



WHITESTONE
solar farm

WHITESTONE SOLAR FARM

Volume 6: Environmental Statement

6.20 Appendix 6.4.1: River Condition Assessment

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Prepared by:

ERM

Prepared for:

Whitestone Net Zero Ltd

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6.7	Confidential Ornithology Report
6.8	Great Crested Newt Survey Report
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6.10	Bat Survey Report
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6.13	Fisheries and White Clawed Crayfish eDNA Survey Report
6.14	Arboriculture Survey and Tree Constraints Plan

Glossary

Term	Meaning
<i>Cable Corridor</i>	Corridors within which the high voltage cables would be constructed.
<i>Development Consent Order (DCO)</i>	A statutory order made by the relevant Secretary of State pursuant to The Planning Act 2008 to authorise a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project which provides consent for the project and means that a range of other consents, such as planning permission and listed building consent, will not be required. A DCO can also include rights of compulsory acquisition
<i>Environment Statement (ES)</i>	Environmental Statement which presents the preliminary environmental information relating to the Proposed Development. The ES has been prepared to present information in accordance with current EIA regulation.
<i>Encroachment</i>	Any manmade feature or intervention that reduces the quantity, quality or ecological function of the riparian habitat or negatively affects the natural function of a watercourse.
<i>Final Condition Class</i>	One of five possible condition classes used to assign a Final Condition Score across a range of 1 to 3 (Good – 3; Fairly Good – 2.5; Moderate – 2; Fairly Poor – 1.5; Poor – 1) that can be assigned to a longer length or section of river or stream as defined by the representative MoRPh5 subreach survey according to its River Type and Preliminary Condition Score.
Long Lane 400kV Substation	The new 400 kilovolt National Grid substation proposed on land immediately east of Long Lane, Brinsworth, S60 4JJ
<i>MoRPh Module</i>	A short length of river (approximately two channel widths in length) along which a single MoRPh survey is conducted.
<i>MoRPh5 Subreach</i>	A short river reach with a length equal to 5 MoRPh contiguous or 'joined up' modules (approximately 10 channel widths in length).
<i>Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP)</i>	NSIPs are large scale major development projects in England or Wales which fall into the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy; • Transport; • Waste;

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Term	Meaning
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Water; and • Water. <p>The primary legislation which applies to NSIPs is called the Planning Act 2008. When these types of development meet the threshold described in the Planning Act 2008, they need a Development Consent Order before they can be built.</p>
<i>Preliminary Condition Score</i>	A numerical score for the condition of a subreach, calculated as the sum of the average positive and average negative river condition indicator scores and is subsequently translated into a Final Condition Class according to its River Type.
<i>Order Limits</i>	Maximum extent of the Proposed Development comprising the Site and Cable Corridors.
<i>Reach</i>	An extended length of river along which 'natural' boundary conditions are sufficiently uniform that the river maintains a near consistent internal set of process–form interactions. In other words, the reach may be affected by varying human pressures but its broad channel planform, valley gradient and level of valley confinement are reasonably consistent and river flows are not affected by major tributary inputs or large barriers (dams). Where used for river typing, the selected length should be as long as reasonably possible so that the desk study indicators computed for the reach allow the determination of an appropriate, indicative River Type.
<i>Reinforcement</i>	The strengthening of river beds and banks for various purposes (e.g. erosion control) using materials introduced by humans such as concrete, bricks, sheet piling, boulders, geotextiles, etc.
<i>Riparian Zone</i>	Transitional, semi-terrestrial area of land adjoining a river channel (including the river bank top and face) that is regularly inundated and influenced by fresh water and can influence the condition of the aquatic ecosystem (e.g. by shading and leaf litter input and through biogeochemical exchanges).
<i>River Condition Indicator Score</i>	An indicator of the positive or negative condition of the bank tops, bank faces, channel-water margins or bed within a subreach of river. Each river condition indicator score is expressed as a positive or negative value in the range 0 to +4 or 0 to -4 to represent near-natural (positive) or human-modified / impacted (negative) properties of a river, respectively.
<i>River Type</i>	Group of river channels displaying similar unmodified planform, bed material and morphological features and dynamics reflecting the natural flow and sediment transfer processes to which it is subject
<i>River Section</i>	A length of river of similar character for which at least one MoRPh5 survey is required to represent its condition. In the context of RCA, a Final Condition Class result should be applied for each river section of consistent character and condition, up to four times the length of the MoRPh5 subreach(es) surveyed.
<i>The Applicant</i>	Whitestone Net Zero Ltd.

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Term	Meaning
<i>The Application</i>	The Application submitted to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero for a Development Consent Order.
<i>The Proposed Development</i>	The proposed Whitestone Solar Farm.
<i>The Site</i>	The land planned to be used for solar PV array and associated infrastructure, BESS, substation, and landscaping and habitat enhancement. The Site is split into W1, W2, and W3.
<i>Whitestone 1 (W1)</i>	The northern parcels of the Whitestone Solar Farm.
<i>Whitestone 2 (W2)</i>	The middle parcels of the Whitestone Solar Farm.
<i>Whitestone 3 (W3)</i>	The southern parcels of the Whitestone Solar Farm.

Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
<i>AI</i>	Anabranching Index
<i>AIL</i>	Abnormal Indivisible Load
<i>BESS</i>	Battery Energy Storage System
<i>BI</i>	Braiding Index
<i>BNG</i>	Biodiversity Net Gain
<i>C</i>	Confined
<i>DCO</i>	Development Consent Order
<i>ERM</i>	Environmental Resources Management Ltd
<i>ES</i>	Environmental Statement
<i>MoRPh</i>	Modular River Physical
<i>NSIP</i>	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
<i>OS NGR</i>	Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference
<i>PC</i>	Partially Confined
<i>PV</i>	Photovoltaic
<i>RCA</i>	River Condition Assessment
<i>RMBC</i>	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
<i>SI</i>	Sinuosity Index
<i>U</i>	Unconfined
<i>W1</i>	Whitestone 1
<i>W2</i>	Whitestone 2
<i>W3</i>	Whitestone 3

Units of Measurement

Units	Meaning
<i>ha</i>	Hectares
<i>km</i>	Kilometres

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Units	Meaning
<i>kV</i>	Kilovolt
<i>m</i>	Metres
<i>MW</i>	Megawatt

6.4.1 River Condition Assessment Report

Introduction

- 6.4.1.1 This Appendix has been prepared on behalf of Whitestone Net Zero Ltd ('the Applicant') to set out the survey methodology and results of the river condition assessment surveys in relation to the Development Consent Order (DCO) Application for the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of Whitestone Solar Farm (hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development').
- 6.4.1.2 This Appendix is supported by the following figures in **ES Volume 3, Figures [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**:
- **Figure 3.2: Site Referencing;**
 - **Figure 6.4.1.1: Surveyed Watercourses;**
 - **Figure 6.4.1.2: MoRPh Survey Locations;**
 - **Figure 6.4.1.3: River Condition;**
 - **Figure 6.3: Land Parcel Reference – W1;**
 - **Figure 6.4: Land Parcel Reference – W2 North;**
 - **Figure 6.5: Land Parcel Reference – W2 West;**
 - **Figure 6.6: Land Parcel Reference – W2 East; and**
 - **Figure 6.7: Land Parcel Reference – W3.**
- 6.4.1.3 This Appendix is supported by the following annexes located at the end of this Appendix:
- **Annex 6.4.1A: River Condition Assessment Reporting Sheets; and**
 - **Annex 6.4.1B: RCA Rivers and Streams Photographs.**

The Order Limits

- 6.4.1.4 The extent of the Order Limits is shown in **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.10 - Order Limits [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** and the Proposed Development is described in full in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: The Proposed Development [EN0110020/APP/6.5]** and shown spatially on the **Works Plans [EN0110020/APP/2.3]**.

The Proposed Development

- 6.4.1.5 The Proposed Development involves the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of more than 100 megawatt (MW) of solar photovoltaic (PV) array, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), onsite substations and supporting infrastructure, and grid connection infrastructure. The grid connection infrastructure would connect the Proposed Development to the new 400 kilovolt (kV) National Grid substation proposed on land immediately east of Long Lane, Brinsworth, S60 4JJ (Long Lane 400kV Substation).
- 6.4.1.6 As the Proposed Development would have a generating capacity in excess of 100MW, it is considered to be a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008.

- 6.4.1.7 The Proposed Development would be located within the Order Limits. The Order Limits encompass the total area of the project comprising the Site and Cable Corridors. The Site is specifically the land that is planned to be used for solar PV arrays and associated infrastructure, BESS, substations, landscaping and habitat enhancement. The Site is split into Whitestone 1 (W1), Whitestone 2 (W2) and Whitestone 3 (W3).
- 6.4.1.8 Highway Works are sections of the highway network that will contain localised improvements, such as improvements to road edge where it is deteriorated, or temporary highway and traffic works required to safely accommodate the Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) deliveries. These areas will support the movement of construction vehicles on narrower sections of the local highway network within parts of the construction vehicle routes to the Site, see **ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport [EN0110020/APP/6.13]**.

The Site

- 6.4.1.9 The Site is referred to as the land in which the solar PV array and associated infrastructure, BESS, substation, and landscaping and habitat enhancement will take place, as shown in **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.1: Order Limits [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**.
- 6.4.1.10 The Site lies approximately 7 and 5 kilometers (km) to the east of Sheffield and Rotherham respectively, South Yorkshire, mostly within the administrative boundaries of the City of Doncaster Council (CDC) and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC), with a very small area within North East Derbyshire District Council (NEDDC). The Site comprises approximately 1,151 hectares (ha) of predominantly arable land that is also within the Green Belt.
- W1 is located south of Conisbrough (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference ('OS NGR') SK 503962);
 - W2 is located between Aston in the west and Dinnington in the east (centred on OS NGR SK 477874); and
 - W3 is located south of Wales and Kiveton Park (centred on OS NGR SK 481807).
- 6.4.1.11 Further information on the Site is presented in **ES Volume 3, Chapter 3: The Site and Surrounding Area [EN0110020/APP/6.3]**. The Site has been split into different land parcels, as shown in **ES Volume 3, Figures 6.4.1.1: Surveyed Watercourses [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** used for survey reference.

Purpose of the Report

- 6.4.1.12 This Appendix presents the methods and findings of the River Condition Assessment (RCA) undertaken across 2025 following prevailing guidance.
- 6.4.1.13 The Appendix does not include any recommendations on mitigation or compensation and does not include an assessment of potential impacts on the habitats.

Survey Methods

Desk Study

- 6.4.1.14 An RCA is required as a mandatory element of the BNG Metric 4.0¹ where watercourses are present within the Proposed Development and provides a baseline condition score of the watercourse, which will then be used to inform the Statutory Biodiversity Metric.
- 6.4.1.15 The survey scope was developed from information presented in A Guide to Assessing River Condition² and The Modular River Physical (MoRPh) Survey Technical Reference Manual 2022 version³ and this Report is best read alongside both for full technical background on methodologies.
- 6.4.1.16 Desk studies of the Proposed Development identified 26 watercourses required assessment, listed below in **Table 6.4.1.1** and shown in **Annex 6.4A to 6.4C**.
- 6.4.1.17 Targeted surveys of the watercourses were undertaken by RCA accredited ERM ecologists and a Peak Ecology ecologist between 19 May and 16 December 2025. Ditches are assessed separately in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 6.2: UK Habitat Survey Report [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**.
- 6.4.1.18 The methodologies used both the field and subsequent desk-based components of the RCA survey². Data was collated in Cartographer, the MoRPh survey software⁴.

