River Landforms – Erosional features

**All of this happening in the upper course of a river**

Characteristics of interlocking spurs

* A steep gradient
* Convex slopes
* Project from alternate sides of the valley
* Separated by a narrow valley floor mostly taken up by the river channel
* Sometimes wooded
* May have scree slopes

Stage 1

In the upper course of a river, the river’s water volume and discharge are low. The river uses most of its energy overcoming friction with the channel. What energy it has left over is used by hydraulic action to deepen the channel (vertical erosion)

Stage 2

See sheet

Stage 3

The winding path taken by the river is due to obstacles of harder rock in its path. The river takes the easiest route over the land. This results in projections of high land entering the valley from alternate sides. These projections are the interlocking spurs

**See sheet for diagrams of each stage**

Waterfalls and gauges

Waterfall: water falling from a vertical drop in the channel, representing a change in slope in the riverbed (usually from some height)