

Ilkley Clean River Group
Bathing Water Application
1st October 2019

“On warm days it is wonderful to be as a family and swim and paddle in the river in Ilkley. As an adult swimming in the river is a joy.”

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Location

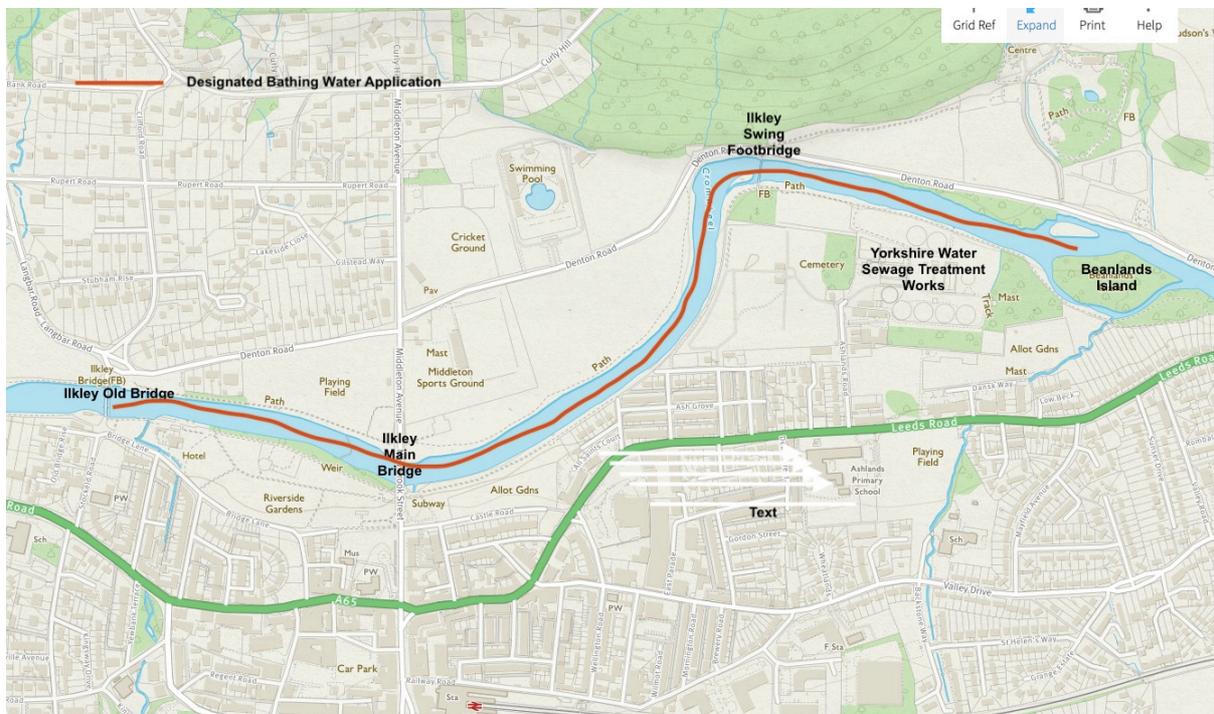
Name of Proposed bathing water	The River Wharfe at Ilkley
Location	The River Wharfe at Ilkley from the Old Bridge to Beanlands Island

We are seeking designation from the Old Bridge to Beanlands Island.

Section One: Old Bridge to the Footbridge

Section Two: Footbridge to Beanlands Island.

Map of the bathing water area:



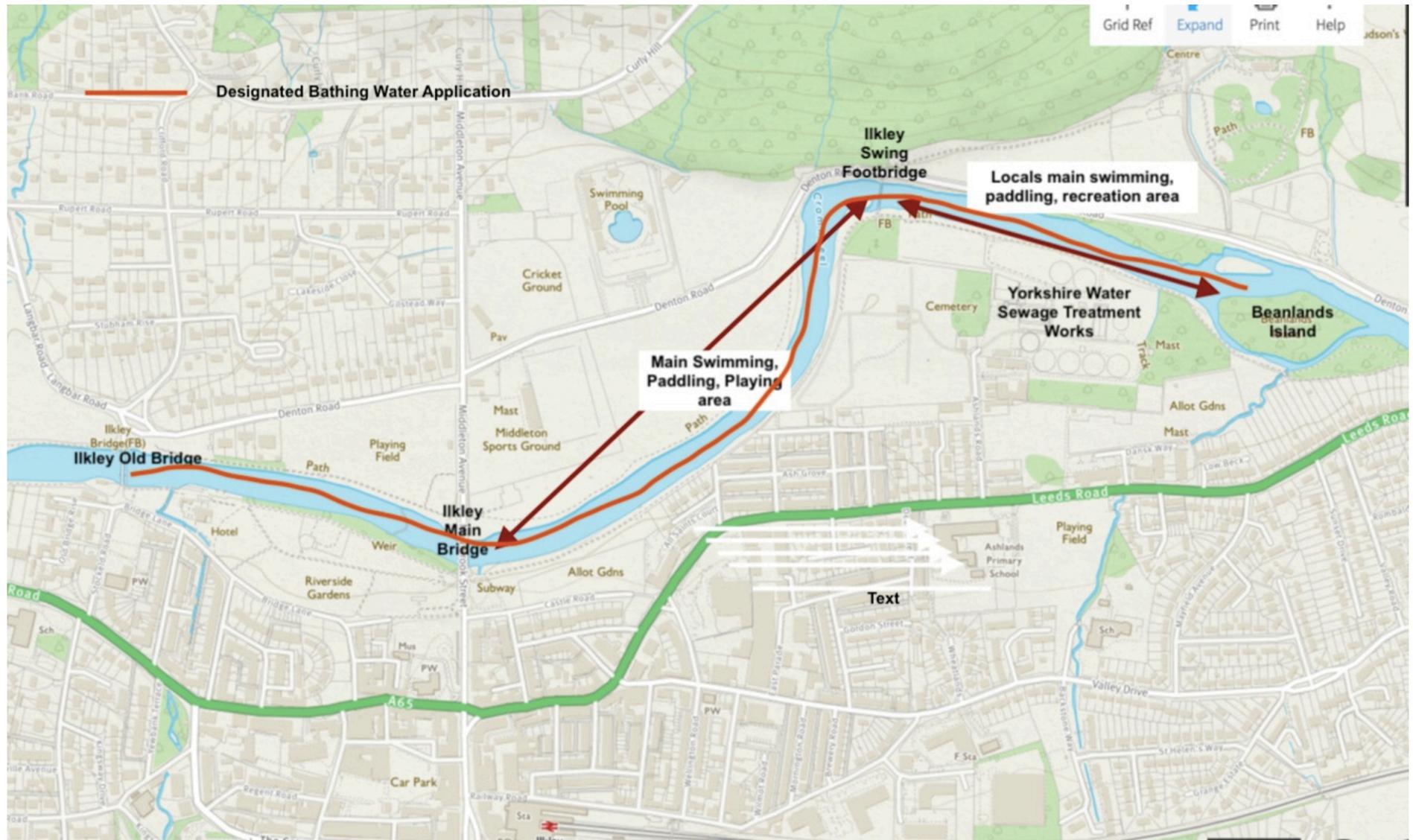
Grid References:

Old Bridge: SE 11235 48091

Main Bridge: SE 11706 48028

Swing Footbridge SE 12255 48491

Beanlands Island SE 12787 48307



Applicant and Landowner Details

Applicant Details	
Name	Ilkley Clean River Group – The residents of Ilkley Contact: Rebecca Malby
Address	30 Nelson Rd, Ilkley, West Yorkshire LS29 8HN
Email	Ilkleycleanriver@gmail.com (note spelling)
Telephone	07974777309

Local Authority if not the applicant	
Name of Authority	City of Bradford Metropolitan Council
Who to contact	Steve Hartley, Strategic Director - Place
Address	Steve Hartley Strategic Director - Place City of Bradford Metropolitan Council, Department of Place, Britannia House, 3rd Floor, Argus Chambers, Hall Ings, Bradford, BD1 1HX
Email	Steve.hartley@bradford.ac.uk
Telephone	01274 434748

Landowner details if the site is privately owned.	
Owned by Bradford Council see above	See attached letter of support

1. Data from the survey of usage for bathing

1.1. Introduction

We have provided a report of the bathing count as well as all the data for the Bathing Count and Photographs. Additionally the full data can be accessed as follows:

(a) Bathing Count Data

The data is provided online here

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BjtiwoYlZey-8HMIQfFjJxEh1ABVNjP0ITIDjAzSseE/edit?usp=sharing>

(b) Bathing Count Photographs

All photographs to accompany the count data are provided here

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/mu7vw9nglucejol/AABKE-ha862vlyjMi9aP0gCMa?dl=0>

1.2 Bathing Count Data

Altogether we have undertaken 51 counts, as follows:

Total Number of Counts	51
Total Number of Counts with Photographs	30
Sub Total of counts in School Holidays	22
Sub Total of counts at weekends and bank holidays	21

The full data is provided in Fig 1 and in the attached excel spreadsheet labelled Ilkley Designated Bathing Application Count Data_ September 2019 with separate counts of Adults and Children and numbers paddling, playing in the water, swimming and on the riverbank.

