

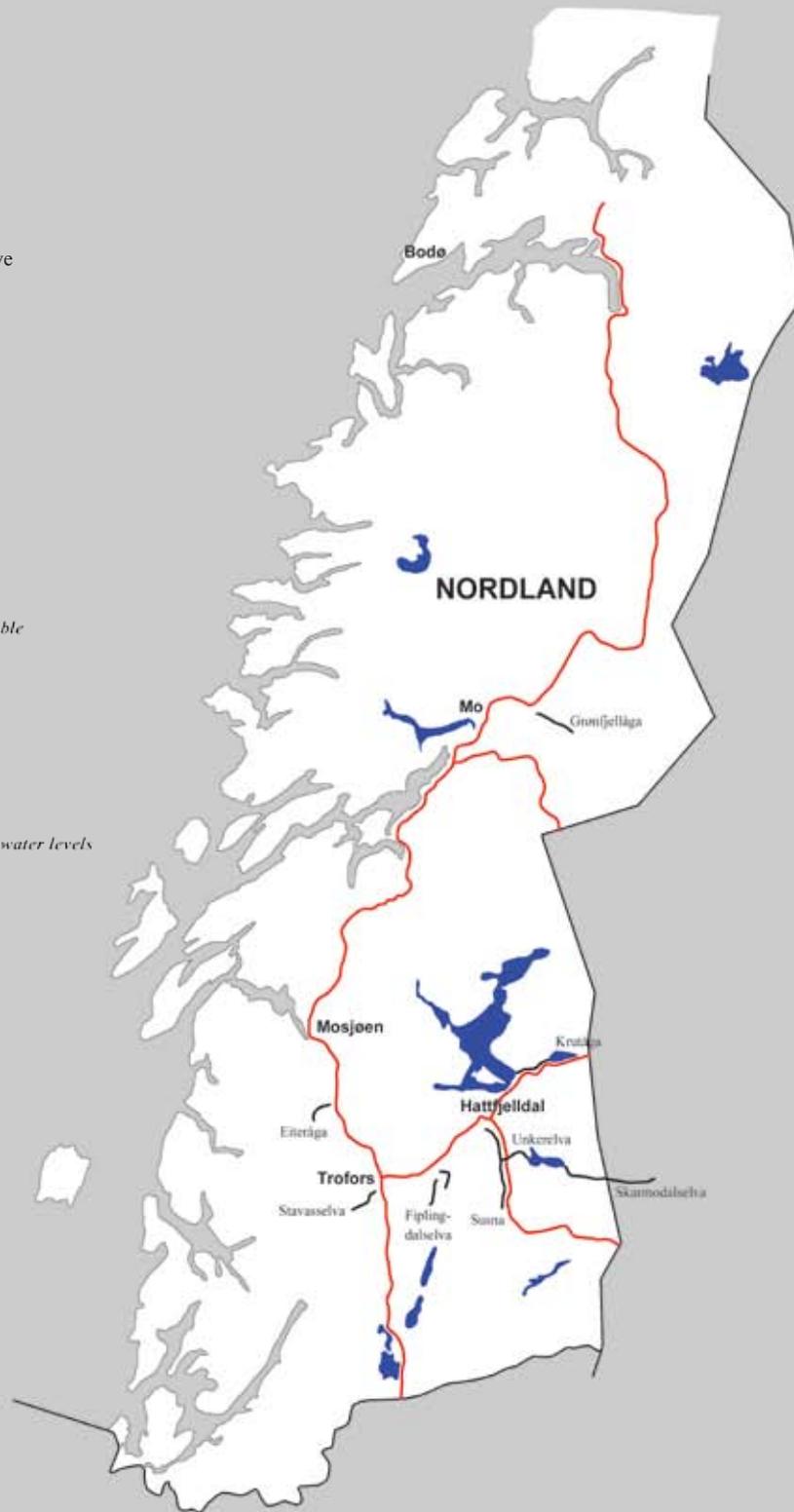


# NORTHERN NORWAY

## GAUGES

River	Gaugename
Susna	Nervoll
	Nve

- Fall, drop or steep slide
- Normally not run or not runnable
- Put-in, normally preferred
- Take-out, normally preferred
- Awareness point, inspection might indeed be necessary
- Gauge
- Total blockage, always/certain water levels
- Mandatory portage



## NORTHERN NORWAY

The geographical area Northern Norway, covers the counties Nordland, Troms and Finnmark. When considering the area, you must realize that the expression “going north” is far from correct. The Hattfjelldal area in Nordland County, which is the main area in this section of the guide, is as close you can come to the exact middle point of Norway. The area ought to be visited much more.

When driving to this area in end of June you will normally experience that the rivers in Nord-Trøndelag on the way up to Hattfjelldal is dry. Do not despair, trust the gauges. When you make plans on visiting this area, a check on the internet will assure you that water levels are good. The best time to go will vary greatly depending on last winter’s snow levels in the mountains. If you have a fixed vacation you should make your final decision on going or not towards the end of March or later.

During springtime the rivers in the area will usually be too high, but when the snow is beginning to disappear in late June and early July the possibilities are opening up. Hattfjelldal is one of the most snow rich areas in Norway, so in some years the snow levels are not low enough until August. Even if you only have three informative automatic gauges (“Nervoll” high up and “Joibakken” far down in Susna and “Laksfors” in Vefsna) in the area, the predictability of water levels estimated is quite good when the snow is almost gone. If you look at the snow maps for year 2008, 2009, 2010 the water level in the area was excellent in the very end of June. At the same time in 2006 the water level was on the low side. The water volume ought to be 40m<sup>3</sup> – 75m<sup>3</sup> on the “Nervoll” gauge in order to be pretty sure of an excellent water level, but you will always find something to run even in drier periods.

