Sustainable Water

Aynholme Bridge

The opening of the culvert under Bolton Road that takes water from Town Beck into the Saw Mill Dam can be seen looking back at the beck just upstream of the footbridge. This is the culvert that is frequently blocked or partially blocked. A good water supply is needed to maintain the level of the water in the Dam and to prevent the water becoming stagnant. At the downstream side of the footbridge there is a small barrier across the beck recently installed by a village resident in an attempt to increase the water level of the beck as it passes the entrance to the culvert.

Back Beck joins Town Beck a little further downstream before Town Beck flows under Aynholme Bridge. Water flow under the bridge can be extremely high in stormy weather. The low-lying eastern part of the Garth can become occupied by floodwater in such conditions partly through groundwater rising but also, in extreme conditions, when Town Beck breaks its banks in its attempt to flow along its very artificial channel around the houses upstream.

As for the beck in the field near Bridge 55 (SW 2) and in Church Field (SW 8) the beck in the Garth has been re-aligned to flow around the edge of the field. These channels were probably created a long time ago, probably well before the 19th century, to improve the fields they were flowing through for growing crops. Here and in the other fields the floodwaters occupy the low-lying ground indicating the likely former more natural route for the water. Today these former channels could be reactivated to create wildlife habitats and to slow the flow of floodwaters.