Table 6.4.1.1 Watercourses Required for RCA Assessment

Project Area	Watercourse Name	Survey Date and Surveyor	Land Parcels
W1	Firsby Brook	Subreaches 2 – 5: 22 July 2025 by Niamh Sherborne (Peak Ecology)	SID-0012 SID-0033 SID-0039 SID-0040 SID-0042 SID-0043 SID-0044 SID-0454
W1	Kearsley Brook	28 – 31 July 2025 by Katie Clarke (ERM)	SID-0006
W1	The Brook	23 – 30 July 2025 by Niamh Sherborne (Peak Ecology) and Katie Clarke (ERM)	SID-0006 SID-0009 SID-0012 SID-0041 SID-0023 SID-0031
W2	Anston Brook	Anston Brook 1: 19 – 20 May 2025 by Katie Clarke (ERM)	Anston Brook 1: SID-0305 SID-0309 SID-0310

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Project Area	Watercourse Name	Survey Date and Surveyor	Land Parcels
		Anston Brook 2: 29 July 2025 by Niamh Sherborne (Peak Ecology)	Anston Brook 2: SID-0335 SID-0341 SID-0340 SID-0345
W2	Cramfit Brook	20 May 2025 by Niamh Sherborne (Peak Ecology)	SID-0323 SID-0325 SID-0326 SID-0329 SID-0335 SID-0477
W2	Kingsforth Brook	7 August 2025 by Niamh Sherborne (Peak Ecology)	SID-0118 SID-0124 SID-0138 SID-0139 SID-0140
W2	Ulley Brook	Ulley Brook 1: 7, 8 and 14 August 2025 by Rebecca Ward (ERM) and Niamh Sherborne (Peak Ecology) Ulley Brook 2: 22 May 2025 by Niamh Sherborne (Peak Ecology) Ulley Brook 3: 6 August 2025 by Niamh Sherborne (Peak Ecology)	Ulley Brook 1: SID-0224 SID-0231 SID-0240 SID-0241 SID-0244 SID-0245 Ulley Brook 2: SID-0284 Ulley Brook 3: SID-0277 SID-0230 SID-0235 SID-0242
W2	Tributary of Ulley Brook 2	31 July 2025 by Katie Clarke (ERM)	SID-0270
W2	Tributary of Ulley Brook	Not surveyed at the time of writing this Report	SID-0270 SID-0275 SID-0256
W2	Unnamed watercourse 1	Not surveyed at the time of writing this Report	SID-0257 SID-0278

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Project Area	Watercourse Name	Survey Date and Surveyor	Land Parcels
W2	Tributary of Kingsforth Brook	Not surveyed at the time of writing this Report	SID-0124
W3	Broadbridge Dike	2 and 3 June 2025 by Rebecca Ward (ERM) and Niamh Sherborne (Peak Ecology)	SID-0399 SID-0407 SID-0409 SID-0411 SID-0412 SID-0413 SID-0414
W3	Unnamed Brook	Not surveyed at the time of writing this Report	SID-0441
CC B	Firsby Brook 1 (Wc1)	Subreach 1: 16 December 2025 by Katie Clarke (ERM)	SID-0039
CC B	Unnamed watercourse (Wc5)	Not surveyed at the time of writing this Report	SID-0076
CC B	Hellaby Brook (Wc2)	Not surveyed at the time of writing this Report	SID-0067 SID-0070
CC C	Pinch Mill Brook (Wc17)	15 December 2025 by Katie Clarke (ERM)	SID-0168 SID-0169
CC C	Pinch Mill Brook (Wc18)	Not surveyed at the time of writing this Report	SID-0145 SID-0156 SID-0160
CC C	Unnamed watercourse (Wc25)	13 November 2025 by Rebecca Ward (ERM)	SID-0164
CC D1	Unnamed watercourse (Wc24)	12 November 2025 by Rebecca Ward (ERM)	SID-0152 SID-0162
CC D1	Unnamed watercourse (Wc8)	Not surveyed at the time of writing this Report	SID-0186
CC D1	Unnamed watercourse (Wc9)	Not surveyed at the time of writing this Report	SID-0176 SID-0186
CC E	Unnamed watercourse (Wc8)	Not surveyed at the time of writing this Report	SID-0177 SID-0182
CC F	Ulley Brook 3 (Wc10)	Not surveyed at the time of writing this Report	SID-0227 SID-0230
CC I1	Unnamed watercourse (Wc21)	Not surveyed at the time of writing this Report	SID-0265 SID-0268 SID-0452

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Project Area	Watercourse Name	Survey Date and Surveyor	Land Parcels
CC L	Chesterfield Canal (Wc14)	17 December 2025 by Katie Clarke (ERM)	SID-0392

Field Survey

- 6.4.1.19 The purpose of the MoRPh5 survey is to characterise short sections of each watercourse to best represent the entire length of the watercourse flowing within the Proposed Development.
- 6.4.1.20 Each MoRPh5 survey, herein referred to as a subreach, is composed of 5 x MoRPh modules, surveyed contiguously in a downstream direction from a suitable location on one, or both banks, to form each subreach. A minimum of 20% of each watercourses length through the Proposed Development was surveyed to meet RCA requirements.
- 6.4.1.21 The diversity, richness and structure of visible features including morphology, sediments, physical features, human modification and vegetation structure were collected. Information is collected on the full channel bed width, riverbanks and first 10m of land from the top of the riverbank. The data was recorded in Cartographer, which then generated values for 32 river condition indicators for each subreach. These indicators are grouped between the bank top, bank face, water margin and channel bed and provide a snapshot score of habitat condition at the time of survey. Positive, i.e. natural indicators, are scored 0 to 4 and negative, i.e. human modification, -4 to 0 (where zero indicates condition is optimal). Appendix A in² contains full detail on all 32 indicators.
- 6.4.1.22 **ES Volume 3, Figures 6.4.1.2: MoRPh Survey Locations [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** show the location of each MoRPh module in relation to the Order Limits at the Site.

River Type Assessment

- 6.4.1.23 The River Type assessment was completed for all watercourses following field surveys. For each watercourse, a homogenous reach was chosen, defined by a sharp change in water level, a tributary with >10% of the flow, a change in sinuosity, or a major barrier which is likely to significantly change flow or sediment movement.
- 6.4.1.24 **Table 6.4.1.2** contains the eight indices used to define river type, the first five being based on desk study using aerial imagery which includes valley confinement and planform of the reach. The final three indices are supported by data from the field survey component.
- 6.4.1.25 Once values for all indices were input into Cartographer, an indicative River Type was generated automatically⁴ for each subreach along each watercourse. Fifteen morphological River Types have been classified which include 13 river planform-bed material types, canals/navigable rivers and large rivers >30m wide.

Table 6.4.1.2 River Type Indices

Source	Code	Name
Desk study	A1	Braiding index (BI)
Desk study	A2	Sinuosity index (SI)
Desk study	A3	Anabranching index (AI)
Desk study	A4	Level of confinement (Unconfined (U), Partially Confined (PC), Confined (C))
Desk study	A5	Valley gradient
Field survey	A6	Bedrock reaches
Field survey	A7	Coarsest bed material size class
Field survey	A8	Average alluvial bed material size class

Final Condition Score

6.4.1.26 Once both the field and desk study for each watercourse was complete, the river condition indicator scores were weighed according to the assigned river type and given a final condition score for each subreach. These are poor, fairly poor, moderate, fairly good, and good.

Limitations

6.4.1.27 Information included within this Report is based on the survey data available at the time of writing. Some sections of the Cable Corridor (approximately 1.68km in total) were not surveyed at the time of writing, therefore data for these watercourses was not available (**ES Volume 3, Figures 6.4.1.1: Surveyed Watercourses [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**).

6.4.1.28 For the purpose of this Report, these watercourses have been provided with an assumed final condition class and encroachment for input to the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. Unsurveyed watercourses have been assumed to be of Moderate condition. This assumption is based on professional judgement informed by the average watercourse condition recorded during the RCA surveys and a review of aerial imagery, which was used to identify any significant differences to surveyed watercourses in the wider area.

6.4.1.29 The majority of field surveys were completed outside of the optimal survey season for MoRPh assessments as a result of time constraints. However, the surveys were completed with surveyors able to capture all data required, and therefore this limitation is deemed to have low impact.

6.4.1.30 As a result of the survey timing being out of the optimal survey season, some watercourses were surveyed under atypical conditions, such as drought during summer months, and high flow conditions in winter. Some watercourses surveyed are ephemeral. As a result of this timing, some watercourses were recorded as dry or under lower flow than typically expected, or under higher flow conditions. Under high flow conditions, it is possible some water margin features or in-

channel features may not have been recorded. Low flows during summer surveys are deemed to have low impact and limitation as only flow type would be impacted and therefore have a small impact upon final condition class. High flow conditions are deemed to have low impact and limitation as few surveys were conducted during this period.

- 6.4.1.31 Additionally, some watercourses had dense vegetation around the bank top which limited visibility from the midpoint. However, where possible, the surveyor would survey the watercourse from a more accessible point within the subreach, and therefore this constraint is deemed to have a low impact and limitation.
- 6.4.1.32 Encroachment data for each watercourse was not collected at the time of the survey for some watercourse. Level of encroachment for each watercourse was determined using a combination of survey photographs, ariel imagery and data collected during the RCA surveys. This constraint is deemed to have a low impact and limitation.
- 6.4.1.33 Survey modules for Chesterfield Canal were reduced from 50m modules to 37.6m modules due to the Cable Corridor being 188m (including 10m buffer either side of the Order Limits) wide. This constraint is deemed to have a low impact and limitation.

Survey Findings

- 6.4.1.34 The below results section has been split, based on the geographical locations of the watercourses, into RCA headline results for W1, W2, W3, Cable Corridor B, Cable Corridor C, Cable Corridor D1, Cable Corridor E, Cable Corridor F, Cable Corridor I1, and Cable Corridor L. The Cable Corridors are shown in **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.3: Detailed Site Referencing [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** and the surveyed watercourses are shown on **ES Volume 3, Figure 6.4.1.1: Surveyed Watercourses [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**.
- 6.4.1.35 The below result tables illustrate the key details of the results for each subreach, including the grid reference, preliminary condition score, final condition class, and encroachment for each subreach within the project.
- 6.4.1.36 Watercourses which were not surveyed have been provided with a precautionary final condition class, and a precautionary encroachment rating for both within the watercourse and within the riparian zone.
- 6.4.1.37 A results graph has been included for each watercourse, illustrating the condition score in respect to the condition class thresholds. Plate 6.4.1 **Table 6.4.1.3** shows the final condition class for each subreach surveyed.
- 6.4.1.38 The data below will be used to inform the BNG assessment of the Site. **Annex 6.4A: River Condition Assessment Reporting Sheets** breaks down each indicator score and includes options for where improvements may be made against each element to improve the watercourse condition and guide biodiversity net gain.
- 6.4.1.39 Full details and condition scores for each subreach at Whitestone are found within **Annex 6.4.1A: River Condition Assessment Reporting Sheets**.
- 6.4.1.40 Photographs of each watercourse are found within **Annex 6.4.1B: RCA Rivers and Streams Photographs**.

