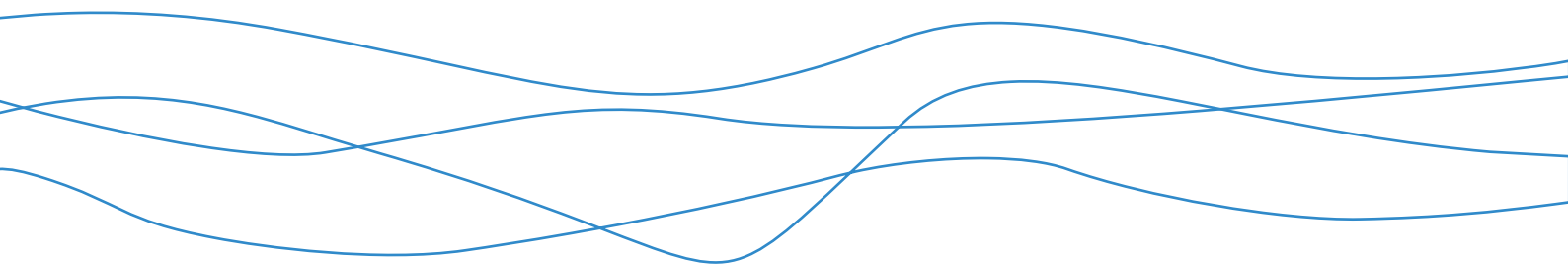




Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm, Onshore EIA Report

Volume 2, Appendix 11.2: Schedule of
Watercourse Crossings

TWP-BOW-JCB-ONE-RPT-00020 | November 2025



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Glossary

Defined term	Definition
Environmental Authorisation (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (EASR)	Regulations that replaced CAR from November 1, 2025, providing a unified framework for authorising activities related to water, waste management, industrial activities, and radioactive substances in Scotland.
Environmental Impact Assessment Report	A comprehensive document that assesses the potential environmental effects of a proposed development project.
General Binding Rules	A set of mandatory rules under CAR that cover low-risk activities affecting the water environment, which do not require formal authorization from SEPA.
Horizontal Directional Drilling	A trenchless method of installing underground pipes, conduits, or cables using a surface-launched drilling rig, minimising surface disturbance.
Mean Low Water Springs	The average level of the lowest tides observed during the spring tide period, used as a reference point for maritime boundaries and coastal engineering.
Open Cut Trenching	A method of installing underground cables or pipes by excavating a trench, laying the infrastructure, and then backfilling.
Ordnance Survey	The national mapping agency for Great Britain, producing detailed maps and geographic data.
Riparian vegetation buffer	A strip of vegetation along the banks of a watercourse that helps protect water quality and provides habitat for wildlife.
Salmonid protected watercourses	Water bodies that are designated for the protection of salmon and trout species, often subject to special environmental considerations.
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	Scotland's principal environmental regulator, responsible for protecting and improving the environment.
Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2021 (CAR)	Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2021 (CAR): Regulations that control activities affecting Scotland's water environment, including rivers, lochs, and coastal waters.
Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003	Scottish legislation that transposes the Water Framework Directive into national law, governing water resource management in Scotland.
Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	A European Union directive establishing a framework for water management and protection, aiming to achieve good ecological status for all water bodies.

Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
CAR	Controlled Activity Regulations
EASR	Environmental Authorisation (Scotland) Regulations
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
GBR	General Binding Rules
MLWS	Mean Low Water Springs
OS	Ordnance Survey
PPP	Permission in Principle
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
WFD	Water Framework Directive

Table of Units

Units	Definition
m	Metre

1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

1.1.1 This Technical Report outlines a schedule of watercourses present which may be required to be intersected by the onshore infrastructure of the Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm Project (the Project). The onshore infrastructure of the Project, landward of Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS), including the intertidal area, is referred to as the Proposed Development.

1.1.2 This Technical Report provides a baseline description of the watercourses identified and outlines a preliminary approach to any proposed watercourse crossings. At this stage, the exact location of the watercourse crossings and accompanying detailed engineering designs are not available. The assessment has therefore considered that cable trenches and their associated watercourse crossings may be located anywhere within the Permission in Principle (PPP) Application Boundary.

