

# Week Twelve

---

Week twelve started in the office catching up on emails and paper work after last week's field activities. I took the time to prepare some notes for a tomorrow's meeting with the Deveron Trust here at Cluny. I took some time in the afternoon to introduce Sarah the new vole officer, to some volunteers in and around the Don catchment. We also set some traps for mink following some signs on various mink rafts.

On Tuesday morning I met with Martin a bailiff from the Don DSFB. Martin was going to help me with some habitat surveying of the Goval Burn. By working in pairs it makes this sort of surveying much more efficient. The habitat surveying method we are using is the 'walk over' method, where one surveyor walks a predefined stretch of the burn whilst the other drives the vehicle to the end of that stretch then parks the vehicle and begins surveying himself. When the original surveyor reaches the end of the stretch and the vehicle he then drives to the end of the next stretch and parks the vehicle and begins surveying and so on. Martin and I progressed well during the morning completing half of the area intended to be surveyed. We finished at lunch time as I had a meeting to attend. Back in the office I met with Robin Vasey and Richie Millar from the Deveron, Isla and Bogie Trust, and Prof Xavier Lambin and Dr Matthew Oliver from the University of Aberdeen to discuss the research potential of Invasive control and in particular Biosecurity across two the NE catchments. The meeting was very successful and I'm sure will be the first of many between the three organisations.

Wednesday was scheduled for some electro fishing on the Leochel burn and Burnhervie Burns. We found that the conditions were not suitable on the Leochel burn with the smaller backpack electro fishing machine and so moved onto the Burnhervie burn location. This site yielded some good parr numbers for the genetic sampling and also the first Stoneloach I had seen.



Donside Stoneloach

Thursday was scheduled for electro fishing as well but the weather conditions were not favourable so instead I chose to work with Sarah Atkinson with mink rafts on the Don.

On Friday I was invited to a site visit for a proposed hydro scheme installation on Lower Donside at the previous Donside Mill Location just upstream of Seaton Park. The aim of the day was to introduce various stake holders to the proposed site and plans for this development and to discuss and raise concerns and issues with the developer's agent. The water was very high from the previous day's heavy rain which made the site visit almost pointless given that most of the riparian features were obscured. However the meeting which followed and the information gathered during the day was invaluable. The Trust along with the Board and the Fisheries Electricity Committee all raised various issues with the proposed design and abstraction volume. SEPA were present and as the licensing body also intimated that further research would have to be carried out prior to consent. I will keep you posted on this issue as it develops.

Next week I'll be working with the Don Bailiff team on some electro fishing again and also with some Salmon in the Classroom topics. I'll also meet Lizzie Bacon who has established the Salmon in the Classroom programme in the Donside catchment.

Cheers Jamie