Our top 21 days (with 10 weekend / Bank Holiday days included are as follows (including as required at least 10 weekends / BH; at least half in school holidays)

Top 21 High Use Days						
	No	Date	Day of week	Total Users	No Weekend/BH	No Holiday days
	1	25th July	Tues	1,751		1
	2	23rd July	Thurs	1,120		2
	3	29th June (3.30pm)	Sat	746	1	
	4	26th August	Mon (BH)	732	2	3
	5	25th August	Sun	657	3	4
	6	24th August	Sat	568	4	5
	7	24th July	Wed	468		6

8	29th June (1.30pm)	Sat	342	5	7
9	24th August	Sat	318	6	8
10	27th August	Tues	288		9
11	4th August	Sun	191	7	10
12	8th August	Thurs	109		11
13	21 st Sept	Sat	123	8	
14	14th July	Sun	113	9	12
15	5th August	Mon	81		13
16	23rd August	Fri	75		14
17	29th August	Thurs	61		15
18	7th August	Wed	48		16
19	1st August	Thurs	48		17
20	13th August	Tues	43		18
21	22nd June	Sat	42	10	

Table 1: The Count Top 21 days

The full breakdown is provided below and in the attached spreadsheet for easier reading. Note the sheet is colour coded for the requirements to provide data for weekends and bank holidays and for school holidays.

21	Weekend & Bank Holidays
22	School Holidays

Fig 1: Raw data for the Bathing Status Count May to September 2019

Number of counts		ADULTS Main Bridge to Swing Bridge				CHILDREN Main Bridge to Swing Bridge				ADULTS Swing Bridge to Beanlands				CHILDREN Swing Bridge to Beanlands				Total	Sub Total Main Bridge to Swing	Sub Total Swing to Beanlands
		Swimming	Paddling	Using the water (eg in boats/ fishing)	On the riverbank	Swimming	Paddling	On the water (eg in boats)	On the riverbank	Swimming	Paddling	Using the water (eg in boats/ fishing)	On the riverbank	Swimming	Paddling	On the water (eg in boats)	On the riverbank			
	MAY																			
	15th - 19th (part week)																			
1	Tues Count 1 (14th 15.10)				8				3									11		
2	Frid Count 2 (17th 15.30)				2	11	2		7		1							23		
3	Sun Count 3 (19th 12.30)					17			10									27		
	20th - 26th																			
4	Tues Count 1 (21st 14.30)				22		3		8				2					35		
5	Wed Count 2 (23rd 15.45)	2			21				3		1	1						28		
6	Sun Count 3 (26th 16.00)				2				1			3						6		
	27th May to 2nd June																			
7	Fri Count 1 (31st May 17.00)				2							1				1		4		
8	Sat Count 1 (1st June 15.00)		1		16	1	4		7									29		
	JUNE																			
	3rd - 9th																			
9	Thurs Count 1 (6th 14.30)				10		2	2				5						19		
10	Sunday Count 2 (9th 2.30pm)				21		5		7									33		
	10th - 16th																			
11	Sunday Count 1 (16th 2.30pm)				18		2		14									34		
	17th - 23rd																			
12	Tues Count 1 (18th)	1	2		6							6						15		
13	Sat Count 2 (22nd 12.00)			1	6		1		8			9	3			14		42		
14	Sun Count 3 (23rd 17.00)		2		6				2	4	1	13	2	2				32		
	24th - 30th																			
15	Thurs Count 1 (27th 16.45)				5					6		15		3				29		
16	Sat Count 2 (29th 13.30)	4	6	2	92		24	6	33	14	14	6	94	1	10	8	28	342		
17	Sat Count 3 (29th 15.30)	4	35	6	264	45	78	11	239		6	2	24	4	4	2	22	746		

		26th - 1st Sept																		
40	Mon	Count 1 (26th 3pm)	9	118	3	301	13	143	20	91	16	2	8	2	5	1	732	698	34	
41	Tues	Count 2 (27th 3pm)		23	3	95	4	56	11	69			16	2		9	288	261	27	
42	Thurs	Count 3 (29th 2.30pm)				31		10		16			4				61	261	4	
43	Fri	Count 4 (30th 3pm)				10	2	4		7							23	23		
		SEPT																		
		2nd - 8th																		
44	Mon	Count 1 (2nd 15.30)				7				4							11	11		
45	Wed	Count 2 (4th 16.00)				3				2							5	5		
46	Sunday	Count 3 (8th 16.00)				18		2		9							29	29		
		9th - 15th																		
47	Monday	Count 1 (9th 4pm)				6				3							9	9		
48	Sat	Count 2 (14th 4pm)		1		19		1		6							27	27		
		16th - 22nd																		
49	Thurs	Count 1 (19th 4.15pm)				5											5	5	0	
50	Fri	Count 2 (20th 3.20pm)				8											8	8	0	
51	Sat	Count 3 (21st 4pm)	1	2	1	52	6	10	5	46							123	123		

Indicative Photographs

Photographic evidence is provided in Dropbox here

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/mu7vw9nglucejol/AABKE-ha862vlyjMi9aP0gCMa?dl=0>

Here are some indicative photos:

25th July 1751 People



23rd July 1,120 People



29th June 746 people



26th August 732 people



24th July 468 people



8th August 109 people



2. Information about the facilities at the site.

2.1 Ilkley Town

The picturesque town of Ilkley is situated in the Wharfe Valley, at the southern end of the Yorkshire Dales. The former spa town rose to fame in the nineteenth century when thousands visited for the fresh invigorating air and first-class hotels. The town may no longer be a premier health resort, but it is still renowned for its fresh air, moorland, riverside and beautiful countryside.

The town is famous for its moor and you'll find fantastic countryside and walks for all abilities on your doorstep. The town is also home to one of the largest cycling clubs in the country.

Ilkley is the ideal place to relax and treat yourself. There are excellent restaurants and independent shops selling everything from gifts to vintage clothes and books. Enjoy afternoon tea at the famous Bettys Cafe and Tea Rooms or enjoy one of the many events which take place throughout the year.

There are a number of events through the year such as Ilkley Literature Festival, Ilkley Summer Festival and Real Food Ilkley Markets.

In summer months tourists flock to the Town to enjoy the events, shops, restaurants, and particularly the river, Lido and parks. The river's accessibility and beautiful location is a draw to families for picnics, paddling, swimming and playing. Ilkley train station serves Leeds and Bradford and the riverside is a 5-minute walk from the station.

2.1 Site Information

This beautiful stretch of river is in the town at Ilkley.

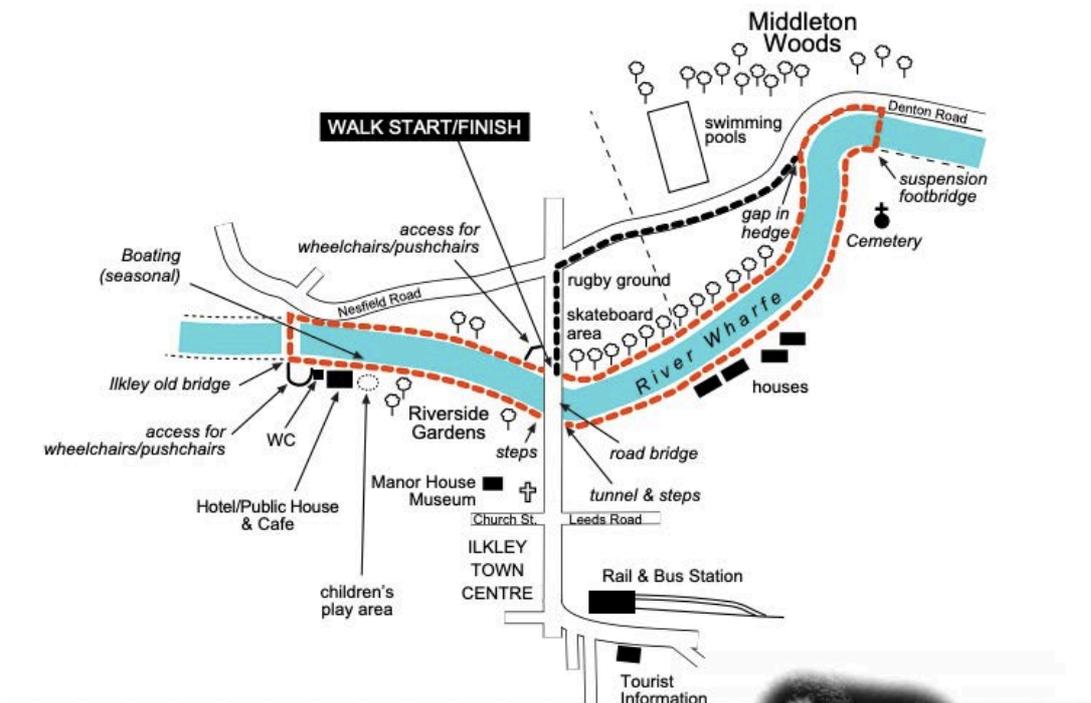
The River is flanked by the following:

- On the South Side between the Old Bridge and the Main Bridge – Ilkley Riverside Gardens Map reference: SE 113480 Lat: 53.92799 Long: -1.82938. The gardens have a playground for children, seating and a pub at one end.
- On the north side from the Old Bridge all the way to the Swing Footbridge there is East Holmes Field which has a skateboard park, and playing fields for rugby and football, and the rugby club.

Across the road from the playing fields there is the Ilkley Swimming Pool and Lido.



There is a Riverside Walk which shows the footpaths alongside the river as follows:



2.2. Accessibility and Parking

Parking adjacent to the river makes the riverbank and its environment accessible to all. The Riverbank is a 5-minute walk from Ilkley Station.