Whitestone 1

Firsby Brook

Table 6.4.1.3 Preliminary Condition Score and Final Condition Class for Firsby Brook Subreaches, Including OS NGR

Subreach Number	Grid Reference	Preliminary Condition Score	Final Condition Class	Watercourse Encroachment	Riparian Encroachment
River Type – I					
Length of watercourse surveyed – 0.82km					
2	SK 50276 95252	1.478	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/major
3	SK 50084 95339	1.449	Fairly good	No encroachment	No encroachment /no encroachment
4	SK 49962 95416	1.109	Fairly good	No encroachment	No encroachment /no encroachment
5	SK 49732 95589	1.073	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/moderate

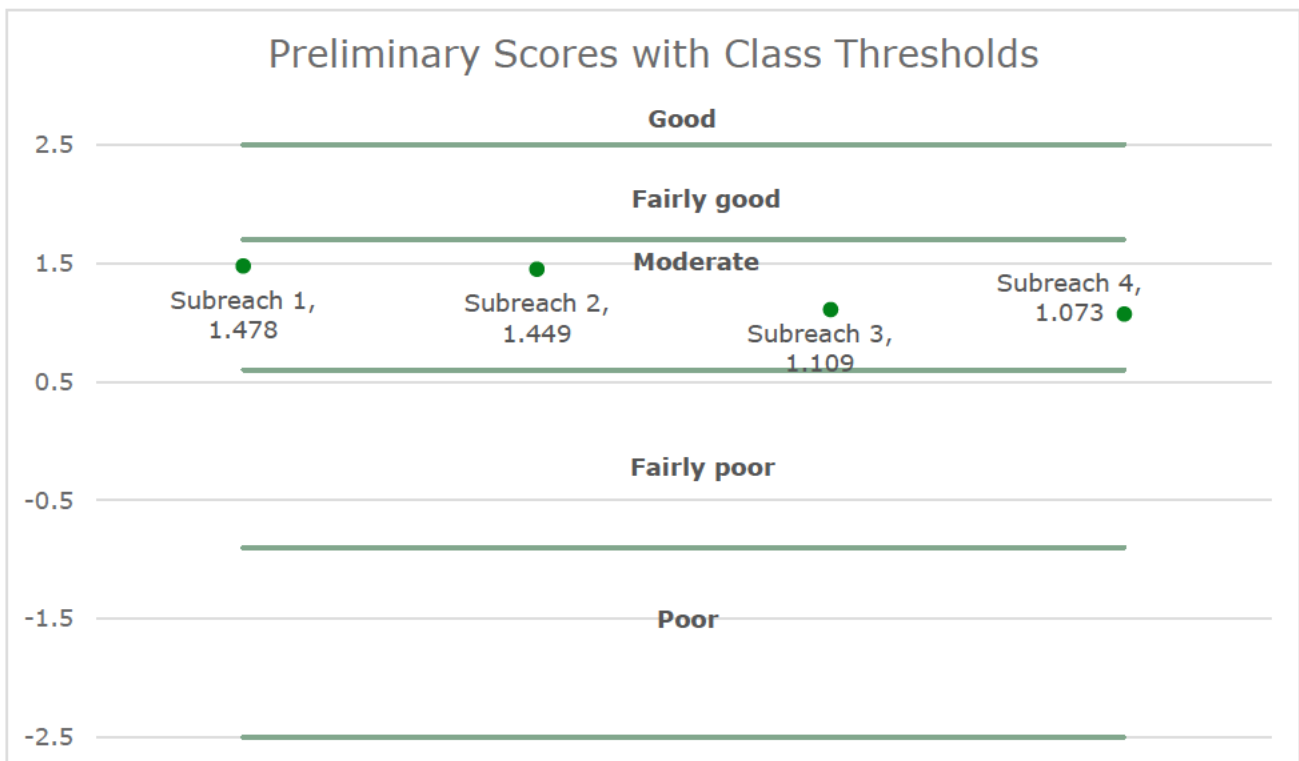


Plate 6.4.1 Preliminary Condition Scores for Firsby Brook and the Condition Class Thresholds for River Type I

Kearsley Brook

Table 6.4.1.4 Preliminary Condition Score and Final Condition Class for Kearsley Brook Subreaches, Including OS NGR.

Subreach Number	Grid Reference	Preliminary Condition Score	Final Condition Score	Watercourse Encroachment	Riparian Encroachment
River Type – F					
Length of watercourse surveyed – 0.87km					
1	SK 51474 96929	1.672	Fairly good	No encroachment	Major/no encroachment
2	SK 51292 97007	1.138	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/no encroachment
3	SK 51121 97134	1.251	Moderate	No encroachment	No encroachment/ no encroachment
4	SK 50909 97236	0.413	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/major

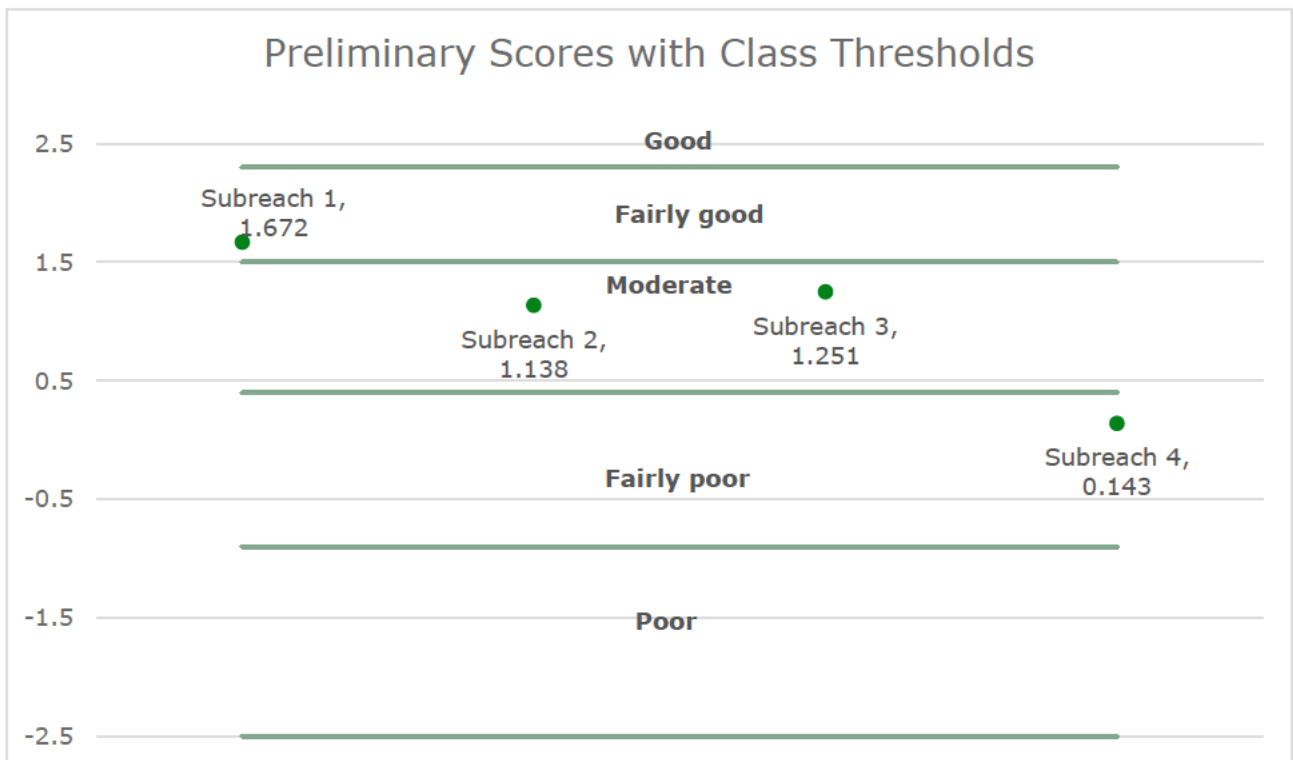


Plate 6.4.2 Preliminary Condition Scores for Kearsley Brook and the Condition Class Thresholds for River Type F

The Brook

Table 6.4.1.5 Preliminary Condition Score and Final Condition Class for The Brook Subreaches, Including OS NGR

Subreach Number	Grid Reference	Preliminary Condition Score	Final Condition Score	Watercourse Encroachment	Riparian Encroachment
River Type – F					
Length of watercourse surveyed – 1.63km					
1	SK 50877 95680	1.636	Fairly good	No encroachment	Major/no encroachment
2	SK 50850 95937	1.360	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/ moderate
3	SK 50879 96173	1.514	Fairly good	No encroachment	Major/major
4	SK 50826 96405	1.405	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/no encroachment
5	SK 50910 96602	0.328	Moderate	Major	Major/ moderate
6	SK 50925 96859	1.202	Moderate	No encroachment	No encroachment/ no encroachment
7	SK 51056 97136	0.964	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/major

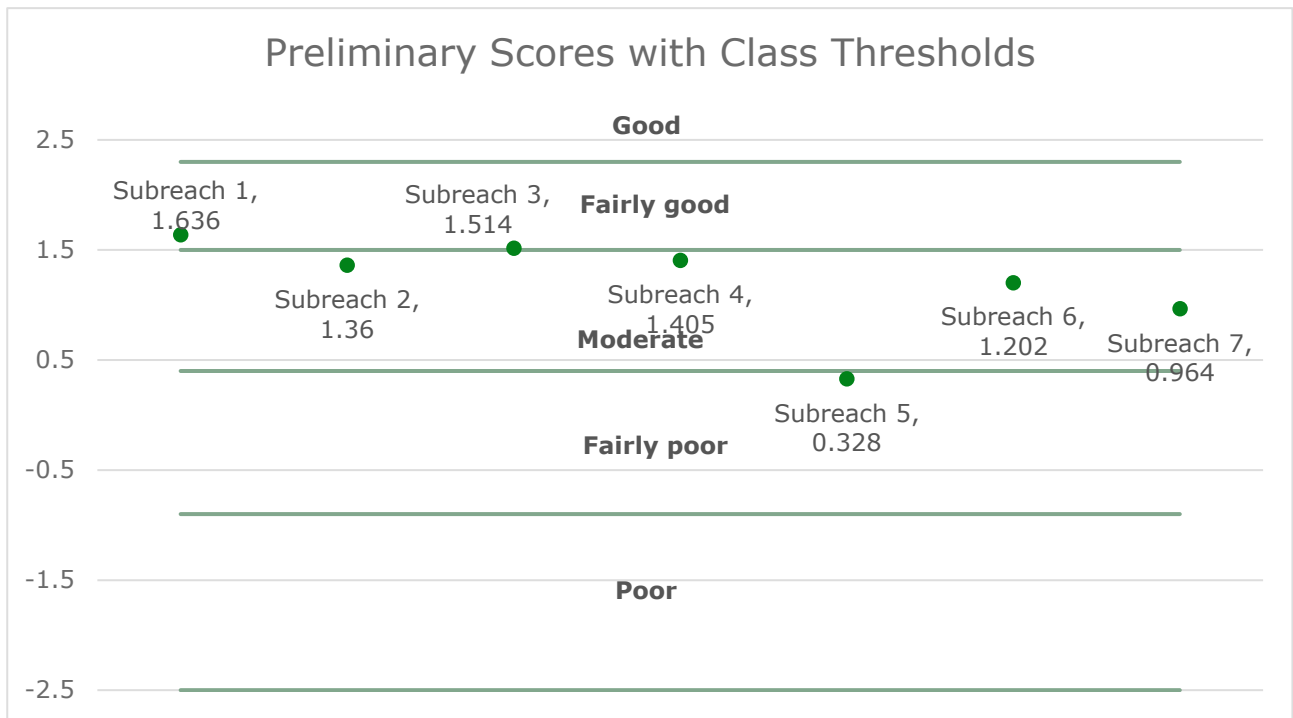


Plate 6.4.3 Preliminary Condition Scores for The Brook and the Condition Class Thresholds for River Type F

Whitestone 2

Anston Brook 1

Table 6.4.1.6 Preliminary Condition Score and Final Condition Class for Anston Brooke 1 Subreaches, Including OS NGR

