

Pearls in Peril: Improving the conservation of freshwater pearl mussels



- £3.5 million
- Sept 2012 – Sept 2016?
- Working in Special Areas of Conservation
- Best practice project





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CLASSICS EMERGE FROM THE MUD

By: Murray Scullion, Classic Car Weekly

Date: 12.10.2015



99



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Classic Cars



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A 31-strong stash of classic cars has been dug up from a Scottish riverbank after conservationists found they were harming endangered species there.

An Austin Maxi, Hillman Imp, Renault 16 and a Ford Capri were among the vehicles found in a 100-metre gap in the banks of the River Dee, on the Mar Lodge estate in Aberdeenshire. In 1984, it was filled with scrap metal and vehicles by nearby residents to try and stop floodwater hitting farmland and ruining crops.

Environmentalists were concerned that this could impact on the sensitive habitat for pearl mussels, an endangered species only found in a handful of countries. The work is part of a £3.5



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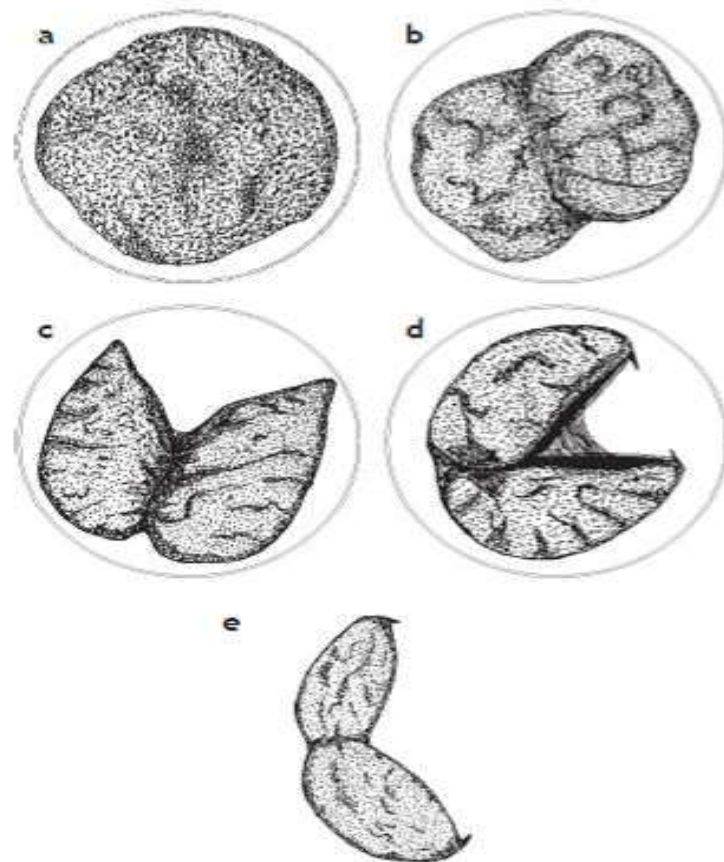


Fig. 1: Developmental stages of the freshwater pearl mussel; a: stage 1 (age: 4 days); b: stage 2 (age: 16 days); c: stage 3 (age: 23 days); d: stage 4 (age: 28 days); e: stage 5 (age: 30 days). Age specification for mean water temperatures of 14.3 °C in August.