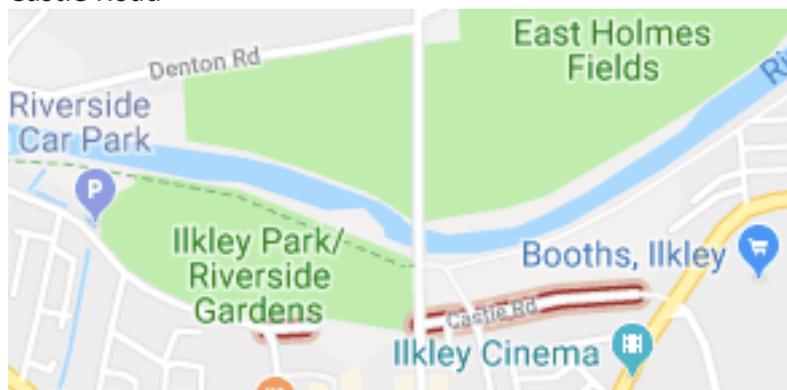
There is plenty of roadside parking adjacent to the gardens, as well as parking at the Lido adjacent to East Holmes Fields.

There is Long Stay parking on the following streets:

Bridge Lane



Castle Road



New Brook Street (onto the road bridge)



2.3 Ilkley Swimming Pool and Lido

The Lido (outdoor pool) within the grounds of the Ilkley Swimming Pool is a 10-minute walk from the station and has a large car park.

The Lido is an unheated outdoor swimming pool open May to early September. Opening hours vary as follows:

1. Term Times weekdays (May to July) 07.00 – 09.00, 12.00 – 19.30
2. Holiday weekdays (end of July to end of August) 07.00 – 09.00, 10.00 – 19.30.
3. September weekdays 07.00 – 09.00, 12.00 – 18.00

Weekends 10.00 – 17.30

Capacity at the Lido is 4,500 people.

2.4 Public Toilets

There are public toilets at the Lido accessible from the car park.

2.5 Kiosks and Shops

It is a 5-minute walk to the main town where there are supermarkets (Co-Op, Booths, Tescos, Marks and Spencers), and many restaurants, bars and takeaways.

In summer months there are ice cream vans on the main road bridge and by the Swing Footbridge. There is also an ice cream van at the Lido.

2.6 Lifeguards and First Aid

There are no lifeguards at the riverbank. There is a public resuscitation point in the Ilkley Rugby Club.

3. Local Consultation

3.1 Introduction

Local consultation was supported by Ilkley Town Council and took the form of:

1. A survey of local residents, businesses and visitors provided via a website and Twitter and Facebook pages. The consultation was also advertised in the local press. Responses: 527.
2. Two Town Meetings. Attendance Meeting 1: 100+, Meeting 2: 60+
3. Local council consultation.

We also provided updates on our citizen water testing results of the quality of the river Wharfe at Ilkley on our website here

<https://sites.google.com/view/cleanwharfeilkley/swimming-in-the-river>

3.2 Citizen Water Testing

The consultation was informed by our Citizen Water Testing for E Coli, funded by Ilkley Town Council. The report to the Council is provided at Appendix 1, and an update to the report focusing on how quickly pollution dissipates is provided at Appendix 2. A further update on the impact of the Addingham sewage works on the water quality at Ilkley is provided at Appendix 3.

The data from the survey of usage for bathing demonstrates the public's use of the river between the main road bridge and Beanlands Island. The higher concentrations are in Section One: Road bridge to the footbridge. This is where visitors to Ilkley, and people with young children congregate. Local people tend to spread into Section Two: the stretch of the river from the footbridge to Beanlands Island. On the 25th July we counted 184 people in this area. This is also the location of the storm overflow pipe and the sewage outflow.

Ilkley Town Council provided a grant to Ilkley Clean River Group for citizen water quality testing in the Wharfe to augment the Environment Agency's testing at Ilkley. The protocol for testing has been approved by the Environment Agency. The Ilkley Citizen Testing is for coliform bacteria, the greatest threat to public health. These tests are not conducted by either the EA, (which measures only for environmental factors), or Yorkshire Water. The overall purpose of the testing is to assess the level of health risk to citizens using the river are exposed too following 'storm overflow'.

The Citizen Science Testing has demonstrated the following early results:

- In Section One - upstream of Ashlands values are low and within the *E.coli* limits for Bathing Waters. These values concur with those found on the 29th April in equally low flow conditions and indicate that the risk to the public using the beach and the river for recreational purposes upstream of the outfall in these conditions is low.

- In Section Two - from the footbridge to Beanlands Island Our testing shows 35,500 E Coli cfus per 100mls in dry, low spill conditions and 43,500 E coli cfus per 100mls in wet, high spill conditions. These are 40(dry weather) to 50 (wet weather) times higher than the EA bathing water quality limits.

3.3 Bathing Consultation Survey Results

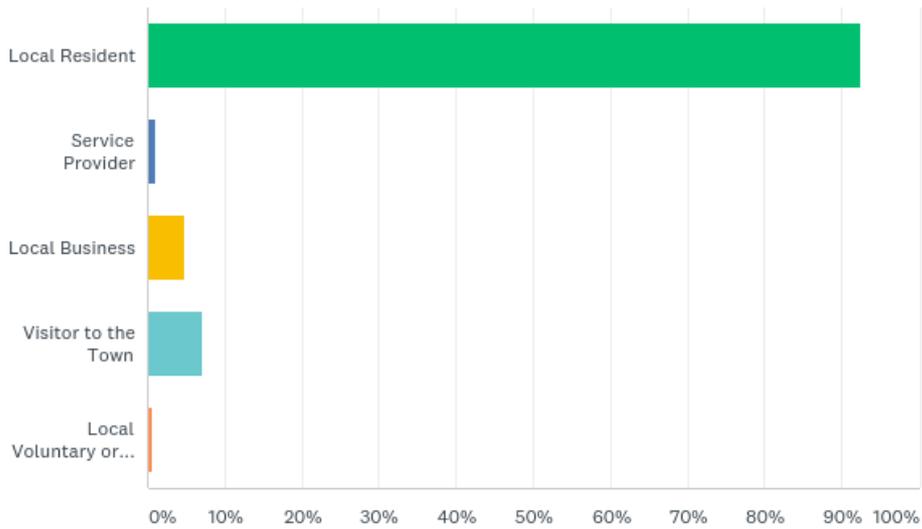
3.3.1 Introduction to the survey

We have provided a full report of the Bathing Consultation Survey here, and you can also view the online summary here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-S78PZSTV/>. Password CleanRiver. The link to this summary page is made available on our website.

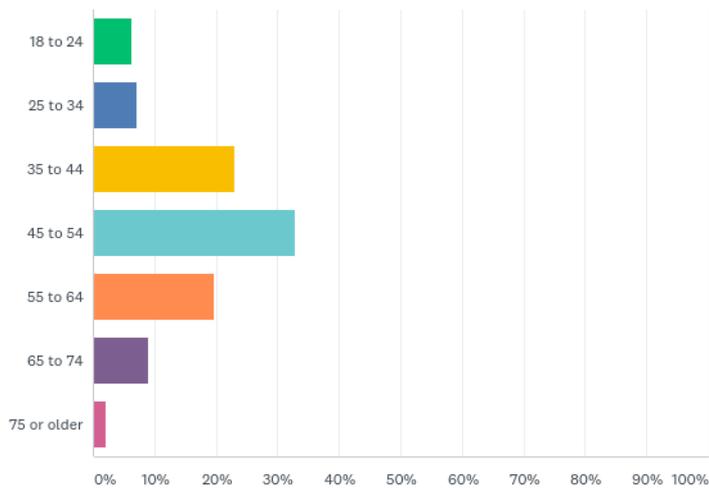
The summary date is also provided alongside this application as a pdf. The consultation survey has 527 responses as follows

3.3.2 Number and type of respondents

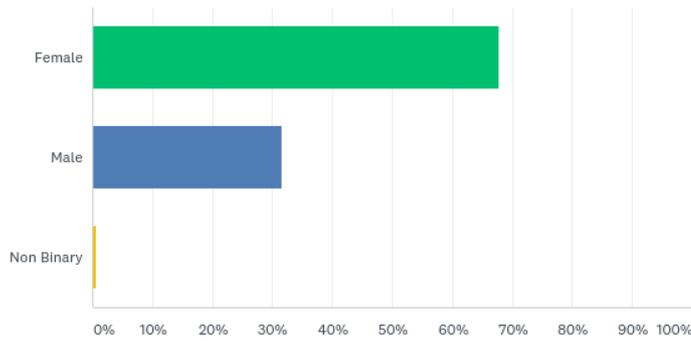
Answer Choices	Responses	
Local Resident	92.54%	484
Service Provider	1.15%	6
Local Business	4.78%	25
Visitor to the Town	7.07%	37
Local Voluntary or Civic Group	0.57%	3
	Answered	523
	Skipped	4



The demographic of respondents is as follows:



Answer Choices	Responses	
18 to 24	6.18%	32
25 to 34	7.14%	37
35 to 44	22.97%	119
45 to 54	32.82%	170
55 to 64	19.69%	102
65 to 74	9.07%	47
75 or older	2.12%	11
	Answered	518
	Skipped	9