The gauge “Joibakken is new this year (2013) and experience data is not available. Never the less this gauge give a much better understanding of this area’s water levels when compared with the gauge “Laksfors”. “Laksfors” minus “Joibakken” gives the water level in Gåsvasselva. Since Gåsvasselva and the tributary Stavasselva normally correlate well this comparison of gauges will give valuable information about the water level in these two rivers. The river Eiteråga which comes into Vefsna below “Laksfors” will normally have the same flow pattern as Gåsvasselva and Stavasselva.

### Other rivers

There are many other rivers witch has been paddled in Northern Norway. Here are some of them: Beiarelva, Bjøllåga, Graddiselva, Junkerelva, Lomsdalselva, Lønsdalselva, Messingåga, Mjølkelva, Ranelva, Sauelva, Skaitielva, Stormdalsåga, Tespa, Vefsna, Virvasselva.

Eiteråga has been run from Toresjordet down to the confluence with Vefsna. This is a short expedition style river, with difficult inspections and hairy portages. If you have the right water level for the section, which is a low one, you will have a great time making your way down. That is, if you like rivers with difficult surroundings.

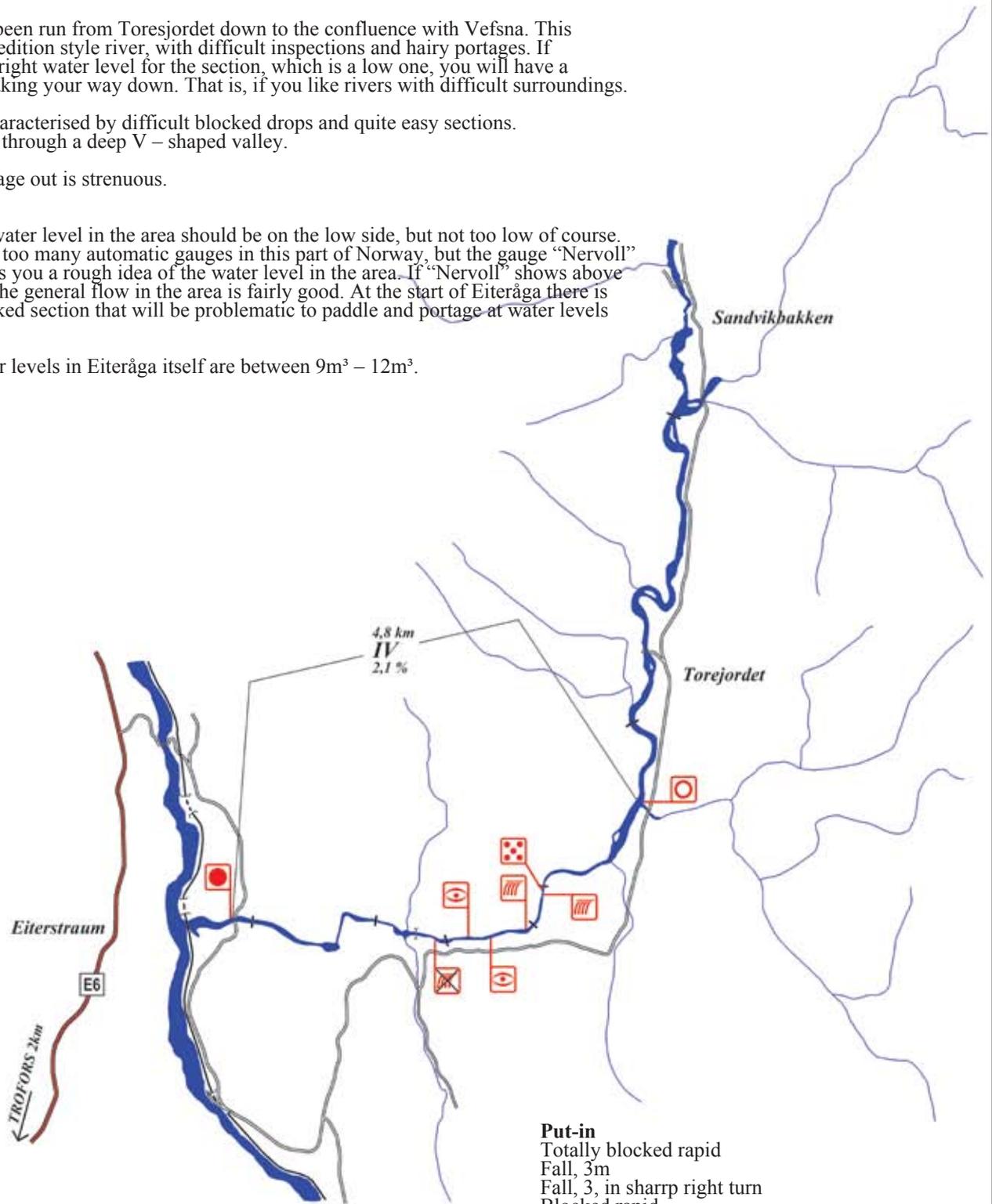
Eiteråga is characterised by difficult blocked drops and quite easy sections. Eiteråga runs through a deep V – shaped valley.

To carry portage out is strenuous.

### Waterlevel

The general water level in the area should be on the low side, but not too low of course. There are not too many automatic gauges in this part of Norway, but the gauge “Nervoll” in Susna gives you a rough idea of the water level in the area. If “Nervoll” shows above 1,15m/40m<sup>3</sup> the general flow in the area is fairly good. At the start of Eiteråga there is a severe blocked section that will be problematic to paddle and portage at water levels above “low”.

Optimal water levels in Eiteråga itself are between 9m<sup>3</sup> – 12m<sup>3</sup>.



