

## Essex Rivers Hub RIVERWATCH

## Information Sheet 4A - Examples of obstacles to fish or flow and other key structures



Wier / Sluice: A man-made structure used to control water levels above and below. It may also redirect water into a distributary or side channel.



Ford: A small section of road used by vehicles that passes through a shallow section of river. Normally concrete but can also be made of a natural looking bed of stone and gravel.



**Debris dam:** A man-made or natural woody clusters / structure that may be causing the river to back-up behind them. They usually allow some flow through at normal water levels but may cause higher flows to back-up.



Fallen or submerged trees: A tree trunk that is either spanning or in the channel. Can cause backing-up behind but is generally still allowing flow to pass. These features can be living or dead trees.



Culvert: A man-made structure that acts as a large pipe to allow the river to pass through. They can be rectangular or round in shape and are usually covered by earth, grass or concrete.



## Information Sheet 4B - Examples of various water levels



**Flood (out of bank):** Water has breached the riverbank on one or both sides of the river channel.



**High (still in channel):** High surging flow but the river has not breached any banks.



**Normal:** This is your perception of expected average flow within the watercourse –not high nor low flow.



**Low:** Water level is below what you would expect to see in the watercourse. Levelsare moving towards dry but water is present – margins are dry and exposed.

(Reproduced courtesy of Essex Wildlife Trust)