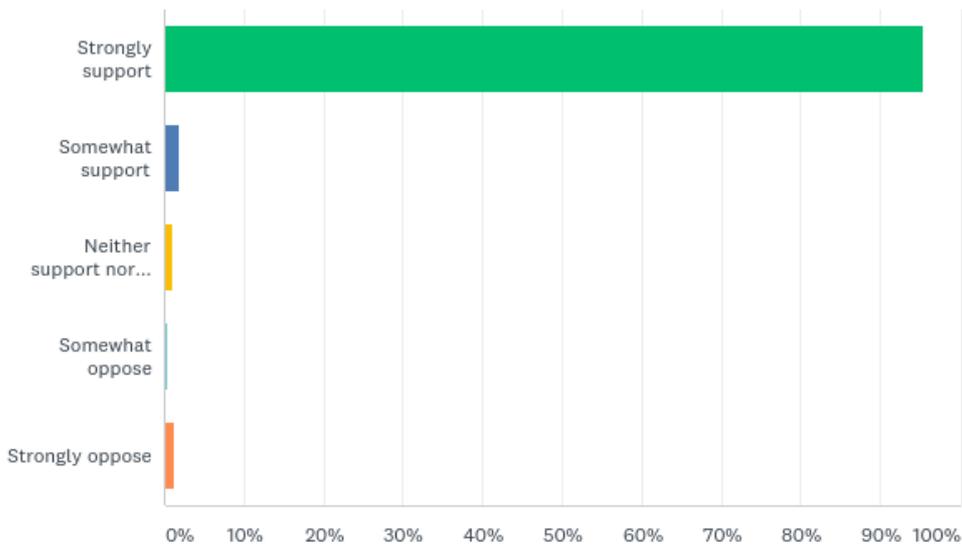


Answer Choices	Responses	
Female	67.75%	353
Male	31.67%	165
Non Binary	0.58%	3
Answered		521
Skipped		6

3.3.3. How much do you support having clean water in our river fit to paddle, play and swim in?

The residents, businesses, visitors and local groups overwhelmingly support having a clean river fit to paddle, play and swim in.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Strongly support	95.45%	503
Somewhat support	1.90%	10
Neither support nor oppose	0.95%	5
Somewhat oppose	0.38%	2
Strongly oppose	1.33%	7
Answered		527
Skipped		0



494 respondents commented. All full responses are provided in Appendix 3.

The comments related primarily to these 4 areas:

1. It should be safe for children to play in, and for future generations
2. The river is critical to us as a spa town and beauty spot
3. We swim in the river and it should be safe for bathing
4. If it's clean for humans, it will be clean for our environment

In addition, comments were also made that:

1. Swimming is good for people's health
2. The river is part of our community.
3. The river has always been a place to swim in

Comments that are indicative of the whole are as follows:

"The river runs right through town and is very easy to access and the perfect geography for sitting next to, playing in, paddling and bathing"

"Wild swimming is one of the greatest pleasures and this stretch of river is ideally suited for it, or would be if the water were safe to swim in. The shallow stretch with a natural beach by the main bridge is an ideal location for young children to paddle and play in-or again would be if the water were of a suitable standard."

"Because we are a Spa Town with beaches and lots of visitors."

"The river brings much needed tourism to Ilkley, families picnic and children paddle in the water; it needs cleaning up urgently."

"I love river swimming and the fantastic health benefits it has for wellbeing and physical fitness."

“We live in a beautiful area and believe we should be able children should be able to use the river without any risk to their health.”

Those supporting had some concerns about the river polluted by sewage:

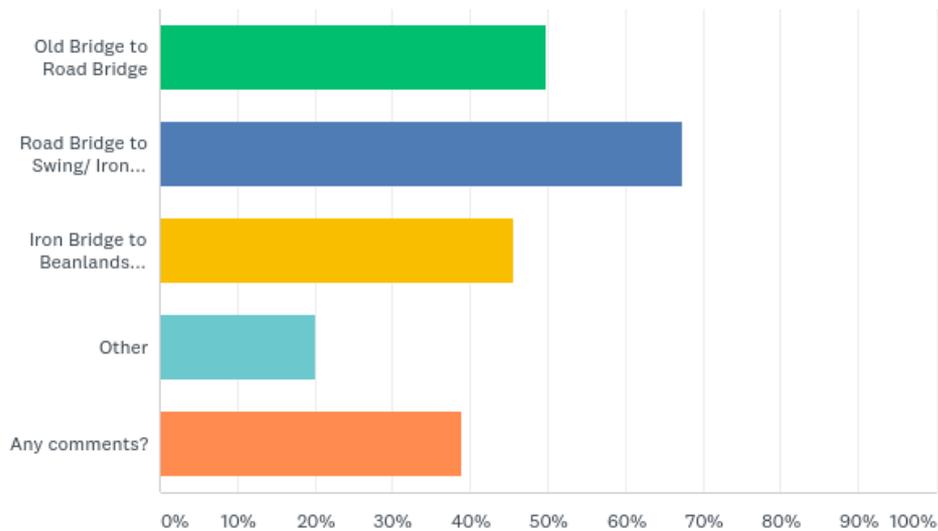
“In this time of public awareness about pollution and recycling to save the planet it is absolutely disgusting that Yorkshire water allow this pollution to continue without any redress.”

Overall respondents did not think sewage should be pumped into the river in the 21st century and viewed it as unacceptable. *“Primary reason is, it’s unacceptable to pump human excrement into our river!”*

The very few that did not support having clean river this was because of two issues:

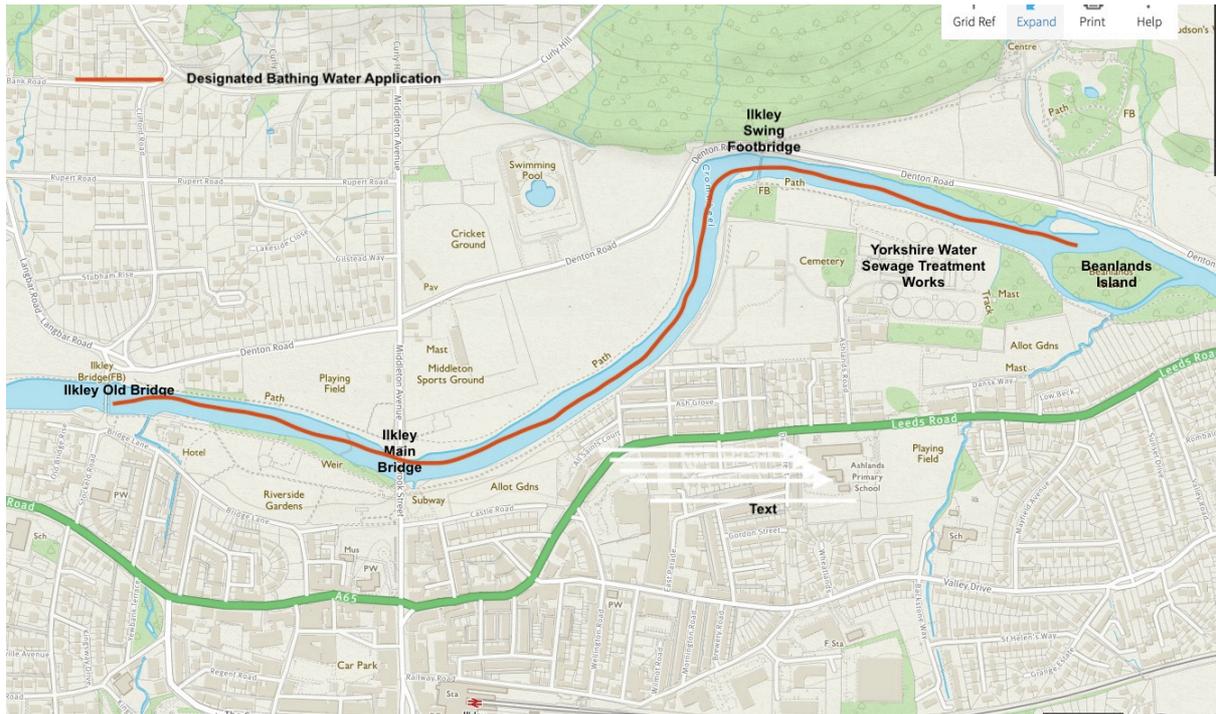
1. Because the river is not safe to play in, but from an environment perspective it would be a good thing.
2. A clean river will attract more visitors who bring litter and anti-social behaviour.

3.3.4 Which sections of the river do you think should be designated as the bathing area?
This is the area where it's safe to swim, paddle and play?

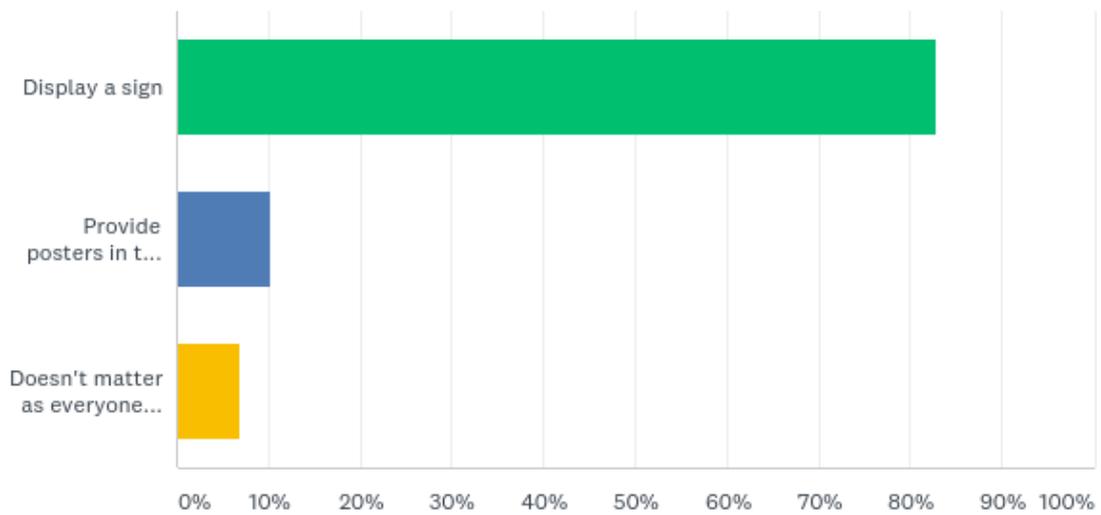


Answer Choices	Responses	
Old Bridge to Road Bridge	49.71%	260
Road Bridge to Swing/ Iron Footbridge	67.30%	352
Iron Footbridge to Beanlands Island	45.51%	238
Other	20.08%	105
Any comments?	39.01%	204
	Answered	523
	Skipped	4

This response demonstrates that Ilkley wants the river to be designated from the Old Bridge to Beanlands Island, which reflects where people currently use the river, with some concerns about currents and making sure it is safe for people to swim not just in terms of the public health water quality. Overall the view is that as people already swim in the river it should be cleaned up, and water quality assured.



