

**DRUMPHIN FARM**

**FOWLIS WESTER**

**CRIEFF**

**PERTSHIRE**

**PH7 3NJ**

The Pow of Inchaffray Drainage Commission  
Per Savills  
Earn House  
Broxden Business Park  
Lamberkine Drive  
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PH1 1RA

11<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear Sirs

#### **POW OF INCHAFFRAY DRAINAGE COMMISSION**

An inspection of the Pow was carried out on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023. The inspection was carried out by the writer. 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 a moderately low level. The water was reasonably clear so the bed of the Pow could be readily observed in the shallow sections. The general condition of the Pow is adequate despite the limited maintenance work carried out in recent years.

#### **River Earn Confluence**

Not inspected.

#### **Powmill Farm**

The Pow at Powmill farm was not inspected. This section is a free flowing stream generally in good order. The farm manager at Millhills recently reported damage to the banks by beavers and it was agreed that he would make good the affected section with the farm excavator.

#### **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.

### **Dollerie Road Bridge to Muckle Burn**

This section was generally in good order. There is a deposition of gravel below the confluence with the Muckle Burn and the left bank has been eroded by the outflow from the Muckle Burn. This should be made good the next time maintenance work is carried out on this section of the Pow.

### **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.

There are a few trees on the left bank which are leaning over the Pow and appear likely to fall into the Pow unless they are removed in the near future.

The profile of the left bank (opposite side to excavator track) has deteriorated and would benefit from reshaping off the south bank.

### **The Red Burn**

Viewed from the excavator track the Red Burn appears to be in acceptable condition. The dilapidated large stone culvert through which the Red Burn ran under the excavator track was removed in 2022 and replaced with a large diameter culvert which has greatly improved access by the excavator.

### **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 2022 and have been relatively unaffected by high water over the winter. However, it is expected that repairs to the revetting will be required to stabilise the bank securely.

A significant section of the left bank at the Littlefold plantation has collapsed over the winter and affected the excavator track. This should be made good as a priority before the damage to the bank gets worse.

No works have been carried out by the council to replace the former foot bridge at Woodend although it is understood that a Madderty Paths Group has secured some funding for a new bridge. The design of a new bridge will need to be approved by the commissioners and consent to carry out work obtained from the riparian owners of the banks.

The collapse of the right bank here the former north bridge buttress was located was made good in 2021 however it has slumped again over the last winter due to unstable nature of the bank.

### **Ardbennie Burn**

The Ardbennie Burn was last cleaned in the Autumn of 2013 and the lower sections remain in fair condition. 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.

### **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.

### **Sweepstank**

The Sweepstank ditch is in an acceptable condition.

### **Abbey Bridge to Newrow**

The Pow 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**

When viewed from the left bank of the Pow the Newrow Burn appears in adequate condition.

### **Newrow to Balgowan Bridge**

This section of the Pow is in fair condition having been cleaned in 2021. There however already signs of sections silting up and restricting the flow. 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 trees are however showing signs of beaver damage.

The bed of the Bachilton Pow has been obstructed by a gravel deposit from the side ditch opposite the bridge on the Bachilton Road. This is restricting the flow upstream on the Bachilton Pow and should be removed to prevent rapid weed growth blocking the Bachilton Pow.

### **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. The section of the ditch running between the south side of the houses and the road was cleaned over the last winter due to concern of flooding to the houses.

### **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. Carry out repairs to revetting to approx. 150m section of Pow below Kintocher.
2. Make good slippage at Littlefold Plantation.
3. Clean Pow from Sweepstank up to Gorthy Mile.
4. Clean the Cowgask Burn.
5. Clean the Balgowan ditch.
6. Clear bed of Bachilton Pow below bridge at confluence with side ditch.
7. Remove 12 large ring barked trees at Redhills.
8. Beaver control.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Guest