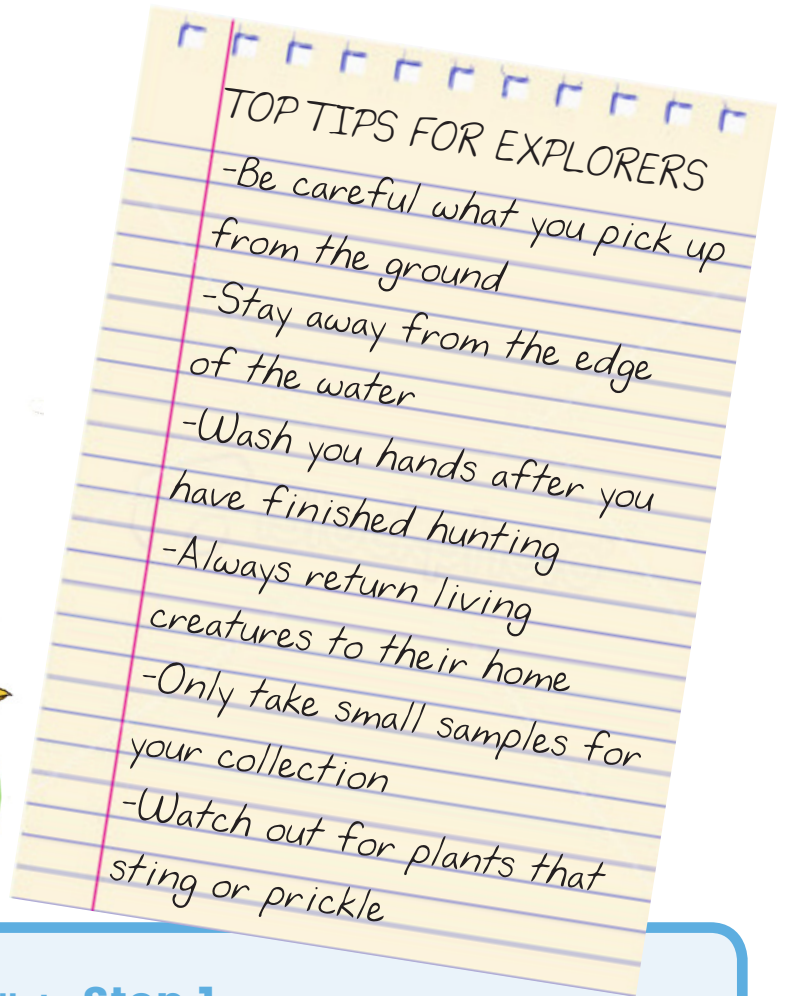


Caen Hill Locks Trail

Kennet & Avon Canal



You are a brave and fearless **explorer** in a place called Caen Hill. What wild birds, animals, insects and plants will you discover?



Caen Hill Locks were built over 200 years ago. John Rennie, the canal engineer, wanted the Kennet & Avon Canal to take the shortest route - uphill! To do this, he built a giant flight of locks.



Each lock has a massive side pond that holds as much water as two Olympic-sized swimming pools! Without them, the canal would run out of water. Today, they attract loads of wildlife.