1.2 Regulatory Legislation

1.2.1 The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), transposed into Scottish law as the Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003, established the regulatory foundation for the Proposed Development (Scottish Government 2003).

1.2.2 Until the 31 October 2025, The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021 (herein referred to as ‘CAR’) governed activities affecting Scotland’s water environment, including wetlands, rivers, lochs, transitional waters (estuaries), coastal waters and groundwater (Scottish Government 2021).

1.2.3 From the 1 November 2025, CAR has been superseded and been replaced by the Environmental Authorisation (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (EASR) (Scottish Government 2018). Under EASR, the same types of authorisation are used for all activities regardless of whether the activity is related to water, waste management, industrial activities, or radioactive substances. There are four types of authorisation:

- General Binding Rules (GBR);
- Notification;
- Registration; and
- Permit.

1.2.4 The four authorisation process levels cover activities with increasing levels of potential impact upon the water environment. GBR are a set of mandatory rules which cover low risk activities. Activities complying with those rules do not require an application to be made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), however it is mandatory for activities that fall under GBR to comply with the standard rules. Should the limits set out in a GBR be exceeded or unable to comply with all the rules, a different type of authorisation will be required.

- 1.2.5 SEPA authorisation is required for watercourse crossings identified on 1:50,000 scale Ordnance Survey (OS) maps. Additional crossings of watercourse that are absent from 1:50,000 scale OS maps are likely to be necessary but would not require formal authorisation for CAR, beyond compliance requirements within GBRs.
- 1.2.6 Table 1.1 is reproduced from SEPA guidance (SEPA, 2024) and outlines different scenarios for cable crossing techniques and other watercourse crossings and their corresponding level of authorisation.

Table 1.1: Levels of authorisation for engineering activities

	GBR	Registration	Simple Licence
Examples of works	Minor bridges with no construction on bed or banks [GBR6].	Bridges with no construction on bed and ≤20 m of total bank affected.	All other bridges, fords and causeways.
	Temporary bridges in rivers <5m wide [GBR6].	Closed culverts used for footpaths, cycle route, single track roads or single track railways in rivers ≤2 m wide.	All other closed culverts used for crossings.
	Pipeline or cable crossings by boring beneath the bed of inland surface water [GBR7].	Pipeline or cable crossings beneath bed by isolated open-cut or mole plough.	All other pipeline or cable crossings, e.g. by direct open cut or laid on channel bed.

2 Methodology

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The Proposed Development includes a number of elements which may require watercourse crossings; for example the cable route and temporary or permanent access tracks.

2.2 Desk Study

2.2.1 Based on the PPP Application Boundary, a desk-based assessment was undertaken to review indicative watercourse crossing locations, including those marked on the 1:10,000, 1:25,000 and 1:50,000 scale OS maps.

2.3 Site Visit

2.3.1 Following the desk study, a survey of the identified crossings was undertaken to obtain information specific to each indicative watercourse crossing location. Photographs and detailed field notes were taken, along with indicative dimensions of the channel width and depth; bed substrate material; bank condition; and hydromorphological features.

2.3.2 Watercourse crossing surveys were undertaken in June 2025. The weather conditions during the surveys were described as dry and sunny.

2.3.3 In the absence of detailed design information, it was assumed that the conditions recorded at each location visited is representative of the rest of the watercourses within the PPP Application Boundary.

2.4 Watercourse Crossing Techniques

2.4.1 Two main crossing techniques are likely to be considered for watercourse crossings:

- Open Cut Trenching; and
- Trenchless techniques, such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD).

2.4.2 It has been assumed that where confirmed crossing methods are not available, open cut trenching will be the default crossing construction technique. The use of HDD technology is assumed to be implemented on all WFD watercourses.

