

DRUMPHIN FARM

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The Pow of Inchaffray Drainage Commission
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31st March 2022

Dear Sirs

POW OF INCHAFFRAY DRAINAGE COMMISSION

An inspection of the Pow was carried out on Thursday 31st March 2022. The inspection was carried out by the writer and Charles Arden of Savills. The inspection was limited to key viewing points below Dollerie Bridge from which point a full inspection was carried out up to the Newmiln ditch.

General Comments

On the day of inspection, the Pow was running at summer level. The water was clear so the bed of the Pow could be readily observed except in the deeper sections. The general condition of the Pow is fair reflecting the limited maintenance work carried out in recent years. Observations regarding maintenance work take account of the limited budget available for 2022 with major items being deferred to 2023 when an increased budget will be available.

River Earn Confluence

Not inspected.

Powmill Farm

The Pow at Powmill farm was inspected and being a free-flowing stream is in good order. A slippage on the right bank below Powmill was noted. This will require attention before it affects the adjacent cropped area.

Millhills Bridge

The condition of the Pow appeared satisfactory at this point.



Southwood Bridge

The condition of the Pow appeared satisfactory at this point.

Dollerie Drive Bridge

The general condition of the Pow at this point is good. The large tree which had fallen across the Pow approximately 50 yards below the bridge has been removed.

Dollerie Road Bridge to Muckle Burn

This section was generally in good order. There is some minor slippage and disturbance to revetting on the right bank at the Triangle Wood but this does not require immediate attention. An Alder tree is lying in the Pow and should be removed. There is a deposition of gravel below the confluence with the Muckle Burn but this is not yet significantly affecting the flow.

Muckle Burn to Auchlone Bridge

The condition of the Pow on this section is generally acceptable. There is some evidence of movement in the revetting which will need to be monitored and made good when budgets allow.

In recent years there has been extensive beaver damage to the bankside trees at Auchlone wood with many trees falling into the Pow. The fallen trees have been removed and no new beaver damage to trees was observed on this inspection. However, a small dam has appeared in the Pow which is diverting water towards the right bank and causing erosion. The dam will need to be removed.

The profile of the south bank (opposite side to excavator track) has deteriorated and would benefit from reshaping off the south bank after harvest when the field is clear.

The Red Burn

Viewed from the excavator track the Red Burn appears to be in acceptable condition. The condition of the large stone culvert through which the Red Burn runs under the excavator track is poor but remains adequate for the present. In due course when budgetary constraints permit it will need to be replaced by a large diameter concrete or Armco pipe.

Auchlone Bridge to Woodend

The soils on this section are particularly unstable and sections of the revetting have been disturbed by movement of the bank following the cleaning. These sections were re-profiled in 2021 but have deteriorated again. It is proposed that the affected section is cleared again this year and that renewal of the revetting on the affected section is a priority for 2023 when an increased repair budget becomes available.

No works have been carried out by the council to replace the former foot bridge at Woodend and it seems unlikely this will occur in the foreseeable future given the councils' budgetary constraints.

The collapse of the right bank here the former north bridge buttress was located was made good in 2021.

Ardbennie Burn

The Ardbennie Burn was last cleaned in the Autumn of 2013 and the lower sections remain in fair condition. Upstream sections have been cleaned out at the cost of the heritors whose land is affected given the Commission's current limited budget for work. Improvement of the inlet to the large diameter culvert under the Pow road continues to be desirable, as this would prevent obstructions causing water to back up the Ardbennie Burn.

Drumphin Burn

The Drumphin Burn is in good condition although some beaver activity has been noted in this area.

Woodend Bridge to Abbey Bridge

The general condition of this section of the Pow is good from the Sweepstank confluence downstream as this section was cleaned in 2020. Cleaning the Pow from the Sweepstank confluence upstream to Abbey Bridge remains outstanding although the condition of the section is still acceptable.

Sweepstank

The Sweepstank ditch is in an acceptable condition.

Abbey Bridge to Newrow

The Pow is generally adequate but is overdue for cleaning up to the confluence of the Gorthy Mile.

Carsehead Mile

In good order.

The Gorthy Mile Burn

The channel appears in good order when viewed from the Pow.

Newrow Burn

Not inspected, but at the last inspection noted to be overgrown and in need of being cleaned. The two large hardwood trees on either side of the Newrow ditch confluence with the Pow which had been ring barked have been removed by the contractor.

Newrow to Balgowan Bridge

This section of the Pow is in good condition having been recently cleaned. However twelve or more of the many large hardwood bankside trees have been partially or wholly ring barked by beavers and will require to be removed when they die and before they collapse into the Pow which most of them lean over. This work should be discussed with John Mackenzie and subject to his view it might be advisable to contact the Forestry Commission given the number of affected trees and the previous experience with walkers in the area when trees damaged by beavers have been felled.

Balgowan Bridge to confluence with Jessie Burn

This section of the Pow including the confluences with the Cowgask and Jessie burns is in good order having been cleaned in 2019.

There are three large hardwoods on the Jessie confluence which have been ring barked by beavers which will require to be removed in due course.

Cowgask Burn

The lower section of the Cowgask Burn is generally in reasonable condition. The upper sections, particularly in the area of the gas compressor station when viewed on other occasions are becoming overgrown.

The Jessie Burn

The Jessie Burn viewed from the Pow appears to continue as a fast-flowing stream requiring no active maintenance.

Bachilton Pow

The Bachilton Pow is in good order following the cleaning in 2021.

A number of young trees have been planted on the excavator track adjacent to the Balgowan houses and will need to be repositioned to allow the excavator to clean the Pow. The trees should be replanted to the side of the track.

The small trees mainly on the left bank which had collapsed into the Bachilton Pow and were restricting the flow have been removed.

Balgowan Ditch

The Balgowan ditch running down the east side of the housing is overgrown but the channel appears to be running freely at present.

Newmiln Ditch

The Newmiln ditch has been blocked by a metal dam as a component of the farm environmental scheme. The dam has restricted flow and encouraged weed growth and unless the dam is removed and improvement of the drainage of the adjacent field required there is no maintenance required.

Photographs

Photos of the inspection are circulated with this report.

2022 Maintenance programme

The maintenance works recommended for consideration by the commissioners are noted below in order of priority:

1. Remove alder tree from Pow at Triangle wood.
2. Clear deposition to bed of Pow below confluence with Muckle Burn.
3. Remove stone culvert on Red Burn and replace with 1m concrete or Armco culvert across excavator track.
4. Remove beaver dam at Auchlone and make good right bank.
5. Clean approx. 150 m section of Pow below Kintocher.
6. Clean Pow from Sweepstank up to Gorthy Mile.
7. Remove 12 large ring barked trees at Redhills.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Guest