Subreach Number	Grid Reference	Preliminary Condition Score	Final Condition Score	Watercourse Encroachment	Riparian Encroachment
River Type – K					
Length of watercourse surveyed – 0.62km					
1	SK 49257 86012	0.595	Moderate	No encroachment	Minor/ no encroachment
2	SK 49476 86101	0.372	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/ no encroachment
3	SK 49690 86106	1.061	Moderate	No encroachment	No encroachment/ no encroachment

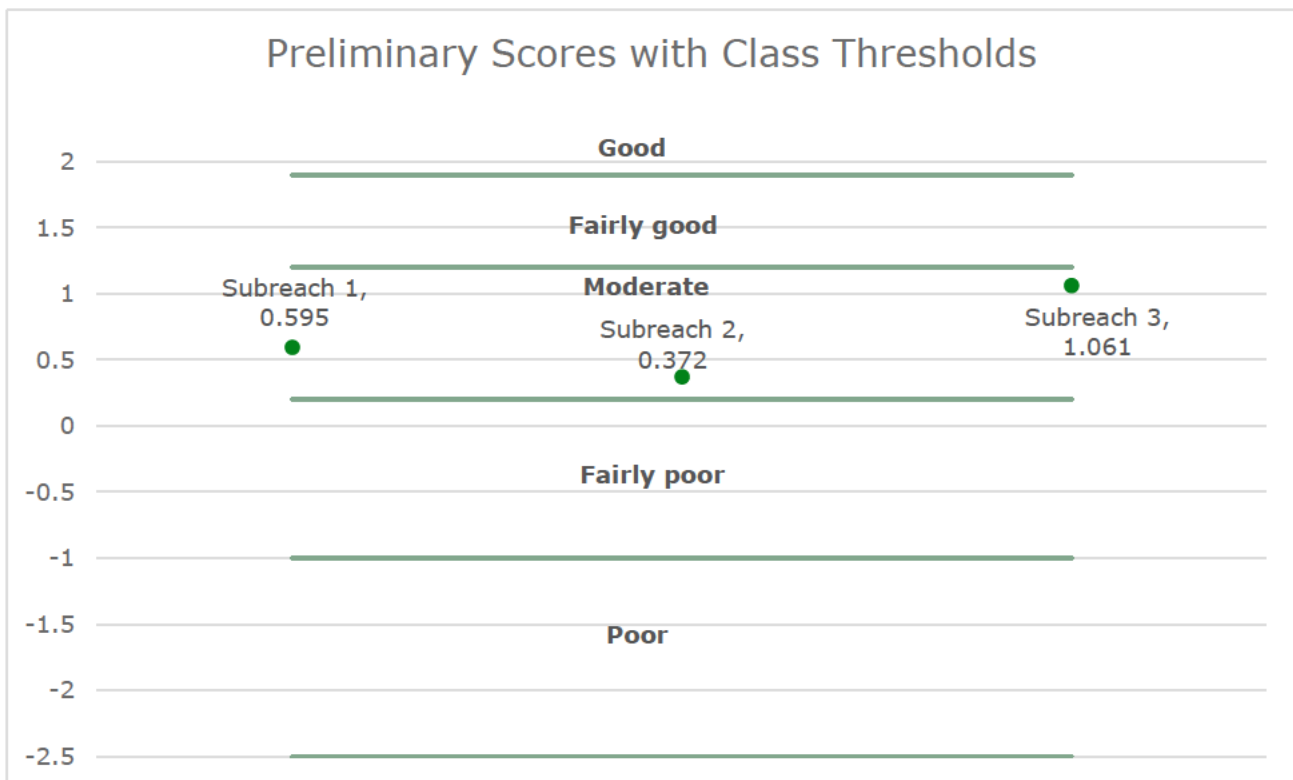


Plate 6.4.4 Preliminary Condition Scores for Anston Brook 1 and the Condition Class Thresholds for River Type K

Anston Brook 2

Table 6.4.1.7 Preliminary Condition Score and Final Condition Class for Anston Brook 2 Subreaches, Including OS NGR

Subreach Number	Grid Reference	Preliminary Condition Score	Final Condition Score	Watercourse Encroachment	Riparian Encroachment
River Type – K					
Length of watercourse surveyed – 1.65km					
1	SK 50454 84870	0.619	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/major
2	SK 50529 84800	0.494	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/ moderate
3	SK 50679 84673	1.247	Fairly good	No encroachment	Major/ moderate
4	SK 50736 84613	1.121	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/ moderate
5	SK 50907 84497	1.267	Fairly good	No encroachment	Major/major
6	SK 51075 84424	1.425	Fairly good	No encroachment	Major/ moderate
7	SK 51307 84231	0.874	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/major

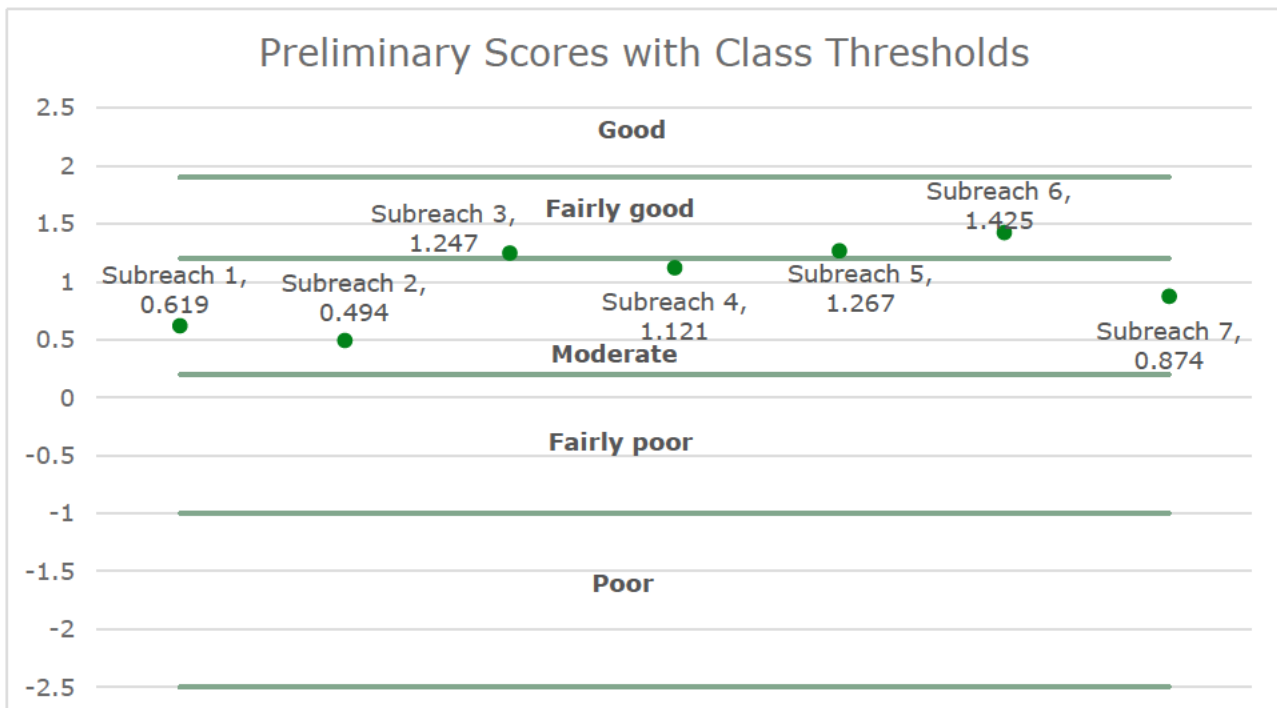


Plate 6.4.5 Preliminary Condition Scores for Anston Brook 2 and the Condition Class Thresholds for River Type K

Cramfit Brook

Table 6.4.1.8 Preliminary Condition Score and Final Condition Class for Cramfit Brook Subreaches, Including OS NGR

Subreach Number	Grid Reference	Preliminary Condition Score	Final Condition Score	Watercourse Encroachment	Riparian Encroachment
River Type – K					
Length of watercourse surveyed – 0.49km					
1	SK 50913 85428	0.437	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/major
2	SK 50739 85290	0.413	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/major

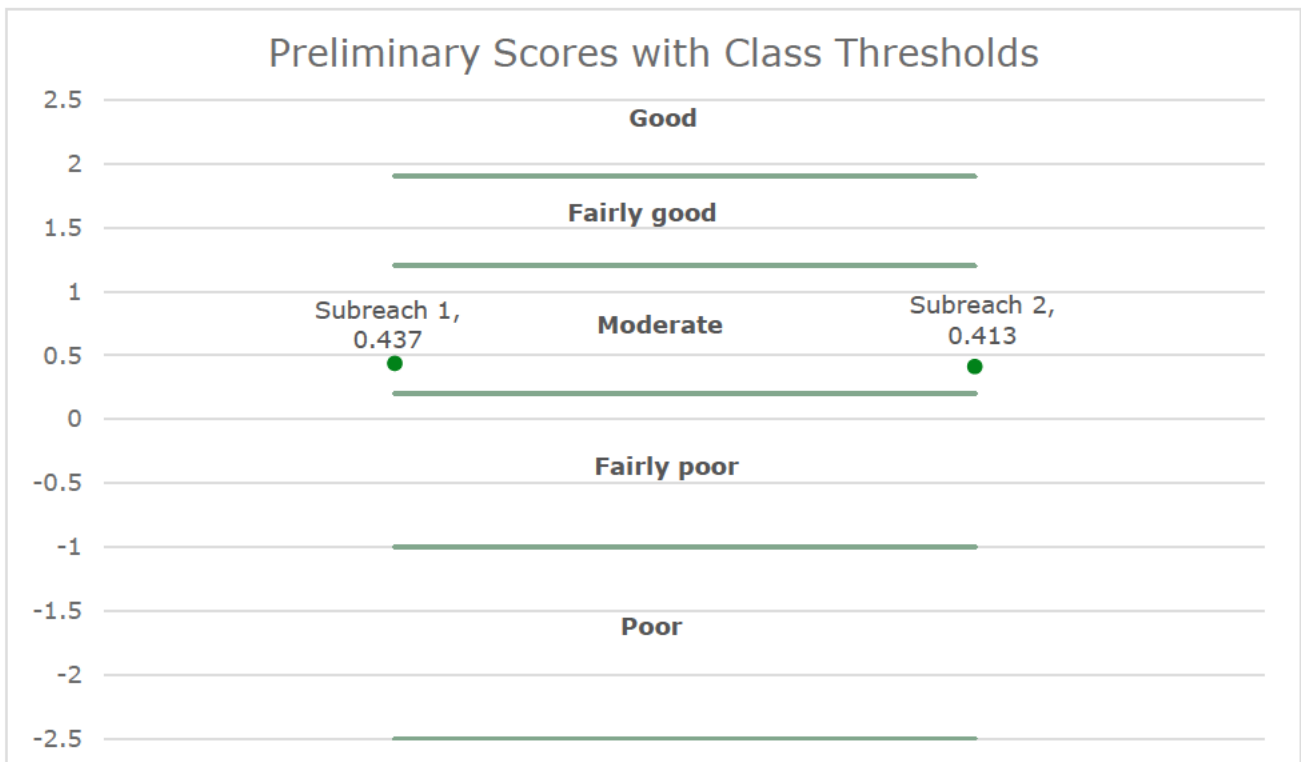


Plate 6.4.6 Preliminary Condition Scores for Cramfit Brook and the Condition Class Thresholds for River Type K

