

## Low Mill Weir

The original weir was built to provide a head of water to drive the water wheel at Low Mill when the first mill was built on this site at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It has been rebuilt and refurbished a number of times since then, most notably in 1973 when the Environment Agency installed a flow gauging station, one of a number of similar sites along the length of the Wharfe. Real time changes in water level at this site can be seen online here: <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/station/8001>. Data from this network of sites are used by the EA to assess the probability of flooding downstream and issue warnings to the general public about flood risk.



Despite the utility of the weir for gauging water flow it poses a serious ecological problem as it acts as a barrier to fish passage along the river, especially for salmon, sea trout and lamprey. Consequently, the section of the Wharfe above Otley is classed as a fail under the Water Framework Directive due to this barrier and the one downstream at Burley. A proposal to construct a fish pass at Low Mill was put forward by the EA in 2016 with an intention to install it in 2017. However, work has yet to begin. Current plans are to start work in 2022.