

Top 5 Surveying Mistakes: and how to avoid them

This quick read highlights the most common & costly Mistakes seen during a river survey procurement journey.

#	Mistake Title	What Goes Wrong	The Impact	How to Avoid It
1	Failing to Consider Access Early On	No permission No entry to site Delayed project	Survey delays, incomplete data, budget overruns	Conduct early access reviews and engage landowners before mobilisation: Storm Geomatics can do this for you.
2	Surveying Without Understanding the Hydraulic Model Needs	Data doesn't align with modelling inputs (e.g., missing culvert inverts)	Site must be re-surveyed, delays in modelling	Align survey scope with modeller needs upfront: Use GeoRiver® Software - relevant data.
3	Ignoring Features That Seem 'Out of Scope'	Subtle weirs, debris dams, or abandoned channels are missed	Missing hydraulic elements produce a model with less integrity	Capture contextual interventions and/or assets even if outside main scope: An experienced River Surveyor will know!
4	Overlooking Tidal or Flow-Dependent Timing	Survey done during unsuitable flow/tidal conditions	Dangerous or incomplete surveys	Time work with flow data and tide tables; have backup dates:
5	Establishing vertical control to non standard practice	Incompatible data with all other EA data sets.	Rework required; project credibility suffers	Confirm deliverables early with all stakeholders (EA, consultants, modellers, landowners): Engage River Surveyor early in project lifecycle

Expert Tip: “Most mistakes stem from **communication gaps**, not technical faults.

Storm Geomatics bridges this by working closely with modellers, ecologists, and funders – so your surveys are not just complete, but **will add value to the project.**”