

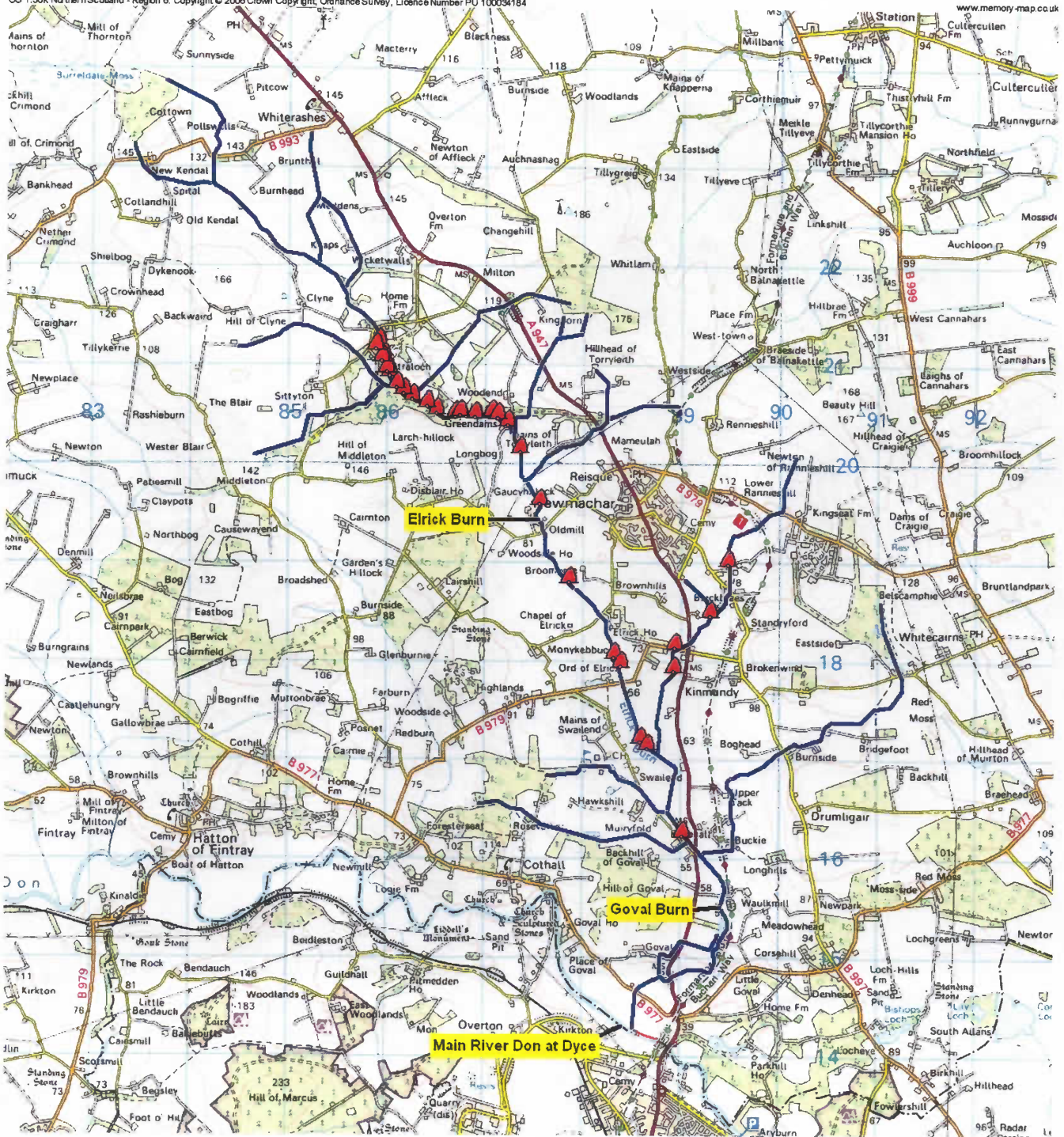
**THE DON DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD
HABITAT IMPROVEMENT OF THE GOVAL BURN
MAY-JUNE 2011**



Picture taken by Jim Kerr

Goval Burn Catchment Area

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The Red triangles on the map represent blockages over the Goval catchment.

The Goval burn starts her journey as the Elrick burn which rises above Whiterashes to the North, where she then flows southwards towards Dyce entering the main river Don approximately 300 meters above the main Road Bridge at Dyce. Most of the blockages in this burn were quite substantial consisting mainly of fallen dead or wind blown trees. The smaller obstructions were caused by old wooden bridges, which had collapsed and had been washed out of the estates by floods and jammed further down stream. Others consisted of discarded railway sleepers and there were quite a few of these scattered over the catchment.

Over the entire catchment we have removed 29 obstructions, and the burn for the first time in many years is now flowing freely. This will now allow fish to migrate up stream once the new fish pass has been installed into the Goval dam, but should also help any flooding issues to the local area of Newmachar. The last section of the burn cleared was the worst affected stretch on the Straloch estate, where we cleared over 15 mature hard wood trees. Just when we thought we had caught up with the clearing, gale force winds arrived on the 23rd of May which brought down even more trees causing more blockages, Picture 1 below shows a big gap in the forestry landscape.

Picture 1



The picture below shows the result of these wind blown trees which have totally dammed of the burn, and the water is only very slowly seeping through the thick mass of timber.

Picture 2



Before I could take this photo we had to do quite a bit of cutting just to get near the bulk of the obstruction to see how bad it was. After a few hours we had cleared this blockage, and the burn is flowing freely again. This section had already been cleared before the storm occurred where 3 trees were removed.

Picture 3 Goval burn flowing freely.



Now this burn has been completed we will be concentrating on the main river habitat survey and hopefully will hit the deadline set for the fishery management plan this year.

Jim Kerr

River Superintendent