RIVER HABITAT SURVEY 2003 VERSION: SPOT-CHECK KEY Page 1 of 2

PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES (SECTION E)

BANKS		CHANNEL		
Predominant bank	Bank modifications	Predominant substrate	Channel modifications	
Predominant bank material NV = not visible BE = bedrock BO = boulder CO = cobble GS = gravel/sand EA = earth (crumbly) PE = peat CL = sticky clay CC = concrete SP = sheet piling WP = wood piling GA = gabion BR = brick/laid stone RR = rip-rap TD = tipped debris FA = fabric BI = bio-engineering materials	RS = resectioned (reprofiled) RI = reinforced PC = poached PC(B) = poached (bare) BM = artificial berm EM = embanked Marginal and bank features NV = not visible (e.g. far bank) NO = none EC = eroding cliff (EC) if sandy substrate) SC = stable cliff (SC) if sandy substrate) PB = unvegetated point bar VP = vegetated point bar VS = vegetated side bar VS = vegetated side bar NB = natural berm	NV = not visible BE = bedrock BO = boulder CO = cobble GP = gravel/pebble	Channel modifications NK = not known NO = none CV = culverted RS = resectioned RI = reinforced DA = dam/weir/sluice FO = ford (man-made) Channel features NV = not visible NO = none EB = exposed bedrock RO = exposed boulders VR = vegetated rock MB = unvegetated midchannel bar VB = vegetated midchannel bar MI = mature island TR = Trash (urban debris)	
	PB = unvegetated point bar VP = vegetated point bar SB = unvegetated side bar VS = vegetated side bar	waves (white water) UW = unbroken standing waves CF = chaotic flow RP = rippled UP = upwelling	channel bar MI = mature island	

FLOW-TYPES DESCRIPTION

FF: Free fall clearly separates from back-wall of vertical feature ~ associated with waterfalls

CH: Chute low curving fall in contact with substrate ~ often associated with cascades

BW: Broken standing waves white-water tumbling waves must be present ~ mostly associated with rapids

UW: Unbroken standing waves upstream facing wavelets which are not broken ~ mostly associated with riffles

CF: Chaotic flow a chaotic mixture of three or more of the four fast flow-types with no predominant

one obvious

RP: Rippled no waves, but general flow direction is downstream with disturbed rippled surface ~

mostly associated with runs

 UP: Upwelling
 heaving water as upwellings break the surface ~ associated with boils.

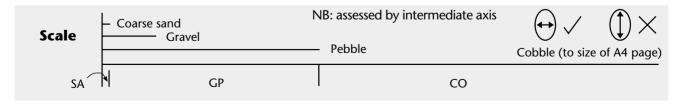
 SM: Smooth
 perceptible downstream movement is smooth (no eddies) ~ mostly

associated with glides

NP: No perceptible flow no net downstream flow ~associated with pools, ponded reaches and marginal

deadwater

DR: No flow (dry) dry river bed



LEFT Banks are determined by looking downstream RIGHT

CHANNEL MODIFICATION INDICATORS

One or more of the following may be indicative of resectioning:

- 1. Uniform bank profile
- 2. Straightened planform
- 3. Bankfull width/bankfull height ratio <4:1
- 4. Uniform/low energy flow-types
- 5. No trees/uniformly-aged trees along bank
- 6. Intensive/urban land-use

LAND-USE WITHIN 5m OF BANKTOP (SECTION F) & 50m (SECTION H)

BL = Broadleaf/mixed woodland (semi-natural) **AW** = Artificial open water

OW = Natural open water

TL = Tilled land
IL = Irrigated land

BP = Broadleaf/mixed plantation

RP = Rough unimproved

PG = Parkland or gardens

CW = Coniferous woodland (semi-natural) **CP** = Coniferous plantation

grassland/pasture

IG = Improved/semi-improved grassland

NV = Not visible

SH = Scrub & shrubs

TH = Tall herb/rank vegetation

OR = Orchard **WL** = Wetland (e.g. bog, marsh, fen)

RD = Rock, scree or sand dunes

MH = Moorland/heath

SU = Suburban/urban development

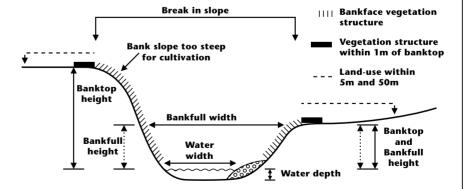
BANKTOP AND BANKFACE VEGETATION STRUCTURE To be assessed within a 10m wide transect (SECTION F)

bare B b		bare earth/rock etc.	vegetation types	
uniform	U	predominantly one type (no scrub or trees)	_11111111_	bryophytes
			<u> </u>	short/creeping herbs or grasses
simple	S	two or three vegetation types	Ш	tall herbs/ grasses
complex	С	four or more types		saplings and trees

Channel dimensions guidance (Section L)

- Select location on uniform section.
- If riffle is present, measure there. If not, measure at straightest and shallowest point.
- Banktop = first major break in slope above which cultivation or development is possible.
- **Bankfull** = point where river first spills on to floodplain.

Cross-section of channel showing definitions used to define where spot-check recording and channel dimensions measured





EMERGENCY HOTLINE 0800 80 70 60

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