

This guide is based on work done by Prof. Martin Evans at the University of Manchester, based on sampling done in the Peak District.

Dissolved organic carbon (DOC) is the amount of carbon there is in surface water which has come from organic sources such as soil, plant and leaf litter in decomposition. It might also include microbial algae and carbon from aquatic plants.

To measure DOC you will need a clean and clear sided sample bottle. At your chosen area of surface water, take a sample of water using the bottle and seal it. Lie it flat on the white section on the left hand side of this sheet. The colour of the water can be compared with the colour chart on the right. The closest match is an **estimation** of carbon content in parts per million – laboratory conditions and experimentation would be needed to gain a more accurate measure.

