

Sustainable Water

Low Mill Lane

At approximately this point Town Beck divides into two with one arm meeting the Wharfe flowing north and the other following the line of the lane and meeting the Wharfe just before the entrance to Low Mill (see SW 10). The split in the beck at this point creates an island along the south bank of the river. In high flow conditions in the Wharfe the direction of water movement is reversed with river water flowing up into the beck, preventing water from Town Beck escaping into the river causing local flooding.



Holme House Farm has a fitted flood door reflecting the risk of flooding here, although the lane was not flooded during the major storm event that occurred on Boxing Day 2015. The blue flood door on one of the cottages has recently been removed.

The island itself is a valuable wildlife area. It is home to a wide variety of birds, roe deer but it is becoming increasingly infested with Himalayan Balsam. As almost all the Himalayan balsam has been eradicated from Town Beck upstream the balsam here is due to local seed production and to seeds carried down the main river from upstream. The balsam will become increasingly conspicuous as it grows rapidly in May and starts to flower in June. The Environment Group are planning to start clearing it in June



and July before the flowers have chance to set seed. A concerted effort will be needed by communities along the Wharfe to clear it not only from the river banks upstream but also from the tributaries upstream.