### Put-in

- Totally blocked rapid
  - Fall, 3m
  - Fall, 3, in sharrp right turn
  - Blocked rapid
  - Blocked rapid with small drop, 1m
  - Very rugged fall, but possible for the chosen one
- Take-out**

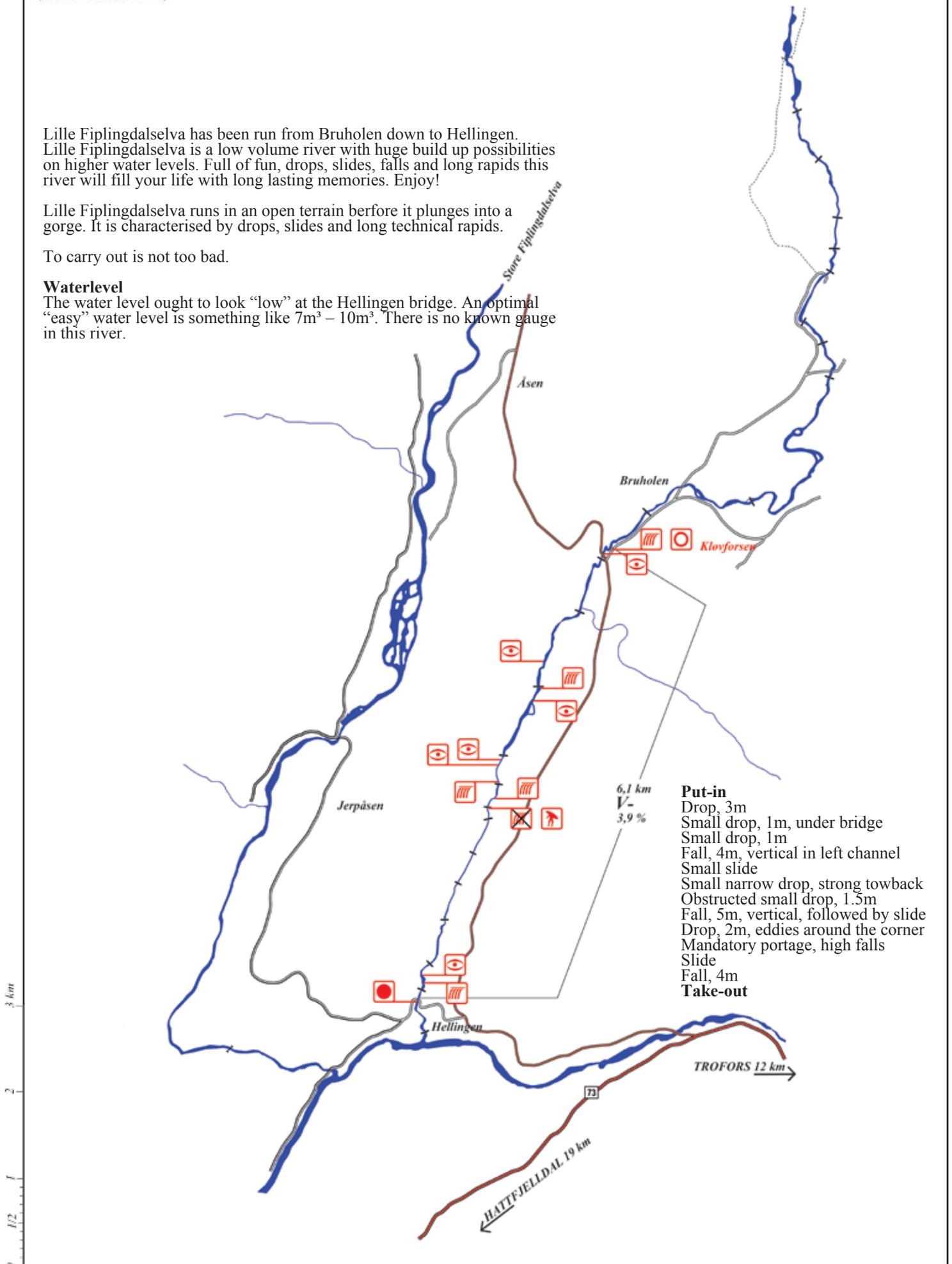
Lille Fiplingdalselva has been run from Bruhølen down to Hellinggen. Lille Fiplingdalselva is a low volume river with huge build up possibilities on higher water levels. Full of fun, drops, slides, falls and long rapids this river will fill your life with long lasting memories. Enjoy!

Lille Fiplingdalselva runs in an open terrain before it plunges into a gorge. It is characterised by drops, slides and long technical rapids.

To carry out is not too bad.

### Waterlevel

The water level ought to look "low" at the Hellinggen bridge. An optimal "easy" water level is something like 7m<sup>3</sup> – 10m<sup>3</sup>. There is no known gauge in this river.



Store Fiplingdalselva has been run from Jerpåsen down to the confluence with Vef-sna.

The start of Store Fiplingdalselva runs through fairly open terrain with easy going rapids. At a large obvious turn the terrain gets steeper and the river changes character with steeper rapids and more drops.

To carry out is strenuous.

