

River Detectives Site Selection Checklist

Consider the following checklist when selecting your school's site for monthly water quality testing, macroinvertebrate sampling and habitat surveys.

It is highly recommended, but not essential, that students regularly visit your test site. Many schools complete testing at school after a staff member has collected samples from the site in the morning. Please also consider the age group, class size and abilities/needs of your students when choosing your site. It will be important to adhere to school policies and procedures, liaise with other staff for support/advice and reach out to your regional River Detectives coordinator for assistance if needed.

The location	
	How far is the site from your school ?
	Will classes need to visit the site ? How will you get there ?
	Does your site have mobile phone reception ?
	Would it be easily found / accessed by emergency vehicles ?
	Is it on private or public land ? (you must have permission to access private land)
	Could flash flooding be an issue at your site ? (natural runoff / stormwater)
The waterway	
	Does it offer variation in depth, flow, form ?
	Is the water safely accessible ? (low / gently sloping banks, stable ground)
	Are there drains nearby ? How might this impact testing ?
The site and surrounds	
	Is it used by others ? (the public, other groups) What restrictions might this impose ? What opportunities does it offer ? Can you collaborate ?
	Is it safely accessible all year round, each season, at all times of day ?
	Is there nearby stock, roads to traverse, likelihood of strangers/dogs ?
	What is the surrounding land use ? (farming, urban, bushland, reserve)
	Are there any obvious hazards ? (bee hives, unsafe trees, ant nests)
	Does it offer areas of shade and sunshine for comfort each season ?
	Are there sufficient flat areas for students to gather / complete tests ?
	Can you sustainably visit the site without damaging it ?