

## Report on April 2020 activity

### Volunteers

We have had 10 volunteers making reports during April – Thank you!

### Observations

The volunteers have made 290 returns, 235 at regular sites and 55 at other locations. About 270 have been pollution observations and about 'interesting photos'. We have particularly ardent observers on Pitty Beck above Thornton Rd. After that, the most reported sites are the Carr Mires Beck outfall into the Aire, and Bradford Beck at Shipley Station.

The unpopular sites are: Red Beck, Little Beck and Loadpit Beck into the Aire near the boat house, and Pitty Beck and Clayton Beck off Leaventhorpe Lane. An important site that does not get visited very often is Bradford Beck at the YMCA (Westingholme St nearby is a good alternative).

### Pollution seen

It seems that the Becks are cleaner than usual with the COVID-19 lockdown. However conditions vary, and the long term misconnections are still present. Some examples:



*From left to right: Bradford Beck at Shipley on a bad day. Outfall of Carr Mires Beck into the Aire. Misconnections or faulty sewer discharge into Middlebrook*

## Actions taken

We have reported the Carr Mires Beck to the Environment Agency (again, first reported it 5 years ago) and taken it up with Yorkshire Water, again. Apparently the job (to fix mis-connections in a block of flats) was given to a subcontractor which cancelled the job without actually doing it. It has been put back in the programme.

Continuing pollution of Barnsley Beck (Baildon) has been reported the EA; again first reported 5 years ago.

The Middlebrook misconnection was reported to YW and we think they came out to sort out a blocked sewer – need to keep an eye on this. This one was first reported at least 8 years ago!

We have found a new (to us) misconnection into Gill Beck (Baildon) and reported it.

We have raised the continuing pollution of Little Beck near Gilstead with the EA and YW. This was reported by us in 2018 and was found to be due misconnection of 16 new houses in Gilstead. Apparently 12 have been put right, the last four were reminded in January. The pollution still looks significant, so I think there are other problems there!

As a result of our earlier reporting, Milner Field Farm has been given an Environmental Health notice to improve their faulty drains within 90 days. These have been causing raw sewage to cascade down the river bank, across the footpath and into the Aire near the canal viaduct for a couple of years.

### Next steps

Keep up the good work!

Please use the app to report even when the water is not polluted

Report severe pollution to the EA

We need more spotters for:

- Red Beck
- Little Beck and Loadpit Beck (Baildon/ShIPLEY)
- Pitty Beck and Clayton Beck off Leaventhorpe Lane
- Bradford Beck at the YMCA (Westingholme St nearby is a good alternative).

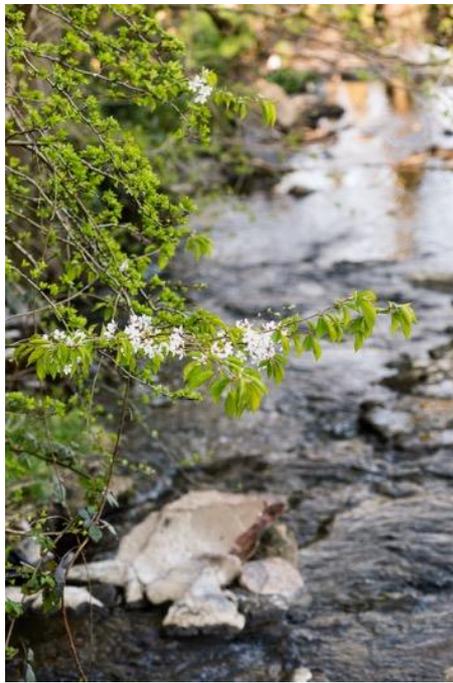
Send in interesting photos too – who will be first to capture a kingfisher?

## Interesting photos

Here are my favourites among the interesting photos submitted this month, and I declare that Nicholas Hewlett's Bullgreave Beck is the winner. No prize, just glory.



*Bullgreave Beck by Nicholas Hewlett.  
Coal Measures show through in the spring  
sun*



*Pitty Beck by Andrew Pick.  
Near Boggart Wood*



*High Birks Beck by Matt Hill.  
Footbridge below West Scholes and  
upstream of ochreous spring*



*Bradford Beck by Alan Keighley.  
Neatly engineered outfall under  
'Dumb Mill, Canal Rd*