

Farmer ID: _____ Surveyor: _____
Plot number: _____ Survey date: _____

Total Score
(A+B+C) **/100**

Tillage crop type:

Non-grassland crops (ungrazed) Non-grass forage/catch crops grazed in-situ Late harvested crops

River flow: Low Normal Above normal

A Habitat structural integrity

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

A1 What is the **average width** of the riparian buffer zone along the riverside?

Assess from top of riverbank or water's edge to edge of actively farmed/managed land (see guidance).

The riparian buffer should be stock-proof fenced when livestock are present.

Non-native invasive species to be excluded from assessment.

(m)

A2 What is the **complexity** of the vegetation in the 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 or in-stream woody vegetation** along channel margin?

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

Poor: Overhanging or in-stream woody vegetation absent or largely absent along channel margin AND/OR evidence of recent cutting/removal.	0
Moderate: Scattered overhanging or 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 or 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).

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):

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

A7 What is the extent of **gorse** along the riverside habitat? (refer to Project team if 'high')
Assess within the uncultivated 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/non-functioning	0

B3 Floodplain connectivity?

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

Low: River is artificially constrained to channel, Riverside soils dry/firm underfoot. No evidence that the soil is saturated for all/part of the year. River restricted to single flow direction through embankments and/or bankside protection.	0
Medium: The river has been allowed to move outside its channel, with some bank topping, natural deposition and erosion (not severe). Water-logged (surface moist/fluid underfoot) riverside soils occasionally observed. There may be some bankside protection but no significant hard measures such as riprap and/or concrete. If embankments are away from the river edge (+10m) and allow the river to top its natural bank.	5
High: Water-logged (surface moist/fluid underfoot) riverside soils frequently observed. The river has never been artificially disconnected from floodplain, or has had its connectivity fully restored. The only bankside protection permitted is soft revetments such as willow and/or tree planting which have been installed as part of a river restoration project.	10

C Threats & pressures

Total Score C (sum of C1 to C3):

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
- Excessive vehicle movements/rutting in uncultivated margin.
- 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):