



**Rivers and reservoirs**



**RIVERS**

Rivers are a valuable source of 'raw' water which can be purified to make drinking water.

Rivers are used for **recreation** - fishing, boating and walking along the banks.

Rivers are used by farmers to provide water for watering crops - **irrigation**.

Factories may use river water for **industrial processes**.

Because of the danger of taking too much water, there are laws to protect how much anyone can take out of the rivers. Licenses have to be bought and there are severe penalties if any user takes more than they are allowed or if they pollute a river.

As a result, most of Britain's rivers are now very clean, with large numbers of fish and other creatures living and visiting. Otters are returning to the rivers too. This means that there must be plenty of wildlife as they can only live where there are enough fish to support them.

**RESERVOIRS**

Although the main purpose of any reservoir is to store water they have much more to offer, whether people wish to relax or be active in the countryside.

Different reservoirs are important for different activities.



Not all reservoirs can offer all these activities because each group needs to be able to do their own thing without disturbing others.