Open Cut Trenching

2.4.3 Open Cut Trenching involves the damming of the watercourse upstream and downstream of the crossing location to form a dry working area where the cable can be installed across the watercourse. Once the dry working area has been formed, with suitable environmental and ecological mitigation and controls in place, the banks and bed material are excavated and stockpiled. Once the trench is at the correct level, the cable is installed and backfilled with the excavated material, with the watercourse bed and banks also reinstated. The dams are then removed, and the watercourse is returned to its original function.

2.4.4 Open Cut Trenching is the primary crossing technique proposed, however, it is not yet confirmed whether this will be through isolated open cutting or by direct open cutting. Details of method will be confirmed at the detailed design phase.

Horizontal Directional Drilling

2.4.5 For the purposes of watercourse crossing, HDD forms an underground tunnel that follows a path from the entry point, typically located outside the riparian vegetation buffer, beneath the watercourse bed, and then resurfaces on the opposite side of the watercourse beyond the riparian vegetation buffer.

2.4.6 This technique is proposed at WFD and salmonid protected watercourses including:

- Peattie Burn;
- Bervie Water;
- Forthie Water;
- Drumlithie Burn; and
- Carron Water.


2.4.7 These watercourses are considered too large for open cut trenching or considered to be a sensitive receptor. This technique achieves crossing of these watercourses without impacting on the bed or banks of the watercourse channel and would therefore be subject to GBR under EASR.




3 Watercourse Crossing Survey Results




3.1 Introduction




- 3.1.1 As outlined above there is the potential for watercourse crossings to facilitate construction at proposed cable installation locations.
- 3.1.2 Due to access restrictions, it was not possible to survey all watercourses. The watercourses that could not be surveyed include:
- Peattie Burn;
 - Carron Water;
 - Burn of Annamuick;
 - Burn of Elfhill; and
 - Drumlithie Burn.
- 3.1.3 Where access was not possible, indicative descriptions have been provided that were obtained from a desk-based assessment.
- 3.1.4 In addition to the watercourses identified in this schedule, additional crossings may be required on minor artificial ditches encountered on site. Some of these ditches may be blocked as part of any habitat management proposals and other culverts or cross drainage structures would be utilised.
- 3.1.5 Full details of each crossing are presented in Section 3.2 below.

3.2 Summary of Indicative Watercourse Crossings


WX1: Peattie Burn (Tributary of the Bervie Water)	
Watercourse Description	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Channel Type: Meandering • Gradient: Gentle • Valley Form: No obvious valley sides • Bank Condition: N/A • Bed Material: N/A • Riparian Corridor: Agricultural • Flow Condition: N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Width (m): ~1.10 • Water Depth (m): N/A • Bankfull Width (m): ~2.5 • Bankfull Height (m): N/A • Flooded Bankfull Width (m): ~4.00 • Flood Bankfull Height (m): N/A <p>Notes: Approx. location: 380883 772549. Location not accessible due to landowner access. Assessment carried out through desk study. Shown on 1:50,000 scale OS map.</p> <p>Proposed Crossing Type: HDD</p> <p>EASR Authorisation Type: GBR</p>
Overview	
	


WX2: Bervie Water		
Watercourse Description		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Channel Type: Wide, meandering • Gradient: Moderate • Valley Form: U shaped valley • Bank Condition: Stable, well-vegetated, some evidence of erosion • Bed Material: Cobbles, gravels, sands and some boulders • Riparian Corridor: Grassland and pasture • Flow Condition: Slow to Moderate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Width (m): ~10 • Water Depth (m): 1.10 – 1.50 • Bankfull Width (m): 10.70 • Bankfull Height (m): 2.00 • Flooded Bankfull Width (m): ~19.20 • Flood Bankfull Height (m): ~2.70 <p>Notes: Approximate location 380586 774332. Shown on 1:50,000 scale OS map.</p> <p>Proposed Crossing Type: HDD EASR Authorisation Type: GBR</p>	
Watercourse Photographs		
Upstream	Across	Downstream
		


