

Sustainable Water

Church Field Fishponds



On the left and right of the path towards the Church are two former medieval fishponds. Both ponds contain water after heavy rain, especially in the winter months when the local water table is high. The ponds were probably built in medieval times when Church Field was used to grow crops and belonged to the village Manor House, a house that was situated on the bank of the Wharfe just to the west of the present day Church Hall. It famously slipped into the river in, exactly when is not certain.

It is probable that the ponds were kept full of water (and fish) in medieval times using a water supply from Town Beck very close by. These ponds are now

archaeological monuments, but deserve to be restored as wildlife ponds or possibly as natural wetlands. There are old photographs showing the presence of kingcups.