

## **Employee Volunteering Partnerships.** Bank Of America Merrill Lynch

### **Team Days - Case Study**

**Who:** Bank Of America Merrill Lynch, Chester. BAML are the corporate and investment banking division of Bank of America. From its HQ in Bank of America Tower in New York, the company conducts operations across the entire globe. In the UK BAML has its European, Middle East & African HQ in Canada Square, London and its European Credit Card Operations HQ in Chester.

**Where:** Shropshire Union Canal, Ellesmere Port near Ellesmere Port Boat Museum.

**What:** 25 employee volunteers from BAML installed 15 metres of soft bank protection (special matting and reeds at the edge of the canal to stop the banks eroding) to a section of Shropshire Union Canal near to Ellesmere Port Boat Museum. The volunteers installed coir rolls providing a stable canal wall for the next 25 years. This method of bank protection provides a lasting rich habitat for aquatic wildlife including water voles, amphibians, invertebrates and water fowl. The mixed aquatic flora pre-planted in the rolls will prove to be an added attraction for visitors to the area and make a huge improvement to the biodiversity of the canal.

**What the volunteers thought:** *"We're really pleased that the team from Bank of America Merrill Lynch and MBNA were able to use their volunteering time to help care for a stretch of this historic canal. We hope that, with teams across the business working together in our local area, **our volunteers made a real difference** not only for local communities enjoying the surroundings but also the wildlife that depends on **clean and healthy waterways**."* Andrew Lowe BAML

**What the local community and CRT team thought:** *"I'd like to thank the volunteers from Bank of America Merrill Lynch and MBNA for all their hard work on this project. It was great to see **everybody enjoying themselves** and their efforts will benefit this part of the canal for years to come"* Glen Young VC CRT

**Who else heard:** Article below that featured in The Chester Chronicle:

*A stretch of the Shropshire Union Canal near Ellesmere Port has been given a new lease of life thanks to the efforts of 20 volunteers.*

*The team from Bank of America Merrill Lynch and MBNA, based at Chester Business Park, dived into a one-day project with The Canal & River Trust to provide better access to the water for wildlife, including ducklings, cygnets, moorhens and herons.*

*Volunteers also removed litter from the canal bed, planted shrubs and improved the quality of the water by filtering out potentially hazardous nitrates. The final part of the project involved the installation of wood bundles and natural fibre rolls, designed to stabilise the canal banks for the next 25 years and prevent erosion.*

*The project with The Canal & River Trust is part of a country-wide initiative to improve the management and conservation of waterways in England, which have seen a decline in wildlife and water quality in recent years*



Coir rolls pre-planted with marginal vegetation waiting to be installed. Early beginnings but, will look great for years to come.



BAML and CRT staff working together to make improvement for both wildlife and visitors to the SU Canal at Ellesmere Port.

BAML made a donation to the Trust which covered the costs of planning, supervision and equipment for their day.

For more details, contact Steve Bicknell CRT Employee Engagement Coordinator on 07736 330288.