WX3: Unnamed Tributary of the Bervie Water		
Watercourse Description		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Channel Type: Artificially modified burn • Gradient: Gentle • Valley Form: No obvious valley sides • Bank Condition: Stable • Bed Material: Gravel and sand • Riparian Corridor: Grassland and pasture • Flow Condition: Slow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Width (m): 0.55 • Water Depth (m): 0.03 • Bankfull Width (m): 0.80 • Bankfull Height (m): 0.60 • Flooded Bankfull Width (m): 2.90 • Flood Bankfull Height (m): 2.00 <p>Notes: Approximate location 380711 774888. Shown on 1:50,000 scale OS map. Proposed Crossing Type: Open Cut Trenching EASR Authorisation Type: Registration</p>	
Watercourse Photographs		
Upstream	Across	Downstream
		




WX4: Forthie Water		
Watercourse Description		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Channel Type: Gentle meandering • Gradient: Gentle • Valley Form: No obvious valley sides. • Bank Condition: Stable, Well-vegetated • Bed Material: Gravel and sand • Riparian Corridor: Grassland/pasture • Flow Condition: Slow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Width (m): ~3.50 • Water Depth (m): 0.52 • Bankfull Width (m): 4.50 • Bankfull Height (m): 1.55 • Flooded Bankfull Width (m): N/A* • Flood Bankfull Height (m): 1.85 <p>Notes: Approximate location 379027 779460. Shown on a 1:50,000 scale OS map. *Floodplain over left bank largely open and flat. Proposed Crossing Type: HDD EASR Authorisation Type: GBR</p>	
Watercourse Photographs		
Upstream	Across	Downstream
		




WX5: Drumlithie Burn (378182, 781023)		
Watercourse Description		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Channel Type: Artificially modified burn • Gradient: Gentle • Valley Form: No obvious valley sides • Bank Condition: Stable, well-vegetated • Bed Material: Silt and vegetation • Riparian Corridor: Agricultural/grazing • Flow Condition: Slow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Width (m): 0.50 • Water Depth (m): 0.04 • Bankfull Width (m): 1.60 • Bankfull Height (m): 0.30 • Flooded Bankfull Width (m): 2.95 • Flood Bankfull Height (m): 0.45 <p>Notes: Approximate location 378182 781023. Shown on 1:50,000 scale OS map. Heavily vegetated in the burn. Proposed Crossing Type: HDD EASR Authorisation Type: GBR</p>	
Watercourse Photographs		
Upstream	Across	Downstream




WX6: Unnamed Tributary of Drumlithie Burn	
Watercourse Description	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Channel Type: Meandering burn • Gradient: N/A • Valley Form: Shallow V-shaped valley • Bank Condition: N/A • Bed Material: N/A • Riparian Corridor: Agricultural • Flow Condition: N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Width (m): 1.10 • Water Depth (m): N/A • Bankfull Width (m): 2.1 • Bankfull Height (m): N/A • Flooded Bankfull Width (m): 4.1 • Flood Bankfull Height (m): N/A <p>Notes: Approximate location: 378310 782136. Location not accessible due to landowner access. Assessment carried out through desk study. Shown on 1:50,000 scale OS map.</p> <p>Proposed Crossing Type: Open Cut Trenching</p> <p>EASR Authorisation Type: Registration</p>
Overview	
	




WX7: Carron Water	
Watercourse Description	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Channel Type: Meandering • Gradient: N/A • Valley Form: No obvious valley sides • Bank Condition: N/A • Bed Material: N/A • Riparian Corridor: Agricultural • Flow Condition: N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Width (m): 2.70 • Water Depth (m): N/A • Bankfull Width (m): 3.0 • Bankfull Height (m): N/A • Flooded Bankfull Width (m): 5.35 • Flood Bankfull Height (m): N/A <p>Notes: Approximate location 378074 783584. Location not accessible due to landowner access. Assessment carried out through desk study. Shown on a 1:50,000 scale OS map.</p> <p>Proposed Crossing Type: HDD EASR Authorisation Type: GBR</p>
Overview	
	




