

Chart symbols & abbreviations

A quick-reference of the symbols you meet most. The full set is in the Admiralty 5011 booklet; these are the ones worth knowing by heart.

DEPTHS, HEIGHTS & DANGERS

Symbol	Meaning
Soundings	Charted depth below chart datum (the lowest the tide normally falls)
<u>2</u> .1 (underlined)	Drying height — metres the feature dries ABOVE chart datum
Wk	Wreck
Obstn	Obstruction
Foul	Foul ground — don't anchor or trawl
PA / PD	Position approximate / doubtful
ED / SD	Existence doubtful / sounding doubtful

TIDAL LEVELS

Symbol	Meaning
CD	Chart datum — the level depths are measured from
MHWS / MHWN	Mean high water springs / neaps
MLWS / MLWN	Mean low water springs / neaps
HAT / LAT	Highest / lowest astronomical tide

LIGHTS

Symbol	Meaning
Fl	Flashing — light shorter than dark
Oc	Occulting — light longer than dark
Iso	Isophase — equal light and dark
LFl	Long flash (two seconds or more)
Q / VQ	Quick / very quick flashing
Fl(2)G.10s	Group flashing twice, green, every 10 seconds