3.3.5 How should the public be informed about pollution in the river?



Answer Choices	Responses	
Display a sign	82.88%	431
Provide posters in the town	10.19%	53
Doesn't matter as everyone knows it polluted already!	6.92%	36
Answered		520
Skipped		7

3.5 Local Council Consultations

3.5.1 Town Council

A supporting letter from Ilkley Town Council is provided at Appendix 4

3.5.2 Bradford Council

Supporting letters from Bradford Councillors (Ilkley ward) and from Bradford Council are provided in Appendix 5

Appendix 1: Interim Report July 2019. Assessing the Impact of Ashlands Waste Water Treatment Plant on microbiological quality of the River Wharfe in Ilkley.

Assessing the impact of Ashlands Waste Water Treatment Plant on the microbiological quality of the River Wharfe in Ilkley, West Yorkshire An interim Report, July 2019 Rick Battarbee Ilkley Clean River Group, Addingham Environment Group and UCL

Summary

After three months of monitoring coliform bacteria concentrations upstream and downstream of Ashlands WWTP in both high and low flow conditions it is possible to make several conclusions that public health risks are:

- high in both low and high flows downstream of the outfall e.g. at Beanlands Island;
- relatively low in dry, low flow conditions upstream of the outfall e.g. above the Iron Bridge; but
- relatively high in high flow conditions upstream of the outfall.

The threat below the outfall is from both the Ashlands treated effluent and the storm overflow. The public should be advised not to swim downstream of the Iron Bridge. The threat above the outfall in high flow conditions is from unknown sources upstream of the town. More work is required to identify these sources and to assess how coliform concentrations in the river vary with river flow and other environmental factors before further guidance on bathing safety at the lido beach can be given.

Introduction

Untreated waste water is frequently discharged into the Wharfe from the the Ashlands WWTP in Ilkley causing severe localised water pollution and threats to the health of people downstream using the river for amenity and recreation.

The Environment Agency is monitoring ammonia concentrations and biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) at Denton Bridge but neither Yorkshire Water, who are responsible for the discharges, nor the EA, who are responsible for protecting water quality, monitor coliform bacteria concentrations, yet these are the organisms most likely to give rise to public health concerns.

In the absence of such data, the Ilkley Clean River Group have initiated a coliform bacteria monitoring programme using volunteers to collect samples. Samples are sent for analysis to ALS Ltd, an accredited microbiological laboratory based in Coventry.

The overall objective of the project is to assess the level of health risk that citizens using the river are exposed to following storm-related discharges of untreated sewage. Here we outline the project design, describe methods of sample collection and analysis, present preliminary results after three months of sampling and make recommendations for future work.

Project Design

The project is planned to run for 12 months in order to take in seasonal changes in factors such as river flow, temperature and use of the river by people. The project has six initial objectives:

1. **Coliform concentrations during dry weather flow.** A set of baseline or control samples taken in dry weather to establish coliform concentrations when only treated effluents are being discharged into the river. Sample sites are the Old Bridge (Figure 1, Site 0), close to the Lido immediately upstream of Ashlands (site 1), between the storm outfall and the treated outfall (site 2), close to

the beach at Beanlands Island (site 3) and at Denton Bridge (site 4). The Environment Agency monitors water quality for EU Water Framework Directive purposes at Denton Bridge.

2. **Seasonal changes in coliform concentrations.** Monthly samples collected from the Denton Bridge site to assess the extent to which coliform concentrations change on a seasonal basis.
3. **Comparisons between indicators of untreated sewage.** To take advantage of the EA's decision to monitor water quality at Denton Bridge coliform samples taken at that site on the same day as the EA. The objective is to make direct comparisons between the results for BOD and ammonia with those for coliforms to assess whether BOD and/or ammonia measurements can be used as a proxy for coliforms in future.
4. **The impact of storm overflow events on coliform concentrations.** Samples taken opportunistically during storm overflow events. The objective is to assess the impact of overflows on coliform concentrations for different seasons and different river flows. For each event samples are being taken at sites as described in (1) above.
5. **Coliforms from the river bed.** In response to a suggestion from the Rivers Trust sample water after deliberately stirring the bed of the river at sites 2 and 3 (Figure 1). Data from New Zealand have indicated that paddling by bathers may re-suspend bed sediments into the water column and thereby increase risk of public exposure to coliforms.
6. **Testing citizen science coliform kits.** The Rivers Trust are eager to develop inexpensive but accurate coliform test kits for use by citizen scientists. We have agreed to test LaMotte kits by comparing the results from them with the results from our samples taken at the same time.

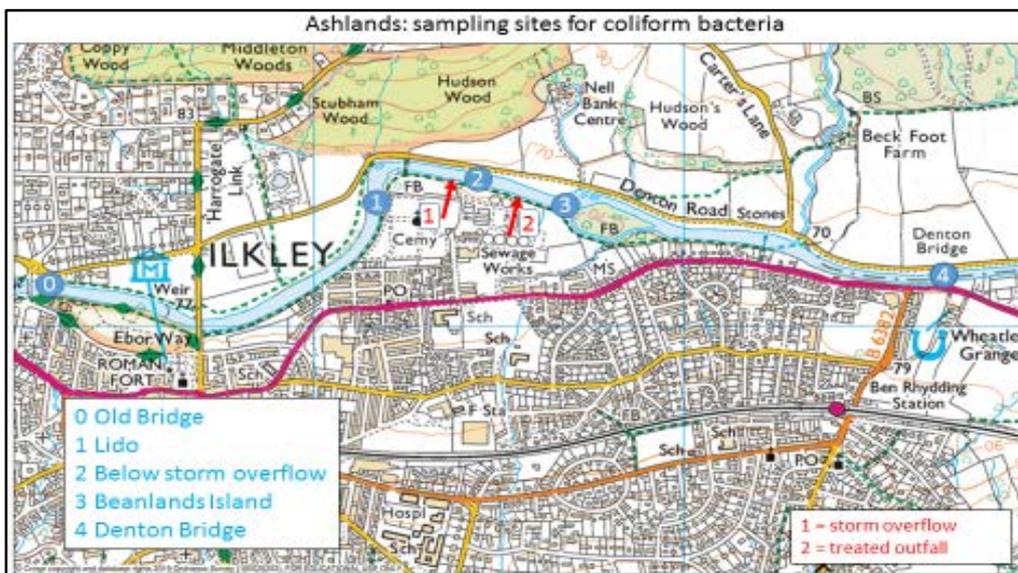


Figure 1. Map of sampling sites on the River Wharfe upstream and downstream of Ashlands Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Methodology: Field sampling

1. A grant from the Rivers Trust enabled us to buy a portable fridge and assemble other items of equipment required to carry out field sampling. Equipment includes:
 - Portable fridge powered by car battery and kept at between 2 and 8 degrees C;
 - Pre-chilled cool bag;

- Sufficient sample bottles as provided by ALS, including spares;
 - Bottle pre-filled with sterile tap water to act as a blank (marked B with date);
 - Rope with throw bottle and lead weight for sampling in high flow;
 - Safety harness and rope;
 - Disposable gloves;
 - Marker pens;
 - Notebook and camera;
 - LaMotte test kits.
2. The sampling team has a minimum of three members, one to take the samples, one to observe the sampling process and where necessary be responsible for the sampler's safety, and one to be responsible for equipment and to take notes and photographs.
 3. Two sterile sample bottles as provided by ALS are needed for each site labelled with Site code (Ashland 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4), date (day, month, year) and whether a primary (P) sample or duplicate (D) sample.



4. The samplers are very experienced local anglers equipped with chest waders. Rope and safety harnesses are available. Except when explicitly required (see objective 5 above) care is taken not to disturb the river-bed. Any disturbance caused is allowed to clear downstream before sampling.
5. As far as possible deep-water mid-flow samples 15 cm below the water surface are taken. The sampler faces upstream, inverts the sterile sample bottle provided by ALS, lowers it into place and then rotates the neck into the flow.
6. An air gap in the neck of the bottle is left to allow the sample to be mixed in the lab before emptying.
7. The second (duplicate) sample (marked D) is taken from the same location after a wait of two minutes.
8. The samples (including blank when appropriate) are placed into a cool bag immediately after sampling and returned to the portable fridge.
9. The samples are kept refrigerated in the dark en route to the pick-up depot in Wakefield for analysis in the Coventry ALS lab within 24 hours of sampling.

Methodology: Laboratory analysis (ALS Ltd)

A known volume of water sample is filtered through a membrane filter with 0.45 µm pores to trap bacteria. The filter is then placed on a selective growth medium m-Lactose Glucoronide Agar which

contains lactose, phenol red as an indicator of acidity and the chromogenic substrate 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indolyl- β -D-glucuronide (BCIG) to indicate the production of β -glucuronidase. Plates are incubated at 30°C for 4 hours and at 37°C for a further 14 hours after which colonies characteristic of coliforms and *Escherichia coli* are counted and picked off for confirmation where necessary.

