



Obstructions

What's the issue?

Obstructions in the channel of rivers and streams are important as they can impede water flow or be barriers to migratory wildlife. In some cases the barriers may be of man made materials such as rubbish. Sometimes natural obstructions may occur, such as fallen trees (or other dead wood). These obstructions may alter the channel width and water flow to bring benefits of slowing water flows down to alleviate flooding downstream. This often occurs at the expense of wetting the river banks upstream of the obstruction (for example, the ponds caused by beaver damming).

Taking the measurement



Who? Any observer with a basic knowledge of which species of vegetation are native and non-native to Scottish waters, who is passing a river or loch can make a useful measurement.



Your safety Remember DO NOT go alongside the river or loch if: you can't swim, the water is too deep or fast moving, or if you are alone.



How long does it take? 2 minutes



Equipment needed No specialist equipment needed.



How to measure Enter the nature of the obstruction in the text box.



Tips It would be a great help to include an image of the obstruction as your uploaded photograph to the website.

Examples



Wood Large fallen pieces of tree branches or trunks.



Rubbish Major pieces or collections of rubbish trapped in the water.



Ice Substantial areas of ice floating on the surface travelling with flow or stationary.