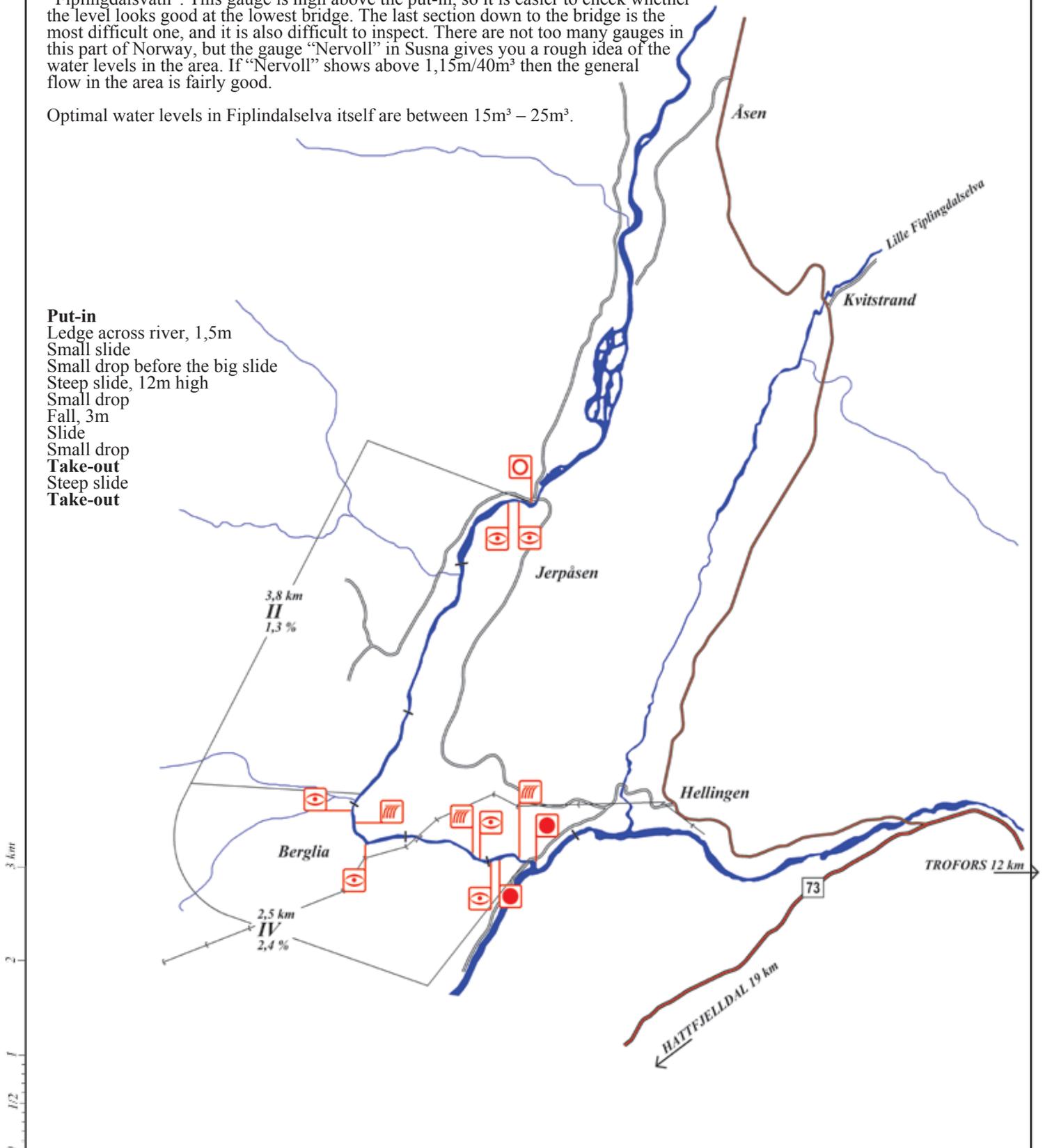
### Waterlevel

The water level in Fiplingdalselva can be determined by checking the manual gauge "Fiplingdalsvatn". This gauge is high above the put-in, so it is easier to check whether the level looks good at the lowest bridge. The last section down to the bridge is the most difficult one, and it is also difficult to inspect. There are not too many gauges in this part of Norway, but the gauge "Nervoll" in Susna gives you a rough idea of the water levels in the area. If "Nervoll" shows above 1,15m/40m<sup>3</sup> then the general flow in the area is fairly good.

Optimal water levels in Fiplindalselva itself are between 15m<sup>3</sup> – 25m<sup>3</sup>.

### Put-in

- Ledge across river, 1,5m
- Small slide
- Small drop before the big slide
- Steep slide, 12m high
- Small drop
- Fall, 3m
- Slide
- Small drop
- Take-out**
- Steep slide
- Take-out**



Grønnfjellåga has been paddled from Snasen down to Dunderforsen.

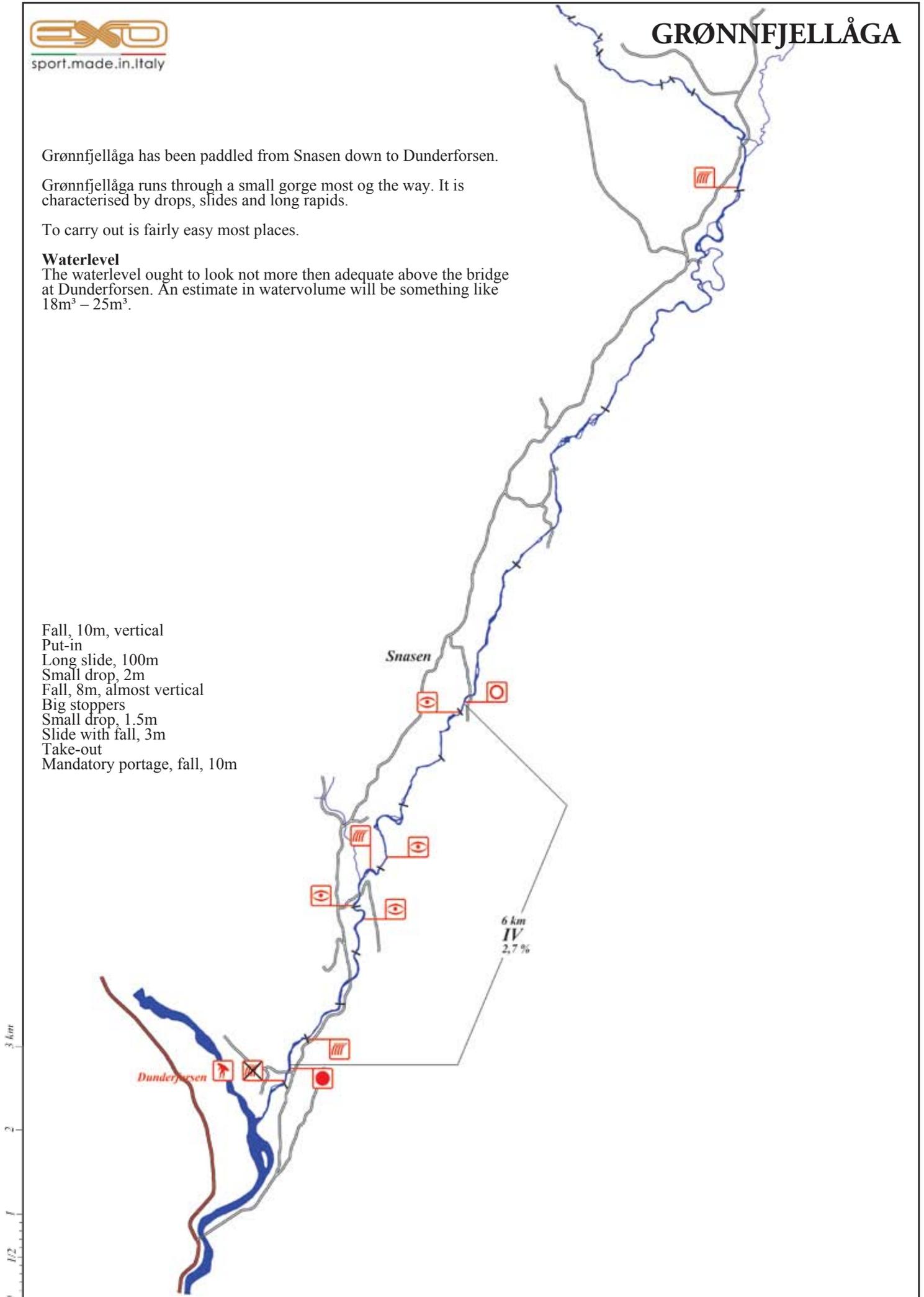
Grønnfjellåga runs through a small gorge most of the way. It is characterised by drops, slides and long rapids.

