

Key Terms: Physical Landscapes



UK Physical Landscapes

Upland Areas: High-altitude regions with rugged terrain, e.g., Scottish Highlands.

Lowland Areas: Flat or gently rolling landscapes, e.g., The Fens.

River Systems: Networks of rivers and their tributaries, e.g., River Severn.



Glacial Landscapes

Ice Age: A time when large parts of the Earth were covered in ice.

Freeze-Thaw: Water freezes in rock cracks, expands, and breaks the rock.

Abrasion: Glacier scraping rock surfaces.

Plucking: Glaciers pulling rocks from the ground.

Rotational Slip: Ice moves in a circular motion in a corrie.

Bulldozing: Glacier pushing material forward.

Till: Unsorted material left by glaciers.

Outwash: Sorted material deposited by glacial meltwater.

Corrie: Bowl-shaped hollow formed by glacier erosion.

Arête: Sharp ridge between two corries.

Pyramidal Peak: Pointed mountain formed by glacier erosion.

U-Shaped Valley: A valley shaped by glacier movement.

Ribbon Lake: Long, narrow lake in a glacial valley.

Erratic: Large rock moved by a glacier.

Drumlin: Smooth hill of glacial material.

Moraine: Material deposited by glaciers (e.g., terminal, lateral).

Tourism: Visiting glaciated areas for natural attractions.

Farming: Grazing sheep or growing crops in glaciated regions.

Quarrying: Extracting rocks from glaciated areas.

Conflict: Disputes between land uses like farming and tourism.



River Landscapes

Long Profile: Gradient of a river from source to mouth.

Cross Profile: Cross-sectional shape of a river valley.

Hydraulic Action: Erosion by water force against riverbanks.

Solution: Dissolving of soluble materials.

Traction: Rolling of large particles along a riverbed.

Saltation: Bouncing of small particles along the riverbed.

Suspension: Sediment carried in water flow.

Interlocking Spurs: Projections of land in upper river valleys.

Waterfalls: Sudden drop in a river's course.

Gorges: Steep-sided valleys formed by river erosion.

Meanders: Curves in a river's course.

Ox-Bow Lakes: Cut-off meanders forming a lake.

Floodplains: Flat areas beside rivers prone to flooding.

Levées: Raised riverbanks formed by deposition.

Estuaries: Tidal areas where rivers meet the sea.

Flood Risk: Likelihood of flooding influenced by natural and human factors.

Hydrograph: Graph showing precipitation and river discharge over time.

Dams and Reservoirs: Hard engineering to control river flow.

Flood Warnings: Systems to alert communities of potential floods.

Floodplain Zoning: Restricting land use in flood-prone areas.

