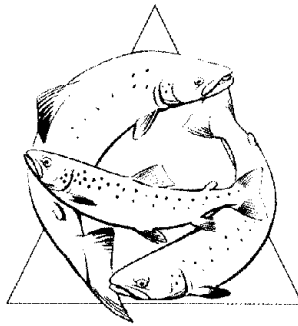


- Obstructions update
- Water clearance work news
- Knock Distillery helps out
- Bank management review



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THE DEVERON FLYER

The Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust

Newsletter 01, Spring 2002

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust. The Trust's objectives are to 'conserve, protect and rehabilitate salmon, sea trout and trout and other indigenous species of animal, bird, insect and plant life and more generally to promote the ecological cycle for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Deveron'

Habitat enhancement improves juvenile survival

Habitat enhancement work on the Markie burn which started in February is now complete. The project has provided protection to the burn from grazing cattle and created a riparian buffer strip. Some planting of native trees will enhance the area and provide some shelter. Downstream in the Haugh of Glass, a wetland area has been created by flooding which will also see some planting of native trees and ground flora.

Damage to the banks, caused by grazing in the riparian zone, deposits silt which builds up on the redds. This reduces juvenile fish numbers. Some stretches will be repaired using the 'log and christmas tree' technique that has been successfully used by other Trusts. The Braco burn near Edingight, Grange has



THEN AND NOW: Fencing and bank repairs will improve sites such as Braco (left) as they have already done so at Invermarkie (right)

benefited from fencing, tree planting and provision of water troughs with funding.

The entire project which has financed 4,287 metres of fences and seven water troughs is funded by SNH and the River Deveron Board and coordinated by FWAG. This

continues the excellent 'three Rivers Project' 1999/2000 which funded 9,816 metres of fences, 20 waterings and over 1,100 broadleaved trees on the Deveron. The scheme also supported similar works on the Rivers Don and Dee in a total spend of over £120,000.

Similar schemes for the Bogie and Isla catchments are planned and applications have been submitted.

• **The Trust will continue this work but it costs money. Please help by becoming a member or donating a gift with the new members form.**

Forest Enterprise buys farm to create native woodland

The purchase of Coynachie farm near Gartly by the Forest Enterprise is of great interest because they will be ending the farming operations and planting a native woodland. Not only will this provide a wonderful walking facility for the local population, it will also help the recovery of the water margins.

The Lag burn and Priest Water, which are tributaries of the Bogie, will improve enormously with more stable banks, less silt and a more productive habitat for fish.

The recent modifications to the Irish fords on the Lag burn and the removal of cattle from the riparian zones should bring rapid improvements. This should bring

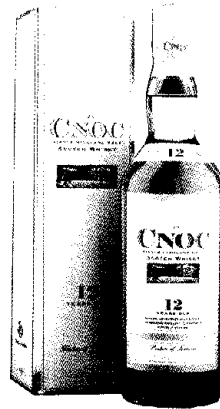
benefits as nursery areas for juveniles are currently showing low counts of one- and two-year-old age class in both trout and salmon populations. Our electro-fishing results are showing good numbers of fry in the burn, and we hope that in the future our surveys will illustrate that stock of older juveniles will have improved.

Cheers to Malcolm

It was very heartening to receive news from the manager of Knock Distillery, Malcolm Waring, that young fish were seen jumping the newly created weirs that Malcolm erected on the Shiel burn, which were needed to ease the passage over the dam built for water abstraction.

This was only a few months afterwards and shows that young fish will very quickly populate areas that have been previously inaccessible to them.

We counted reasonable numbers of salmon and very good numbers of trout a few metres downstream in last year's survey and although we were unable to electro-fish upstream and therefore do not know the fish populations before the remedial work, it will be interesting to follow the change in densities over the next few years of both salmon and trout in the Shiel.



Small weirs allow free passage on the Shiel Burn

Water side clearance on the Kirkney Water

The bailiffs, Jimmy Minty and Des Driscoll, have been hard at work during the winter clearing overhanging branches and coppicing trees alongside the Kirkney Water, which runs into the Bogie from the Clashindarroch Forest. This is an important spawning burn for salmon and sea trout and contains perfect nursery habitat for salmon.

A dappled shade will allow the banks to re-vegetate and should help the invertebrates' feed source from the bankside and in-stream vegetation.

Although bank erosion is not a major issue on this burn, the extra light encourages more growth on the banks which helps to consolidate and protect from spates, especially where grazing is allowed up to the waterside.

We hope that our electro-fishing surveys will indicate a more productive environment for young fish.

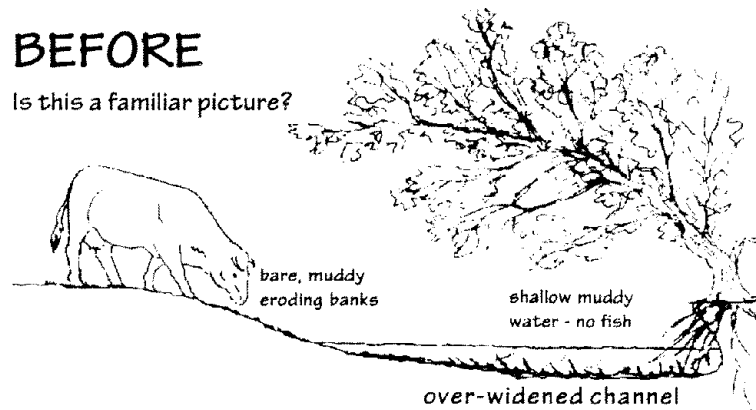


Jimmy and Des extracting fallen trees in the Kirkney burn

Improving the habitat of terrestrials and

BEFORE

Is this a familiar picture?