To carry out is fairly easy most places.

### Waterlevel

The waterlevel ought to look not more than adequate above the bridge at Dunderforsen. An estimate in watervolume will be something like 18m<sup>3</sup> – 25m<sup>3</sup>.

- Fall, 10m, vertical
- Put-in
- Long slide, 100m
- Small drop, 2m
- Fall, 8m, almost vertical
- Big stoppers
- Small drop, 1.5m
- Slide with fall, 3m
- Take-out
- Mandatory portage, fall, 10m



Krutåga has been paddled from Krutvatnet down to Røssvatnet. “Krut” means gun powder and this river has power enough to spank you thoroughly.

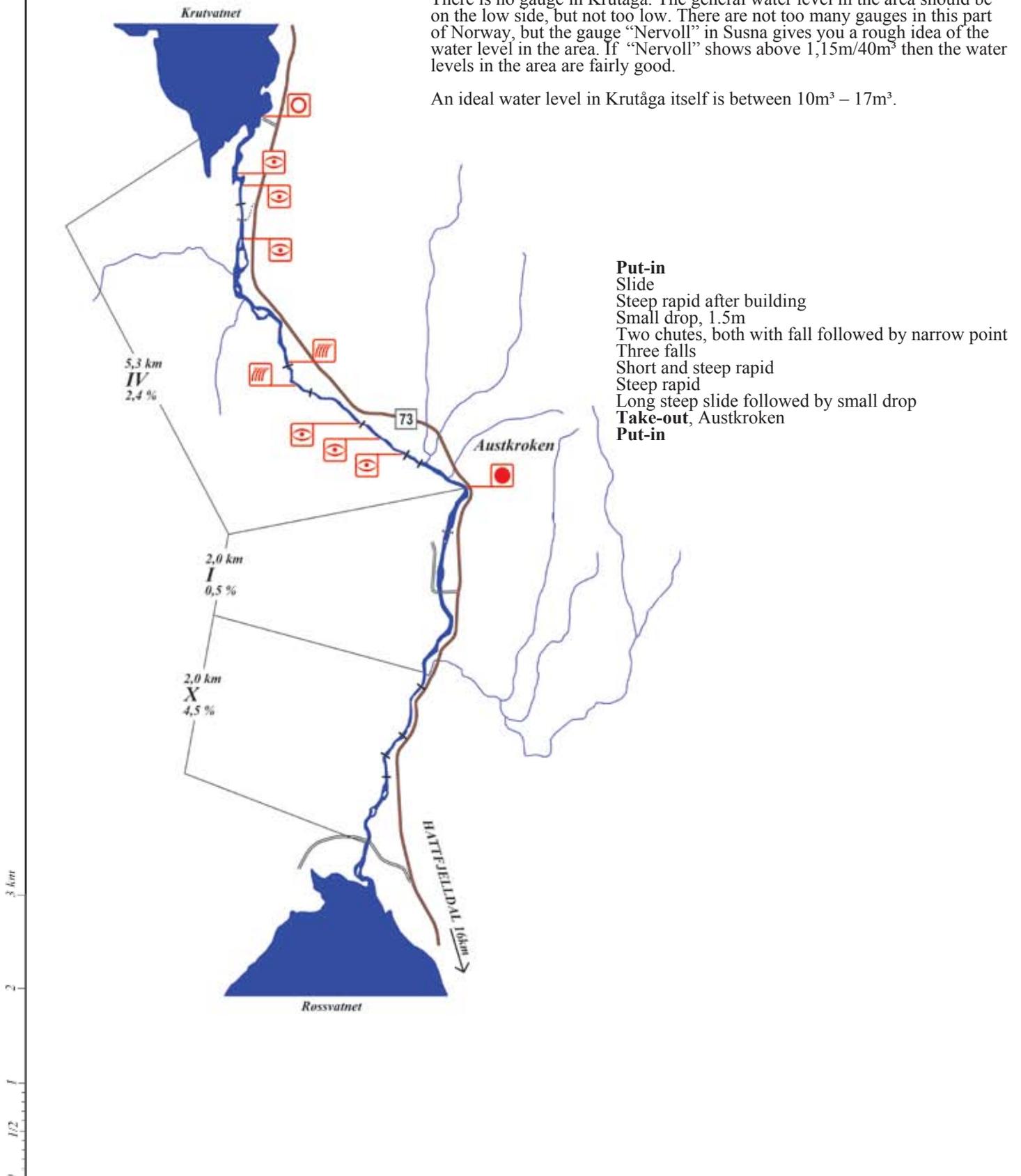
Krutåga runs through fairly open terrain. It is characterised by drops and slides.

