

DRUMPHIN FARM

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The Pow of Inchaffray Drainage Commission
Per Savills
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17th April 2024

Dear Sirs

POW OF INCHAFFRAY DRAINAGE COMMISSION

An inspection of the Pow was carried out on Wednesday 17th April 2024. The inspection was carried out by the writer and Alex Mackenzie Smith. 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 high level following recent heavy rain. The water was coloured so the bed of the Pow and the revetting could not be readily observed. The general condition of the Pow did not appear to have significantly deteriorated since the last inspection despite the very wet conditions since then.

River Earn Confluence

Not inspected.

Powmill Farm

The beaver damage to the bank of the Pow at Powmill has recently been repaired and is in good order.

Millhills Bridge

The condition of the Pow appeared satisfactory at this point.

Southwood Bridge

The condition of the Pow appeared satisfactory at this point.

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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. The trees damaged by beavers immediately below the bridge have been cleared away. 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 has been some evidence of movement in the revetting which will need to be monitored and made good when other work is being carried out on this section.

There are a few trees on the left bank below Auchlone bridge which are leaning over the Pow and appear likely to fall into the Pow unless they are removed in the near future. Trees on this section have previously been cleared by the Abercairny Estate forestry team who might be able to deal with these trees as well.

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

Immediately below Auchlone bridge a fibre optic cable has been suspended off poles across the Pow by Gialloch.

The Red Burn

Viewed from the excavator track the Red Burn appears to be in acceptable condition.

Auchlone Bridge to Woodend

There are significant slippages and movement of the revetting over a length of approximately 200m of the left bank below the Littlefold plantation. This is partially blocking the Pow and restricting flow. There is a large hole in the bank below the Littlefold plantation which has affected the excavator track. There is also a large slippage on the north bank which if not repaired soon could erode further into the adjacent arable field. 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 is seeking to raise 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.

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 overgrown and has not been cleaned for many years.

Abbey Bridge to Newrow

There are significant slippages on the section between Abbey Bridge and the Carsehead Mile and it would be desirable for this section to be cleaned.

Carsehead Mile

In good order. Beaver activity has been reported on this section again.

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. A moderate sized birch tree has been felled by beavers and fallen across the Pow. This could be pulled out by a tractor from the old railway line.

Further recent beaver damage to the large oak trees on the south bank was noted. These trees will be ringbarked in the foreseeable future and require to be removed before they collapse into the Pow.

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 Cowgask Burn has recently been cleaned and is in good order.

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 was cleaned in 2021 but already has significant weed growth.

A number of young trees have been planted on the excavator track adjacent to the Balgowan houses and will continue to be an obstruction to the excavator until repositioned.

The gravel deposit on the bed of the Bachilton Pow below Bachilton Bridge was removed as part of the 2023 maintenance programme.

Balgowan Ditch

The Balgowan ditch running down the east side of the housing was recently cleaned and is in good order.

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.

2024 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. 200m section of Pow and make good large hole in bank at Littlefold Plantation.
2. Repair slippage in north bank below Kintoche Farm
3. Clean Pow from Sweepstank up to Carsehead Mile.
4. Beaver control.
5. Replace culvert under excavator track at Ardbennie Burn junction..

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Guest

