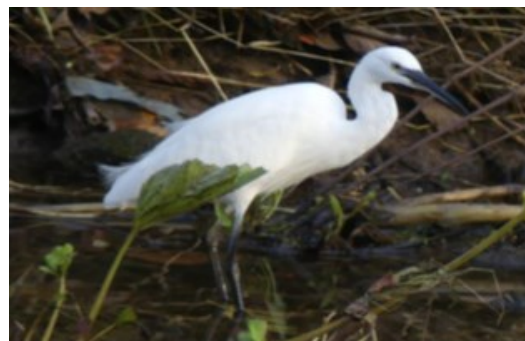


Sustainable Water

River Wharfe

This is another good place to take a look at the Wharfe and wildlife associated with the river, especially birds. Grey heron, cormorants, oystercatchers and little egrets are frequently seen as well as several species of duck, such as goosander and mandarin.

It's also the point at which the main Town Beck channel meets the river as can be seen by looking over the riverbank to the left. This is the main entry and exit point for trout moving between the beck and the main river so its physical condition is important, especially in autumn as adult trout move into the becks to spawn. Ideally there needs to be a good depth of water in the mouth of the beck to provide easy access for fish and bankside vegetation needs to overhang to provide cover and protection from predators such as grey heron and cormorants.



The river itself is wide and deep here, as flow is held back by the weir just round the corner at Low Mill. Water quality is high. Samples of invertebrate life in the river routinely examined from a site close to the Suspension Bridge about 100 m upstream are dominated by mayfly nymphs, indicators of unpolluted water.