Kingsforth Brook

Table 6.4.1.9 Preliminary Condition Score and Final Condition Class for Kingsforth Brook Subreaches, Including OS NGR

Subreach Number	Grid Reference	Preliminary Condition Score	Final Condition Score	Watercourse Encroachment	Riparian Encroachment
River Type – H					
Length of watercourse surveyed – 0.40km					
1	SK 48980 90702	0.040	Fairly poor	No encroachment	Major/ no encroachment
2	SK 49323 90723	0.870	Moderate	Minor	Major/major

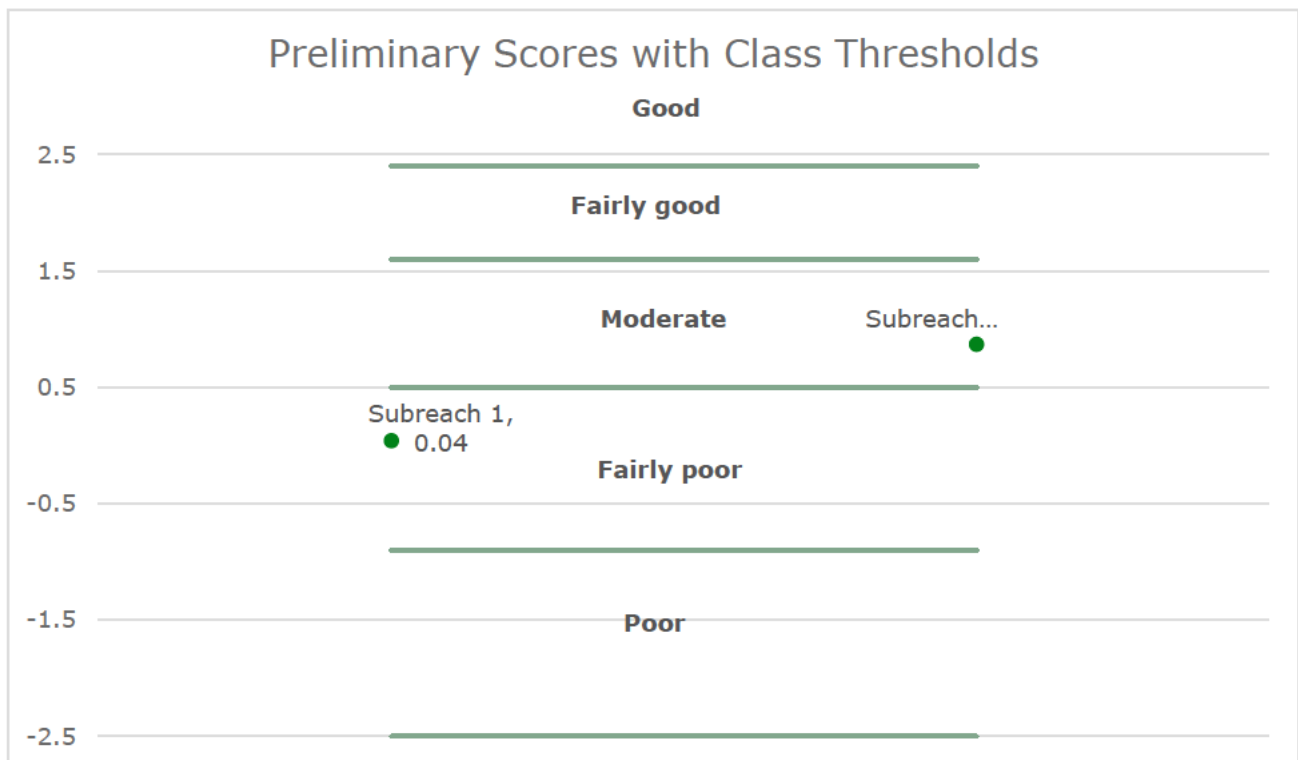


Plate 6.4.7 Preliminary Condition Scores for Kingsforth Brook and the Condition Class Thresholds for River Type H

Ulley Brook 1

Table 6.4.1.10 Preliminary Condition Score and Final Condition Class for Ulley Brook 1 Subreaches, Including OS NGR

Subreach Number	Grid Reference	Preliminary Condition Score	Final Condition Score	Watercourse Encroachment	Riparian Encroachment
River Type – H					
Length of watercourse surveyed – 1.40km					
1	SK 47328 88617	1.271	Moderate	No encroachment	No encroachment/ no encroachment
2	SK 47085 88567	1.579	Moderate	No encroachment	No encroachment/ no encroachment
3	SK 46823 88408	1.607	Fairly good	No encroachment	No encroachment/ no encroachment
4	SK 46486 88268	1.275	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/ moderate
5	SK 46195 88265	0.907	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/major
6	SK 45989 88124	1.243	Moderate	No encroachment	Minor/no encroachment

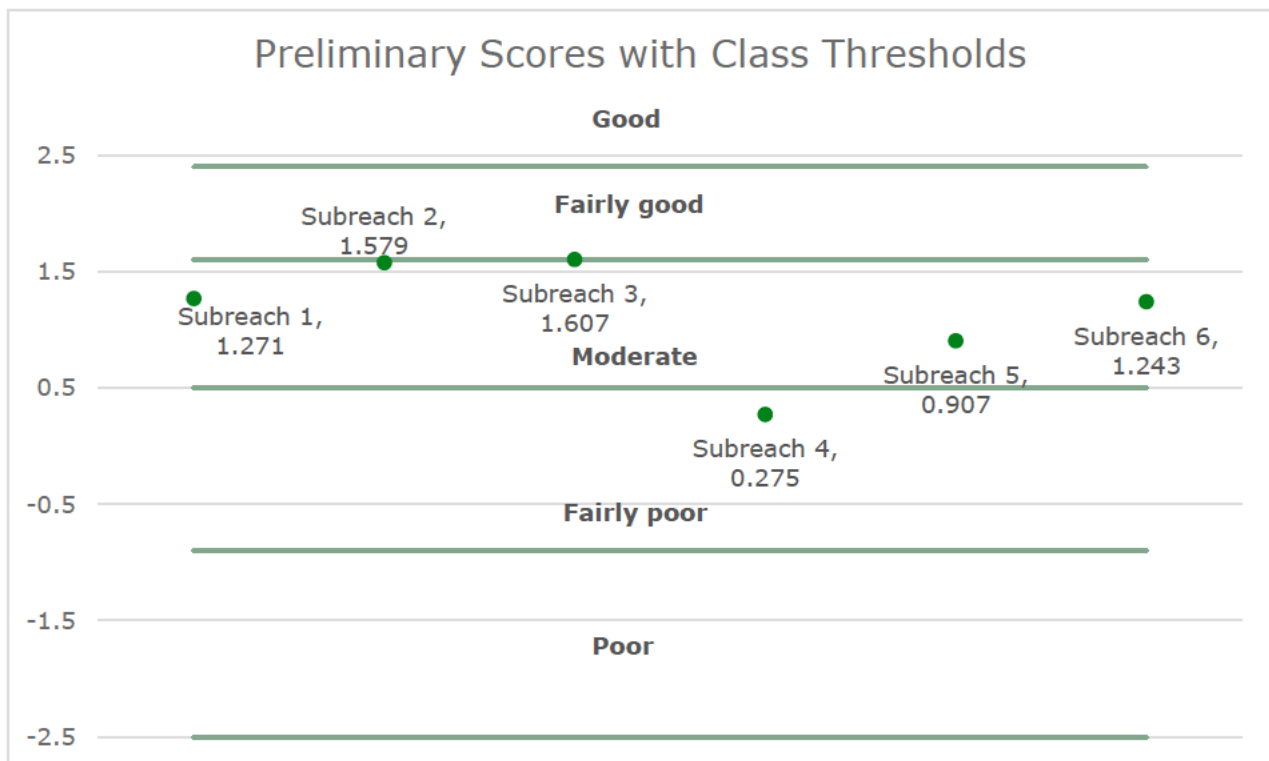


Plate 6.4.8 Preliminary Condition Scores for Ulley Brook 1 and the Condition Class Thresholds for River Type H

Ulley Brook 2

Table 6.4.1.11 Preliminary Condition Score and Final Condition Class for Ulley Brook 2 Subreaches, Including OS NGR

Subreach Number	Grid Reference	Preliminary Condition Score	Final Condition Score	Watercourse Encroachment	Riparian Encroachment
River Type – H					
Length of watercourse surveyed -0.49km					
1	SK 46360 86319	1.093	Moderate	No encroachment	Moderate/ no encroachment
2	SK 46242 86397	1.198	Moderate	No encroachment	Moderate/ moderate
3	SK 46184 86463	1.336	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/ moderate
4	SK 46129 86669	1.008	Moderate	Major	Moderate/ no encroachment

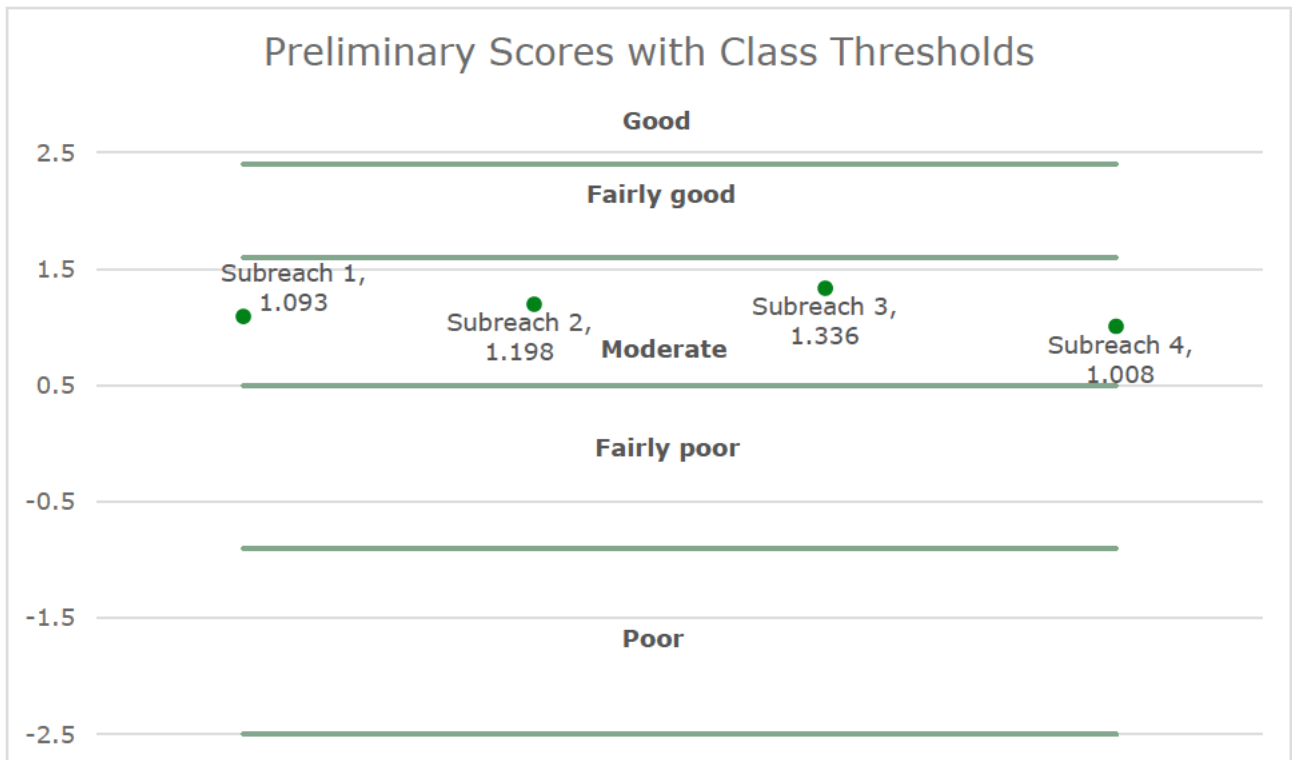


Plate 6.4.9 Preliminary Condition Scores for Ulley Brook 2 and the Condition Class Thresholds for River Type H