Walk to Stop 1

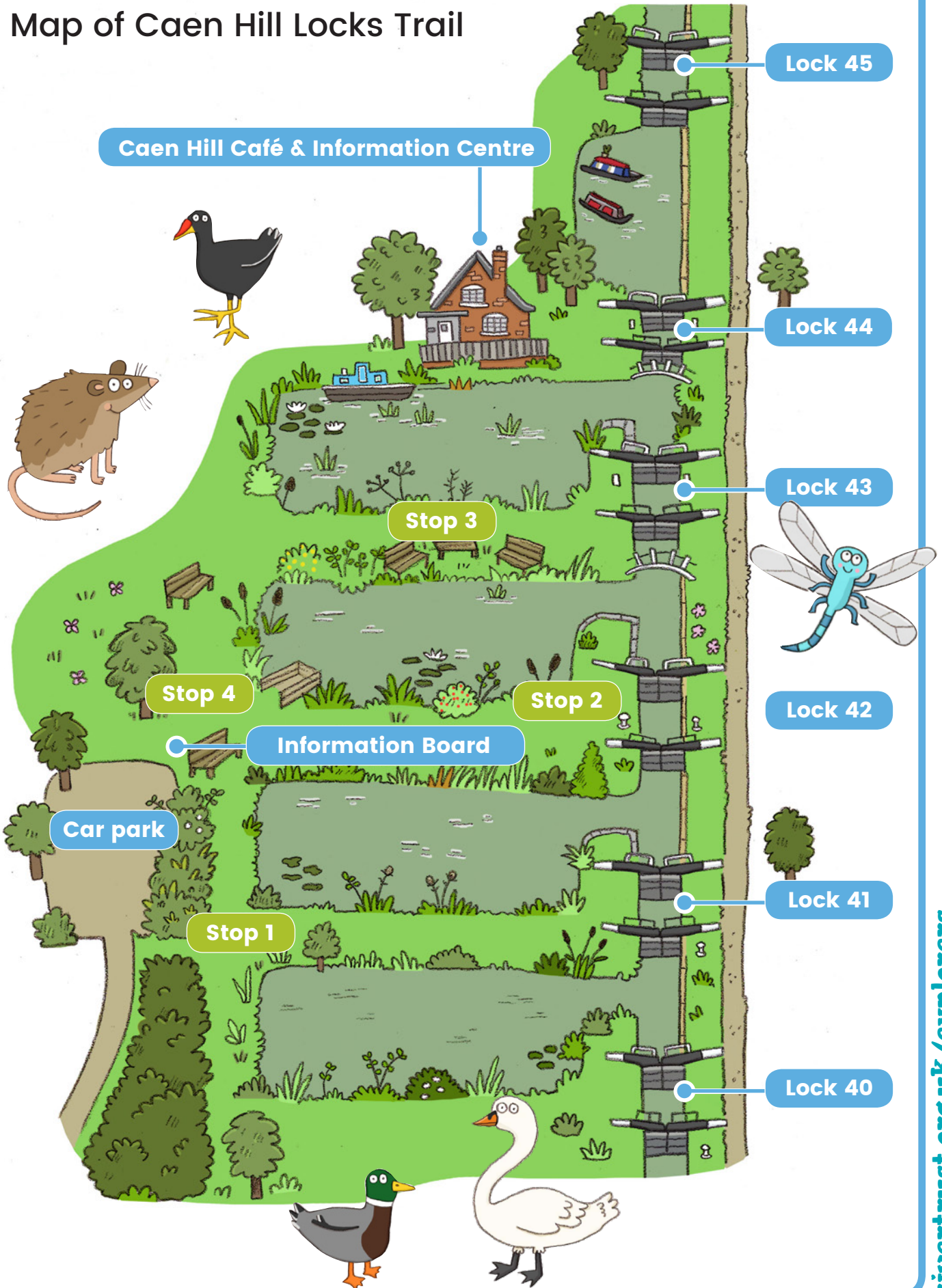
Find some stony ground, long grass or hedgerow. Collect four small stones and use them to mark the corners of a square of about 30 cms. Find a short stick to gently lift up stones and poke around leaves.

Activity

Now fill in your Explorer's Chart.

1 What I found ...	<input type="text"/>
Where I found it ...	<input type="text"/>
2 What I found ...	<input type="text"/>
Where I found it ...	<input type="text"/>
3 What I found ...	<input type="text"/>
Where I found it ...	<input type="text"/>

Map of Caen Hill Locks Trail



Always remember to stay SAFE near water – Stay Away From Edge

Make a Museum!

Collect some leaves. Look for long thin ones, large ones, small ones, spotty ones, prickly ones for your own natural history museum.

Now draw them in your museum. Add your name in the top space.

