

Be a river detective...



How natural is this river?

Search for clues as you walk along the river bank.

Think about each section and circle your score.

(The photos give you examples of what to look for.)

A: River shape

Score 3 2 1



meanders/bends **3**



human-made side **1**



straightened **1**

B: Water Flow

Score 3 2 1



trickles over rocks **3**



not changed **3**



weirs / changed **1**

C: Water Colour

Score 3 2 1



clear

3



clear with plants 3



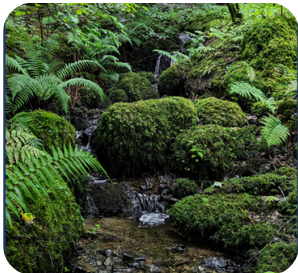
clear black tea 3



brown or cloudy 1

D: Plants

Score 3 2 1



moss

3



ferns

3



trees

3



himalayan balsam 1

What do your total scores mean?

12-10 **Wow! – this river is a highly natural river**

9-7 **OK! – this is a semi natural river**

6-4 **Uh oh! – this river is highly unnatural**

What would you **do next** to improve the river?

		
Lower cost quicker steps		☐ plant trees
		☐ fence fields with animals in
		☐ plant wild flower on banks
Higher cost and longer term steps		☐ Remove walls or weirs that stop fish going upstream to lay eggs
		☐ Remove invasive plants