



Water level

What's the issue?

Water level is important in showing us damaging extremes of water level. Too low water levels suggest there may be problems with ecological connectivity, water for supply and recreation purposes and leaves the system prone to elevated temperatures and damaging responses to nutrient loads during still water conditions. Too much water suggests issues with sediments from soil erosion and potential for flooding.

Taking the measurement



Who? Any observer without any training, 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 Use the descriptive scale below to categorise the water level whether it is a river or a loch.



Tips Look around on the river or loch banks to see how high the water might usually be. During low flows there is often a mark at the edge from the normal level. At high flows for rivers the water speed is a strong clue.

Definitions



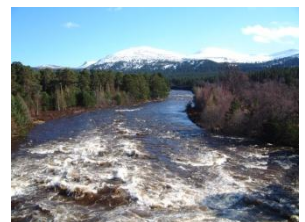
Dry Large dry areas on the banks or in the channel. Slow or absent flow.



Low Dry areas at margins. Slower than normal flow. Typical of a summer base flow.



Normal A typical autumn to spring flow for that river, or level for a loch.



In flood Fast water with standing waves, or water over-spilled across the banks.