



Explanation of Abbreviations and Units commonly found on Borehole/Water Well Records

Abbreviations found on Borehole records

Common Abbreviations:

agl/bgl/mbd – above ground level/below ground level/metres below datum.

OD – Ordnance Datum (sea level).

Datum – a standard position or level that measurements are taken from, that may not be ground surface.

AOD/BOD – Above Ordnance Datum/Below Ordnance Datum.

Id/od – internal diameter/outside diameter.

TD – total depth.

NGR/ ST25 – National Grid Reference/Grid square number

Units commonly found on Borehole records:

Ft – foot – unit of length equal to 12 inches, a third of a yard and 0.3048 m.

Inches – unit of length, 36 inches in a yard, 12 inches in a foot and in length equivalent to 2.54 cm.

Yard – imperial unit of length equal to 0.914 m, 36 inches, 3 feet.

Fathoms – imperial unit of length equal to 1.828 m, 6 feet. There are 2 yards in a fathom.

m – metre unit of length equivalent to 100 cm.

Abbreviations found on Water borehole records

Common Abbreviations:

RWL – rest water level (can be expressed as depth to water or related to OD).

PWL – pumping water level.

SWL – standing water level (same as rest water level)

ws – water strike

CR Test – Constant Rate Test

ST – Step Test

EC – Electrical Conductivity

TDS – Total Dissolved Solids

HPD – Hours per Day

HPW – Hours per Week

DPW – Days per Week

BWT – Below Well Top

MBD – Metres Below Datum

o/f - overflowing

Units commonly found on Water Borehole records:

Gallons – imperial measure of volume equal to 4.54609 litres.

Gph – gallon per hour, imperial measure of water volume pumped out of a borehole in one hour.

l/s – litre per second, rate of pumping, measure of water volume pumped out of a borehole in 1 second.

m³/d – cubic metres per day, rate of pumping.

GPA – gallons per annum, imperial measure of volume abstracted over one year.

m³/a – cubic metres per annum, measure of volume abstracted over one year.

m³/h – cubic metres per hour, measure of volume abstracted.

gpg - grains per gallon, defined as one grain (64.8 mg) per Imperial gallon (4.546 litres) of water equivalent to 14.254 mg/l.

degrees (Clark or English)— unit of water hardness, One degree Clark is defined as one grain (64.8 mg) of calcium carbonate per Imperial gallon (4.546 litres) of water, equivalent to 14.254 mg/l (as CaCO₃). Other degrees (French, German) are also used, these are equivalent to 10 mg/l and 17.8 mg/l (as CaCO₃), respectively.