Sustainable Water

Pumping Station

The short lane off the road here leads to Yorkshire Waters Addingham Pumping Station. Addingham used to have its own Sewage Treatment Works on this site. The works were closed in the early 1970s when the site was repurposed as a pumping station taking foul water from Addingham by pipe down to the Ashlands STW in Ilkley. The pipe (see SW 12) goes across the Mill Stream under the river, across the Ilkley Golf Course, and reaches Ashlands via the underside of the Footbridge across the Wharfe on the Crumwheel corner. The pumping station has stormwater storage tanks that are used when the flow of effluent into the station exceeds the capacity of the station to pump the effluent to Ilkley. Once the tanks are full and if sewage inflow into the station remains high the tanks automatically overflow releasing settled sewage into the Mill Stream. Settled sewage refers to untreated sewage after solids have settled out in the tanks. At very high inflow rates the storm tanks are bypassed and untreated sewage is allowed to enter the Mill Stream with no treatment (except for screening) (see SW 12). Untreated sewage has exceptionally high concentrations of pathogenic faecal viruses and bacteria.

Such high inflows to the Pumping Station occur when surface water in the older part of the village enters the sewer network after heavy rainfall. Surface water in the more recently built housing estates in Addingham is separated from foul water and piped into the becks instead. Whilst this helps to protect the foul sewer system it nevertheless pollutes the beck and damages wildlife habitats (see SW1 and SW8). Today, newly built houses should include the installation of a sustainable urban drainage system (SuDS) where rainwater from roofs and driveways is held on site and enabled to soak into the ground. The Environment Group are promoting the retro-fitting of SuDS throughout the village to protect the becks and reduce loading on the foul sewer system.