To carry out is easy most places.

**Waterlevel**

There is no gauge in Krutåga. The general water level in the area should be on the low side, but not too low. There are not too many gauges in this part of Norway, but the gauge “Nervoll” in Susna gives you a rough idea of the water level in the area. If “Nervoll” shows above 1,15m/40m<sup>3</sup> then the water levels in the area are fairly good.

An ideal water level in Krutåga itself is between 10m<sup>3</sup> – 17m<sup>3</sup>.



Skardmodalselva has its origin in Sweden as the river Våpstälven, but in the guide it will be described under the Norwegian name. Skardmodalselva has been run from Våpstsjøen down to Unkervatnet. The upper section is the jewel of this river and you will get a pleasant memory of the rapids. The insects will give you memories too. The rapids on the Norwegian side are few and not so "rough".

Skardmodalselva runs in a fairly open terrain and is characterised by drops and short blocked rapids.

To carry out is easy most of the way.

### Waterlevel

The water level in Skardmodalselva can be determined by checking the manual gauge "Unkervatn" (see: Unkerelva). An optimal water level on the Swedish side of the border is between 1,42m/10m<sup>3</sup> – 1,52m/15m<sup>3</sup>. The section after the take-out in Sweden needs more water to be good: between 1,59m/20m<sup>3</sup> – 1,17m/35m<sup>3</sup>. For the location of the gauge see the map for Unkerelva.

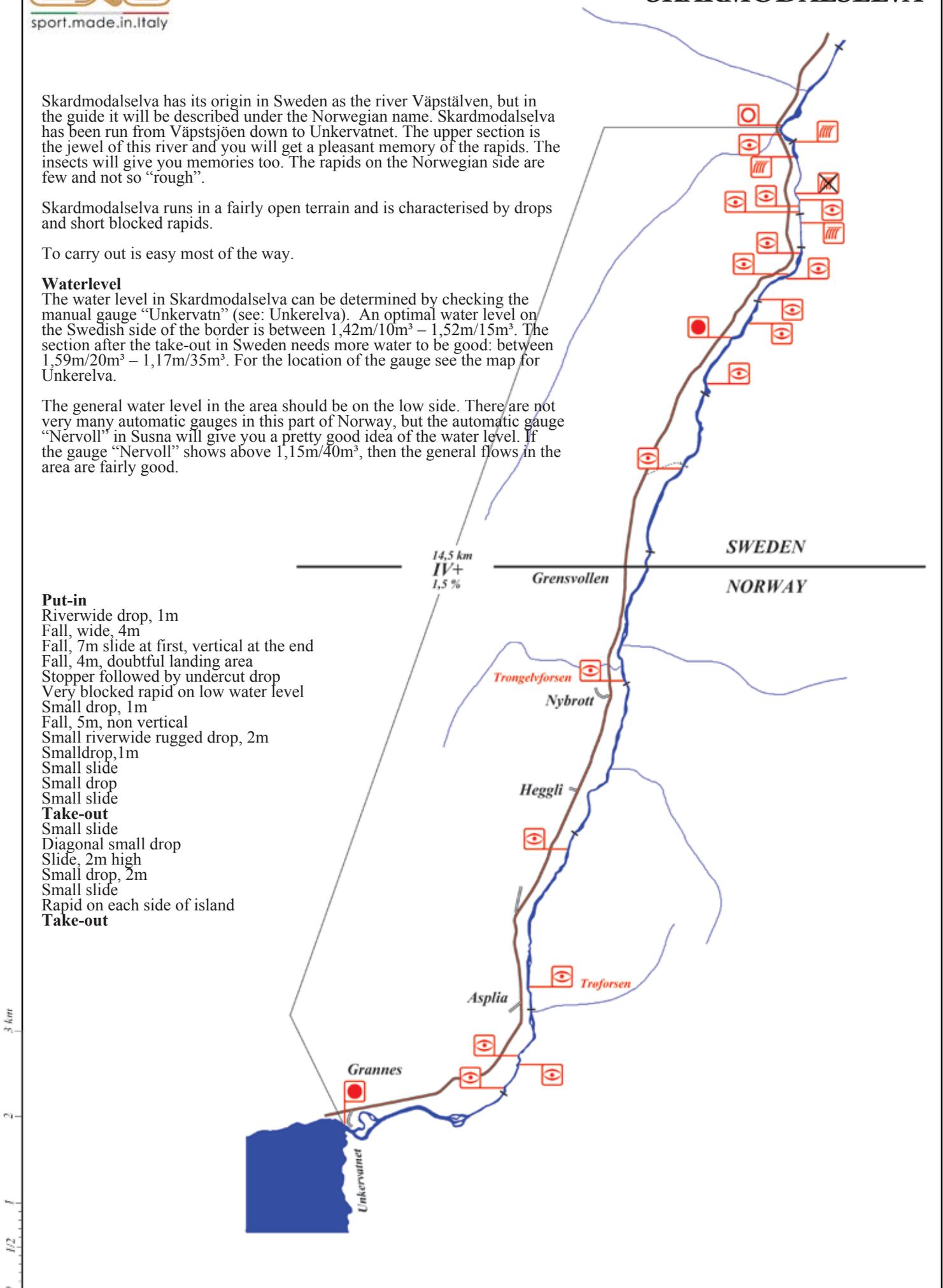
The general water level in the area should be on the low side. There are not very many automatic gauges in this part of Norway, but the automatic gauge "Nervoll" in Susna will give you a pretty good idea of the water level. If the gauge "Nervoll" shows above 1,15m/40m<sup>3</sup>, then the general flows in the area are fairly good.

