

# VWlog2

## User Manual





### **What's this manual about?**

This manual tells you about the two channel VWlog2 and how to use it to take readings.

### **Who does this apply to?**

Installers, field engineers and technicians who need to install, commission and maintain a VWlog2 system.

# Welcome!

Thank you for choosing VWlog2.

This manual has been written to help you utilise all of the functions of VWlog2. Please read this manual thoroughly before use to help avoid any problems and keep it handy when using VWlog2.

## **VWlog2**

VWlog2 is a two channel data logger, which reads and logs most commercially available Vibrating Wire (VW) sensors and optional thermistor temperature sensors. Data is stored as a CSV file onto the internal memory.

The VWlog2 contains 4MB of non-volatile internal memory which is sufficient for up to 50,000 readings per channel, equating to 5.7 years of data sampling at hourly intervals.

The internal memory in VWlog2 operates as a USB mass storage device, which is accessible through a mini USB interface, allowing data to be easily transferred from VWlog2 to a PC or mobile device via drag-and-drop, using the same action as a file on the PC's hard drive.

The included VWlog2 software enables the user to easily setup the VWlog2 parameters, such as date and time, sweep frequency range and excitation voltage.

VWlog2 is housed in a waterproof, rugged, die-cast aluminium enclosure, providing a rating of IP68 and all electronics are encased in an impervious sealing compound to avoid water damage.

With these features, VWlog2 is ideal for long-term and remote monitoring projects including those in harsh or damp environments.

# Contents

<b>OVERVIEW &amp; INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>6</b>
Important information	6
Product Changes	6
Warranty	6
Disposal	6
System Description - Things You Need to Know	7
Features	7
Benefits	7
System Components	8
The VWlog2	8
Quick Start Guide	9
Before You Go to Site:	9
When You Are in the Field:	9
When You Need to Collect Data:	9
<b>DETAILED VWLOG2 USER GUIDE</b>	<b>10</b>
Operating VWlog2	10
Inserting the Batteries	10
Preparing VWlog2 and VW Sensors	10
Connecting Sensors with Temperature	10
Connecting Sensors without Temperature	11
LED Sequence	11
<b>GUIDE TO CONFIGURATION &amp; DATA FILES</b>	<b>12</b>
VWlog2 Configuration File	12
Overview	12
VWlog2 Configuration File	12
Format of the Configuration File	13
Properties	13
Sections	13
Line Terminators, Spaces and Comments	14
Contents of Configuration File ("xxxxvwl.cfg")	14
Data File	14
Overview	14
Format of the Data File	16

---

<b>DETAILED SOFTWARE GUIDE</b>	<b>17</b>
VWlog2 Software	17
Connecting VWlog2 to Your PC	17
Software Overview	17
Software Functions	18
Logger Time	18
Logging Schedule	18
Channel 1	18
Channel 2	18
Load & Send Configuration File	19
Creating the Configuration File Using VWlog2 Software	19
Retrieving Current Settings	19
Logger Time	19
Logging Schedule	20
VW Channel Setup	20
Sweep Frequency Range	21
Excitation Voltage	21
<b>MAINTENANCE GUIDE</b>	<b>22</b>
Maintaining the VWlog2 System	22
Routine Maintenance	22
Battery Maintenance	22
<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>23</b>
Appendix A - Firmware Update	23
Appendix B – Frequently Asked Questions	24

## OVERVIEW & INTRODUCTION

### Important information

The following symbols are used throughout the manual



IMPORTANT  
INFORMATION



QUESTION



WARNING



TIP



**! Important:** Failure to adhere to the warnings in this manual may result in network disruption and possible data loss.

Failure to observe the warning may result in injury, product malfunction, unexpected readings or damage to the product that may invalidate its warranty.



Tips give additional information that may be helpful when using the VWlog2.

### PRODUCT CHANGES

Soil Instruments has an on-going policy of design review and reserves the right to amend the design of their product and this instruction manual without notice.

### WARRANTY

Refer to our terms and conditions of sale for warranty information. The batteries are a consumable item and are excluded from the warranty.

### DISPOSAL

Products marked with the  symbol are subject to the following disposal rules in European countries:

- This product is designated for separate collection at an appropriate collection point
- Do not dispose of as household waste
- For more information, contact Soil Instruments or the local authority in charge of waste management.

