Rivers Fieldwork AQA

Investigating how channel characteristics change with distance downstream
Full Day option in October - May
Students will investigate the drainage basin of Loughton Brook, Epping Forest. Travelling downstream (and increasing stream order) from near the source, students will measure various channel characteristics including;

- cross-sectional profile
- velocity
- actual and potential wetted perimeter
- sediment analysis
- bed angle and valley slope angle

This will prepare students for the Unit 2 AS Geographical Skills paper.

Learning Objectives

- Collect primary data to test hypotheses
- Use a range of data collection techniques and sampling strategies
- Manage own risk by completing a risk assessment
- Use experience gained to describe how rivers change downstream and how river landforms are formed

Preparation for visit

- Review the long profile, valley profile, changing channel characteristics and landforms of fluvial erosion and deposition from Unit 1 AS Physical and Human Geography

Suggestions for follow-up

- Outline and justify methods of data collection.
- Carry out Spearmans Rank statistical test on distance downstream and one of the variables measured, e.g. discharge
- Write a conclusion and evaluate the investigation

Curriculum Links
AQA AS Specification
Unit 1 Physical and Human Geography
Unit 2 Geographical Skills