



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.