

## Pumping Station Storm Overflow

The iron gates leading into a field mark the point where a bridge crosses the channel of the mill race from the former mill. It's now called Mill Stream. A steel pipe crosses the channel alongside the bridge, constructed in the 1970s to take sewage from the Addingham Pumping Station to be treated at the Ashlands Sewage Treatment Works in Ilkley (see SW 13).



The Mill Stream now carries very little water as it is no longer connected to the Wharfe at its upper end. However, this is the channel that receives very large volumes of untreated sewage after very heavy rainfall when the capacity of the storm overflow tanks at the nearby Pumping Station (POI 13) is exceeded. Unfortunately, without going down the lane a little way, turning into the small woodland and pushing through the thorny undergrowth you are unable to see the point of discharge.



Discharges only occur on a few occasions each year but on those occasions the whole channel rapidly fills with dilute untreated sewage. It escapes slowly into the Wharfe after passing through the culvert under the road at the junction with the Old Ilkley Road. During these "spills" concentrations of pathogenic bacteria reach very high values in the Mill Stream.

The high volume of relatively clean water in the Wharfe dilutes the effluent to a significant extent but nevertheless high concentrations of faecal bacteria such as E. coli remain in the river and are carried down to the recreational beaches in Ilkley. This upstream pollution source will need to be controlled if the newly designated bathing beach in Ilkley is to achieve a satisfactory rating.

