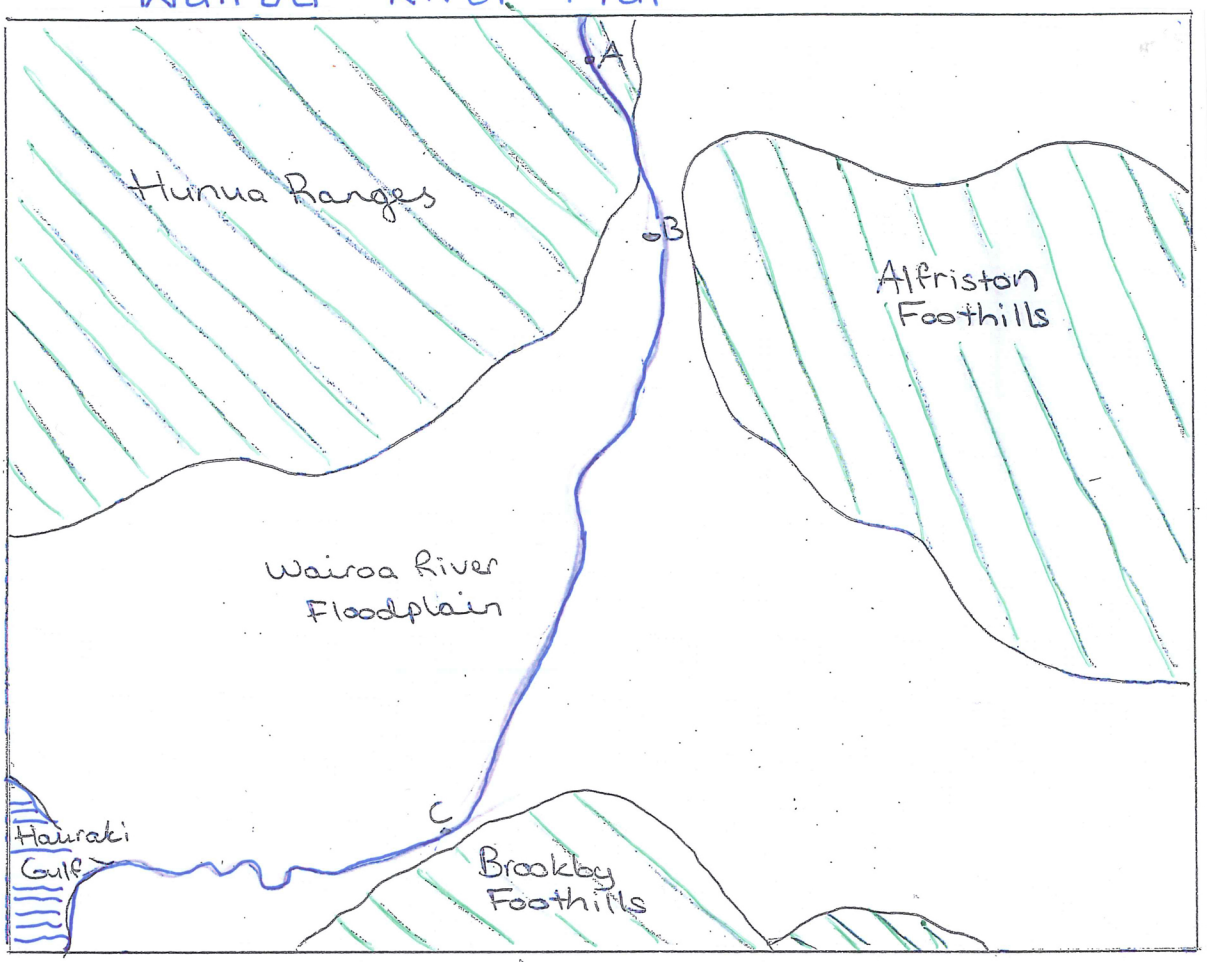
Wairoa River Map

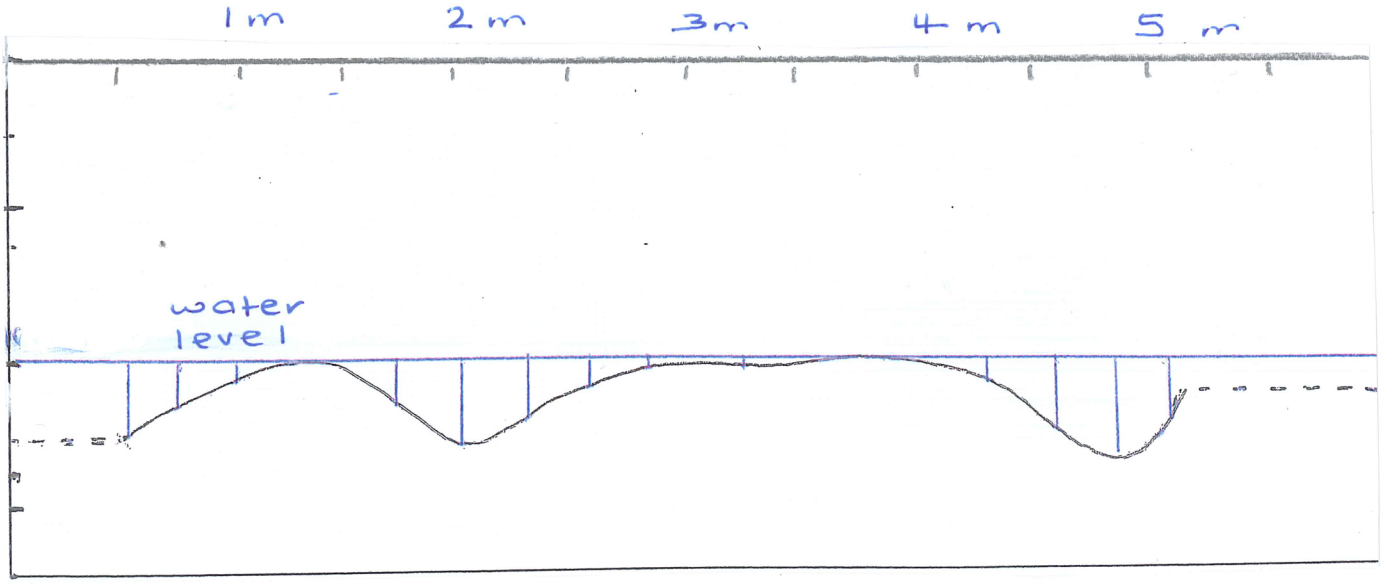


River data summary – SITE A

1

Interval	Distance m	Depth (M)	Interval	Distance	Depth (M)
1	0.5	0.92	6	3	0.78
2	1	0.85	7	3.5	0.78
3	1.5	0.78	8	4	0.72
4	2	0.95	9	4.5	0.85
5	2.5	0.83	10	5	1.0

Cross section



Student 5_Low Achieved

RESEARCH AIM/QUESTION: How do characteristics of the Wairoa River and Valley change with distance from the headwaters?

Presented data also included photographs of each site with labels.

FINDINGS

Several characteristics of the river change between the headwaters and the mouth. The shape is a characteristic that can be seen by looking at the gradient of the slope either side of the river, as shown in the photos. It is one characteristic that changes from the headwaters to the mouth. At site A the valley has a steep V shape but as you move downstream the gradient changes and the river valley becomes much wider (2). At site A the river is vertically eroding cutting a deep channel, but at site C the river is eroding horizontally resulting in a wider channel. The field sketches show that there are large flood plains around site C but there are none at Site A, which shows that deposition after flooding affects the characteristics of this lower part of the river. Clearly the river processes of erosion at each site and deposition closer to the mouth, are responsible for the different characteristics (3).

CONCLUSION

The characteristics of the Wairoa River and Valley clearly changed between the headwaters and the mouth. The most obvious are the shape of the river valley and the size of the river (4). The river valley is a V shape near the headwaters but becomes a wider U shaped valley nearer the mouth, see my field sketches… This is the because of river erosion…The Wairoa River also becomes much wider and deeper near the mouth …

EVALUATION

A major strength of my research was that I collected a variety of different data about the aim and used the same collection methods at each site (5). I took river channel measurements, field sketches and photographs to make sure I had data for the main characteristics of the river and the valley. This meant that I had lots of data to show differences… (6).