1 I found this leaf near

I collected it because

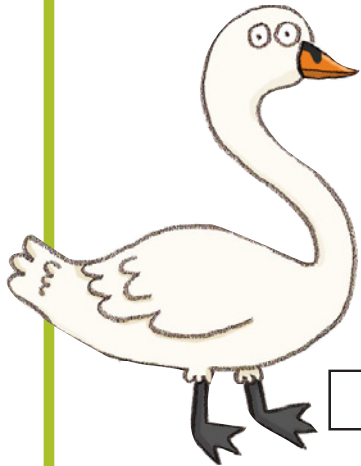
2 I found this leaf near

I collected it because

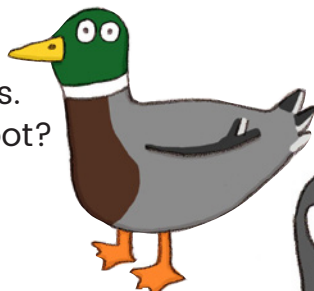


Stop 2

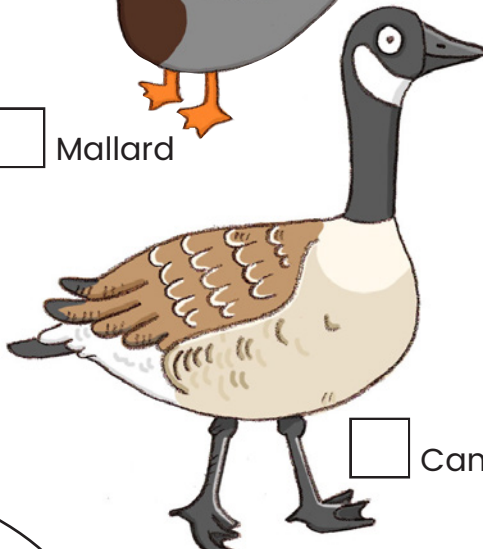
Water birds love the side ponds. How many of these can you spot?



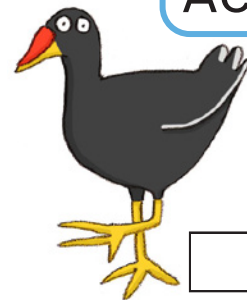
Swan



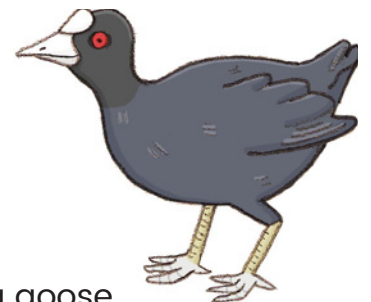
Mallard



Canada goose

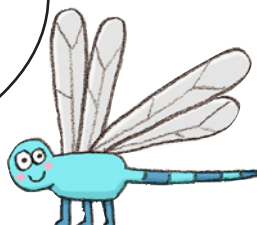


Moorhen



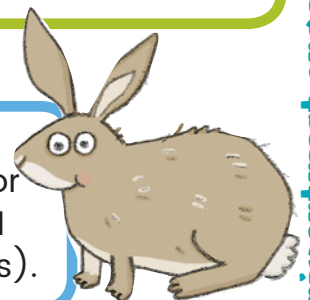
Coot

In the summer, Caen Hill is a great place to spot small damselflies or larger dragonflies. Dragonflies have been around for over 300 million years. That's before dinosaurs!



Look

... out for rabbits or rabbit poo (small dark round pellets).



Activity

Stop 3

Look on the benches by the top side pond. Can you find the name of the last lock keeper to live in the cottage? His name was

Caen Hill Café was once the lock keeper's cottage. His job was to look after the 16 locks that climb the steep hill.

Listen

Sit on the bench and listen for ...

- the cries of water birds. Sometimes you can hear them before you can see them.
- the sound of the wind in the trees and rushes.

The lock keeper's cottage in 1900.



Activity

Would you make a good explorer?

- 1 Do you like spiders, beetles and frogs?
- 2 Are you good at spotting very tiny creatures?
- 3 Can you name at least four different water birds?
- 4 Have you spotted four different types of tree or plant?
- 5 Can you identify at least one bird from its cry or song?

YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL <input type="text"/>	

What's the score?

TOTAL

Add up the number of 'yes' answers;
 5: You are a brilliant explorer! 4-3 Not too bad; 2-1: Rubbish! You'd better find out more about wildlife.

Stop 4

On your way back to the car park make a rubbing of the dragonfly on the information board. Use a pencil and a piece of paper or the back of this trail.



If you've enjoyed this trail why not do the Devizes and Caen Hill Locks Trail too? If you log on to canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers you'll find lots of other fun things to do!

Answer: The name of the lock keeper is Michael Mould.

Photograph courtesy of Kennet & Avon Canal Trust.