## System Description

### Things You Need to Know

#### FEATURES

- Reads two Vibrating Wire (VW) sensors and optional thermistor temperature sensors
- 4 MB internal memory; reads up to 50,000 readings per channel, equating to five years of data sampling at hourly intervals
- IP66 rated, rugged, die-cast aluminium enclosure
- Low power requirement; 2 x D Cell batteries last up to two years
- Easy configuration and firmware upgrade via mini-USB to USB cable
- True USB interface; data downloaded via drag-and-drop
- Reads any user definable frequency sweep range between 1700 to 6000 Hz.

#### BENEFITS

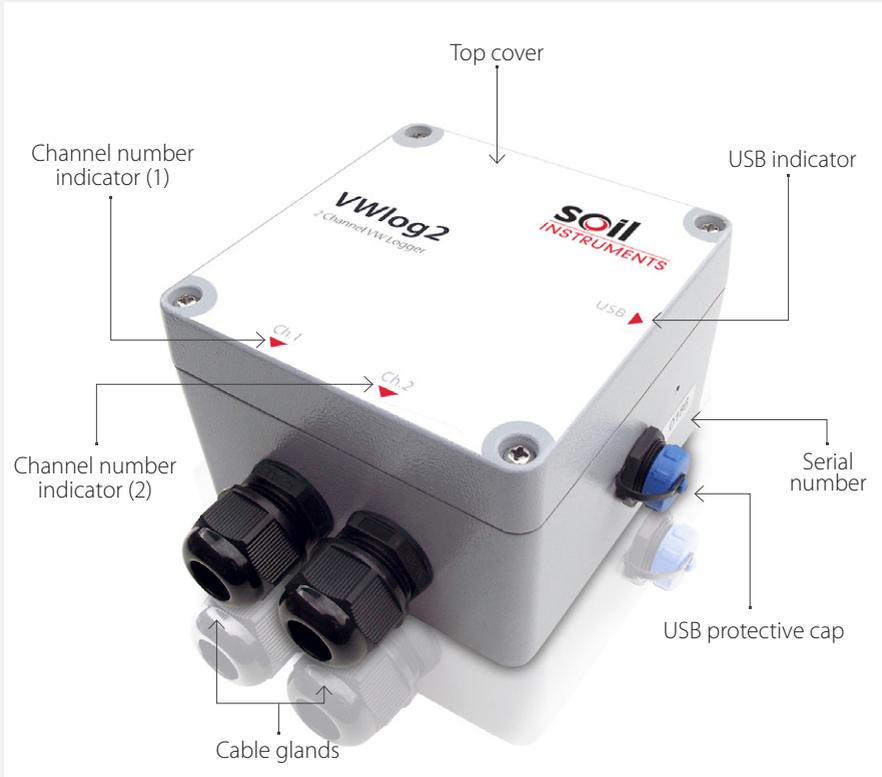
- Reads most types of commercially available Vibrating Wire (VW) sensors
- Optional 15V excitation ensures quality readings from sensors with long cables
- Ideal for long-term monitoring in harsh and damp environments
- Allows data collection immediately after sensor installation
- Fast setup and download time
- Versatile and economical
- All electronics sealed to protect from static and water damage.

## System Components

### THE VWLOG2

The VWlog2 is a rugged two channel Data Logger that will energise and read up to two Vibrating Wire (VW) sensors and optional thermistor temperature sensors and then store the readings internally for retrieval via a mini-USB to USB cable.

All settings are stored in a configuration file that is uploaded to VWlog2 via a mini-USB to USB cable. Once uploaded, these settings are saved internally and will be used until a new configuration file is uploaded.



Soil Instruments recommends carrying out a functionality test before going to site. After installing the software and sending the configuration file to VWlog2, wire in a Vibrating Wire (VW) sensor and allow VWlog2 to take several readings. Download the data and check the readings and configurations are correct.

## Quick Start Guide



Take care to insert the batteries with the correct polarity; make sure +/- on the batteries corresponds with +/- on the battery housing.

### BEFORE YOU GO TO SITE:

- Remove the top cover of VWlog2 using a Phillips head screwdriver
- Insert 2 good quality, 1.5V Alkaline D Cell batteries into VWlog2 battery housing
- Install Soil Instruments VWlog2 software provided on disc
- Connect VWlog2 to your PC or laptop using the mini-USB to USB cable
- Create the configuration file using VWlog2 software
- Send the configuration file to VWlog2
- Unplug the USB cable and replace the protective cap
- Replace the top cover.



