

# RIVER CONDITION OBSERVATIONS

(Discussion Paper updated Jan 2021)



## Flow Rate Readings at Maidenhead with Observations at Longridge

(rates are wholly indicative: good degree of variance to be expected as Marlow-Cookham stretch could be unrelated to Maidenhead conditions depending on weir settings; the combination of water velocity and river height results in the volume, so a drop in volume does not mean a reduced velocity if the river height has also dropped. Notes assume mild day (>6deg.C), with little wind <10mph).

### 10 to 30 cub.m/s

- > Flow will **not** be noticeable at a glance.
- > Benign, suitable for all.

### 30-50 cub.m/s

- > Flow can be seen, emphasised by floating objects.
- > Benign, suitable for most with past racing boat experience.
- > **Novices to consider using more stable boat.**
- > **Novices and intermediates to consider staying between Wootons Island (using back water) and danger sign.**

### 50-80 cub.m/s

- > Flow can be seen clearly, even without floating objects.
- > Useful for experiencing moving water and control of boat.
- > **Novices and intermediates to consider using more stable boat.**
- > **Novices and intermediates to consider staying between club and danger sign.**

CAUTION  
STREAM  
INCREASING

CAUTION  
STREAM  
DECREASING

### 80-100 cub.m/s

- > Moving water noticeable accelerates through Wootons main stream.
- > Swirls noticeable around Castle.
- > Flow is deflected off banks/trees/obstructions.
- > Standing waves likely (depending on wind)
- > Useful for experiencing moving water and control of boat .
- > **Novice Club sessions use Jubilee or Canals**
- > **Intermediates to consider staying between club and danger sign.**

CAUTION  
STRONG  
STREAM

### up to 100 cub.m/s

- > Ferry glide needed out & into landing stage.
- > Swirly past castle.
- > Powerful through Wootons Island.
- > Even flow along Bourne End Stretch.
- > Useful for div 5 to 1 for experiencing moving water and control of boat .
- > Div3/4 K2 need to work hard back up main stream of Wootons Island.
- > Large standing waves likely (depending on wind)
- > **Novices and intermediate Club sessions use Jubilee or Canals**
- > **Experienced paddlers assess distance from club / u.16s staying between Wootons Island and danger sign.**

CAUTION  
STRONG  
STREAM

### up to 120 cub.m/s

- > Ferry glide needed at most river crossing points.
- > Swirly past castle.
- > Powerful through Wootons Island.
- > Flow along Bourne End Stretch becomes noticeable.
- > Div3/4 K2 need to work hard up stream... main stream of Wootons Island becomes difficult.
- > Large standing waves likely.
- > **All Club sessions use Jubilee or Canals**
- > **Specific event training (such as DW): Risk assessment needed for every weir & bridge; consider if there is really a benefit to training on Thames.**

CAUTION  
STRONG  
STREAM

### 120-150 cub.m/s

- > **Grey Zone.**
- > **If you need to ask, then play safe and it is time to switch venue.**

CAUTION  
STRONG  
STREAM

### 150+ cub.m/s

- > **Specific event training (such as DW) Time to switch venue if not already.**
- > **Club could take disciplinary action for reckless paddling.**

DO NOT READ IN ISOLATION OR INTERPRET AS BEING 'SET-IN-STONE'  
Appraise all the risks: other weather implications could make matters worse than indicated.



**If there is ever any doubt or question in your mind  
WEAR A BUOYANCY AID**

Separate Guidance should be taken on selecting and wearing an appropriate BA.  
A buoyancy aids "aid" buoyancy, there are still inherent risks which are not removed by using a BA.

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## River Levels : Longridge Markers and impact points

Observations at LON based on Marlow downstream gauge measurements.

- @2.5 to 2.7m .....water overlaps concrete get-in
- @2.9m .....water covers concrete get-in.
- @3.0m .....water covers 1/2-way up camping field
- @3.0m .....water reaches bank edge of coach-boat moorings
- @3.1m .....ditch between racks & camping field has water
- @3.2m .....water breaches grass-bank of coach-boat moorings.
- @3.3m .....water covers camping field reaches ditch, ditch is 'flowing'.
  
- @3.5m to 3.6m .....ground water will seep up in front of racks
- @3.7m .....top of ridge along ditch will start to go underwater
- @3.6m to 3.8m .....ground at racks will have standing water
- @3.9m .....50% of car park flooded
- @4.0m+ .....bottom rack of boat storage at risk
- @4.0m+ .....car park flooded
- @4.3m + 4.6m + 4.9m ....respective rack levels at risk??



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