

Farmer ID:

Plot number:

Survey date:

Derogation:

☐ Yes ☐ No

Soil type:

☐ Mineral soil ☐ Peat soil ☐

River flow:

Low ☐ Normal ☐ Above normal ☐

A Habitat structural integrity

Total Score A
(sum of A2 to A6):
/70

A1-A What **proportion** (%) of the riparian buffer zone length is stock-proof fenced?

%

A1-B What is the **average width** of the (stock-proof) fenced riparian buffer zone identified in A1-A?

Assess from top of riverbank or water's edge to fence line (see guidance)..

(m)

A2 What is the **complexity** of the vegetation in the fenced buffer zone identified in A1?

Non-native invasive species to be excluded from assessment.

Proportions to sum to 100.

For areas comprised of natural rocky outcrop in the fenced buffer zone identified in A1, then assign a score of 30.

	A = % of area	B = Score	AxB/100
Poor: Bare – such as earth, gravel or concrete.		-20	
Moderate: Uniform – predominantly grasses and rank vegetation.		10	
Good: Simple – three vegetation types: (i) short/creeping herbs or grasses; (ii) tall herbs/grasses/rushes/sedges/ferns; (iii) scrub or shrubs; or (iv) trees/saplings.		20	
Very good: Complex – four or more vegetation types: see above.		30	
		Total score:	

A3 How **continuous** are the riverside trees?

Assess bank face and bank top along water's edge (see guidance).

Non-native invasive species to be excluded from assessment.

Poor: Trees absent or largely absent (occasional isolated tree).	0
Moderate: Trees present but scattered along riverside with large gaps/breaks between either isolated trees or occasional clumps of trees.	5
Good: Trees occurring as frequent clumps with large gaps/breaks present.	10
Very good: Trees either (a) semi-continuous along riverside but some gaps/breaks OR (b) continuous along riverside with few gaps/breaks.	20

A4 Is there **overhanging and in-stream woody vegetation** along channel margin?

Assess bank face along water's edge (see guidance).

Poor: Overhanging and in-stream woody vegetation absent or largely absent along channel margin AND/OR evidence of recent cutting/removal	0
Moderate: Scattered overhanging and in-stream woody vegetation along channel margin AND/OR evidence of historic vegetation cutting/removal but now showing evidence of regrowth.	5
Good: Frequent overhanging and in-stream woody vegetation along channel margin.	10

A5 How **stable** is the riverbank?

Assess bank face (see guidance).

Poor: Bank unstable of loose soil, which is easily disturbed. Significant areas of banks cut away, undercut or showing erosion scars.	-10
Moderate: Bank moderately stable (not easily disturbed). Infrequent small areas of erosion mostly healed over.	5
Good: Bank largely stable, held firmly by grasses, shrubs and tree roots.	10

A6 What is the cover of **non-native invasive species**? (tick if present)
Assess the 20 m from top of riverbank or water's edge (see guidance).

High: Abundant. Some forming dense clumps, many seedlings.	-20
Moderate: Frequent. Some flowering, many seedlings present.	-10
Low: Scattered. Plants mostly small and not flowering.	-5
None: No non-native invasive species present.	0

Non-native invasive species: (tick if present)

- ☐ Cherry laurel
- ☐ Cotoneaster
- ☐ Giant hogweed
- ☐ Giant rhubarb
- ☐ Himalayan balsam
- ☐ Himalayan honeysuckle
- ☐ Himalayan knotweed

- ☐ Japanese knotweed
- ☐ Montbretia
- ☐ Old man's beard/Traveller's joy
- ☐ Rhododendron
- ☐ Non native conifers
- ☐ Winter heliotrope
- ☐ Other (please specify):

A7 What is the extent of **gorse** along the riverside habitat? (refer to Project team if 'high')
Assess within fenced buffer zone (see guidance)

High: Gorse dominating throughout the plot (>75% cover).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Moderate: Gorse occurs frequently throughout the plot (25-50% cover).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Low: Scattered presence or no gorse present (<25% cover).	<input type="checkbox"/>

B Hydrological integrity

Total Score B
(sum of B1 to B3):
/30

B1 What is the extent of any **surface artificial drainage** features within the riverside plot?
Assess the **WORST** 20 m of drain within the riverside plot.

Functional: Drains predominantly free flowing (though may be dry at the time of survey), largely unvegetated and unblocked.	-30
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.	20

B2 To what extent are there any **subsurface drainage** features within the plot?
Assess the 20 m from top of riverbank or water's edge (see guidance).

Present and functional	-30
Absent or present but non-functioning	0

B3 Riverside soil **denitrification** potential?
Assess the 20 m from top of riverbank or water's edge (see guidance).

Low: Riverside soils dry/firm underfoot. No evidence that the soil is saturated for all/part of the year.	0
Medium: Water-logged (surface moist/fluid underfoot) riverside soils occasionally observed. Evidence that the soil is saturated for all/part of the year.	5
High: Water-logged (surface moist/fluid underfoot) riverside soils frequently observed. Evidence that the soil is saturated for all/part of the year.	10

C Threats & pressures

Total Score C
(sum of C1 to C2):
/0

C1 Is there any evidence of **removal of mature shrubs/trees** in the riverside habitat?
Assess the 20 m from top of riverbank or water's edge (see guidance).

Present: Evidence of removal/damage of mature shrubs/trees	-30
Absent: No evidence of removal/damage to mature shrubs/trees	0

C2 Is there any evidence of **damaging activities** to the riverside habitat? (tick if present)
Assess the 20 m from top of riverbank or water's edge (see guidance).

High: Damage occurring across a large area ($\geq 21\%$) or of a serious nature if confined.	-30
Moderate: Damage occurring across a moderate area ($\geq 6-20\%$) or of a moderate nature if confined.	-20
Low: Damage occurring across a small area ($\leq 5\%$) or of a minor nature if confined.	-10
None: No damaging activities.	0

Damaging activities:
(tick relevant and describe in comments)

- ☐ Inappropriate herbicide use
- ☐ Inappropriate pesticide use
- ☐ Dumping/rubbish
- ☐ Burning
- ☐ Other (describe in comments)

C3 What is the extent of **bare soil & erosion** in the riverside habitat?

Assess the 20 m from top of riverbank or water's edge (see guidance).

High: Extensive areas of bare soil due to feed sites OR water troughs OR paddock access points OR livestock access points. Significant livestock poaching evident and/or rutting and soil disturbance due to vehicle/farm machinery access.	-30
Moderate: Minor areas of bare soil due to feed sites OR water troughs OR paddock access points OR livestock access points. Minor livestock poaching evident and/or rutting and soil disturbance due to vehicle/farm machinery access.	-10
Low: No areas of bare soil or soil disturbance evident. If present, feed sites, water troughs, paddock access and/or livestock access points kept >20m from watercourse. No livestock poaching.	0

Management recommendations:

- ☐ Continue current management of this high-quality riverside habitat.
- ☐ Increase the width of the riparian buffer margin
- ☐ Install additional/improve fencing.
- ☐ Reduce the amount of pruning/tree cutting/clearance
- ☐ Control the occurrence and spread of invasive species.
- ☐ Move feeders/troughs regularly, and keep away from drains and rivers.
- ☐ No management advice.
- ☐ Other (*describe in comments*).

Management recommendation(s):