VWlog2 has no on/off switch. It will start reading and storing data as soon as the batteries are inserted.

### WHEN YOU ARE IN THE FIELD:

- Remove the top cover of VWlog2 using a Phillips head screwdriver
- Connect up to two Vibrating Wire (VW) sensors (each can be with an optional built-in thermistor temperature sensor) to the wiring terminals in VWlog2
- Insert 2 x D Cell batteries into VWlog2 battery housing
- Replace the top cover
- Leave VWlog2 in a non-submerged and safe location.

### WHEN YOU NEED TO COLLECT DATA:

- Connect VWlog2 to your PC or laptop using the mini-USB to USB cable
- Use drag-and-drop to transfer the data file to your PC or laptop
- View the data in a spreadsheet or text editor.



If using a text editor, Soil Instruments recommends 'NotePad++' because it will display the lines in a more organised fashion using a column format.

Please refer to '*Detailed VWlog2 User Guide*' in this manual for more details.

# DETAILED VWLOG2 USER GUIDE

## Operating VWlog2

### INSERTING THE BATTERIES

The battery housing is accessed by unscrewing the four screws on the top cover of VWlog2 using a Phillips head screwdriver. Once the lid has been removed the batteries can be inserted into the battery housing.



Take care to insert the batteries with the correct polarity; make sure +/- on the batteries corresponds with +/- on the battery housing.

### PREPARING VWLOG2 AND VW SENSORS

Loosen the cable glands by turning the outer connection in an anti-clockwise direction.

Strip the Vibrating Wire (VW) sensor cable, making sure an adequate length of the internal cables are exposed to wire into the VWlog2 sensor terminals.



Only a competent person trained in the use of VWlog2 and Vibrating Wire sensors should connect the sensors.

### CONNECTING SENSORS WITH TEMPERATURE

Push the Vibrating Wire (VW) sensor cable through the cable gland and connect the wires to the sensor terminals as shown in the table below.

	SENSOR CONNECTIONS	SENSOR TERMINAL: CHANNEL 1	SENSOR TERMINAL: CHANNEL 2
	VW Sensor +	VW1	VW2
	VW Sensor -	VW1	VW2
	VW Thermistor +	Tmp1	Tmp2
	VW Thermistor -	Tmp1	Tmp2
	Shield	Shld	Shld



VWlog2 is only compatible with 3 K ohm thermistor temperature sensors. It will not work with RTD-based temperature sensors used by some manufacturers.

**CONNECTING SENSORS WITHOUT TEMPERATURE**

Push the Vibrating Wire (VW) sensor cable through the cable gland and connect the wires to the sensor terminals as shown in the following table.

	SENSOR CONNECTIONS	SENSOR TERMINAL: CHANNEL 1	SENSOR TERMINAL: CHANNEL 2
	VW Sensor +	VW1	VW2
	VW Sensor -	VW1	VW2
	Not used	Tmp1	Tmp2
	Not used	Tmp1	Tmp2
	Shield	Shld	Shld



Once Vibrating Wire sensors have been connected to VWlog2, ensure the cable glands are thoroughly tightened to maintain a watertight seal.

**LED SEQUENCE**

Once the VWlog2 has been installed and the batteries inserted, the following LED sequence will occur, informing you of the logger status.

LED SEQUENCE	DESCRIPTION	LOGGER STATUS LED
1	Batteries inserted, Logger functioning	'Heartbeat' – flashing every 7 seconds
2	Logger taking a reading	Solid red light (based on reading interval)
3	Logger connected to PC	Solid red light

Your Logger is now ready to use.

**Please proceed to the following sections;**

'*Guide to Configuration & Data Files*' and '*Detailed Software Guide*' in this manual for details on how to configure the logger and use the software to retrieve data.

# GUIDE TO CONFIGURATION & DATA FILES

## VWlog2 Configuration File

### OVERVIEW

The VWlog2 configuration file holds information on how and when the Vibrating Wire (VW) sensors are read.

