

Farmer ID:

Surveyor:

Total Score

Plot number:

Survey date:

(A+B+C)

/100

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

Describe river flow: Low Normal Above normal

A Ecological integrity

Total Score A (sum of A1-S or A1-W)

/65

Typical **SCRUB** species:

(tick those present)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alder | <input type="checkbox"/> Bracken | <input type="checkbox"/> Whitethorn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ash | <input type="checkbox"/> Bramble | (hawthorn) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birch | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazel | <input type="checkbox"/> Willow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blackthorn | <input type="checkbox"/> Elder | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog rose |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bog myrtle | <input type="checkbox"/> Gorse/furze | <input type="checkbox"/> Guelder rose |

Typical **WOODLAND** species:

(tick those present)

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Beech | <input type="checkbox"/> Scot's pine | <input type="checkbox"/> *Spanish chestnut |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holly | <input type="checkbox"/> *Spruce | <input type="checkbox"/> *Hornbeam |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oak | <input type="checkbox"/> *Sycamore | <input type="checkbox"/> Spindle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rowan | <input type="checkbox"/> *Horse chestnut | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |

*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.	25
Good: Three native species from table above common throughout plot.	40
Very good: Four or more native species from table above common throughout plot. There must be variation in vegetation height and good structure throughout the plot.	55

Total Score A1-W

(sum of A1-Wa to A1-Wc)

/55

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.	10	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.	15	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

A3 Impacts from Herbivores

Is the **woodland/scrub impacted** by effects of recent **trampling, browsing or grazing by large herbivores** (deer, cattle, sheep, goats, horses, pigs) on ground cover, trees, and other plant indicators:

<p>Yes: There is obvious impact from herbivores, tick those that apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Bark stripping, fraying and/or stem breakage <input type="checkbox"/> Obvious browsing on basal shoots, lower shoots, seedling and saplings <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of palatable species such as Angelica, Bog myrtle, Bramble, Broom, Common Bent, Red Fescue and other grasses, Buckler Fern and Male fern, Meadowsweet and Valerian. <input type="checkbox"/> Ground 'poached' by trampling or rooting, presence of pathways, wallows, scrapes etc. 	0
<p>No: There is no obvious impact from herbivores. Livestock are excluded and the presence of large wild herbivores has been restricted or has been well managed.</p>	10

B Hydrological integrity	Total Score B: /35
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B1 To what extent are there any **surface artificial drainage features** within the plot? Assess the **WORST 30 m of drain in the plot**. Only assess artificial drains and heavily modified watercourses, ignore unmapped natural streams, see guidance.

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

B2 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.	3
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.	5

C Threats & pressures	Total Score C (sum of C1 to C7):
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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 (≥21%) or of a serious nature if confined	-30
Moderate: Damage occurring across a moderate area (≥6-20%) or of a moderate nature if confined.	-20
Low: Damage occurring across a small area (≤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).	<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"/>

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)