The River Restoration Centre
citizen River Habitat Survey (cRHS)

Site Health & Safety Assessment

Surveyor name:

SURVEY DETAILS

Site reference:	River name:
Reach name/reference:	Date: / / Time:
Weather conditions:	Flow conditions:

SURVEY DETAILS (enter comments or circle if applicable and give details)	Risk Level (Low/Mod/High)
Access and Parking (entry & exit)	
Conditions: comment on ground stability, footing, exposure/remoteness	
Obstacles/Hazards: fencing, stiles, dense vegetation, steep banks	
Occupied/Unoccupied: people, livestock, animals	
Activities/Land Use: agriculture, woodland, residential, construction, recreational	
Risk if Lone-Working	

**IF THERE ARE ANY HIGH RISKS OR MORE THAN THREE MODERATE RISKS
DO NOT CONTINUE WITH THE SURVEY**

Grain Size Scale

NOTE! Assess grain size based on the intermediate axis

Scale
- Coarse sand (0.06 - 2mm)
- Gravel (2 - 16mm)
- Pebbles (16 - 64mm)
- Cobbles (64 - 246mm) (the size of a half-fist to head)

A Survey Details

Site reference:

Reach name/reference:

River name:

Date: /   /   Time:

Surveyor name:

B Survey Information

Is the reach part of a river or an artificial channel?   River ☐   Artificial ☐

Are adverse conditions affecting the survey?   No ☐   Yes ☐

If yes, state ....

If you see a camera icon 📷 , please take a photo of the feature

If you see a camcorder icon 🎥, please take a video

☐ When options shown with 'shadow boxes', tick one box only

LEFT   Banks determined by facing downstream   **RIGHT**

C Artificial Features
(indicate the total number of occurrences of each category within the site) 📷

If none, tick box ☐

	Major	Intermediate	Minor
Weirs/sluices			
Culverts			
Bridges			
Other (state)			

	Major	Intermediate	Minor
Outfalls/intakes			
Fords			
Deflectors/groynes/croys			

Is water impounded by weir/dam?   No ☐   Yes, <33% of site ☐   Yes, >33% of site ☐
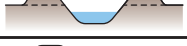
D Land Use (within 50m of banktop)
Use ✓ (present) or E (≥33% of banklength)

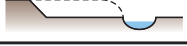|	Left	Right		Left	Right
Broadleaf/mixed woodland (semi-natural (BL)			Natural open water (OW)		
Broadleaf/mixed plantation (BP)			Rough/unimproved grassland/pasture (RP)		
Coniferous woodland (semi-natural) (CW)			Improved/semi-improved grassland(IG)		
Coniferous plantation (CP)			Tall herb/rank vegetation (TH)		
Scrub & shrubs (SH)			Rock, scree or sand dunes (RD)		
Orchard (OR)			Suburban/urban development (SU)		
Wetland (e.g. bog, marsh, fen) (WL)			Tilled land (TL)		
Moorland/heath (MH)			Irrigated land (IL)		
Artificial open water (AW)			Parkland or gardens (PG)		
			Not visible (NV)		

E Bank Profiles
Use ✓ (present) or E (≥33% of banklength)

Natural/unmodified	Left	Right	Artificial/modified	Left	Right
Vertical			Reinforced - whole		
Steep (>45º)			Reinforced - top only		
Gentle			Reinforced - toe only		
			Artificial two-stage		
			Poached bank		
			Embanked		
			Set-back embankment		

F Channel Vegetation Types Summary
Overall assessment over 500m, including types not occurring in spot checks. Tick one box per vegetation type.

	NV	None	Present	E, ≥33%		NV	None	Present	E, ≥33%
Liverworts/mosses/lichens	☐	☐	☐	☐	Amphibious	☐	☐	☐	☐
Emergent broad-leaved herbs	☐	☐	☐	☐	Submerged broad-leaved	☐	☐	☐	☐
Emergent reeds/sedges/rushes/grasses/horsetails	☐	☐	☐	☐	Submerged linear-leaved	☐	☐	☐	☐
Floating-leaved (rooted)	☐	☐	☐	☐	Submerged fine-leaved	☐	☐	☐	☐
Free-floating	☐	☐	☐	☐	Filamentous algae	☐	☐	☐	☐

Ten Spot-checks (at 50m intervals over a 500m stretch) 🎥

Spot-check 1 is at **upstream end** ☐ **downstream end** ☐ of site (tick one box)

G Physical Attributes (to be assessed across channel within a 1m wide transect)

When boxes 'bordered', only one entry allowed	1 GPS	2	3	4	5	6 GPS	7	8	9	10	GPS
LEFT BANK											
Material NV, BE, BO, CO, GS, EA, PE, CL,CC, SP, WP, GA, BR, RR, TD, FA, BI											
Bank modification(s) NK, NO, RI, PC, BM, EM											
Marginal & bank feature(s) NV, NO, EC, SC, SB, VS											
CHANNEL											
Channel substrate NV, BE, BO, CO, GP, SA, SI, CL, PE, EA, AR											
Channel modification(s) NK, NO, CV, RI, DA, FO											
Channel feature(s) NV, NO, EB, RO, VR, MB, VB, MI, TR											
RIGHT BANK											
Material NV, BE, BO, CO, GS, EA, PE, CL, CC, SP, WP, GA, BR, RR, TD, FA, BI											
Bank modification(s) NK, NO, RI, PC, BM, EM											
Marginal & bank feature(s) NV, NO, EC, SC, SB, VS											