The configurable parameters within the VWlog2 configuration file are as follows;

- **Reading interval**
- Timer start (not currently used, reserved for future use)
- Timer end (not currently used, reserved for future use)
- **Number of retries**
- **Sweep frequency range**
- **Excitation voltage.**

The sweep frequency range and excitation voltage can be individually modified for both channels.

The configuration file is retrieved from VWlog2 and modified using Soil Instruments VWlog2 software. Once the settings have been modified to suit your requirements, the new configuration file is sent back to VWlog2. VWlog2 will use the new settings on the next data cycle.

Please refer to '*Part IV – Detailed Software Guide*' in this manual for more details.

### VWLOG2 CONFIGURATION FILE

The VWlog2 configuration file is a text file that holds information on how the Vibrating Wire (VW) sensors are read.

The filename is "xxxx.cfg", where; "xxxx" is the VWlog2 ID (four character serial number found on the silver label).

More details on the content and format of "xxxx.cfg" are shown in the following table.

On power up, VWlog2 reads the information in "xxxx.cfg" and uses this information to read the sensors and save the data to its memory.

SECTION	AVAILABLE PROPERTIES	VALID VALUE	DESCRIPTION	RECOMMENDED VALUE
[Schedule]	Reading_Interval	30 to 3600	Time (in seconds) between the readings	3600
	Timer_start	0...23:00...59	Not currently used, reserved for future use	00:00
	Timer_end	0...23:00...59	Not currently used, reserved for future use	00.00

SECTION	AVAILABLE PROPERTIES	VALID VALUE	DESCRIPTION	RECOMMENDED VALUE
[Schedule]	Num_Retry	0 to 5	Number of times to re-take the reading if the reading frequency is beyond the range between Hz_min and Hz-max	3
[Channel1]	Hz_min	1700 - 6000 (integer)	Swept freq min in Hz	>=1700
	Hz_max	1700 - 6000 (integer)	Swept freq max in Hz	<=6000
	Excitation_Voltage	5 to 15	Excitation voltage in V	5
[Channel2]	Hz_min	1700 - 6000 (integer)	Swept freq min in Hz	>=1700
	Hz_max	1700 - 6000 (integer)	Swept freq max in Hz	<=6000
	Excitation_Voltage	5 to 15	Excitation voltage in V	5

## Format of the Configuration File

### PROPERTIES

The basic element contained in a CFG file is the property. Every property has a name and a value, delimited by an equals sign (=). The name appears to the left of the equals sign.

**name=value**

The text value must be quoted by using double quotes;

**name="value"**

The property names are not case sensitive and cannot contain space between characters. If a property is skipped or is not included in the configuration file, the default values of this property will be assumed.

### SECTIONS

Properties have been grouped into sections. The section name appears on a line by itself, in square brackets (**[ and ]**). All properties after the section declaration are associated with that section. There is no explicit "end of section" delimiter; sections end at the next section declaration, or the end of the file. Sections may not be nested.

**[section]**

The section names are not case sensitive and cannot contain space between characters. If the same section appears more than once in the same file, or if the same property name appears more than once in the same section, then the last occurrence prevails.

LINE  
TERMINATORS,  
SPACES AND  
COMMENTS

If there is an unrecognised section name, the entire section (with all its properties) will be skipped. Within a known section, all unrecognised properties will be skipped.

If a section is skipped, or is not included in the Logger Configuration File, the default values of all the properties in the section will be assumed.

Lines are terminated by a CR+LF (carriage return + line feed). Semicolons (;) at the beginning of the line indicate a comment.

**; comment text**

Comments, empty lines and spaces at the beginning of a line will be ignored.

The name of the configuration file is "xxxx.cfg", where, "xxxx" is the VWlog2 ID (four character serial number found on the silver label).

CONTENTS OF  
CONFIGURATION  
FILE  
("XXXXVWL.CFG")

An example of the VWlog2 configuration file is shown below;

```
;VWlog2_V1
; Config file
; 15 August 2014
; Author: Soil Instruments
;
[Schedule]
Reading_Interval=3600
Timer_start=00:00 (not currently used, reserved for future use)
Timer_end=00:00 (not currently used, reserved for future use)
Num_Retry=0

[Channel1]
;The external channel #1 - VW Rod-Ex
Hz_min=1700
Hz_max=3400
Excitation_Voltage=5

[Channel2]
;The external channel #2 - VW Rod-Ex
Hz_min=1700
Hz_max=3400
Excitation_Voltage=15
```

## Data File

### OVERVIEW

The data file is transferred from VWlog2 to your PC or laptop via drag-and-drop and can be viewed via a spreadsheet or in a text editor on your PC.