Measured relative loss of redox potential in surface sediment downstream

	Site 1	Site 2 (1km d/s)
2013	30.0%	>30%
2014	26.9%	>30%
2015	23.2%	24.5%



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Before



After



Before



After





Downstream Defender®

Advanced Hydrodynamic Vortex Separator

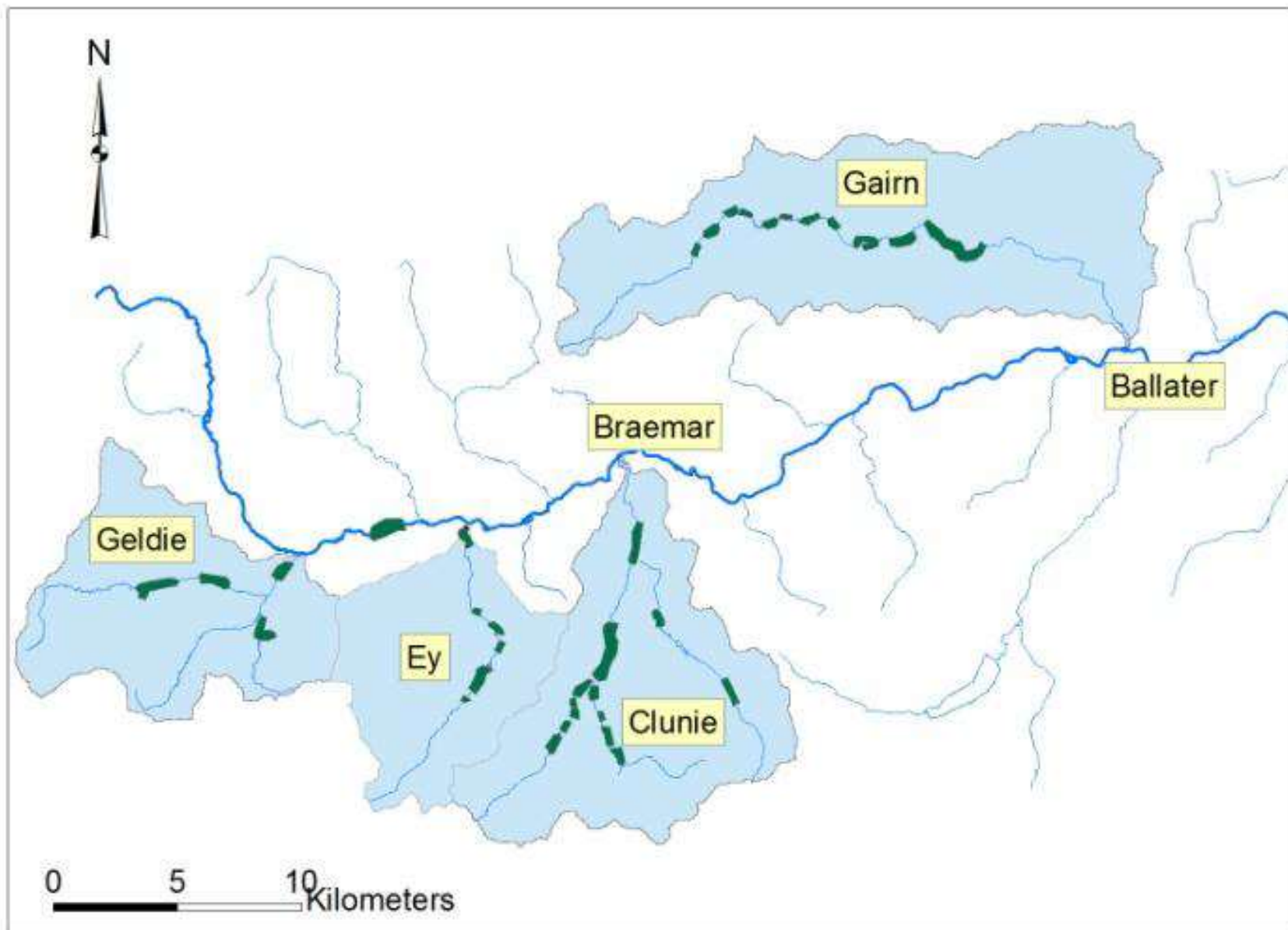
The Downstream Defender® is an advanced hydrodynamic vortex separator for the effective and reliable removal of fine particles along with oils and other floatable debris from surface water runoff.

Its innovative design delivers high efficiency across a wide range of flows in a much smaller footprint than conventional or other swirl-type devices and is the perfect choice for any catchment likely to convey high quantities of contamination.

	Fine particles		Heavy Metals		Sediment bound
	Gross pollutants		Nutrients		Sediment bound
	Liquid and sediment bound hydrocarbons				









- Is vegetation structure improving?
- Is the water being cooled by shade from trees?
 - UK Upland Waters Monitoring Network site
 - 36 data loggers in catchment (Scotland river temperature monitoring network)

marine scotland
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www.pearlsinperil.org.uk

Conference: 3-4 May 2016