H Banktop Land Use & Vegetation Structure (to be assessed over a 10m wide transect)

LAND USE WITHIN 5m OF LEFT BANKTOP										
LEFT BANKTOP (veg. structure within 1m) B/U/S/C/NV										
LEFT BANK-FACE (veg. structure) B/U/S/C/NV										
RIGHT BANK-FACE (veg. structure) B/U/S/C/NV										
RIGHT BANKTOP (veg. structure within 1m) B/U/S/C/NV										
LAND USE WITHIN 5m OF RIGHT BANKTOP										

I Channel Vegetation Types (to be assessed over a 10m wide transect)

Use ✓ (present), E (≥33% of length), or NV (not visible)

None (✓) or Not Visible (NV)										
Liverworts/mosses/lichens										
Emergent broad-leaved herbs										
Emergent reeds/sedges/rushes/grasses/horsetails										
Floating-leaved (rooted)										
Free-floating										
Amphibious										
Submerged broad-leaved										
Submerged linear-leaved (flat, spade like)										
Submerged fine-leaved (shoe lace)										
Filamentous algae										

Coordinates/Grid References

	Spot-check 1	Spot-check 6	End-of-site
Coordinates			

J Channel dimensions (to be measured at one location on a straight uniform section that is safe to access)

Embankment height (left) (m)	Left bank height (m)	Channel width (m)	Water width (m)	Average water depth (m)	Right bank height (m)	Embankment height (right) (m)

How were dimensions measured? (i.e. ranging pole, tape measure, range finder) _

K Extent of trees & associated features   *Record even if <1%

TREES (tick one box per bank)

	Left	Right
None	☐	☐
Isolated/scattered	☐	☐
Regularly spaced, single	☐	☐
Occasional clumps	☐	☐
Semi-continuous	☐	☐
Continuous	☐	☐

ASSOCIATED FEATURES (tick one box per feature)

	None	Present	E (≥33%)
Shading of channel	☐	☐	☐
*Overhanging boughs	☐	☐	☐
*Exposed bankside roots	☐	☐	☐
*Underwater tree roots	☐	☐	☐
Fallen trees	☐	☐	☐
Large woody debris	☐	☐	☐

L Extent of channel & bank features (Tick one box for each feature)   *Record even if <1%

	None	Present	E (≥33%)		None	Present	E (≥33%)
Marginal deadwater	☐	☐	☐	Mature island(s)	☐	☐	☐
Unvegetated eroding cliff(s)	☐	☐	☐	Unvegetated side bar(s)	☐	☐	☐
Vegetated stable cliff(s)	☐	☐	☐	Vegetated side bar(s)	☐	☐	☐
Exposed bedrock	☐	☐	☐	*Discrete unvegetated silt deposit(s)	☐	☐	☐
Exposed boulders	☐	☐	☐	*Discrete unvegetated sand deposit(s)	☐	☐	☐
Vegetated bedrock/boulders	☐	☐	☐	*Discrete unvegetated gravel deposit(s)	☐	☐	☐
Unvegetated mid-channel bar(s)	☐	☐	☐	Silt over gravel	☐	☐	☐
Vegetated mid-channel bar(s)	☐	☐	☐				

M Features of special interest   Use ✓ (present) or E (≥33% of length)   *Record even if <1%

None	☐	Very large boulders (>1m)	☐	Backwater(s)	☐	Marsh(es)	☐
Braided channels	☐	*Debris dam(s)	☐	Floodplain boulder deposits	☐	Flush(es)	☐
Side channel(s)	☐	*Leafy debris	☐	Water meadow(s)	☐	Natural open water	☐
*Natural waterfall(s)> 5m high	☐	Fringing reed-bank(s)	☐	Fen(s)	☐	Others (state)	☐
*Natural waterfall(s)< 5m high	☐	Quaking bank(s)	☐	Bog(s)	☐		
Natural cascade(s)	☐	*Sink hole(s)	☐	Wet woodland(s)	☐		

N Notable nuisance plant species   Use ✓ (present) or E (≥33% of length)   *Record even if <1%

If none, tick box	CHANNEL		BANKFACE & BANKTOP				
				Bankface	Banktop to 50m		Bankface	Banktop to 50m
☐	Floating pennywort	☐					
	Other (state)	☐	*Giant hogweed	☐	☐	*Himalayan balsam	☐	☐
			*Japanese knotweed	☐	☐	Other (state)	☐	☐

O Overall characteristics (Provide comments on significant observations & other features. Use next page if necessary)