If using a text editor, we recommend 'NotePad++' because it will display the lines in a more organised fashion using a column format.

Once connected, VWlog2 appears as a removable storage device on your PC or laptop as shown below.



When you open VWlog2, two data files are displayed; a text document and a CSV file. The files may be transferred to your PC or laptop by dragging-and-dropping.



The CSV file can be opened in 'Excel'.

Name	Date modified	Type	Size
0003	31/01/2013 10:17	Text Document	3 KB
0003DATA	31/01/2013 10:00	Microsoft Excel ...	3 KB

Example of a data file

Date/Time	Serial Number	Vbatt(V)	Board Temp(°C)	CH1 freq(Hz)	CH1 temp(°C)	CH2 freq(Hz)	CH2 temp(°C)	Flags
29/01/2013 17:00	0x0003	2.7	23	2843.354	20.2	2006.615	23.3	0
29/01/2013 18:00	0x0003	2.7	23	2843.354	20.2	2006.605	23.4	0
29/01/2013 19:00	0x0003	2.7	22.9	2843.512	20.2	2006.487	23.2	0
29/01/2013 20:00	0x0003	2.7	23	2843.559	20.2	2006.628	23.4	0
29/01/2013 21:00	0x0003	2.7	22.9	2843.459	20.2	2006.447	23.1	0
29/01/2013 22:00	0x0003	2.7	22.7	2843.422	20.2	2006.382	22.9	0
29/01/2013 23:00	0x0003	2.7	22.5	2843.454	20.2	2006.426	22.7	0
30/01/2013 00:00	0x0003	2.7	22.4	2843.744	20.2	2006.426	22.6	0
30/01/2013 01:00	0x0003	2.7	22.2	2843.707	20.2	2006.395	22.5	0
30/01/2013 02:00	0x0003	2.7	22.1	2843.575	20.2	2006.492	22.4	0
30/01/2013 03:00	0x0003	2.7	22	2843.333	20.2	2006.4	22.3	0
30/01/2013 04:00	0x0003	2.7	21.9	2843.717	20.2	2006.466	22.2	0
30/01/2013 05:00	0x0003	2.7	21.8	2843.875	20.2	2006.397	22.1	0
30/01/2013 06:00	0x0003	2.7	21.8	2843.802	20.2	2006.256	22.3	0
30/01/2013 07:00	0x0003	2.7	22	2843.775	20.2	2006.28	22.4	0
30/01/2013 08:00	0x0003	2.7	22.3	2843.233	20.2	2006.295	22.9	0
30/01/2013 09:00	0x0003	2.7	22.9	2843.28	20.2	2006.534	23.6	0
30/01/2013 10:00	0x0003	2.7	24	2843.412	20.2	2007.011	24.9	0
30/01/2013 11:00	0x0003	2.7	24	2842.959	20.2	2006.78	24.3	0
30/01/2013 12:00	0x0003	2.7	23.6	2843.086	20.2	2006.453	23.9	0
30/01/2013 13:00	0x0003	2.7	23.7	2843.312	20.2	2007.819	24.2	0
30/01/2013 14:00	0x0003	2.7	23.9	2843.107	20.2	2006.473	24.4	0
30/01/2013 15:00	0x0003	2.7	23.9	2842.854	20.2	2006.191	24.1	0

**FORMAT OF THE  
DATA FILE**

COLUMN	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE
Date/Time	Date and time of reading (yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss)	2013-02-13 17:30:00
Serial Number	Sensor serial number. The sensor serial number is displayed as a hexadecimal number	0x000A
Vbatt(V)	Battery voltage at time of reading	3.0
Board Temp(°C)	Logger temperature at time of readings in °C	22.8
CH1 freq(Hz)	Sensor reading from channel 1 in Hz. The value will be "NAN" if no sensor or the reading is still outside the sweeping range after retries	3059.669
CH1 temp(°C)	Thermistor temperature sensor reading from channel 1 in °C. The value will be "NAN" if no sensor or the reading is beyond the normal range	21.1
CH2 freq(Hz)	Sensor reading from channel 2 in Hz. The value will be "NAN" if the reading is still outside the sweeping range after retries	3088.827
CH2 temp(°C)	Thermistor temperature sensor reading from channel 2 in °C. The value will be "NAN" if no sensor or the reading is beyond the normal range	21.4
Flags	Reserved for future use	N/A



There are two other files to be aware of, "TIME.TXT" and "xxxx.LOG" (where "xxxx" is the VWlog2 ID four character serial number found on the silver label). These files must not be moved or deleted and should be ignored by the user.

