

Hazel MacKinnon
20 Spoutswells Road
Scone
Perthshire
PH2 6RW

Our Ref: H5
Your Ref:

If telephoning ask for:
Malcolm MacConnachie

9 December 2016

Dear Hazel

SCONE BARREL DRAIN AND GENERAL DRAINAGE

Thank you for your letter of 7 December on behalf of the Scone and District Community Council regarding the Barrel Drain in Scone.

There is no clear definition of what differentiates a drain from a watercourse. However a drain is commonly defined as a channel or pipe that is used to drain an area of land. A drain can be located in a rural and/or urban environment.

The Water Industry Act 1991 defines a watercourse as including all rivers, streams, ditches, drains, cuts, culverts, dykes, sluices, sewers and passages through which water flows except mains water and other pipes which belong to the NRA (National Rivers Authority now Environment Agency) or a water undertaker or are used by a water undertaker or any other person for the purpose only of providing a supply of water to any premises.

At the meeting on 4 April 2014 with Scone and District Community Council and chaired by John Swinney the question of whether the Barrel Drain was a drain or a watercourse was raised and discussed. The Minute of the meeting advises that historic maps showed the Barrel Drain to be a watercourse prior to it being captured in a pipe in the 1800 to 1850's. Following this it gained a number of connections to drain water from the land around it. It then tended more to become more a drain than a watercourse although it is acknowledged that there are some short open channel areas where it might be referred to as a watercourse. It is interesting to note that the Water Industry Act 1991 includes drains in its definition of a watercourse.

I hope this information is helpful to the Scone and District Community Council. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Yours sincerely



A Malcolm MacConnachie
Senior Flood Risk Hydrologist (Ops)