

Stream habitat record sheet—Method 2

Date (dd/mm/yy)

/ /

Monitor(s) _____

Site code _____

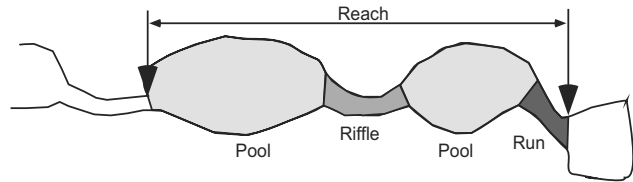
Tributary name _____

1. Poor visibility

Mark this box if water visibility at the site prevents accurate assessment.

Poor visibility

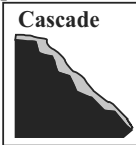
2. Sketch the reach (aerial view) showing the distribution of channel, in-stream and overhanging habitat types. Also record on the sketch any obstructions to this visual survey.



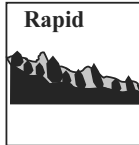
Channel habitat types:



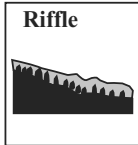
Waterfall
Height > 1 m
Gradient > 60 deg



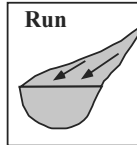
Cascade
Step height < 1 m
Gradient 5–60 deg
Strong currents



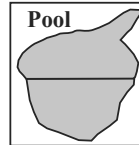
Rapid
Depth > 0.3 m
Gradient 3–5 deg
Strong currents
Rocks break surface



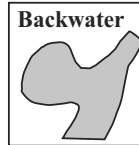
Riffle
Depth 0.1–0.3 m
Gradient 1–3 deg
Moderate currents
Surface unbroken but not smooth



Run
Depth > 0.3 m
Gradient 1–3 deg
Weak but distinct and uniform current
Surface unbroken



Pool
Depth > 0.5 m where stream widens or deepens and currents decline



Backwater
Depth < 0.3m
Reasonably sized (> 20% of channel width) section cut off from the channel

3. Channel habitat types






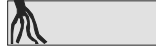

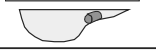
Assess which channel habitat types are present at your site and mark the boxes corresponding to the types present. If a type is not present, record a 0 in the box.

Note: If a given habitat type cannot be assessed due to poor visibility, mark it as 'NA' (not assessible).

Channel habitat types	Present
Waterfall	
Cascade	
Rapid	
Riffle	
Run	
Pool	
Backwater	
Total number of channel habitat types present	

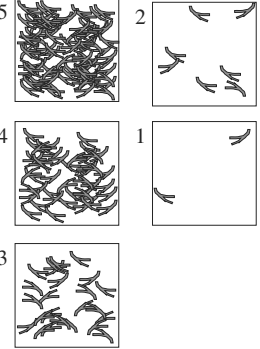
4. In-stream habitat types

In the boxes provided, rate the in-stream habitat types present at the site by their distribution, using the 0 to 5 scale. If a type is not present, write a 0 in the appropriate box.

In-stream habitat types	Rating
 Logs	
 Branches	
 Leaves and twigs	
 Plant fragments and algae	
 Macrophytes	
 Tree roots	
 Rocks, boulders, cliffs and cobbles	
 Man-made structures	
In-stream habitat sum	

The 0 to 5 rating scale
 5 = major, dominant; 81–100%
 4 = common, abundant; 61–80%
 3 = regular, frequent; 41–60%
 2 = little, occasional; 21–40%
 1 = present, rare; 1–20%
 0 = absent

Visual guide



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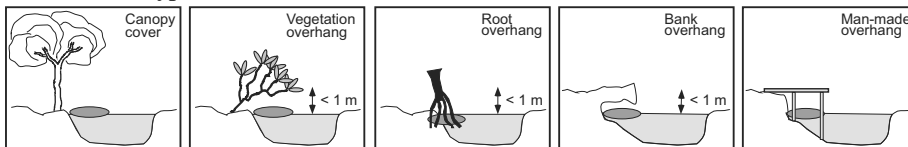
5. Stream cover

Rate the distributions of the following stream cover types using the 0 to 5 scale. Use the pictures below to aid your decisions. If a cover type is absent, record a 0 in the appropriate box.

Left bank rating	Stream cover type	Right bank rating	Bank rating average
	Canopy cover		
	Vegetation overhang		
	Root overhang		
	Bank overhang		
	Man-made overhang		
	Stream cover sum		

Note: The stream cover sum is the sum of the left and right bank rating averages

Stream cover types



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6. Stream habitat diversity score

Complete the following calculations to score the channel and stream habitat diversities at this site.

Channel habitat diversity score

$$= (\text{Channel habitat sum} \div 7) \times 100$$

$$= \boxed{} \%$$

Stream habitat diversity score

$$= (\text{In-stream habitat sum} \times 0.6 + \text{stream cover sum} \times 0.4) \times 4$$

$$= \boxed{} \%$$

Note: These equations measure stream habitat diversity, not condition. To infer condition, compare your results with results from a reference site.

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