# DETAILED SOFTWARE GUIDE

## VWlog2 Software

### CONNECTING VWLOG2 TO YOUR PC

Connect VWlog2 to your PC or laptop using the mini-USB to USB cable. The mini-USB port on VWlog2 is housed within a protective, watertight cap which can be found on the right hand side of the unit.

When the VWlog2 is connected to your PC, a solid red light will be visible next to the USB input.

Once connected, VWlog2 appears as a removable storage device on your PC or laptop.



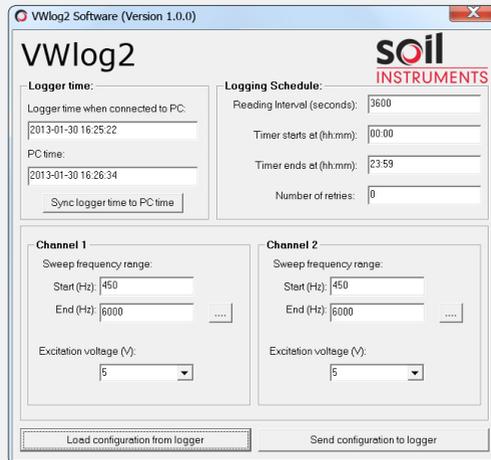
If VWlog2 is scheduled to read a sensor, the USB connection will be temporarily disrupted while the reading is taken. This ensures that no data is missed during connection. Once data has been successfully recorded, the USB connection will be re-established.

### SOFTWARE OVERVIEW

Soil Instruments VWlog2 software helps you to modify the logger configuration file.

The name of the configuration file is "xxxx.cfg", where; "xxxx" is the VWlog2 ID (four character serial number found on the silver label).

When you start the software you will be presented with the setup screen. The software version is displayed at the top of the form after the software name as shown in the screen shot below.



## Software Functions

### LOGGER TIME

**Logger time when connected to PC;** displays the date and time from VWlog2 when it is connected to your PC.

**PC time;** displays the date and time from your PC. This will be updated automatically.

**Sync logger time to PC time;** synchronises the time from VWlog2 to the time from your PC.

### LOGGING SCHEDULE

**Reading Interval (seconds);** the time (in seconds) between the readings.

Timer starts at (hh:mm); not currently used, reserved for future use.

Timer ends at (hh:mm); not currently used, reserved for future use.

**Number of retries;** the number of times VWlog2 will attempt to take readings if the measured reading is outside the set sweep frequency.

The screenshot shows a window titled "Logging Schedule:" with four input fields:

- Reading Interval (seconds): 3600
- Timer starts at (hh:mm): 00:00
- Timer ends at (hh:mm): 23:59
- Number of retries: 0

### CHANNEL 1

**Sweep frequency range;** allows you to select the Start Hz and End Hz sweep frequency range for channel 1.

**Excitation Voltage;** allows you to select the excitation voltage for channel 1 (5 or 15 V).

### CHANNEL 2

**Sweep frequency range;** allows you to select the Start Hz and End Hz sweep frequency range for channel 1.

**Excitation Voltage;** allows you to select the excitation voltage for channel 2 (5 or 15 V).

The screenshot shows two side-by-side configuration windows for Channel 1 and Channel 2. Each window has the following fields:

- Channel 1:**
  - Sweep frequency range:
    - Start (Hz): 450
    - End (Hz): 6000
  - Excitation voltage (V): 5
- Channel 2:**
  - Sweep frequency range:
    - Start (Hz): 450
    - End (Hz): 6000
  - Excitation voltage (V): 5

**LOAD & SEND  
CONFIGURATION  
FILE**

**Load configuration from logger;** loads the current settings from VWlog2 to change the sweep frequency range.

**Send configuration to logger;** sends the new settings to VWlog2.



**Creating the Configuration File Using VWlog2 Software**

**RETRIEVING  
CURRENT  
SETTINGS**

To start, you will need to retrieve the current settings from VWlog2 by clicking on the 'Load configuration from logger' button.

