have learnt in the presentation, different methods of bank protection mean different things for wildlife.

Your Challenge:

You need to come up with a method of protecting canal banks, learning from the ideas you have been taught about. Here are some things to think about:

- What happens on your local canal? Are there lots of boats and what kind of boats are they? Or it is more of a wildlife hub. Think about how this could affect what kind of protection the banks need.
- What kind of wildlife lives in your local canals – interesting birds? Unique types of fish? What do they need to live safely?
- What is the land around the canal used for – it is mainly houses or is it countryside. Could this affect what kind of protection you need?

Your Solution:

Your method of bank of protection could take lots of different forms. It could be:

- A physical method of bank protection – using specific materials in a specially designed way
- A different way for the canal to be used – you could limit traffic to help wildlife.

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- Processes for the surrounding areas to follow – maybe creating extra habits for animals

Presenting Your Ideas:

When you have come up with your idea of bank protection you should be able to present it.

It might be a good idea to make a model of your bank protection, or create a poster showing your ideas.

The people you will be presenting to will be engineers and scientists from the Canal & River Trust who are experts in bank protection and wildlife.

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