Ulley Brook 3

Table 6.4.1.12 Preliminary Condition Score and Final Condition Class for Ulley Brooke 3 Subreaches, Including OS NGR

Subreach Number	Grid Reference	Preliminary Condition Score	Final Condition Score	Watercourse Encroachment	Riparian Encroachment
River Type – H					
Length of watercourse surveyed -0.69km					
1	SK 45074 87910	0.680	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/major
2	SK 44845 88164	0.725	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/major
3	SK 44690 88409	0.931	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/major

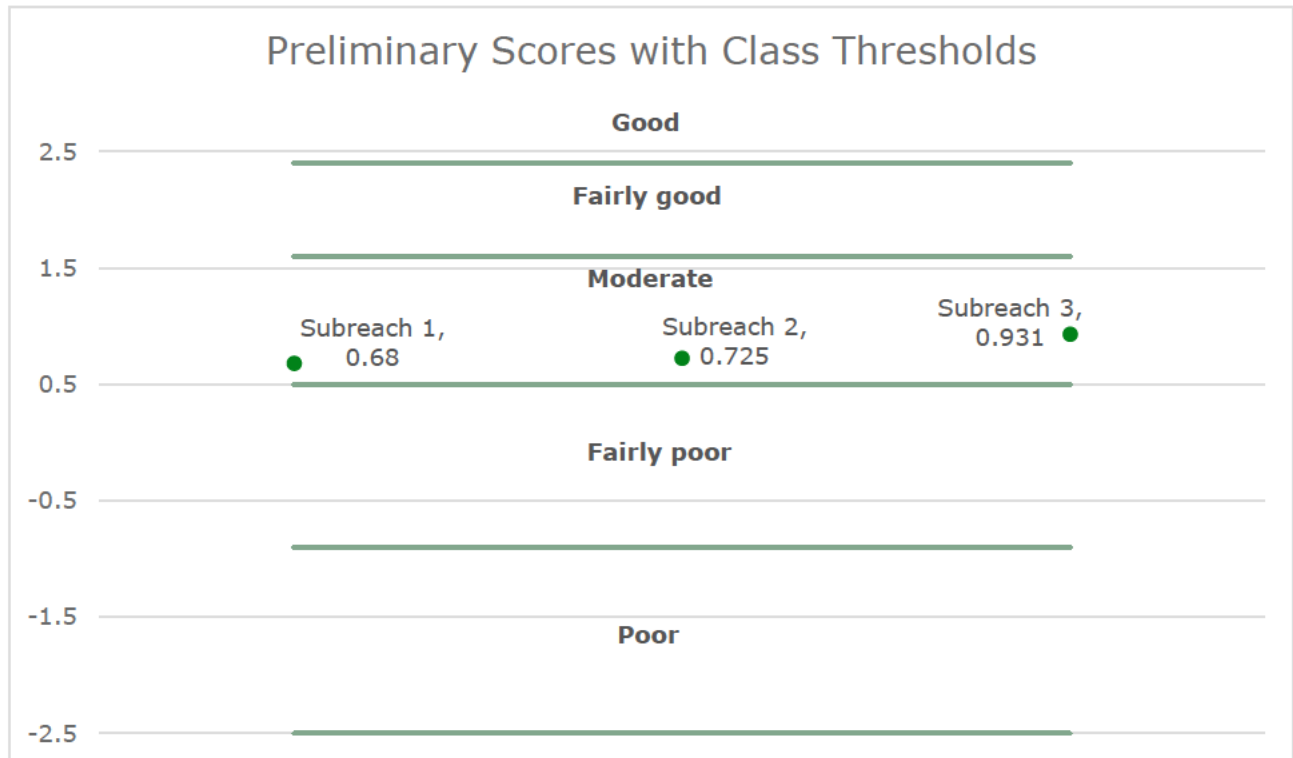


Plate 6.4.10 Preliminary Condition Scores for Ulley Brook 3 and the Condition Class Thresholds for River Type H

Tributary of Ulley Brook 2

Table 13 Preliminary Condition Score and Final Condition Class for Tributary of Ulley Brook 2 Subreaches, Including OS NGR

Subreach Number	Grid Reference	Preliminary Condition Score	Final Condition Score	Watercourse Encroachment	Riparian Encroachment
River Type – H					
Length of watercourse surveyed – 0.63km					
1	SK 46944 87257	0.551	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/ no encroachment
2	SK 46871 87041	1.166	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/major
3	SK 46806 86816	1.073	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/major

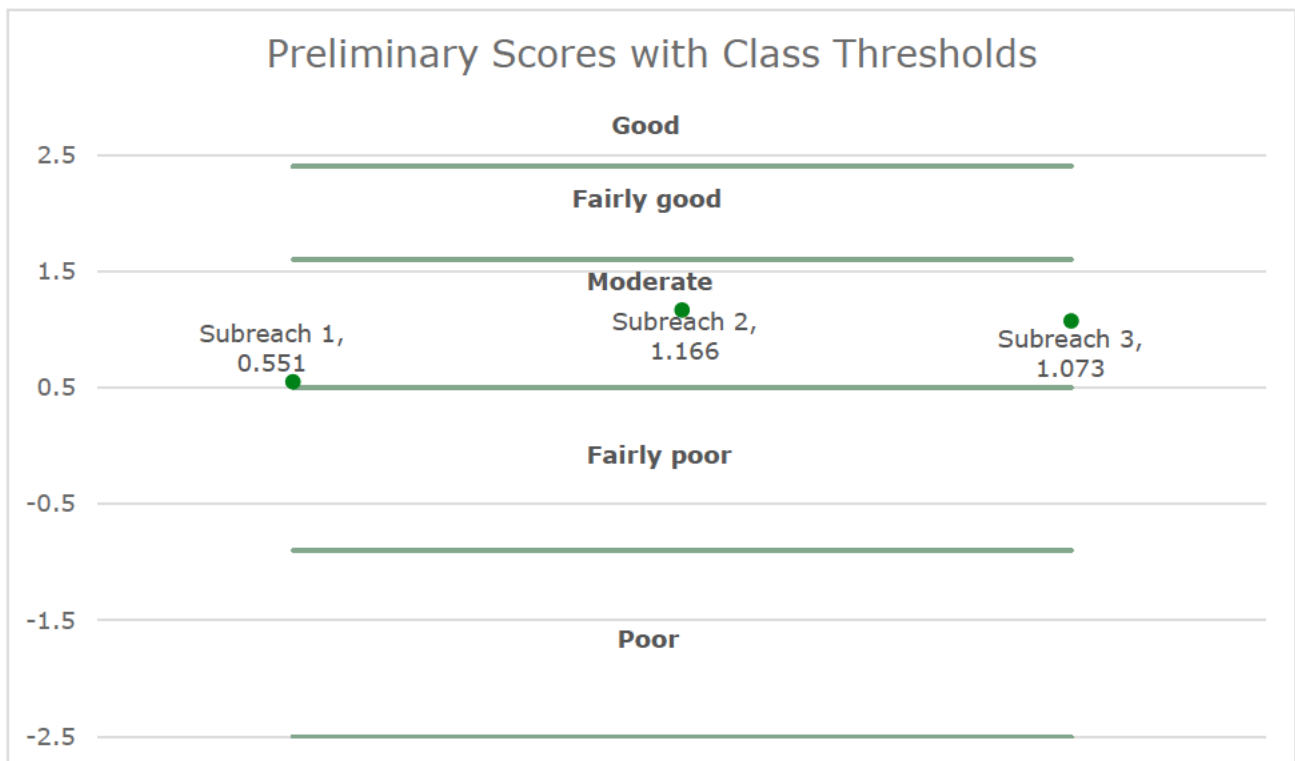


Plate 6.4.11 Preliminary Condition Scores for the Tributary of Ulley Brook 2 and the Condition Class Thresholds for River Type H

Whitestone 3

Broadbridge Dike

Table 6.4.1.14 Preliminary Condition Score and Final Condition Class for Broadbridge Dike Subreaches, Including OS NGR

Subreach Number	Grid Reference	Preliminary Condition Score	Final Condition Score	Watercourse Encroachment	Riparian Encroachment
River Type – H					
Length of watercourse surveyed – 1.1km					
1	SK 48870 81365	0.235	Fairly poor	Major	Major/ moderate
2	SK 48911 81552	1.356	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/major
3	SK 48970 81776	1.113	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/major
4	SK 49036 81935	1.061	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/major
5	SK 49181 82089	0.259	Fairly poor	Major	Major/major



Plate 6.4.12 Preliminary Condition Scores for Broadbridge Dike and the Condition Class Thresholds for River Type H

Cable Corridor B

Firsby Brook 1 (Wc1)

Table 6.4.1.15 Preliminary Condition Score and Final Condition Class for Firsby Brook 1 Subreaches within the Cable Corridor, Including OS NGR

Subreach Number	Grid Reference	Preliminary Condition Score	Final Condition Score	Watercourse Encroachment	Riparian Encroachment
River Type – I					
Length of watercourse surveyed – 0.2km					
1	SK 50694 94930	1.692	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/Major

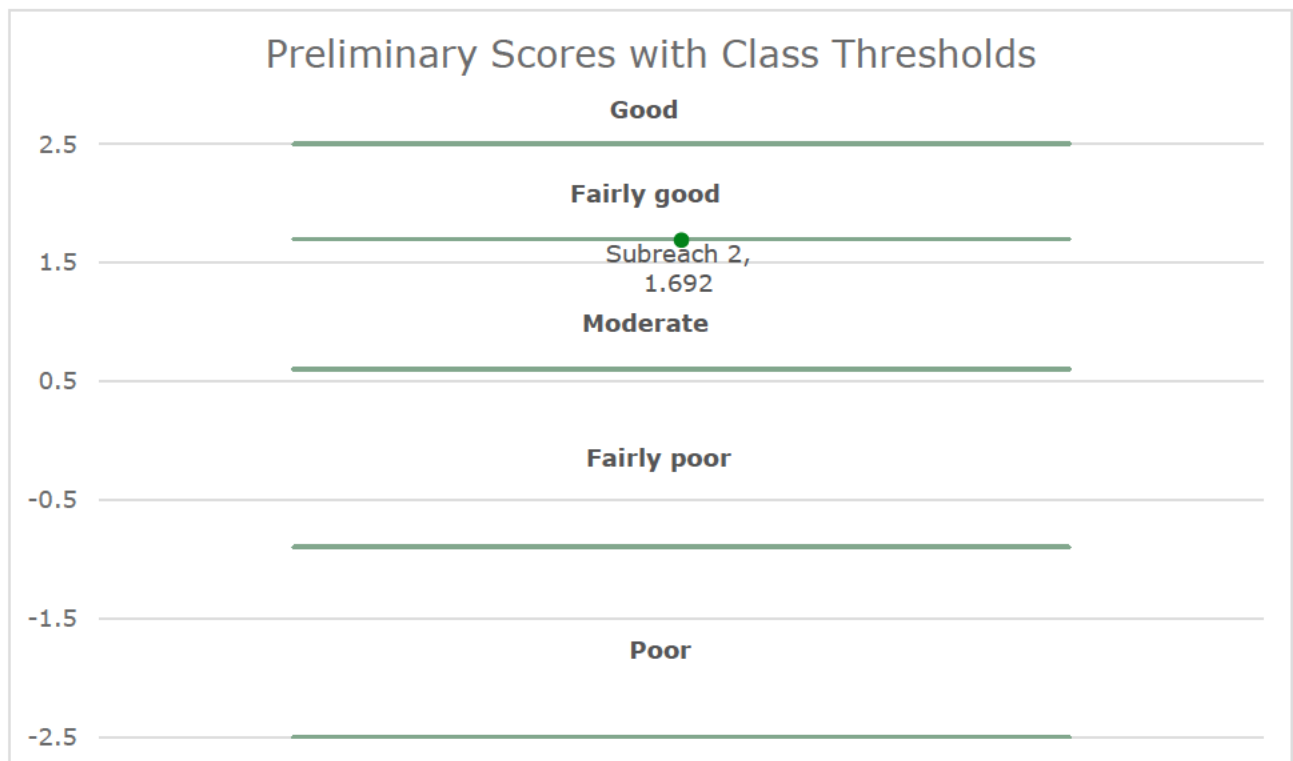


Plate 6.4.13 Preliminary Condition Scores for Firsby Brooke 1 and the Condition Class Thresholds for River Type I