Once the current settings from VWlog2 are displayed, the parameters can be modified to suit your requirements. If there is not a configuration file in VWlog2, default values for all fields will be loaded.

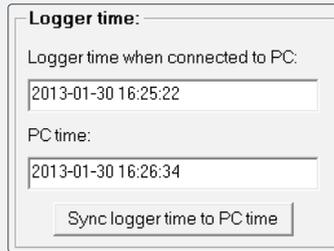
Please refer to '*Guide to the Configuration File and the Data File*' in this manual for more details.



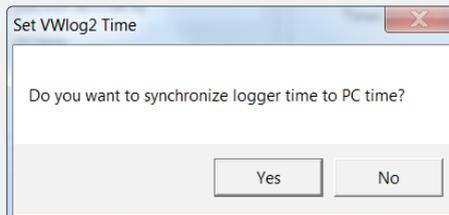
You can only retrieve the settings from VWlog2 when it is connected to the PC via a USB port.

**LOGGER TIME**

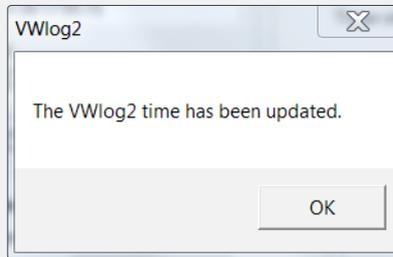
Synchronising logger time to PC time ensures that there is no time drift and enables you to update to daylight saving time.



If you click 'Sync logger time to PC time', a dialogue box will ask you if you want to synchronise logger time to PC time.



By clicking 'Yes', the times will be synchronised and a dialogue box will inform you that the times have been updated.



If you click 'No', you will be returned to the main setup screen and the times will not be synchronised.

## LOGGING SCHEDULE

The 'Reading Interval' displays the time in seconds between the readings. The default value is 3600 which equates to 1 hour. The reading interval can be set to suit your monitoring requirements.

A screenshot of a dialog box titled "Logging Schedule:". It contains four input fields: "Reading Interval (seconds):" with the value "3600"; "Timer starts at (hh:mm):" with the value "00:00"; "Timer ends at (hh:mm):" with the value "23:59"; and "Number of retries:" with the value "0".

'Number of retries' enables you to set the number of times VWlog2 will attempt to re-take the reading if the reading frequency is beyond the range between **Hz\_min** and **Hz-max**. You can set the number of retries between 0 and 5.

## VW CHANNEL SETUP

The two channels are displayed separately in the main setup screen, allowing you to configure the sweep frequency range and excitation voltage of each sensor.

A screenshot of the "VW Channel Setup" screen. It is divided into two columns, "Channel 1" and "Channel 2". Each column has a "Sweep frequency range:" section with "Start (Hz):" and "End (Hz):" input fields. For Channel 1, Start is 450 and End is 6000. For Channel 2, Start is 450 and End is 6000. Below the frequency range is an "Excitation voltage (V):" section with a dropdown menu set to "5".

## SWEEP FREQUENCY RANGE

To change the sweep frequency range you can either click on the boxes of 'Start (Hz)' and 'End (Hz)' or click the '...' button. This will open a new window where you can select one of the pre-defined sweep ranges or you can type in custom 'Start Frequency' and 'End Frequency'. Once you have selected the sweep range, click 'Apply' to save the settings.

Set Sweep Range

Start Frequency (Hz):

End Frequency (Hz):

Sweep 1: 450-1125 Hz

Sweep 2: 800-2000 Hz

Sweep 3: 1400-3500 Hz

Sweep 4: 2300-6000 Hz

Cancel Apply



Soil Instruments recommend you consult the manufacturers' manual for the recommended sweep frequency range for the particular instrument being used.



A narrower sweep band will produce a better quality signal.

## EXCITATION VOLTAGE

You can select the 15 V DC excitation option if the sensor has a long cable. As a guide, a cable is considered long if it is over 200m (600 ft), however, Soil Instruments advise that you consult the manufacturers' manual for the recommended excitation voltage for the particular instrument being used.

