



Plan your visit

Now that you understand the issues around waterways, it's important to find out what's happening locally. Your nearest waterway might have a particular problem that one on the other side of the country doesn't.

My local waterway is _____

You can check on our website if you're not sure at <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/about-us/where-we-work>

Reasons to visit

Canals and rivers are very beautiful and peaceful places. Visiting the waterways can make people feel happy to be outside in the fresh air, and they are places where people can walk and exercise. Spending time by water regularly also makes people more likely to want to look after the area and the plants and animals living there.

Write down five reasons why someone might visit a waterway:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

In this part of the activity pack you will:

- Find out why people in your community might not visit their local waterway
- Visit a waterway
- Think about what a 'perfect waterway' might mean for your community
- Plan the action you & your group will take

However, there might also be reasons why people don't visit waterways – either because they can't, or they don't want to.

These could be physical reasons – are the paths too uneven for someone who uses a wheelchair? Or safety reasons – is it very dark at night? There could be environmental reasons – is the water polluted and smelly?

Come up with five reasons why a person might not visit their local waterway:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.



Become a waterway detective

Now you've got a checklist of reasons why someone might not visit a waterway, it's time to find out what other people think. This will help us see what we should aim to change at our local waterway.

People you could ask:

- Family members
- Friends
- Neighbours
- People in your wider community
- Members of the public

Speak to your volunteer / project leader or your parent / carer about how you can do this safely.

Age group (Please tick): Under 18 18-24 25-44 45-64 64 or over

First part of postcode: Occupation / job:

Why do you / don't you use the waterway?

Why is the canal important to the community?

What change would you like to see?

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Reflect on your detective work

The results of your survey will help to shape your action and make sure we tackle the issues that are most relevant to your local community in the best way.

In a group, discuss the main things you found from your interviews.

Use the questions listed here to guide your discussion. You may want to take some notes.

Use the space below to write notes and ideas.

Questions

- Which reason for not visiting your local waterway was said the most? Does that surprise you? Why or why not?
- What research could you do next to find out more about the problem?
- What actions could you take to change things at your local waterway?
- How would you make sure any action you did would last for a long time?
- How could other people in your area help with your action?
- Who would you like to invite to help you?
- How will you invite them?