

Wine Beck and the High Mill Weir



Here the Dalesway footpath passing through the Olicana caravan site crosses Wine Beck just before the beck meets the Wharfe.

The beck, although only small, is one of Addingham's four main becks. It rises close to Chelker Reservoir and flows through farmland before being culverted under Bolton Road. It passes by the western end of the Paddock Caravan Site that sits just above Olicana. As for the other becks in the village it has relatively poor water quality, polluted by nutrients running off farmland upstream. Until recently it was also

seriously polluted by organic matter and faecal bacteria coming from a poorly functioning septic tank serving the Paddock Caravan Site. The Caravan Site has now (in 2020) been connected to the mains sewer and use of the septic tank we believe has been discontinued. The new small pumping station can be seen by the houses on Bolton Road.

The Wharfe itself at this point flows over a major but relatively low elevation weir originally constructed to provide a head of water for a corn mill in medieval times. The weir holds water back creating deep water conditions in the channel upstream. As water quality in the river at this point is very good this stretch of the river just upstream from the Olicana Park has become a popular place for wild swimming.



Grey herons and kingfishers are often seen and there are trout and grayling in the river.