## MAINTENANCE GUIDE

### Maintaining the VWlog2 System

#### ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

VWlog2 is manufactured with multilayer circuit boards containing surface mounted components. For this reason there are no parts which require routine maintenance other than the replacement of the batteries and recalibration of VWlog2.



Ensure the protective cap of the USB port and cable glands are securely tightened so that VWlog2 remains watertight.

#### BATTERY MAINTENANCE

VWlog2 is powered by 2 x D Cell batteries. VWlog2 battery status can be logged at regular intervals to monitor the battery levels, avoiding loss of power and therefore loss of data by making sure you replace the batteries in a timely manner.

When replacing the batteries, make sure you run all the start-up tests to confirm that VWlog2 is fully functioning.



Take care to insert the batteries with the correct polarity; make sure +/- on the batteries corresponds with +/- on the battery housing.

Battery life is dependent on the following factors;

- Battery type/quality
- Sensor reading frequency
- Ambient temperature

Soil Instruments advise that with both channels active, two new D Cell alkaline batteries will keep VWlog2 in operation for two years while reading two Vibrating Wire (VW) sensors and two temperature sensors every hour.



The minimum voltage of VWlog2 is 2V, but please be aware that this is for VWlog2 only and not for any sensors attached to it. Please refer to the manufacturers' manual for your sensors for further information.

## APPENDICES

### Appendix A - Firmware Update

You can update VWlog2 firmware locally. The firmware will be supplied by Soil Instruments as a binary file with a "hex" extension. The typical filename is "xxxx.hex".

To perform a firmware update:

STEP	ACTION
1	Rename the latest firmware file such as "xxxx.hex" to "image.hex"
2	Connect VWlog2 to the PC using a mini-USB to USB cable
3	Copy "image.hex" to VWlog2 memory which appears as a removable drive
4	Disconnect VWlog2 from the PC
5	VWlog2 will now be updated to the new firmware
6	VWlog2 will then delete "image.hex" from its memory

## Appendix B – Frequently Asked Questions



### Why is VWlog2 not showing as a removable drive on my PC or laptop?

Firstly, make sure the mini-USB is correctly inserted into VWlog2. When VWlog2 is connected to your PC, a solid red light should be displayed to the right of the USB port. If the mini-USB to USB cable is correctly inserted but there is still no red light, you may have a faulty USB port on your PC. Check this by plugging into a different USB port if one is available, alternatively try a different PC. If after these checks VWlog2 is still not connecting, you may have a faulty mini-USB to USB cable, in which case you can try a different cable. If the problem still persists please contact our support team.

### Why is VWlog2 not working after I have replaced the batteries?

Check that the batteries are new and have been inserted with the correct polarity. The problem may be caused by cable damage or a bad connection from the battery housing to the wiring terminal. You can check this by using a Multimeter to test the battery power. If the batteries have full voltage but VWlog2 is still not functioning, please contact our support team.

### What sweep frequency range should I use for my Vibrating Wire (VW) sensors?

You should avoid using VWlog2 default sweep frequency range (1700 - 6000 Hz) because it is too wide for good quality reading using zero-crossing method. Below is a table showing the sweep frequency ranges for various VW sensors manufactured by Soil Instruments. This table is a reference for Soil Instruments VW sensors only, for non-Soil Instruments sensors please refer to the manufacturers' recommended sweep frequency range.

### Sweep Frequency Ranges for Soil Instruments Vibrating Wire Sensors

INSTRUMENT	CATALOGUE CODE	SIGNAL RANGE
VW Piezometer	W4, W9	1700 - 3400 Hz
VW Pressure Cell	P6, P9, P10	1700 - 3400 Hz
VW Settlement Cell	S8	1700 - 3400 Hz
VW Load Cell	L2	2000 - 3000 Hz
VW Temperature Sensor	T3	2000 - 3500 Hz
VW Weir Sensor	W10	2000 - 3500 Hz







SUPPORT

[www.soilsupport.com](http://www.soilsupport.com)

+44 (0) 1825 765044



Bell Lane, Uckfield, East Sussex

TN22 1QL United Kingdom

t: +44 (0) 1825 765044

e: [info@soilinstruments.com](mailto:info@soilinstruments.com)

w: [www.soilinstruments.com](http://www.soilinstruments.com)

Soil Instruments Limited. Registered in England. Number: 07960087. Registered Office: 3rd Floor, Ashley Road, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 2DT