

APPENDIX 2

THE SITE

a) BACK BURN

The Back Burn flows through the north of Rothes. It joins the Burn of Rothes downstream of Rothes prior to discharge into the River Spey.

Between Glen Grant Distillery gardens (at the upper end of the scheme area) and the A941, the burn has been modified with weirs, sluices and banks reinforced with rock armour, gabions and concrete retaining walls. Generally speaking, the left hand bank (facing downstream) is higher than the right hand bank. The former has wooded covered slopes whilst on the latter are Distillery premises and buildings. On both sides, trees and vegetation adjoining or growing from the banks will be removed to accommodate the proposed in-channel works. The new footbridge to Glen Grant Visitor Centre gardens will replace an existing bridge further upstream.

Downstream from the A941 bridge, the channel is relatively narrow, straight and confined by gabions, concrete walls and earth material with limited vegetation cover. The left-hand bank is higher than the right with mainly residential and Distillery uses and buildings beyond. A similar mix of uses is found on the right hand bank. Further downstream on the right hand bank beyond Caperdonich Bridge (to be replaced) is Rothes FC's football ground and parking area at Mackessack Park. Beyond this is a large area of rough agricultural land/woodland near the confluence with the Burn of Rothes.

b) BURN OF ROTHES

This Burn flows through the centre of Rothes. It is joined by the Back Burn downstream of Rothes prior to discharge into the River Spey.

Through the grounds of Glen Rothes Distillery, the burn channel has been modified with gabion baskets and retaining walls, with exposed pipe outlets along one or both banks and bordered by grass, tarmac and buildings. Bridges taking access to/from the Distillery also cross the Burn. Between Glenrothes and Glen Spey Distilleries the Burn adopts a more 'rural' character with woodland growing from both banks and is bordered by Burnside Street (left bank) and a small area of grassland (right bank). From Glen Spey Distillery downstream towards the A941 bridge the channel is modified by retaining walls and gabions and bordered by residential property on Burnside Street (left bank) and Glen Spey Distillery (right bank).

The A941 bridge with its steel parapets will be demolished and replaced. The area is adjacent to the Rothes Parish Church (Category B Listed Building), the Burgh Chambers (to be demolished/redeveloped as amenity space with new public conveniences and a recycling point) and other residential and commercial property on Seafield Square, High Street and Burnside Street. On the latter two single-storey properties immediately adjacent to the bridge will be demolished.

Downstream from the A941 bridge the Burn is bordered by residential/commercial property and thereafter by Rothes Park. The Burn is also crossed by several bridges. Immediately

downstream of the A941 bridge the channel banks are a mix of concrete and stone retaining walls and further downstream (right hand bank) are various walls of property, gabions and grass banks, including a recently formed earth bank behind Provost Christie Drive. Beyond these properties, towards its confluence with the Back Burn, the Burn of Rothes again starts to adopt a natural 'rural' watercourse bordered by woodland. Along the left hand bank is Rothes Park, an important large public open space offering various recreational facilities. With the proposed channel widening, an existing avenue of mature trees along the bank will be removed and the existing football pitch, pavilion and play facilities will be repositioned. The Burn is crossed by a several bridges that will be extended (Bairns Brig) or replaced including Green Street further downstream by a new playground bridge

c) BLACK BURN (including Old Toll Ditch)

This Burn is the most southerly watercourse and is located outwith the settlement boundary of Rothes

The upper reach of the Black Burn flows through farmland, down a steep wooded embankment before passing through a culvert under the A941. The banks of the Burn are largely unaltered except for gabions protecting the right hand bank behind Blackburn Cottage.

The Old Toll Ditch drains land to the west and above Rothes, including the golf course area before flowing via the Butter Stroup under the Old Toll House and through a culvert under the A941 to join the Black Burn

A new ditch is proposed within farmland located above Rothes, to the south west of Rothes Castle, a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The new ditch will run north-south along the edge of a steep embankment slope extending along the western side of the A941. It will then descend, via the proposed cascade through a wooded embankment and through a new culvert under the A941 to join the Black Burn north of the former filling station

Between the two (existing/proposed) culverts there is an existing section of gabion protection along the eastern side of the A941. Downstream of the A941, the Black Burn crosses relatively flat farmland, following man-made ditches. These linear ditches follow, and help to define the existing field pattern before crossing under the former railway line and after being joined by other drainage ditches, the Black Burn discharges into the River Spey through an exposed pipe located above the level of the River Spey.

The proposed storage pond is located in part of a field enclosed by Land Street to the north, the A941 to the west and post and wire fencing to the north and east. South of the pond a new embankment and maintenance track (served by a new access off the A941) will be formed and extend across agricultural land between the A941 and the former railway line.