

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 2.7mwater overlaps concrete get-in
- @2.9mwater covers concrete get-in.
- @3.0mwater covers 1/2-way up camping field
- @3.0mwater reaches bank edge of coach-boat moorings
- @3.1mditch between racks & camping field has water
- @3.2mwater breaches grass-bank of coach-boat moorings.
- @3.3mwater covers camping field reaches ditch, ditch is 'flowing'.

- @3.5m to 3.6mground water will seep up in front of racks
- @3.7mtop of ridge along ditch will start to go underwater
- @3.6m to 3.8mground at racks will have standing water
- @3.9m50% of car park flooded
- @4.0m+bottom rack of boat storage at risk
- @4.0m+car park flooded
- @4.3m + 4.6m + 4.9mrespective rack levels at risk??



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