

GCSE Geography

River Landscapes in the UK

Key Ideas of this module

The UK has a range of diverse landscapes

- Overview of the location of major upland/lowland areas and river systems.

The shape of river valleys changes as rivers flow downstream

The long profile and changing cross profile of a river and its valley. Fluvial processes:

- **Erosion** – hydraulic action, abrasion, attrition, solution, vertical and lateral erosion
- **Transportation** – traction, saltation, suspension and solution
- **Deposition** – why rivers deposit sediment.

Distinctive fluvial landforms result from different physical processes

Characteristics and formation of landforms resulting from:

- **Erosion:** interlocking spurs, waterfalls and gorges
- **Erosion and Deposition:** meanders and ox-bow lakes
- **Deposition:** levées, flood plains and estuaries.
- An example of a river valley in the UK to identify its major landforms of erosion and deposition – **River Tees**

Different management strategies can be used to protect river landscapes from the effects of flooding

- How physical and human factors affect the flood risk – precipitation, geology, relief and land use.
- The use of hydrographs to show the relationship between precipitation and discharge

The costs and benefits of the following management strategies:

- **Hard engineering** – dams and reservoirs, straightening, embankments, flood relief channels
- **Soft engineering** – flood warnings and preparation, flood plain zoning, planting trees and river restoration.
- One example of a flood management scheme in the UK – River Tees

Read

- All the rivers, Dorit Rabinyan
- The making of British landscape from ice age to present, Nicholas Crane

Watch

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