



Module overview:

- Habitat assessments – who, what, why?
- Peatland
- Semi-natural grassland
- Scrub / woodland
- Grassland on Peat
- Riverside Habitat on Improved grassland / Tillage
- Not scored habitats
- Riverside bonus



Why assess the quality of habitats?

Management of farmland has a direct influence on quality of rivers.



Why assess the quality of habitats?



Higher quality habitats = higher water quality



Why assess the quality of habitats?



Results based scheme -> Acknowledge the positive work

Habitats in good condition **are** contributing positively to local water quality.



Identify areas that can be improved

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How do we assess habitats?

- Assess at p
- Scorecards
 - > Veget
 - > Direct
 - > Pressu



looking at:



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A: Ecological Integrity



How do we assess the quality of habitats?



B Hydrological integrity		Total Score B (sum of B1 to B3): /40
B1 To what extent are there any surface artificial drainage features within the plot? Assess the WORST 30 m		
Functional: Drains predominantly free flowing (though may be dry at the time of survey), largely unvegetated and unblocked.		20
Part functional: Drains present but flow is partially impeded (by vegetation etc.).		10
Non-functional: Drains absent or present but non-functioning. No flow, highly vegetated and/or dammed.		0

B2 To what extent are there any **subsurface drainage** features within the plot?

Present and functional	20
Absent or present but non-functioning	0



B: Drainage



How do we assess the quality of habitats?

Waters of

[illegible]

Additional Riverside habitat questions

C: Threats & Pressures



Results based approach



Each plot (field) is scored out of 10 using a scorecard that captures high and low quality habitat which reflect past and current management.





















Riverside habitats on tillage



Waters of LIFE

7/10

Riverside bonus

- Semi-natural grassland
- Scrub / Woodland
- Peatland

Management of farmland has a direct influence on quality of rivers.

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Riverside bonus

Score	<4	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Payment /ha	€0	€120	€140	€160	€250	€280	€360	€400
Riverside bonus / m	€0	€0.96	€1.12	€1.28	€1.92	€2.24	€2.88	€3.20

Page 11 Info booklet

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Riverside bonus



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Still available for ACRES plots beside river!

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Not scored

Improved Grassland

Commonage



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Key Takeaways



Higher quality habitats = higher water quality



Habitats in good condition **are** contributing positively to local water quality
➤ Results based scheme



Identify areas that can be improved

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Payment exercise

Using pictures provided on each table & the following description:

1. Give your plot a score using the scorecard
2. Calculate the payment this farmer will receive (page 11 Information Booklet)



Payment exercise

1. Give the plot a score using the scorecard
2. Calculate the payment (page 11 Info Booklet)

Plot Information:
Wet grassland. Mineral soil.
Adjacent to OSI River. Flow Normal.

- High number of positive indicator species, found with every step taken
- Low negative indicators

Consider:

- Different heights of plants throughout?
- Damaging activities?
- Drainage visible?


