Features of Deposition

Floodplains

A floodplain is a large area of flat, wide land either side of a river that is prone to flooding.

Floodplains are made up of layers of sediment deposited over time by a series of floods (due to increase of friction during flood, flow slows and deposits materials).

As meanders cut across the floodplain, they widen it.

Salt and alluvium create deposits left after the river has flooded create fertile land. A flood plain is built over hundreds of years, but each flood makes the plain a little higher due to the build-up of sediment.

Levees

Characteristics of Levees:

* Raised riverbanks (about 2-8m high in the UK)
* Composed of gravel, stones and alluvium
* Steep sided (on channel side)
* Fairly flat top (naturally covered by grass)

Estuaries

An estuary is the tidal part of a river – where the channel widens as it reaches the sea. The mouth of the river meets the sea.