Hellaby Brook (Wc2)

Table 6.4.1.16 Precautionary Condition Class for Hellaby Brook (Wc2) Subreach, Including OS NGR, From a Desk-Based Approach

Subreach Number	Grid Reference	Precautionary Condition Score	Precautionary Watercourse Encroachment	Precautionary Riparian Encroachment
Length of watercourse– 0.15km				
1	SK 50346 93705	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/Major

Unnamed Watercourse (Wc5)

Table 6.4.1.17 Precautionary Condition Class for the Unnamed Watercourse (Wc5) Subreach, Including OS NGR, From a Desk-Based Approach

Subreach Number	Grid Reference	Precautionary Condition Score	Precautionary Watercourse Encroachment	Precautionary Riparian Encroachment
Length of watercourse– 0.2km				
1	SK 49859 92559	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/ No encroachment

Cable Corridor C

Pinch Mill Brook (Wc17)

Table 6.4.1.18 Preliminary Condition Score and Final Condition Class for Pinch Mill Brook Subreaches within the Cable Corridor, Including OS NGR

Subreach Number	Grid Reference	Preliminary Condition Score	Final Condition Score	Watercourse Encroachment	Riparian Encroachment
River Type – D					
Length of watercourse surveyed – 0.11km					
1	SK 47898 90002	0.984	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/Major

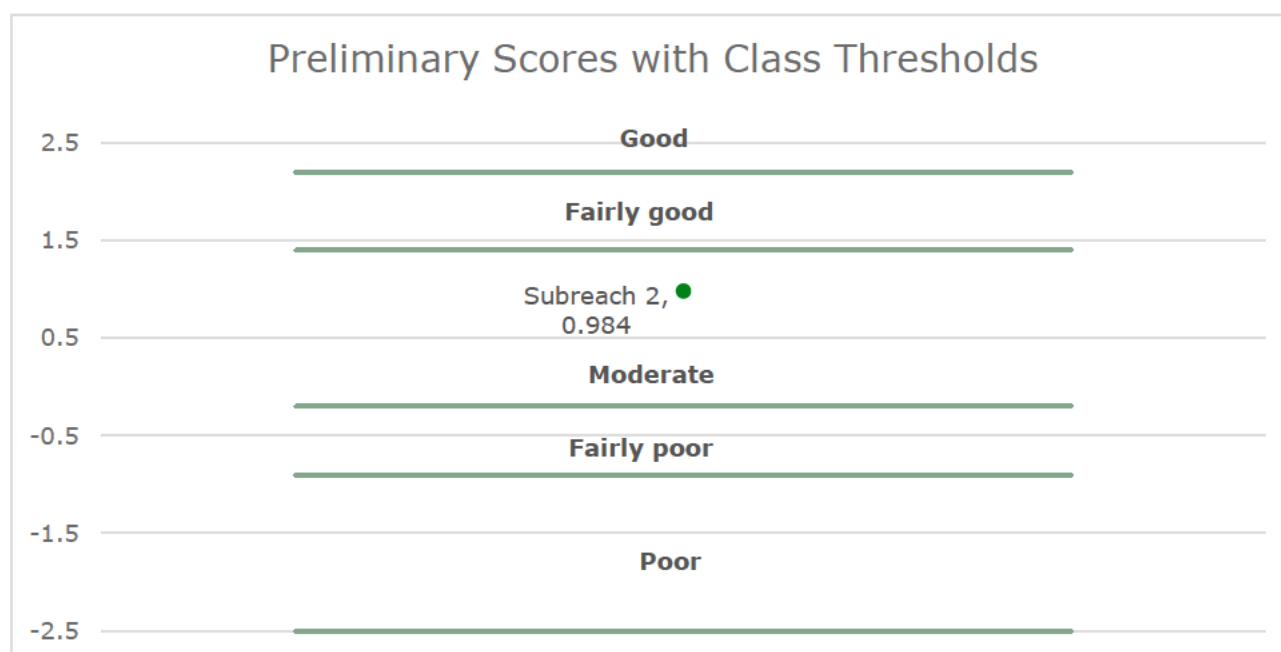


Plate 6.4.14 Preliminary Condition Scores for Pinch Mill Brooke and the Condition Class Thresholds for River Type D

Pinch Mill Brook (Wc18)

Table 6.4.1.19 Precautionary Condition Class for Pinch Mill Brook (Wc18) Subreach, Including OS NGR, From a Desk-Based Approach

Subreach Number	Grid Reference	Precautionary Condition Score	Precautionary Watercourse Encroachment	Precautionary Riparian Encroachment
Length of watercourse– 0.15km				
1	SK 48479 90125	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/Major

Unnamed Watercourse (Wc25)

Table 6.4.1.20 Preliminary Condition Score and Final Condition Class for an Unnamed Watercourse (Wc25) Subreaches within the Cable Corridor, Including OS NGR

Subreach Number	Grid Reference	Preliminary Condition Score	Final Condition Score	Watercourse Encroachment	Riparian Encroachment
River Type – D					
Length of watercourse surveyed – 0.11km					
1	SK 46821 89582	1.425	Fairly Good	No encroachment	No encroachment/no encroachment

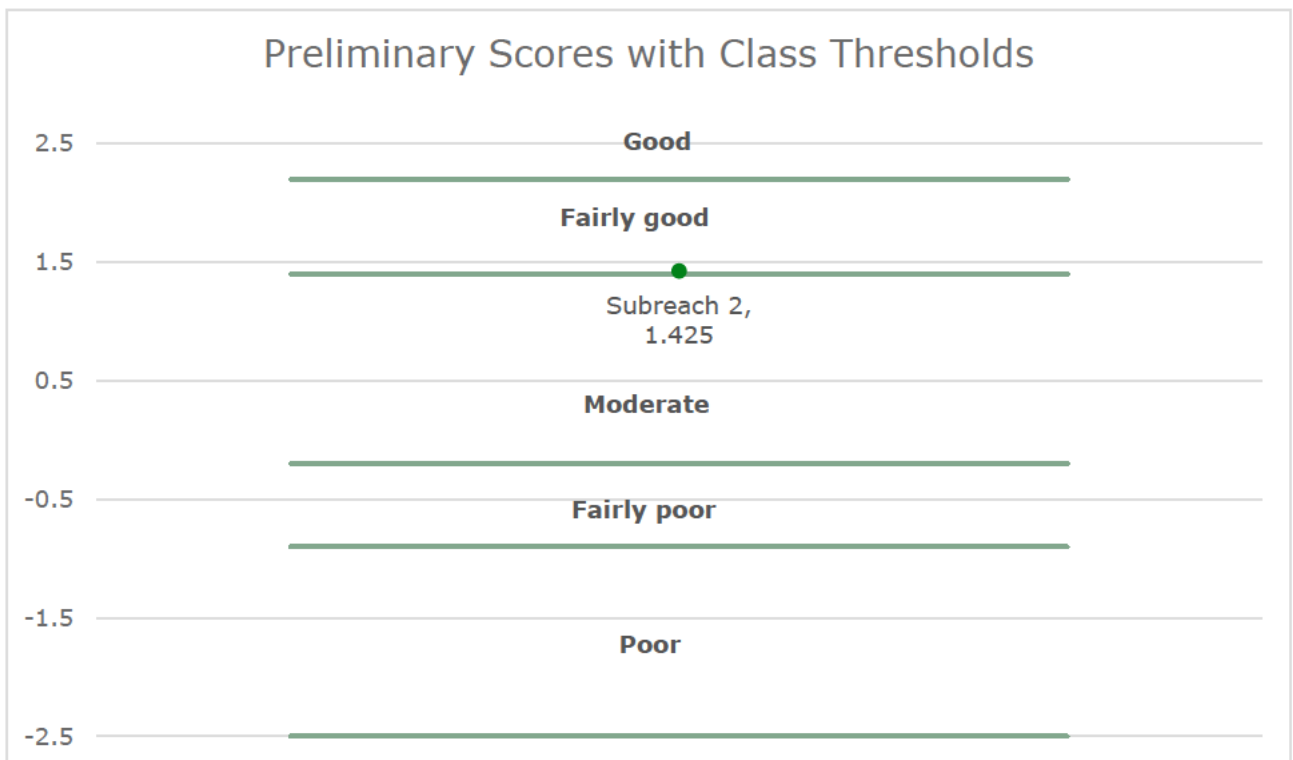


Plate 6.4.15 Preliminary Condition Scores for Unnamed Watercourse (Wc25) and the Condition Class Thresholds for River Type D

Cable Corridor D1

Unnamed Watercourse (Wc8)

Table 6.4.1.21 Precautionary Condition Class for the Unnamed Watercourse (Wc8) Subreach, Including OS NGR, from a Desk-Based Approach

Subreach Number	Grid Reference	Precautionary Condition Score	Precautionary Watercourse Encroachment	Precautionary Riparian Encroachment
Length of watercourse– 0.19km				
1	SK 44906 89712	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/Major

Unnamed Watercourse (Wc9)

Table 6.4.1.22 Precautionary Condition Class for the Unnamed Watercourse (Wc9) Subreach, Including OS NGR, from a Desk-Based Approach

Subreach Number	Grid Reference	Precautionary Condition Score	Precautionary Watercourse Encroachment	Precautionary Riparian Encroachment
Length of watercourse– 0.12km				
1	SK 45028 89714	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/Major

Unnamed Watercourse (Wc24)

Table 6.4.1.23 Preliminary Condition Score and Final Condition Class for an Unnamed Watercourse (Wc24) Subreaches within the Cable Corridor, Including OS NGR

Subreach Number	Grid Reference	Preliminary Condition Score	Final Condition Score	Watercourse Encroachment	Riparian Encroachment
River Type – K					
Length of watercourse surveyed – 0.24km					
1	SK 45770 89827	0.61133605	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/Major