River bank ma

In many other parts of the Country where these River Bank Management techniques have been used, farmers have been pleasantly surprised to find real savings and improvements to the quality of the river. Benefits have included reduction of top soil erosion, reduction of stock straying and the chances of disease transmission. In dairy areas, cows are much cleaner when coming to the parlour for milking.

The graphic above shows how a little TLC to the banks can improve the habitat for fish, insects, invertebrates and mammals.



Obstructions are coming o



and invertebrates helps feed the expanding population of salmon and trout

AFTER

We can achieve this
AND improve farm profits

overgrown bank-side
trees shading river

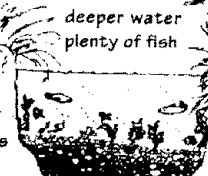


alternative
drinking point

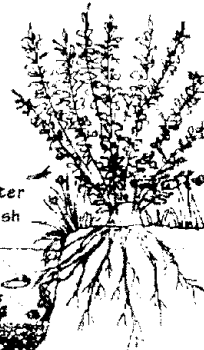


buffer strip

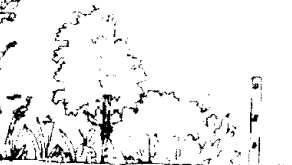
deep, clean gravels
for fish spawning



deeper water
plenty of fish



bankside coppicing



fencing on
both
banks

Management



'Coppicing work (left) on the Kirkney Water. Bankside vegetation will now have sufficient light to provide the buffer strip'

In short...

Predators

The Scottish Executive renewed our licence to control goosanders and cormorants until the end of February 2002. We are grateful to the many ghillies who have contributed in helping us to achieve our licence target.

Website

Our newly launched website is up and running and can be seen at www.deveron.org. Our aim is to increase awareness of the rivers and their tributaries as well as promote the area. We welcome any feedback from you.

Obituary

The Deveron Rivers Board is sad to report the death of Michael Hall who worked unstintingly on the Board's behalf for many years.

Water and fish are running

The Irish ford (left), at Coynachie showing the 1 metre pipe sunk into the burn for unhindered access. The 2000 electro-fishing survey highlighted zero juvenile salmon above this ford. The Board also financed the modifications of two other fords, one 200 metres above this and also at Cairnie on the Cairnie burn.



The Bridge apron on the Monquhitter burn at Cuminstown (right), which is due for modification. 2000 electro-fishing survey demonstrated that only small numbers of returning adults were spawning above this poorly designed bridge apron.

Pasture pumps for the heavy drinkers

These alternative stock drinkers are robust cast-iron pump action drinkers. Cattle push a ram with their nose which pumps water from a stream, burn or river into a small drinking bowl.

Experience elsewhere has shown that stock take quickly to the design which, if installed properly, will provide maintenance free drinking even on fields that are several feet above the water course.

Keeping stock out of water courses reduces erosion and bank collapse and

substantially cuts down silt loading.

The pumps are inexpensive sources of waterings which the Trust is encouraging farmers to install with the help of grant aid through various habitat enhancement schemes that can be offered.

• **For details contact Grampian FWAG on 01330 830080 or see one operating at Roger Polson's Knock Farm, Knock, Rothiemay. Tel: 01466 771227**



Please help us to help the river and its area



Otters are susceptible to pollution and loss of habitat.

Whether you are a fisherman who has grown fond of the River for the great sport it has provided, or a visitor to the area who loves the beauty of the Deveron valley, or a resident who has had an affinity for the wonderful landscape over many years you may wish to help us to rejuvenate the watercourses of the Deveron, Bogie & Isla.

Although partly funded by public bodies such as Scottish Natural Heritage for some of

our habitat work, we need additional funding from individuals and companies if we are to continue to improve, manage and monitor the habitats throughout the catchment, which will, we hope, encourage a wide range of creatures including the water vole and otter.

Scotland supports one of the best otter populations in Europe. This gives us a special responsibility for their long-term conservation. Unlike the

poor water vole which has declined rapidly even here in the North East. Our work will help this special mammal to recover.

You can now become a member of The Trust for as little as £25 per year as an individual or £50 as a small business.

• **Please refer to the membership form for further details on how to join.**

Your rivers need you

Car stickers are available from the Trust in order to promote our cause. You can purchase them for just £5 for 3 stickers.

Please support The DBI Trust by sending a SAE, with payment to:

The Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust, The Stables, Avochie Stables, Huntly, Aberdeenshire AB54 7YY



'The Trust is a charitable organisation established to provide a regular source of income for river improvements'

For further information...

Please contact the Project Officer at The Offices, Avochie, Rothiemay, Huntly, Aberdeenshire AB54 7YY Telephone/fax: 01466 711388; email: robinvasey@deveron.org or visit the Trust's website www.deveron.org

The Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust is a registered charity. No. SC 032131