### Put-in

- Riverwide drop, 1m
- Fall, wide, 4m
- Fall, 7m slide at first, vertical at the end
- Fall, 4m, doubtful landing area
- Stopper followed by undercut drop
- Very blocked rapid on low water level
- Small drop, 1m
- Fall, 5m, non vertical
- Small riverwide rugged drop, 2m
- Small drop, 1m
- Small slide
- Small drop
- Small slide

### Take-out

- Small slide
  - Diagonal small drop
  - Slide, 2m high
  - Small drop, 2m
  - Small slide
  - Rapid on each side of island
- Take-out**



Stavasselva has been run from where the road ends, down to Golomoen. Long term enjoyment with the highlight double drop "Svartfossen" is waiting you. Stavasselva is a low volume river with huge build up possibilities. As long as the water levels don't get too high, the rapids will be pure delight.

Stavasselva runs in fairly deep V – valley. It is characterised by small drops and long blocked rapids.

To carry out is easy as long as the road is beside you, after that... figure it out.

### Waterlevel

There is no gauge in Stavasselva. The general water level in the area should be on the low side, but not too low of course. There are not too many gauges in this part of Norway, but the gauge "Nervoll" in Susna gives you a rough idea of the water level in the area. If the Nervoll gauge shows above 1,15m/40m<sup>3</sup> then the water levels in the area are probably fairly good.

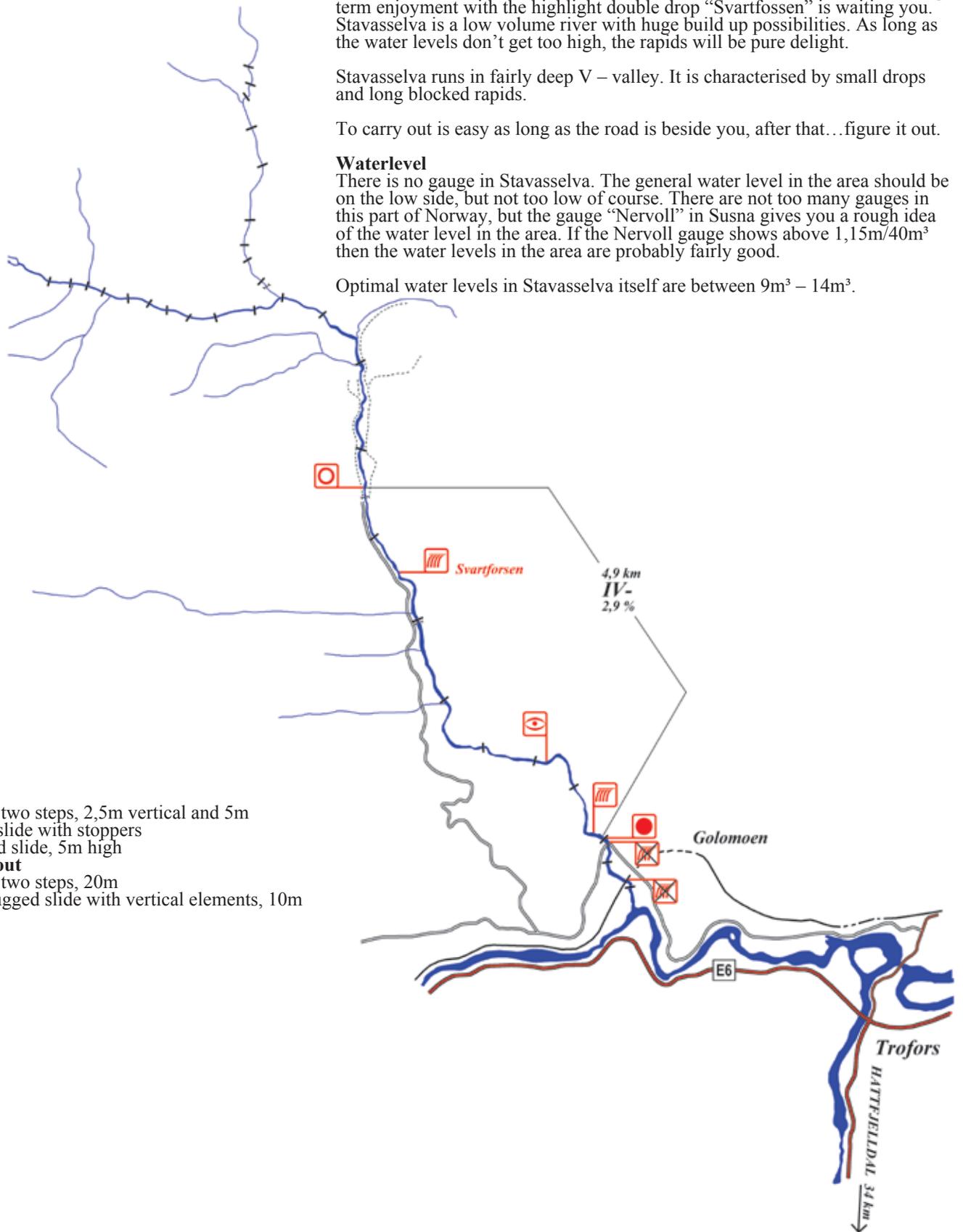
Optimal water levels in Stavasselva itself are between 9m<sup>3</sup> – 14m<sup>3</sup>.

### Put-in

Fall in two steps, 2,5m vertical and 5m  
Small slide with stoppers  
Rugged slide, 5m high

### Take-out

Fall in two steps, 20m  
Fall, rugged slide with vertical elements, 10m



Susna has been run from Harvasstua down to Hattfjelldal. "Power" is the key word in a description of Susna. Even at "low" water levels it feels powerful. Long calm sections give you good relaxation between the highlights that will motivate you to give it your best.

Susna runs in and out of low gorges before it runs into a bigger gorge towards the end. Susna is characterised by short powerful rapids.

To carry out is fairly easy.

