



## Habitat Data Form

### Observation Information

#### Monitoring site details

Site code:

Site description:

#### Name of monitoring group

Persons monitoring:

Date and time of monitoring:

### Habitat Assessment

- Bank vegetation: \_\_\_\_\_ (0-10)
- Verge vegetation: \_\_\_\_\_ (0-10)
- In-stream cover: \_\_\_\_\_ (0-10)
- Bank erosion and stability: \_\_\_\_\_ (0-5)
- Riffles, pools and bends: \_\_\_\_\_ (0-5)
- Final Habitat Score:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Add your scores)

Score	Definition
Excellent (36-40)	Site in natural or virtually natural condition; excellent habitat condition.
Good (29-35)	Some alteration from natural state; good habitat conditions.
Fair (20-28)	Significant alteration from the natural state but still offering moderate habitat; stable.
Poor (12-19)	Significant alterations from the natural state, with reduced habitat value; may have erosion or sedimentation problems.
Degraded (8-11)	Very degraded, often with severe erosion or sedimentation problems.



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Bank vegetation				
(10) Mainly undisturbed native vegetation. No signs of site alteration.	(8) Mainly native vegetation. Little disturbance or no signs of recent site disturbance.	(6) Medium cover, mixed native / introduced. Or one side cleared, the other undisturbed.	(4) Introduced ground cover, little native under storey or over storey, predominantly introduced vegetation.	(2) Introduced ground cover with lots of bare ground, occasional tree. Also includes sites with concrete lined channels.
Verge vegetation				
(10) Mainly undisturbed native vegetation on both sides of stream. Verge more than 30m wide.	(8) Well-vegetated wide verge corridor. Mainly undisturbed native vegetation on both sides of stream; some introduced or reduced cover of native vegetation.	(6) Wide corridor of mixed native and exotics, or one side cleared, and other wide corridor of native vegetation.	(4) Very narrow corridor of native or introduced vegetation.	(2) Bare cover or introduced grass cover such as pastureland.
In-stream cover				
(10) Abundant cover. Frequent snags, logs or boulders with extensive areas of in-stream, aquatic vegetation and overhanging bank.	(8) A good cover of snags, logs or boulders, with considerable areas of in-stream and overhanging vegetation.	(6) Some snags or boulders present and / or occasional areas of in-stream or overhanging vegetation.	(4) Only slight cover. The stream is largely cleared, with occasional snags and very little in-stream vegetation. Generally no overhanging vegetation.	(2) No cover. No snags, boulders submerged or overhanging vegetation. No undercut banks. Site may have rock or concrete lining.
Bank erosion and stability				
(5) Stable; no erosion / Sedimentation evident. No undercutting of banks, usually gentle bank slopes, lower banks covered with root mat grasses, reeds or shrubs.	(4) Only spot erosion occurring. Little undercutting of bank, good vegetation cover, usually gentle bank slopes, no significant damage to bank structure.	(3) Localised erosion evident. A relatively good vegetation cover. No continuous damage to bank structure or vegetation.	(2) Significant active erosion evident especially during high flows. Unstable, extensive areas of bare banks, little vegetation cover.	(1) Extensive or almost continuous erosion. Over 50% of banks have some form of erosion; very unstable with little vegetation cover.
Riffles, pools and bends (flowing water only)				
(5) Wide variety of habitats. Riffles and pools present of varying depths. Bends present. Good	(4) Good variety of habitats - e.g., riffles and pools or bends and pools. Variation in depth of riffle and pool.	(3) Some variety of habitats - e.g., occasional riffle or bend. Some variation in depth.	(2) Only slight variety of habitat. All riffle or pool with only slight variation in depth. Very poor	(1) Uniform habitat. Straight stream, all shallow riffle or pool of uniform depth - e.g.; channeled stream or irrigation channel.