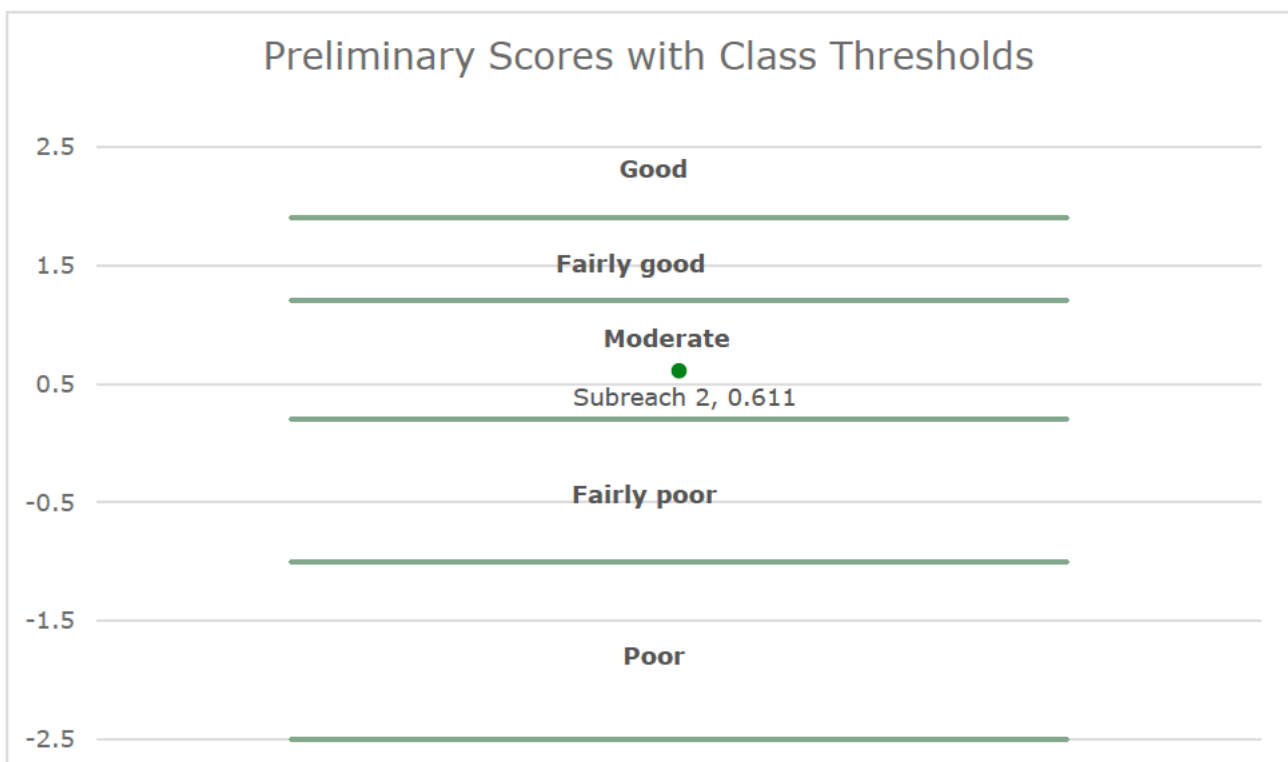


Plate 6.4.16 Preliminary Condition Scores for Unnamed Watercourse (Wc24) and the Condition Class Thresholds for River Type K

Cable Corridor E

Unnamed Watercourse (Wc8)

Table 6.4.1.24 Precautionary Condition Class for the Unnamed Watercourse (Wc8) Subreach, Including OS NGR, from a Desk-Based Approach

Subreach Number	Grid Reference	Precautionary Condition Score	Precautionary Watercourse Encroachment	Precautionary Riparian Encroachment
Length of watercourse– 0.04km				
1	SK 44120 89666	Moderate	Major	Major/Major

Cable Corridor F

Ulley Brook (Wc10)

Table 6.4.1.25 Precautionary Condition Class for Ulley Brook Subreach, Including OS NGR, from a Desk-Based Approach

Subreach Number	Grid Reference	Precautionary Condition Score	Precautionary Watercourse Encroachment	Precautionary Riparian Encroachment
Length of watercourse– 0.21km				
1	SK 44682 88468	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/Minor

Cable Corridor I1

Unnamed Watercourse (Wc21)

Table 6.4.1.26 Precautionary Condition Class for the Unnamed Watercourse (Wc21) Subreaches, Including OS NGR, from a Desk-Based Approach

Subreach Number	Grid Reference	Precautionary Condition Score	Precautionary Watercourse Encroachment	Precautionary Riparian Encroachment
Length of watercourse– 0.27km				
1	SK 48397 87580	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/Major
2	SK 48270 87598	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/Minor

Cable Corridor K1

Anston Brook 2 (Wc12)

Table 6.4.1.27 Precautionary Condition Class for the Anston Brook (Wc12) Subreach, Including OS NGR, from a Desk-Based Approach.

Subreach Number	Grid Reference	Precautionary Condition Score	Precautionary Watercourse Encroachment	Precautionary Riparian Encroachment
Length of watercourse– 0.1km				
1	SK 50420 85107	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/Major

Cable Corridor L

Unnamed Watercourse (Wc13)

Table 6.4.1.28 Precautionary Condition Class for the Unnamed Watercourse (Wc13) Subreach, Including OS NGR, from a Desk-Based Approach

Subreach Number	Grid Reference	Precautionary Condition Score	Precautionary Watercourse Encroachment	Precautionary Riparian Encroachment
Length of watercourse– 0.14km				
1	SK 49862 81819	Moderate	No encroachment	Major/Major

Chesterfield Canal (Wc14)

Table 6.4.1.29 Preliminary Condition Score and Final Condition Class for Chesterfield Canal Subreach within the Cable Corridor, Including OS NGR

Subreach Number	Grid Reference	Preliminary Condition Score	Final Condition Score	Watercourse Encroachment	Riparian Encroachment
River Type – Navigable/Canal					
Length of watercourse surveyed – 0.19km					
1	SK 51675 82223	0.648	Moderate	Major	No encroachment/no encroachment

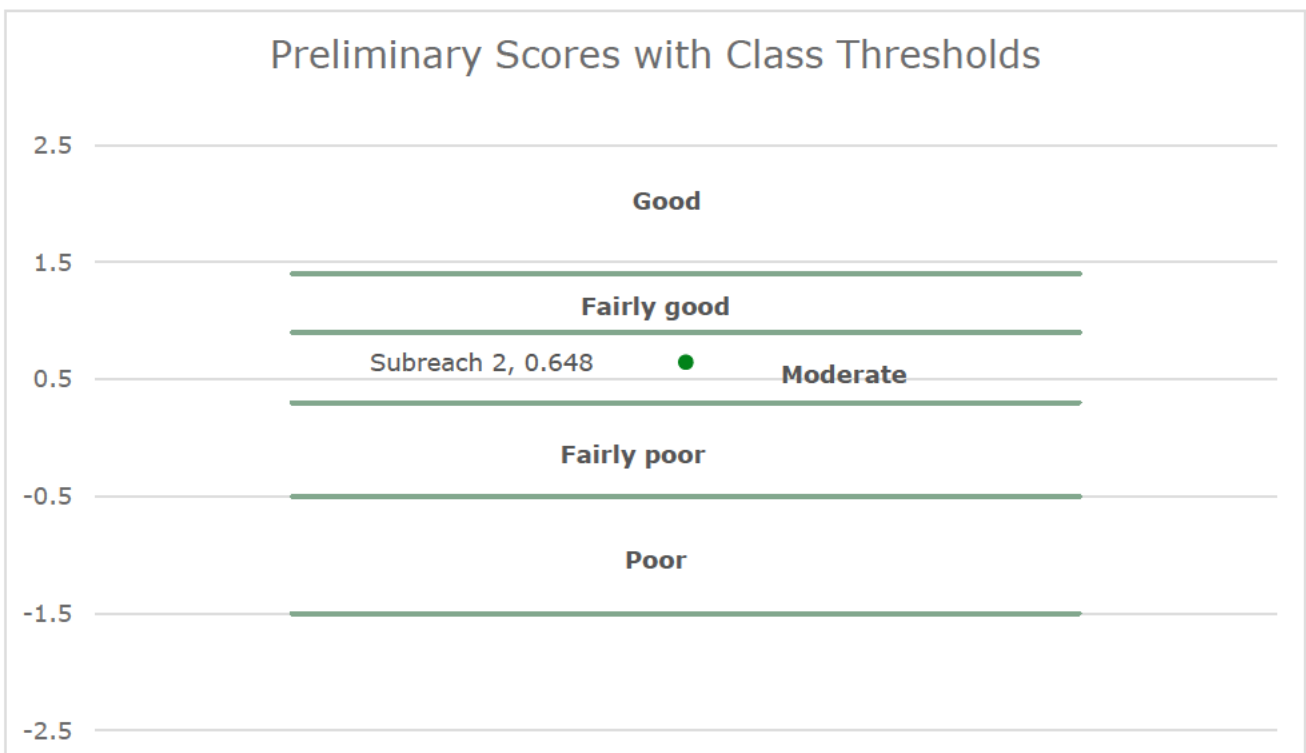


Plate 6.4.17 Preliminary Condition Scores for Chesterfield Canal and the Condition Class Thresholds for Canals

Summary and Conclusions


- 6.4.1.41 Of the 56 subreaches surveyed, 42 were in 'Moderate' condition, 10 in 'Fairly good' condition and three in 'Fairly poor' condition. No watercourses in 'Poor' or 'Good' condition were observed during the surveys.
- 6.4.1.42 Six of the subreaches surveyed were deemed to have in watercourse encroachment, and 50 of the subreaches surveyed were deemed to have riparian encroachment.
- 6.4.1.43 Any proposed enhancements to these watercourses as part of the biodiversity net gain (BNG) metric 4.0 are discussed within the **ES Volume 3, Appendix 6.10: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**.

Ref 6.4-4 Cartographer Studios Ltd. Cartographer 7.14.2. Available online at: <https://app.cartographer.io/>. (Accessed March 2025).

Annex 6.4.1A River Condition Indicator Results

See appended document **TA 6.4.1 - Appendix 6.4.1A - RCA reporting sheets_V0.1**

Annex 6.4.1B RCA Rivers and Streams Photographs.

Watercourse	Photograph
Firsby Brook	 <p>The top photograph shows a stream flowing through a wooded area. Several large, fallen logs are scattered across the stream bed, partially blocking the water. The water is clear and reflects the surrounding greenery. The banks are covered in fallen leaves and some green plants.</p> <p>The bottom photograph shows a stream with a small waterfall. The water is cascading over rocks. The surrounding area is covered in fallen leaves and bare trees, suggesting an autumn or winter setting. The stream flows through a wooded area with a grassy bank on the right.</p>

Kearsley Brook



The Brook



Anston Brook



Cramfit Brook



Kingsforth Brook



Ulley Brook



Tributary of Ulley
Brook 2



Broadbridge Dike



ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Pinch Mill Brook
(Wc17)



Unnamed
watercourse
(Wc25)



Unnamed
watercourse
(Wc24)



ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Chesterfield Canal



References

- ¹The Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide. 2024. London: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides>. Accessed: March 2026.
- ² Gurnell, A.M., England, J., Scott, S.J. & Shuker, L.J. 2024. A Guide to Assessing River Condition: Part of the River and Streams Component of the Biodiversity Metric Watercourse Module for calculating Biodiversity Net Gain. London: Queen Mary University of London, Cartographer Studios, the Environment Agency & Thames21. Available online at: <https://docs.modularriversurvey.org/pro> Accessed: March 2026.
- ³ Gurnell, A.M. & Shuker, L.J. 2022. The MoRPh Survey Technical Reference Manual 2022 version. London: Modular River Survey, Queen Mary University of London, the Environment Agency & Cartographer. [Online]. Available online at: https://modularriversurvey.org/wp-content/uploads/MoRPh-Manual-ver-14_Oct22.pdf. Accessed: March 2026.
- ⁴ Cartographer Studios Ltd. Cartographer 7.14.2. Available online at: <https://app.cartographer.io/>. Accessed: March 2026.



WHITESTONE
solar farm

Contact

Whitestone Net Zero Ltd

info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk

0800 688 9936