Presumptive total coliforms (TC) appear as yellow, green or blue colonies. Presumptive *Escherichia coli* appear as green colonies. Confirmed total coliforms express β -galactosidase and are oxidase-negative. Confirmed *Escherichia coli* express β -galactosidase, β -glucuronidase and are oxidase negative. Confirmation is performed using either protein profiling, or defined substrate technology.

Results

The project is designed to run for 12 months. Here we present results from the project starting in April 2019 to the middle of July. The data include results from the start-up trial and from samples taken during high flow and low flow.

1. Trial sampling on the 29th April

The methodology was trialled on the 29th April during low flow conditions with samples taken at sites 1, 2, 3 and 4. Only total coliforms were monitored. The results showed low numbers at sites 1 and 2 upstream of the treated effluent outfall but high numbers at sites 3 and 4, downstream. The high numbers were higher than expected by the ALS laboratory with values expressed as >10,000 cfu/100 ml indicating that future samples would need to be diluted further to enable accurate values to be obtained.

2. Samples taken on 13th June (high flow)

On the 13th June the river was running high and a storm water spill was occurring from the Ashlands plant at the time of sampling. Samples were taken at all sites as described above except a third sample was taken from the Old Bridge site to test the use of a throw bottle from the bridge parapet and a sample was taken directly from the effluent outfall itself. Samples on this date were analysed for *E. coli* as well as TC but only *E. coli* data are shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2: Treated effluent outfall

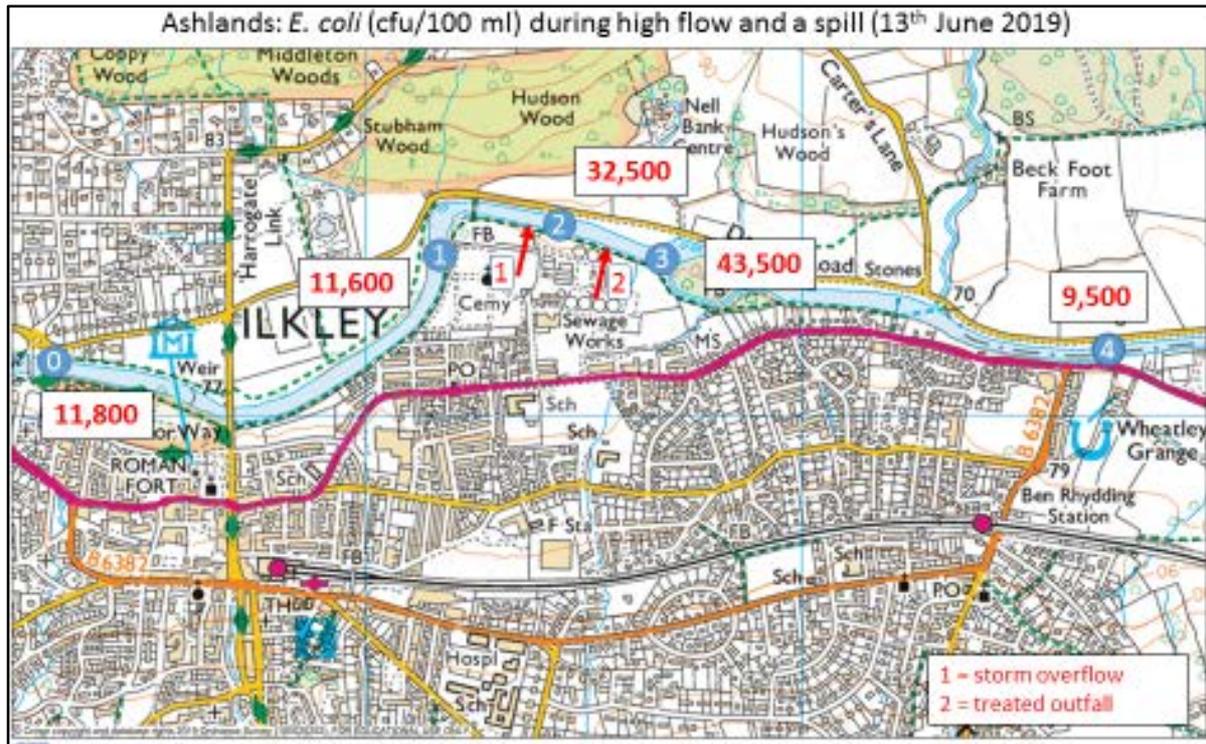


Figure 3. *E. coli* data for sampling sites upstream and downstream of Ashlands on 13th June 2019.

Key points are:

1. Values are high at every sample site.
2. The two sites upstream (0 and 1) both have high values (NB as a guide 900 cfu/100 ml is the highest permitted for bathing water status) although not as high as site 2 and 3 close to the outfalls. These values indicate that in high flow there are significant sources of *E. coli* upstream either from small sewage works and/or from agricultural land.
3. The sample at site 2 just downstream from the storm overflow shows a three-fold increase in concentration reflecting the additional input of untreated effluent at this point.
4. The sample at site 3 (Beanlands) has the highest concentration reflecting the further input of *E. coli* from the treated effluent outfall. A sample from the treated effluent outfall itself gave a value of 43,000 cfu/100 ml (data not shown on Figure 2). This finding is very significant as it indicates that the main coliform bacterial contamination of the river comes from the treated effluent not from the storm overflow.
5. Concentrations at Denton Bridge (site 4) are significantly lower than at Beanlands Island (site 3). This is a surprising finding, but confirmed by the 10th July results (see below). The decrease may be due to a real die-off between the two sites and/or due to a delay in the bacteria from close to the outfall being completely mixed into the water column at the sample point.
6. The LaMotte test kits reacted positively at all sites, showing the presence of coliform bacteria at all sites but not indicating differences in abundance between sites and samples.



Figure 4. LaMotte coliform test kits: just after sampling and two days later

3. Samples taken on 10th July (low flow)

The 10th of July samples followed a long period of dry weather and river flows were very low. Only treated effluent was being discharged from Ashlands. The conditions were therefore substantially different from those on 13th June providing an excellent opportunity to compare bacterial populations in both high and low flows. Again both TC and *E.coli* concentrations were monitored, but only *E.coli* data are shown on the map (figure 3). The sampling strategy was very similar to that of the 10th June except two additional samples were taken to assess the impact of re-suspending sediment from the river bed on coliform numbers (see objective 5, above).

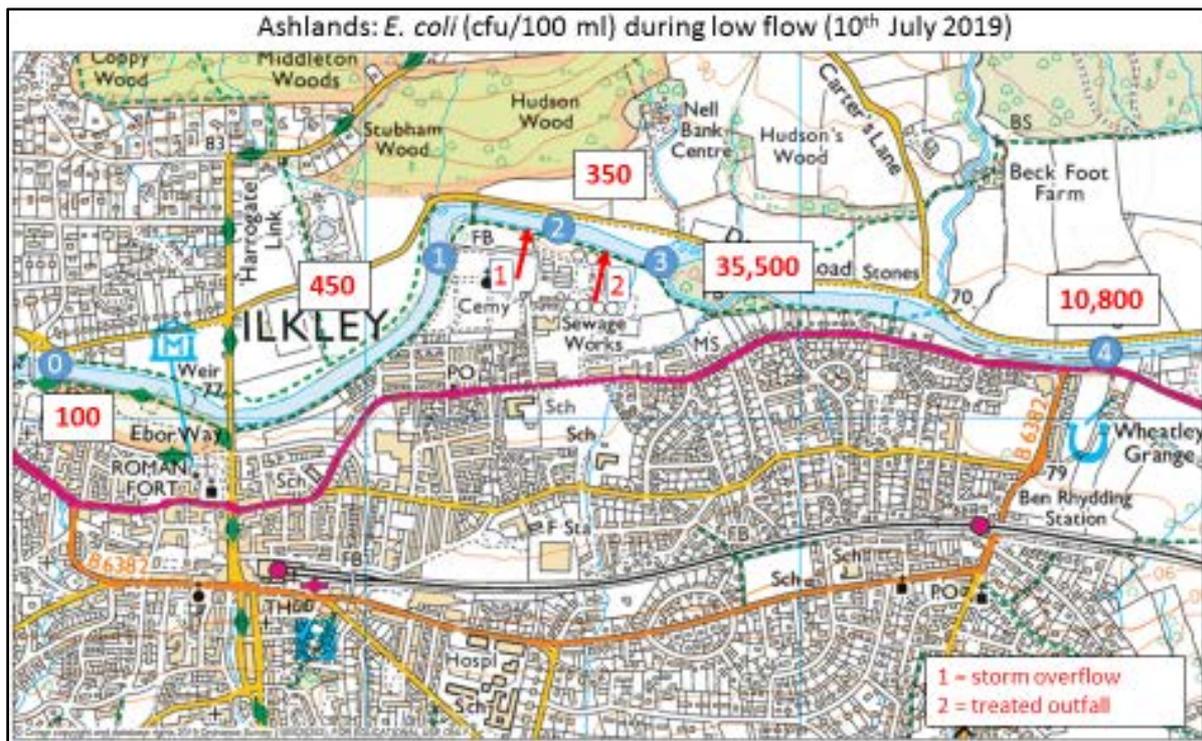


Figure 3. *E. coli* data for sampling sites upstream and downstream of Ashlands on 10th July^h 2019

Key points are:

1. The values upstream of Ashlands at sites 0 and 1 are low and within the *E.coli* limits for Bathing Waters. These values concur with those found on the 29th April in equally low flow conditions, and indicate that the risk to the public using the beach and the river for recreational purposes upstream of the outfall in these conditions is low.