WX8: Burn of Annamuick	
Watercourse Description	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Channel Type: Meandering • Gradient: N/A • Valley Form: No obvious valley sides • Bank Condition: N/A • Bed Material: N/A • Riparian Corridor: Agricultural • Flow Condition: N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Width (m): 0.90 • Water Depth (m): N/A • Bankfull Width (m): 1.40 • Bankfull Height (m): N/A • Flooded Bankfull Width (m): 1.90 • Flood Bankfull Height (m): N/A <p>Notes: Approximate location 379682 784624. Location not accessible due to landowner access. Assessment carried out through desk study. Shown on 1:50,000 scale OS map.</p> <p>Proposed Crossing Type: Open Cut Trenching</p> <p>EASR Authorisation Type: Registration</p>
Overview	
	




WX9: Burn of Elhill		
Watercourse Description		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Channel Type: Meandering • Gradient: Moderate • Valley Form: Asymmetrical valley • Bank Condition: N/A • Bed Material: N/A • Riparian Corridor: Agricultural • Flow Condition: N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Width (m): 1.3 • Water Depth (m): N/A • Bankfull Width (m): 1.5 • Bankfull Height (m): N/A • Flooded Bankfull Width (m): N/A • Flood Bankfull Height (m): N/A <p>Notes: Approximate location 379747 784902, visual observations from roadside only. Location not accessible due to landowner access. Assessment carried out through desk study. Shown on 1:50,000 scale OS map.</p> <p>Proposed Crossing Type: Existing Crossing EASR Authorisation Type: N/A</p>	
Watercourse Photographs		
Upstream	Across	Downstream
		




WX10: Burn of Day		
Watercourse Description		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Channel Type: Artificially modified burn • Gradient: Gentle to Moderate • Valley Form: No obvious valley sides • Bank Condition: Stable with undercutting of banks present • Bed Material: Silt and sands • Riparian Corridor: Mixed woodland • Flow Condition: Stagnant/slow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Width (m): 1.95 • Water Depth (m): 0.38 • Bankfull Width (m): 3.4 • Bankfull Height (m): 0.65 • Flooded Bankfull Width (m): N/A • Flood Bankfull Height (m): N/A <p>Notes: Approximate location 380209 786744. Shown on 1:50,000 scale OS map. *No defined flooded bankfull profile.</p> <p>Proposed Crossing Type: Open Cut Trenching</p> <p>EASR Authorisation Type: Registration</p>	
Watercourse Photographs		
Upstream	Across	Downstream
		




WX11: Whiting Burn		
Watercourse Description		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Channel Type: Artificially modified burn • Gradient: Moderate/steep • Valley Form: Shallow V-shaped valley • Bank Condition: Stable • Bed Material: Gravel/sand • Riparian Corridor: Mixed woodland • Flow Condition: Moderate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Width (m): 0.35 • Water Depth (m): 0.15 • Bankfull Width (m): 0.60 • Bankfull Height (m): 0.50 • Flooded Bankfull Width (m): ~4.30 • Flood Bankfull Height (m): ~2.10 <p>Notes: Approximate location 378513 786142. Shown on 1:50,000 scale OS map.</p> <p>Proposed Crossing Type: Open Cut Trenching</p> <p>EASR Authorisation Type: Registration</p>	
Watercourse Photographs		
Upstream	Across	Downstream
		




WX12: Cowie Water		
Watercourse Description		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Channel Type: Meandering • Gradient: Moderate • Valley Form: No obvious valley sides • Bank Condition: Undercutting present • Bed Material: Boulders, cobbles, gravels and sands • Riparian Corridor: Mixed woodland • Flow Condition: Moderate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Width (m): 3.50 • Water Depth (m): 0.17 • Bankfull Width (m): 4.00 • Bankfull Height (m): 1.40 to 1.65 (angled) • Flooded Bankfull Width (m): 6.80 • Flood Bankfull Height (m): 2.20 <p>Notes: Approximate location 376463 787378. Shown on 1:50,000 scale OS map. Proposed Crossing Type: Existing Crossing EASR Authorisation Type: N/A</p>	
Watercourse Photographs		
Upstream	Across	Downstream
		

