


# Chart Symbols, Terms and Features


ABBREVIATIONS			
Seabed		Tides and Currents	
Basic Terms		Chart Datum, Datum of Soundings	CD
Sand	S	Low Water	LW
Mud	M	High Water	HW
Clay	Cl	Lowest Astronomical Tide	LAT
Silt	Si	Mean Sea Level	MSL
Stones	St	Mean Low Water Springs	MLWS
Gravel	G	Mean High Water Springs	MHWS
Pebbles	P	Mean Low Water Neaps	MLWN
Rock	R	Mean High Water Neaps	MHWN
Coral	Co	Spring Tide	Sp
Shells	Sh	Neap Tide	Np
Weed, Kelp	Wd		
Qualifying Terms		Depths	
fine	f	Existence Doubtful	ED
medium	m	Position Doubtful	PD
coarse	c	Reported	Rep
broken	bk	Reported (year)	Rep(1973)
sticky	sy		
soft	so		
stiff	st		
volcanic	v		
calcareous	ca		
hard	h		
		Colours	
		White	W
		Red	R
		Green	G
		Yellow	Y
		Orange	Or
Seabed Terms Combined - examples			
Sand over Rock		S/R	
Fine sand with mud and shells		fS.M.Sh	

# Chart Symbols, Terms and Features


## Lights




Major Light,  
Lighthouse




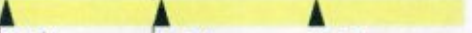

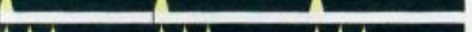
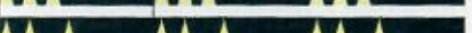





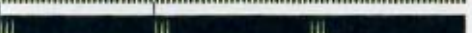

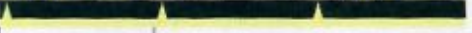

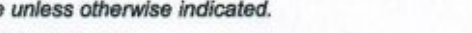

Minor Light



Lighted Beacons




Lighted Buoys

Description	Charted Abbreviation	Period
Fixed (continuous, steady)	F	
Occulting (more light, less dark)	Oc	
Group Occulting (e.g. 3 times)	Oc(3)	
Flashing (less light, more dark)	Fl	
Group Flashing (e.g. 3 times)	Fl(3)	
Composite Group Flashing	Fl(2+1)	
Long Flashing (> 2 secs.)	LFl	
Morse Code (e.g. Morse "A")	Mo(A)	
Isophase (equal light, dark)	Iso	
Quick (continuous ~1 per sec.)	Q	
Group Quick Flashing (e.g. 3)	Q(3)	
Very Quick (~2 per sec.)	VQ	
Group Very Quick (e.g. 3)	VQ(3)	
Quick & Long Flashing (e.g. 6)	Q(6)+LFl	
Fixed & Flashing (2 lights)	FFI	
Alternating (e.g. white & red)	Al.WR	

All charted lights are White unless otherwise indicated.

### Light Characters



**FI(3)WRG.15sec 21m 8/5M**

FI(3)  
WRG  
15 sec  
21m  
8/5M

*Example only —  
for explanation*

Group Flashing in repeating groups of 3  
Colours white, red and green shown in different sectors  
Period — the time for each sequence of 3 flashes  
Elevation of the focal plane of the light above MHWS  
Nominal Range of light (White 8 miles, Red & Green 5 miles)

Example of a charted light description.