2. Values are equally low at site 2 downstream of the storm overflow. This shows the absence of any stormwater spilling into the river above this sample point and also indicates that the river, at these flows, is not resuspending and entraining bacteria-rich sediments from the bed of the river, although such sediments derived from previous storm overflow events occur at this point.
3. The additional samples taken at sites 2 and 3 after the river bed was disturbed by trampling (to simulate the action of someone paddling in the water) showed no significant difference in *E.coli* concentration from the undisturbed samples indicating that this form of recreation is unlikely to increase exposure to coliform bacteria.
4. At site 3 concentrations are very high, the same order of magnitude as for high flow conditions on the 13th June. It is clear that these values reflect the high concentrations being discharged from the treated effluent outfall and their relative lack of dilution by the river flow.
5. The Denton Bridge values are much lower than upstream values below the outfall but very much higher than upstream at sites 0, 1 and 2. The three-fold reduction in values is similar to the reduction between sites 3 and 4 in high flows (Figure 2) indicating the need to assess concentrations with distance downstream.
6. As for the high flow samples above the LaMotte test kits reacted positively at all sites but did not indicate any difference between sites and samples.

Conclusions

Although the project has only been running for three months some very clear patterns are emerging. Some of the initial questions outlined above have been answered. Other results point to the need to redefine some of our objectives. Conclusions at this early stage are as follows:

- The field and laboratory methods adopted appear robust. Samples taken from the bankside or from bridge parapets give similar values, primary and duplicate samples generate comparable results. A blank sample included in the trial survey was shown to contain no coliform bacteria;
- Sites 0 and 1 show very similar results at both high and low flows suggesting that one of those sites is now unnecessary;
- As there is a strong (but not perfect) relationship between TC concentrations and *E. coli* concentrations in both high and low flow conditions it is unnecessary to continue to monitor both populations. *E.coli* is more closely related to human sources of bacteria and is one of the measures used in determining Bathing Water status, so this is the measure that should be continued, see below;
- The “trample samples” showed no enhancement in numbers. However, **there is a large patch of organic-rich sediment on the river bed close to the storm-water outfall. This sediment is likely to be re-suspended in high flows and carried downstream.** Samples should be analysed and the extent of the patch mapped at some point in the future;
- The main source of coliforms downstream is the treated effluent not the occasional storm spills. There is therefore less need to continue sampling at Denton Bridge at the same time as the EA as this exercise was designed to assess whether spills could be detected using BOD and ammonia as well as to explore the relationship between coliform concentration and river discharge. We can see now that that these potential relationships are confounded by the continuous discharge of bacteria from the treated outfall;
- **The observation that the treated effluent has a very high *E. coli* concentration indicates that contamination downstream will always be high and not just related to spill frequency.** This also indicates that there is less need to capture the impact of multiple spills at different flow regimes

as described in objective 4 above. It is important, however, to capture the impact of at least one overflow event occurring at low flows;

- Coliform concentrations decrease downstream quite rapidly in both high and low flow conditions, indicating the **need to understand the rate of downstream die-off**. For example, how low do the numbers become before the next injection of coliforms at Ben Rydding and beyond? What is the threat from Ashlands to the general public downstream in Burley and Otley?
- **The finding that the treated effluent outfall is the major source of coliforms shows that there is a threat to the public at all times at the Beanlands site and elsewhere below the outfall. The threat is not just related to the intermittent spills from the storm overflow, it is a continuous threat. A warning to the public at this point on the river is necessary;**
- High values of coliforms in the treated outflow also point to an additional weakness in the functioning of Ashlands that has not hitherto been discussed. Could measures be introduced to disinfect the treated effluent e.g. by U-V light?
- The relatively low concentrations upstream of Ashlands in dry weather suggests **there is some merit in pursuing bathing water status for the main recreational area upstream of the Iron Bridge**. As such it would make sense not only to continue monitoring *E. coli* populations but to add a protocol for measuring enterococcal bacteria as required by the Bathing Water Directive;
- Given more data on both *E. coli* and Enterococci in relation to river flow over coming months it may be possible to provide the public with some reassurance about the safety of using the river e.g. under specified low flow conditions;
- **The relatively high concentrations of TC and *E. coli* in high flow conditions give greater cause for concern posing serious questions about the upstream sources of coliforms**. But arguably if such sources could be identified and controlled then acquiring Bathing Water status in future might just be conceivable;
- If this remains an objective it will be necessary to examine all potential sources of coliforms upstream starting with the small sewage treatment works that serve communities like Grassington and Kettlewell;
- Farm animals may also be an important source of coliform bacteria. Controlling the access of farm animals to water-courses is already a key EA objective in attempts to reduce diffuse nutrient pollution. Such land management would also have benefits in reducing contamination by bacteria;
- The LaMotte kits indicate the presence of coliform bacteria but have little value for this kind of study where accurate values for bacterial abundance are more important than presence/absence.

Recommendations

This is a good time to review progress being made in the project to assess the extent to which the present schedule of monitoring needs to be modified and the extent to which some resources need to be re-directed and/or additional funding sought based on the data so far. Recommendations are:

- **As a priority to sample at least once more at the sites described above for *E. coli* to capture the impact of a spill on the river when flow is low;**
- To discontinue routine co-sampling at Denton Bridge with the EA;
- To discontinue monitoring for TC concentrations but retain *E. coli* monitoring as there is a relatively close relationship between TC and *E. coli* and *E. coli* measurements are more informative;
- To discontinue monitoring at the Old Bridge (site 0) as values there are very similar to those at the Lido (site 1);
- To discontinue using the LaMotte kits;

- **If resources allow to start monitoring for *Enterococcus* spp. as well as *E. coli* following the protocol for the EU Bathing Water Directive across a range of flow conditions. This would enable a relationship between bacterial contamination and river flow to be established potentially allowing days when conditions were safe for swimming to be predicted;**
- **To design and cost a project to enable upstream sources of coliform bacteria to be established.** If additional funding could be obtained this could include co-sampling for diatoms, invertebrates and nutrient chemistry. A pilot project could be designed to compare *E. coli* concentrations upstream and downstream of one selected sewage works and upstream and downstream of one selected stream inflow;
- **To sample river water downstream for *E. coli* and Enterococci as far as Otley to establish the potential impact of Ashlands WWTP coliforms on local communities down the river;**
- **To advise Ilkley Town Council to warn the public that river water downstream of the Iron Bridge is unsafe in all flow conditions;**
- **To ask Yorkshire Water whether measures can be taken to disinfect their treated effluent at Ashlands.**

Acknowledgements

With thanks to all our volunteers especially Steve Fairbourn, Steve Cheetham and Karen Shackleton, and to our funders, Ilkley Town Council especially Mark Stidworthy, The Wharfedale Naturalists Society especially Peter Riley and the Rivers Trust especially Michelle Walker and Alistair Maltby. Valuable discussions have been had with members of the Ilkley Clean River Group especially Karen Shackleton, Becky Malby, Kathleen Roberts and Steve Fairbourn, with members of the Yorkshire Dales River Trust, especially Chris Ryder and Charlotte Simons, with ALS Ltd especially Alex Beasley, with the EA, especially Martin Christmas, Josh Tinsley and Ian Armitage, with Yorkshire Water especially Emily Brady, Chris Page and Jason Aldred. The support of John Grogan MP is also much appreciated.

Appendix 2: Citizen Water Testing Update August 2019

Assessing the impact of Ashlands Waste Water Treatment Plant on the microbiological quality of the River Wharfe in Ilkley, West Yorkshire

An update, August 2019

Rick Battarbee

Ilkley Clean River Group, Addingham Environment Group and UCL

Results from samples taken on 7th August 2019

Following one of the principal recommendations in our July report, on 7th August we sampled for *E. coli* and Enterococci from upstream of Ashlands STW down to Burley Weir to assess how concentrations varied downstream.

We were especially interested in how rapidly bacteria died off downstream from Ashlands, the extent to which treated effluent from the Ben Rhydding STW injected additional faecal coliforms and whether faecal coliform concentrations at the Burley Weir bathing site were due to Ashlands STW, Ben Rhydding STW or both.

Flow conditions on the day could be described as moderate. There had been heavy rain and, we think, a stormwater overflow had occurred the day before. However, stormwater overflow was not occurring at the time of sampling.

The data for *E. coli* are shown on the map. Data for Enterococci are not shown but are available.

Their pattern of abundance does not differ substantially from that of *E. coli*.

Data for sites 1,2, 3 and 4 are based on a single sample, whereas those for new sites 5, 6 and 7 are based on two samples. The values shown for these sites are the mean of the two. Key points are:

1. The *E.coli* concentration upstream of Ashlands (site 1) exceeds the Bathing Water threshold of 900 cfu/100 ml, but is nevertheless relatively low;
2. Site 2 is downstream of the stormwater overflow pipe. The concentration is also quite low reflecting the lack of overflow at the time of sampling;
3. The treated effluent outfall occurs between sites 2 and 3. The concentration of *E.coli* in the effluent at 390,000 cfu/100 ml is high;
4. The concentration immediately downstream at Beanlands Island (site 3) is high at 48,000 cfu/100 ml, indicating approximately an eight times dilution of the effluent by the river water;
5. By Denton Bridge (site 4) concentrations have decreased quite markedly and numbers are further reduced at the site just upstream of the Ben Rhydding inflow (site 5). These data indicate a fairly rapid die off of *E.coli* downstream from Ashlands;
6. As expected there is a very significant injection of further *E. coli* by the Ben Rhydding STW (140,000 cfu/100 ml);
7. Site 6, just downstream of the outfall, has a very high concentration reflecting the influence of the outfall. The concentration is somewhat higher than might be expected probably because the effluent had not fully mixed with river water at the sampling point;
8. Site 7, at Burley Weir, however, is also high. It is sufficiently distant from the Ben Rhydding inflow for complete mixing to have occurred in the river water column. The samples were taken from the stepping stones at the mid-flow point so the concentration here can be confidently assumed to reflect the condition of the river at the time of sampling.

