

Farmer ID:	Surveyor:	Total Score <i>(A+B+C)</i> /100
Plot number:	Survey date:	

Habitat type: ☐ Scrub ☐ Woodland	Scrub: Areas that are dominated by at least 50% cover of shrubs, stunted trees or brambles. Woodland: Canopy generally greater than 5 m in height, or 4 m in the case of wet or bog areas.	Soil type: ☐ Mineral soil ☐ Peat soil
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Is this plot adjacent to an EPA mapped river/stream? Y/N

If yes, describe river flow: Low ☐ Normal ☐ Above normal ☐

A Ecological integrity	Total Score A (sum of A1-S or A1-W) /70
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Typical SCRUB species: <i>(tick those present)</i> ☐ Alder ☐ Ash ☐ Birch ☐ Blackthorn ☐ Bog myrtle ☐ Bracken ☒ Bramble ☐ Hazel ☐ Elder ☐ Gorse/furze ☐ Whitethorn <i>(hawthorn)</i> ☐ Willow ☐ Dog rose ☐ Guelder rose	Typical WOODLAND species: <i>(tick those present)</i> ☐ *Beech ☐ Holly ☐ Oak ☐ Rowan ☐ Scot's pine ☐ *Spruce ☐ *Sycamore ☐ *Horse chestnut ☐ *Spanish chestnut ☐ *Hornbeam ☐ Spindle ☐ Other <i>(please specify)</i> :
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**Non-native species*

A1 Score either A1-S OR A1-W

A1-S for **SCRUB**-dominated plots: which description best describes the diversity and structure of the scrub present?

Poor: Gorse-dominated scrub.	0
Moderate: Two native species from the table above.	30
Good: Three native species from table above common throughout plot.	50
Very good: Four or more native species from table above common throughout plot. Variation in vegetation height and structure throughout.	70

Total Score A1-W <i>(sum of A1-Wa to A1-Wc)</i> /70
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A1-W for **WOODLAND**-dominated plots:

Wa – Which description best describes the woodland CANOPY layer?		Wb – Which description best describes the woodland SHRUB layer?		Wc – Which description best describes the woodland FIELD layer?	
Poor: Native woodland with frequent non-native (<i>conifer or deciduous</i>) trees present.	0	Shrub layer absent or consists of non-native species.	0	The field layer is absent or consist of non-native species.	0
Moderate: Native woodland with occasional non-native (<i>conifer or deciduous</i>) trees present.	15	Shrub layer present.	10	The field layer is present with low level of species and structural diversity	10
Good: Native woodland with no non-native (<i>conifer or deciduous</i>) trees present.	30	Well-developed shrub layer present.	20	Field layer supports good diversity of native species, with mosses, ferns and herbs present	20

A2 Ash Die Back

Is ash present in the woodland/Scrub Yes ☐ No ☐

Is there evidence of ash die back disease Yes ☐ No ☐

Are there visually healthy ash trees present Yes ☐ No ☐

B Hydrological integrity

Total Score B: /30

B1 To what extent are there any **surface artificial drainage features** within the 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.	30

C Threats & pressures

(*C4–C7 only applicable where plot adjoins stream/river)

Total Score C
(sum of C1 to C6*):

C1 Is there any **evidence of damaging activities** to habitat or vegetation throughout the plot?

(excluding the 20 m adjacent to any watercourse)

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)

- ☐ Damage from supplementary feeding
- ☐ Inappropriate herbicide use
- ☐ Quarrying
- ☐ Burning

- ☐ Dumping/rubbish
- ☐ Removal of mature scrub/trees
- ☐ Other (please specify)

C2 What is the extent of **bare soil & erosion** throughout the plot?

High: Excessive areas of bare soil within the body of the field. Bare soil may also be extending out significantly from the main feed sites and/or water troughs and/or livestock access points, where poaching evident. Significant rutting and soil disturbance caused by vehicle/tractor access.	-30
Moderate: Bare soil mainly along regularly used stock routes or congregation areas, with minor soil loss occurring at a few points. Bare soil may extend a short distance beyond the main feed site and/or water points and/or livestock access points. Minor rutting and soil disturbance caused by occasional vehicle/tractor access may be present.	-10
Low: Bare soil more or less restricted to regular stock paths, 'pinch' points & small congregation areas. No soil loss.	0

C3 What is the cover of **non-native invasive species** throughout the plot?

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
- ☐ Self-sown conifers
- ☐ Winter heliotrope
- ☐ Other (please specify):

C4 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.	0

C5 What is the cover of **non-native invasive species** along the riverside habitat?

(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	-30
Moderate: Frequent. Some flowering, many seedlings present	-20
Low: Scattered. Plants mostly small and not flowering	-10
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
- ☐ Self-sown conifers
- ☐ Winter heliotrope
- ☐ Other (please specify):

C6 Is there any evidence of **damaging activities/bare soil** along the riverside habitat?

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

High: Damage/bare soil occurring across a large area ($\geq 21\%$) or of a serious nature if confined.	-30
Moderate: Damage/bare soil occurring across a moderate area ($\geq 6-20\%$) or of a moderate nature if confined.	-20
Low: Damage/bare soil 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)

- ☐ Livestock poaching/dung
- ☐ Rutting/soil disturbance due to machinery
- ☐ Inappropriate herbicide/pesticide use
- ☐ Dumping/rubbish
- ☐ Flailing/cutting/removal of riverside vegetation
- ☐ Burning
- ☐ Other (describe in comments)

C7 What is the extent of **gorse** along the riverside habitat? (refer to Project team if 'high')

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

High: Gorse dominating throughout the plot ($>75\%$ cover).	☐
Moderate: Gorse occurs frequently throughout the plot (25–50% cover).	☐
Low: Scattered presence or no gorse present ($<25\%$ cover).	☐

Common management recommendations:

- ☐ Continue current management of this high quality scrub/woodland.
- ☐ Control the occurrence and spread of invasive species.
- ☐ Control the occurrence and spread of encroaching scrub, supporting actions are available.
- ☐ Consider using supporting actions of slow or impede the flow of drains.
- ☐ Improve stock management. e.g. Fencing/drinking facilities
- ☐ No management advice
- ☐ Other (see comments box)

Management recommendation(s):