

Use the *River Detectives Activity Booklet* to provide you with more information about assessing habitat health.

Habitat area	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Bank erosion	Extensive erosion. Very unstable banks with little vegetation.	Evidence of erosion occurring now/recently. Extensive areas of bare banks.	Erosion occurring in specific areas. Good vegetation cover.	Erosion only in small spots. Gentle bank slopes usually. Good vegetation cover.	No erosion evident. Lower banks covered with grass, reeds or shrubs.
SCORE	1	2	3	4	5
Bank vegetation	Bare ground. Occasional tree. Concrete lined channel.	Introduced ground cover. Little native larger or smaller vegetation.	Medium cover of native/ introduced. Variation between sides- one cleared, one undisturbed.	Mainly native vegetation. Little disturbance to bank.	Mainly undisturbed native vegetation.
SCORE	2	4	6	8	10
Instream cover	No snags, boulders or vegetation over water. Could be rock or concrete lining.	Occasional snag. No overhanging vegetation.	Some snags and boulders present and some vegetation in and over water.	Lots of snags, logs, boulders. And considerable area of in stream and overhanging vegetation,	Frequent snags, logs, boulders. Extensive amount of aquatic and overhanging vegetation.
SCORE	2	4	6	8	10
Riffles/ pools/ bends	Straight steam. Uniform –i.e. all shallow. Could be irrigated channel etc.	Slight variation in depth of water.	Occasional riffle or bend and variation in depth.	Variation in depth in pools and riffles. Variety of habitats (i.e. at least 2)	Riffles and pools of varying depths. Bends present.
SCORE	1	2	3	4	5
Verge Vegetation	Bare or pasture/grass cover next to water.	Narrow area of native or introduced vegetation.	Wide corridor of native and/ or introduced. One side cleared and other native and wide.	Mainly native but some introduced vegetation. Wide area.	Mainly native vegetation on both sides. >30m verge width
SCORE	2	4	6	8	10

TOTAL SCORE:

(8-11)

(12-19)

(20-28)

(29-35)

(36-40)

OVERALL SITE RATING:

Degraded

Poor

Fair

Good

Excellent