WX13: West Dumer Burn		
Watercourse Description		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Channel Type: Meandering burn • Gradient: Gentle/moderate • Valley Form: V-shaped valley • Bank Condition: Undercutting present • Bed Material: Cobble, gravels and sand • Riparian Corridor: Mixed woodland • Flow Condition: Moderate/slow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Width (m): 0.80 • Water Depth (m): 0.03 – 0.15 • Bankfull Width (m): 1.72 • Bankfull Height (m): 0.67 • Flooded Bankfull Width (m): 6.10 • Flood Bankfull Height (m): 1.65 <p>Notes: Approximate location 376577 787822. Shown on 1:50,000 scale OS map.</p> <p>Proposed Crossing Type: Existing Crossing</p> <p>EASR Authorisation Type: N/A</p>	
Watercourse Photographs		
Upstream	Across	Downstream
		

WX14: East Dumer Burn		
Watercourse Description		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Channel Type: Meandering burn • Gradient: Moderate • Valley Form: Shallow V-shaped valley • Bank Condition: Actively eroding • Bed Material: Boulders, cobbles and gravels • Riparian Corridor: Mixed woodland • Flow Condition: Moderate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Width (m): 1.55 • Water Depth (m): 0.08 • Bankfull Width (m): 2.08 • Bankfull Height (m): 0.57 • Flooded Bankfull Width (m): 4.71 • Flood Bankfull Height (m): 1.60 <p>Notes: Approximate location 376577 787934. Shown on 1:50,000 scale OS map. Proposed Crossing Type: Existing Crossing EASR Authorisation Type: N/A</p>	
Watercourse Photographs		
Upstream	Across	Downstream
		

WX15: Irish Burn		
Watercourse Description		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Channel Type: Meandering burn • Gradient: Moderate • Valley Form: V-shaped valley • Bank Condition: Actively eroding • Bed Material: Boulders, cobbles and gravels • Riparian Corridor: Mixed woodland • Flow Condition: Slow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Width (m): <0.05 • Water Depth (m): 0.05 • Bankfull Width (m): 3.05 • Bankfull Height (m): 1.68 • Flooded Bankfull Width (m): N/A • Flood Bankfull Height (m): N/A <p>Notes: Approximate location 377126 788265. Shown on 1:50,000 scale OS map.</p> <p>Proposed Crossing Type: Existing Crossing</p> <p>EASR Authorisation Type: N/A</p>	
Watercourse Photographs		
Upstream	Across	Downstream
		

WX16: Unnamed Tributary to Cowie Water		
Watercourse Description		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Channel Type: Artificially modified burn • Gradient: Moderate to Steep • Valley Form: Shallow V-shaped valley • Bank Condition: Stable • Bed Material: Silts and sands • Riparian Corridor: Mixed woodland • Flow Condition: Slow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Width (m): 0.17 • Water Depth (m): 0.14 • Bankfull Width (m): 0.75 • Bankfull Height (m): 0.70 • Flooded Bankfull Width (m): N/A • Flood Bankfull Height (m): N/A <p>Notes: Approximate location 378282 788370. Shown on 1:50,000 scale OS map. No defined flooded bankfull profile. Proposed Crossing Type: Existing Crossing EASR Authorisation Type: N/A</p>	
Watercourse Photographs		
Upstream	Across	Downstream
		

WX17: Black Burn		
Watercourse Description		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Channel Type: Meandering • Gradient: Gentle • Valley Form: Shallow V-shaped valley • Bank Condition: Undercutting present • Bed Material: Cobbles, gravels and sands • Riparian Corridor: Mixed woodland • Flow Condition: Slow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Width (m): 4.10 • Water Depth (m): 0.29 • Bankfull Width (m): 5.53 • Bankfull Height (m): 0.65 • Flooded Bankfull Width (m): 12.95 • Flood Bankfull Height (m): 1.40 <p>Notes: Approximate location 378955 789368. Shown on 1:50,000 scale OS map. Scour protection present (gabion baskets and rock armour) in good condition.</p> <p>Proposed Crossing Type: Existing Crossing EASR Authorisation Type: N/A</p>	
Watercourse Photographs		
Upstream	Across	Downstream
		

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