

DRUMPHIN FARM

FOWLIS WESTER

CRIEFF

PERTSHIRE

PH7 3NJ

The Pow of Inchaffray Drainage Commission
Per Ian & Hazel Roy
7 Turretbank Place
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PH7 4LS

17th March 2026

Dear Sirs

POW OF INCHAFFRAY DRAINAGE COMMISSION

An inspection of the Pow was carried out on Tuesday 17th March 2026. The inspection was carried out by Anna Moray Parker, Hugh Grierson and the writer. The inspection was limited to key viewing points below Dollerie Bridge from which point the inspection was carried out on foot up to the Newmiln ditch.

General Comments

On the day of inspection, the Pow was running at a moderately high level. The water was slightly coloured so that the bed of the Pow and the revetting could not be observed except when close to the surface. The general condition of the Pow was generally good except for the section from Redhills upstream which is in a poor state needing attention. Other sections have smaller areas with significant problems as described in this report.

River Earn Confluence

Not inspected.

Powmill Farm

The significant bank slippage below Powmill Farm with the Pow channel blocked and a section of the right bank and field fence which collapsed as noted in the last report has been made good in 2025.

Millhills Bridge

The condition of the Pow appeared satisfactory at this point.

Southwood Bridge

The condition of the Pow appeared satisfactory at this point. Part of a fallen tree is lying in the Pow about 40 yards below the bridge. Guy Rowan Hamilton to be asked if this could be removed by the Millhills Farm staff.

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 although some small areas require maintenance.

Beavers have been active damaging trees on the left bank immediately above the bridge although this did not appear to be recent. This has not affected the Pow channel.

A section of the left bank approximately 100 yards upstream of the Triangle wood has collapsed possibly due to a blocked drain and should be made good before it deteriorates further.

The confluence of the Muckle Burn and Pow appeared to be in good order although the left bank of the Pow has been eroded by the flow from the Muckle Burn.

A section of the concrete revetting in the Pow Burn just above the confluence with the Pow has been dislodged and should be repositioned when the excavator is next working in this area.

Muckle Burn to Auchlone Bridge

The left bank of the Pow on this section was regraded in 2025 and is generally in good condition except for a section located about 100 yards below Auchlone Wood which has partially slipped. This should be monitored to see if it stabilises in 2026 or requires remedial work.

It was noted that the spoil between the excavator track and the field fence on the right bank is now well above field level and will in due course need to be removed and carted to low spots in adjacent fields.

The inlet to the culvert on the ditch from the wood by Auchlone Lodge under the Pow track on the right bank has been partly blocked and needs to be cleared before water undermines the culvert and collapses the track at this point. Anna Moray Parker advised that the Abercairny Estate staff cleared the inlet on a regular basis.

The Red Burn

Viewed from the excavator track the Red Burn has been cleaned quite recently and is in good condition.

Auchlone Bridge to Woodend

This section of the Pow has been cleaned from both banks during 2025 and is generally in good condition. The revetting on a section of the left bank approximately 100 yards below Littlefold Wood has moved into the bed of the Pow and restricted the channel. This should be repositioned on the correct line to straighten the Pow channel.

The large slippage below Littlefold Wood on the left bank was repaired in 2025 but has failed again. It appears that new revetting will need to be installed to stabilise this section.

Although there have been further site visits since the last report, no works have been carried out 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. There have been several recent site meetings of the group but no action to date.

Ardbennie Burn

The Ardbennie Burn was last cleaned during 2025 and is good order. It was however noted that there is a beaver dam approximately 20 yards upstream from the Pow road and that this is causing one bank

of the ditch to be scoured out. The dam could be removed at the same time as the Littlefold slippage is made good.

The large diameter culvert under the Pow road was renewed in 2025 and is in good order.

Drumphin Burn

The Drumphin Burn is in good condition.

Woodend Bridge to Abbey Bridge

The general condition of this section of the Pow on this section is fair with no major slippages noted.

Sweepstank

The Sweepstank ditch was cleaned in February 2026 and is in good order.

During 2025 meetings were held with the contractor working on behalf of Scottish Water to renew the water main which crosses the Pow below Abbey Bridge and the Sweepstank. The contractor was advised of the levels to which the Pow and the Sweepstank are cleaned and undertook to lay the water main with an adequate clearance below these levels. The work has since been completed.

