

	The images taken on the 8th May 2025 show the route of the watercourse from the southern corner of the site to the northern corner of the site. The images show the extent of management at the bank tops of the watercourse. The watercourse will be enhanced through the reduction of riparian encroachment currently resulting from intensive vegetation management, particularly the regular mowing of grassland right up to the bank tops. The cessation of this activity along both banks will allow for the establishment of a more natural vegetated buffer, restoring marginal habitat and supporting improved ecological function.
	According to the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide, “<i>Watercourse encroachment can be any feature or action that adversely affects the natural function of the watercourse, or results in localised changes in habitat, species and migratory pathways.</i>” The current management regime qualifies as such, by restricting the development of riparian habitat and contributing to ecological simplification.
	By removing this pressure, the level of encroachment can be reduced from major/moderate to moderate/minor. Given that the proposed development will not result in any direct impacts to the watercourse itself, this targeted change in land management is sufficient to deliver the required watercourse enhancement under the Biodiversity Metric.
	

