

River Studies

Duration: 1 ½ hours approx. – max group size 30
National Curriculum – **Key Stage 2**
Available: April - September (weather dependant)



The Visit Aims

- To give students an understanding and experience of river study fieldwork.
- To show examples of geographical features on the River Alt eg deposition, erosion and note any indicators of levels of pollution.
- To give students the opportunity (with a Ranger) to investigate aquatic life in the river.
- To survey a section of the river and to record relevant data to complete a section profile (measurement of breadth, depth, flow rate, etc).
- To provide an awareness of the changing nature of the landscape and to foster an understanding and respect for river environments and the habitats they provide.
- To give students an awareness of safety issues when working near water.

The Visit

****Please note the water level and velocity can change very rapidly in the River Alt. We will endeavour to carry out the visit as published but reserve the right to adjust or cancel elements according to prevailing conditions for Health & Safety reasons.***

The group will be informed about the nature of the visit and cover Health & Safety concerns near water courses. An introduction to the topic will include looking at a map of the river course, its origin and point of entry into the Irish Sea, giving an understanding of where rivers start and how they are formed.

The group will be asked to observe a stretch of the river. Its character and features (deep/shallow, fast/slow, clean/polluted etc) will be discussed.

The group will walk downstream looking at some important geographical features, (deposition, bottom materials, evidence of erosion etc) and students will be asked to fill in a worksheet that locates features on a map.

At a point further down the river, the group will be divided into two groups. Group **A** will measure the flow rate of the river by timing floats over a set distance. Group **B**, will carry out a survey of river width, depth, bank height etc and also look at the aquatic life living in the river.

Groups A and B will then change over activities and the session will complete when both groups have tasked all activities and data has been collated.

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Background Information

Croxteth Hall was the former home of the Earls of Sefton. After the death of the last Earl in 1972 the Hall and its estate was bequeathed to the City of Liverpool. The Country Park now consists of 215 hectares of gardens, open parkland, pasture, ponds and woodland.

The River Alt, Merseyside's 'second' river after the River Mersey flows through a picturesque stretch of parkland with historic and more recent man-made features evident.

Visit Resources

- Tick sheet for the features survey
- Recoding sheets for the physical survey, flow rate survey and river life survey.
- All other equipment will be provided for the visit, (stop-watches, nets, trays, measures etc).

Visit Notes

Supervision - For every visit it is necessary to have sufficient adults with your group to comply with your LEA guidelines.

Risk Assessments - are available for all guided visits.

Timing - Most visits last for approx 1.5 hours. Please refer to the notes provided for your visit for times and starting points. We suggest you arrive 15 minutes in advance of your visit to allow for parking, payment, toilet trips, etc

Toilets - are in the Café courtyard.

Parking - The main entrance and coach park is off Muirhead Avenue East. The coach park is about 300m from the Hall. You may be advised to park near the Hall only with prior arrangement.

Charge - £5.00 per child, (minimum charge £125.00 per group).

Payment - Please make payment on the day of the visit at the gift shop at the front of the Hall. Please make payment to **Croxteth Hall & Country Park**.

Clothing - Please ensure students wear outdoor clothing and footwear appropriate for the weather and time of year.

Further Information about this and other visits are detailed on our 'Learning Opportunities' website www.croxteth.co.uk/education

Customer Feedback Forms- please fill in and return our feedback survey sheets- we welcome evaluation and constructive comments on your visit.

Liverpool City Council, Parks & Greenspaces

Ranger Interpretation Service, Croxteth Hall & Country Park, Croxteth Hall Lane, Liverpool L12 OHB

Tel 0151 233 6910 (Gen Office), 0151 233 6912/6915 (RIS Team) fax 0151 233 6906