### Waterlevel

The water level in Susna can be determined by checking the gauge "Nervoll". An optimal water level is between  $0,97\text{m}/20\text{m}^3$  –  $1,30\text{m}/40\text{m}^3$ . The rapids are quite powerful at even low water levels, so when the water level gets higher than  $1,15\text{m}/30\text{m}^3$  things get tough.

### Put-in

#### Gauge, "Nervoll"

Powerful rapid with stoppers  
Powerful rapid

#### Narrow rapid, "Finnsprangfossen"

Long, narrow rapid with drops and stoppers  
Mandatory portage, unrunnable fall, 5m, powerful backwash  
Powerful stoppers ending in narrow passage on the left  
Fall, 2,5m

Rapid ending in a drop, 2m

Small slide

Very blocked drop

Long slide, rugged, "Pantdalslifossen"

#### Take-out

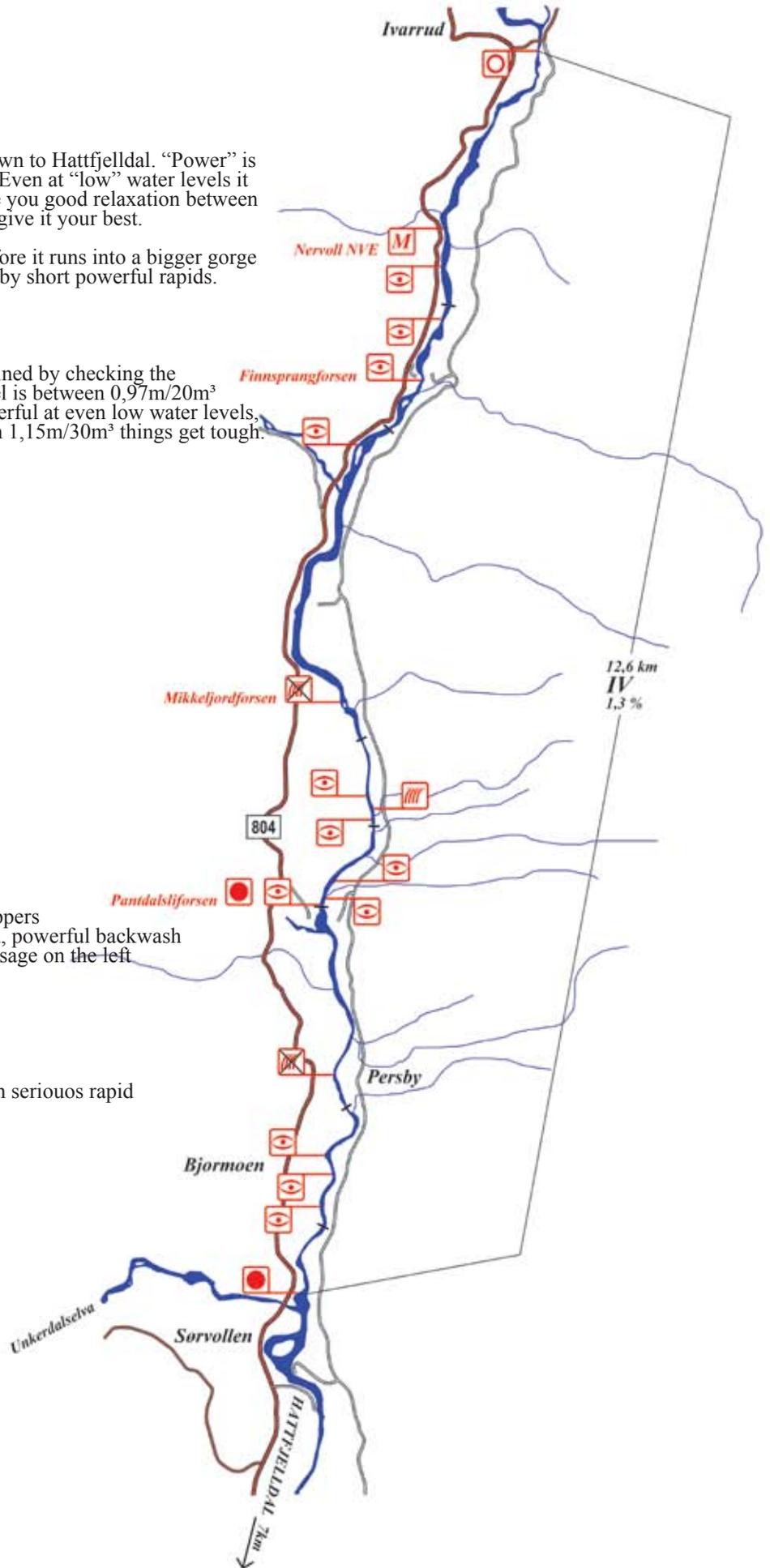
"Unrunnable fall", followed by a 300m serious rapid

Small wide drop, 1m

Stoppers, cushion on the left

Blocked rapid

#### Take-out



3 km  
2  
1  
0

Unkerelva has been paddled from Unkervatnet down to the confluence with Susna. From the fabulous campsite at Unkervatnet the river runs calmly in the beginning before becoming more interesting. Even though this is one of the easier runs in the area on low/moderate waterlevels (III+) you will definitely find solid challenges on waterlevels higher then moderate (IV)

Unkerelva runs mainly through a gorge, but the terrain is fairly open at the beginning and end of the run. It is characterised by long rapids and small drops.

To carry out is not too bad.

### Waterlevel

The water level in Unkerelva can be determined by checking the manual gauge “Unkervatn”. An optimal low/moderate water level is between 1,52m/15m<sup>3</sup> – 1,65m/25m<sup>3</sup>. Or you can take a look at the waterlevel at the take-out bridge. If it looks good it is good.

### Gauge

#### Put-in

Riverwide stopper

Fall, 2m

Blocked rapid, followed by small drop, 1.5m

Blocked rapid, undercut

Continuous blocked section, 1km

#### Take-out