Abbey Bridge to Newrow

This section of the Pow was cleaned off the left bank in 2024. During early 2025 the right bank from Abbey Bridge to the Carsehead Mile was cleaned by the heritor of Nethermains of Gorthy prior to erecting new fencing. The work was carried out by Ian Ralston.

A large tree has collapsed on the left bank over the excavator track approximately 150 yards below the Carsehead Mile confluence. It is not obstructing the Pow and can be removed next time the excavator is passing.

Carsehead Mile

The Carsehead Mile was cleaned in early 2025 by the heritor of Nethermains of Gorthy prior to erecting new fencing. Trees on the west bank were limbed and bushes cleared away. The work was carried out by Ian Ralston.

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 although a beaver dam was noted about 20 yards upstream from the confluence.

Newrow to Balgowan Bridge

This section of the Pow is in moderate condition and would benefit from being cleaned again. Two large trees on the right bank approximately 150 yards above the Gorthy Mile have been ring barked by beavers and need to be felled before they fall into the Pow.

Further recent beaver damage to the large oak trees on the south bank was noted. Three trees were noted to be dead and need to be removed before they fall into the Pow.

Large sections of dead trees were noted in the Pow downstream of Balgowan Bridge and need to be removed,

Removal of the dead trees could be carried out at the same time as this section is cleaned.

Balgowan Bridge to confluence with Jessie Burn

This section of the Pow including the confluences with the Cowgask and Jessie burns is in fair condition.

There are several 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. Several large limbs have fallen into the Jessie Burn from trees ringbarked by beavers and will need to be removed.

Bachilton

The Bachilton Pow is in a poor conditions with many obstructions and needs to be cleaned.

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. Several of the trees have been damaged by beavers and have now had wire guards fitted by the Beaver Trust.

The Beaver Trust has also fitted wire guards to some of the Poplar trees on left bank.

Numerous trees including large poplars on the left bank adjacent to the Balgowan houses have been damaged or felled by beavers. One large poplar has been felled by beavers so that it is now caught by another large poplar and since the last report has fallen across the Pow.

The root plates of several of the large Poplar trees on the bank have lifted so the trees have significant lean with the prevailing west wind. It appeared that some of the trees will fall in the near future and some may then obstruct the Pow. The Pow contractor could be asked to clear them off the Pow but felling all the trees would be outwith the Commission's remit. Hugh Grierson advised that he was the owner of the bank and that he would investigate having the trees removed by a timber contractor.

Further upstream beavers have felled a row of smaller trees alongside the former railway track and these have collapsed over the adjacent field fence. It was thought that the trees could be cleared away by the Pow contractor at the same time as cleaning the adjacent Pow.

The gravel deposit on the bed of the Bachilton Pow below Bachilton Bridge has reoccurred and requires removal again.

Balgowan Ditch

The ditch to the east of the Balgowan houses was cleaned two years ago and is in good condition.

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.

2026 Maintenance programme

The maintenance works recommended for consideration by the commissioners are noted below:

1. Clear fallen timber from Pow below Southwood Bridge (Millhills Farm ?).
2. Make good slippage to left bank below Muckle Burn confluence.
3. Monitor slippage to left bank below Auchlone Wood.
4. Clear culvert inlet below Auchlone Wood on right bank. (Abercairny Estate ?).
5. Realign revetting to left bank at slippage 100 yards below Littlefold Wood.
6. Make good repair to large slippage on left bank at Littlefold Wood including installation of new revetting.
7. Remove beaver dam in Ardbennie ditch 20 yards above culvert under excavator track.
8. Clean Pow from Abbey Bridge to Bachilton March.
9. Clear tree off excavator track on left bank below Carsehead Mile confluence.
10. Remove two dead trees ringbarked by beavers off right bank approx. 100 yards above Gorthy Mile.
11. Remove three dead trees ringbarked by beavers off left bank at Redhills Farm.
12. Remove dead trees due to beavers from Jessie Burn.
13. Clear obstructions to Bachilton Pow.
14. Clear fallen Poplar trees from Pow at Balgowan.
15. Liase with Hugh Grierson regarding removal of unstable Poplar trees at Balgowan.
16. Liase with Hugh Grierson regarding removal of row of beaver damaged fallen trees beside railway line upstream from Balgowan houses.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Guest