

Wetland wildlife activities

Ditches for people and wildlife

A ditch is a narrow channel dug at the side of a road or field, to hold or carry away flood water. Lots of animals live in ditches, such as birds, fish, insects and, if you are really lucky, water voles!

Ditches are in bad condition when...

- They become **overgrown** with plants, because this can block the flow of water and cause a **flood**.
- Overgrown plants stop **sunlight** reaching the water, so it becomes **stagnant** (smelly) and wildlife cannot drink it.
- People throw **litter** which harms animals and **pollutes** the water.

Ditches are in good condition when... they get lots of **sunlight** and are not **polluted** with **litter**, so it is safe for wildlife and the water can **flow** easily.

Take a look at the next two photos. Use the key words in the text above to help you answer the questions in the boxes below.



Is this ditch in good or bad condition?
Give two reasons why.

1. _____

2. _____

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Give two reasons why.

1. _____

2. _____