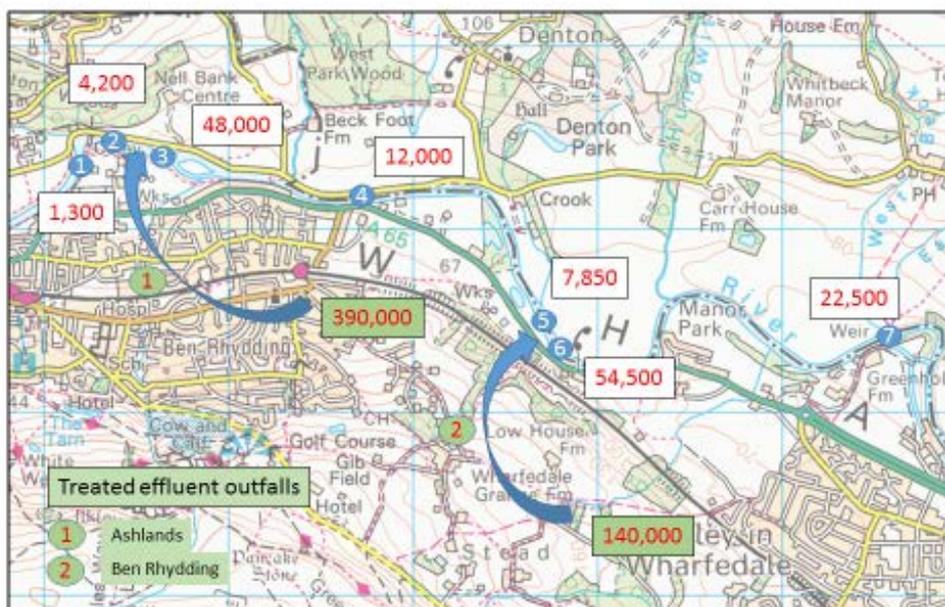
Conclusions

It is clear from these results that coliform bacterial concentrations in the Wharfe between Ilkley and Burley are dominated by inputs from the treated effluent from both the Ashlands and Ben Rhydding STWs. Coliforms from untreated sewage from Ashlands adds significantly to these concentrations

when storm overflows occur. Likewise there will be additional inputs from the Ben Rhydding storm overflow but so far we have no data for storm overflows from the Ben Rhydding STW. Because of the relatively rapid die off of coliforms in the river the illnesses reported from citizens using the river in Burley for bathing are most likely to be derived from the Ben Rhydding STW effluent rather than Ashlands.

- Site 1: Ashlands STW
- Site 2: Upstream of the STW Treated Outflow
- Site 3: Beanlands Island, downstream of the STW outflow
- Site 4: Denton Bridge
- Site 5: Ben Rhydding STW
- Site 6: Downstream of Ben Rhydding outflow
- Site 7: Burley Wier

Ashlands and Ben Rhydding: *E. coli* (cfu/100 ml) on 7th August 2019 (medium flow, no storm overflow)



Appendix 3: Citizen Water Testing: Assessing the source of E.Coli in the River Wharfe at Ilkley.

Assessing the source of *E. coli* populations in the River Wharfe upstream of Ilkley: samples from Monday 7th October

Ilkley Clean River Group

This report is an update on the citizen water testing funded by Ilkley Town Council.

Given our earlier observation from June 13th 2019 that the river in Ilkley at the Old Bridge site contained high numbers of *E. coli* in high flow conditions the focus of our work in the Wharfe is now on the identification of potential contamination sources upstream.

Although concentrations of *E. coli* downstream of Ashlands as far as Burley are dominated by inputs from the sewered population of Ilkley and Ben Rhydding the sources of faecal coliforms upstream are less clear. The upstream human population is relatively small in relation to the area of agricultural land. It is thereby possible that *E. coli* numbers in the Wharfe in Ilkley are coming not only from sewage works or CSOs serving village communities but also from livestock.

Consequently starting at Bolton Bridge we collected samples at points upstream and downstream of all the main WwTW outflows (Draughton, Beamsley and Addingham) that discharge either directly or via a receiving beck to the main river as well as from sites on a number of tributaries draining agricultural catchments at their point of inflow. These included Hambleton Beck, Kex Beck, Wine Beck, Town Beck and Lumb Beck.

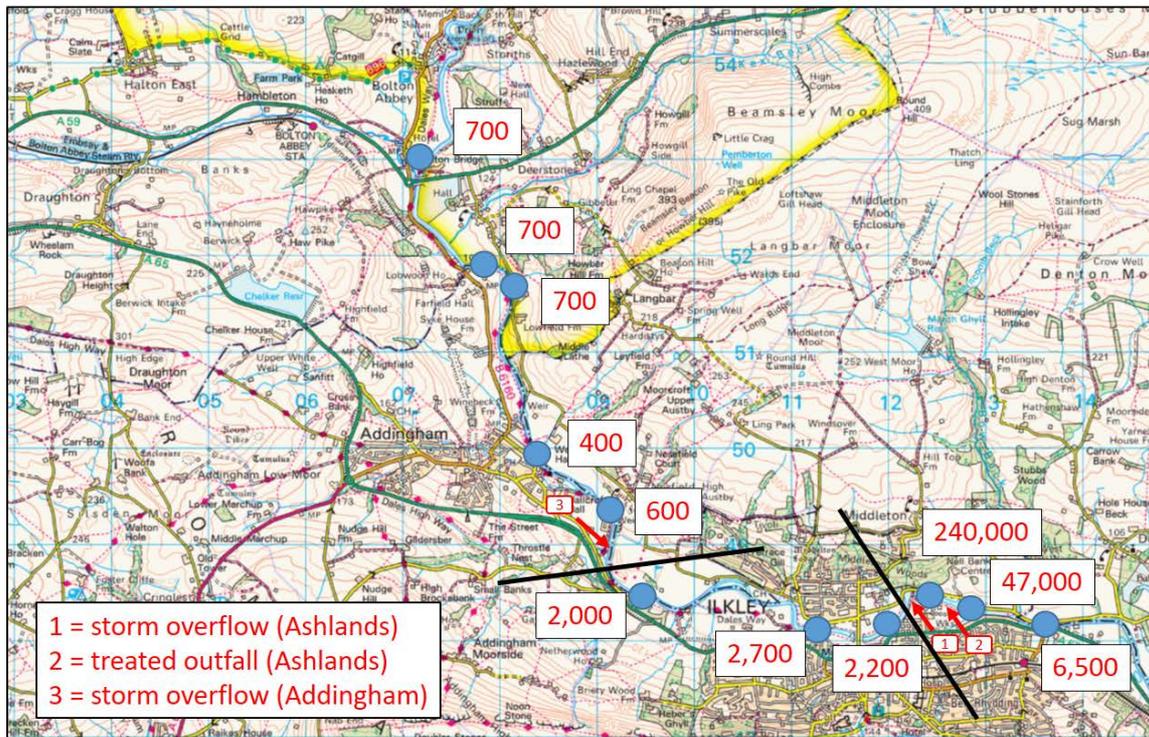
The map shown here only includes data for the main river. Data from the tributaries will be added later.

Despite the relatively high riverflow and despite receiving coliform-rich inflows from Hambleton Beck, Kex Beck, the Beamsley WwTW, Wine Beck and Town Beck, the data show that the concentrations of *E.coli* from Bolton Bridge down to the Low Mill Weir in Addingham on that day were consistently not more than 700 cfu/100 ml. The higher coliform concentrations in the tributary becks are not registered by the main river owing to their dilution by the very much greater discharge volumes in the river.

A significant increase in concentration to ca. 2000 cfu/ml occurs between Addingham and Ilkley. The sample showing the step increase in concentration in the river was taken downstream of the old mill race from Addingham Low Mill and downstream of the inflow from Lumb Beck. The Lumb Beck inflow contained 2300 cfu/100 ml. However, given the dilution effect of the main river the Lumb Beck inflow cannot account for the step change in concentration at this site. Although we did not inspect the outfall from the Addingham Pumping Station the data suggest that overflow from the storm tanks that discharge into the old mill race was the cause of the elevated concentrations in the river.

Additional sampling at different flow conditions is now needed between Addingham and Ilkley to confirm this inference.

Concentrations around the Ashlands WwTW are high as expected. The very high value of 240,000 cfu/100 ml shown on the map relate to the spill from the storm overflow tanks that was occurring at the time of sampling.



Concentration of *E. coli* (cfu/100 ml) in the River Wharfe, 7th October 2019

In summary and with respect to concerns about conditions for bathing in Ilkley upstream of the Iron Bridge it appears: (i) we do not need to look further upstream than Addingham for sources of *E. coli*; and (ii) the dominant sources of *E. coli* arriving in Ilkley are more likely to be from people, via the sewerage system, than from livestock. These observations also point to the need to know much more about the history of the Addingham Pumping Station and its capacity and performance.

This report is written on behalf of the Ilkley Clean River Group by Prof Rick Battarbee.

Prof Battarbee is also a member of the Addingham Environment Group.

Appendix 4: Why do residents in Ilkley want a river fit to paddle play and swim in? Full responses.

It is a beautiful part of the country and we all pay council tax and water rates including proper sewerage treatment not just disposing it in the nearby river when it rains (we could do that for free !) it is harmful to wildlife , children and adults and prevents healthy activities
The river should be clean and for anyone to paddle in.

There is no reason why it is acceptable to pump sewage into any river!
Because it is important to clean the river for the environment. Plus also I loved playing there when I was younger and I would love for the younger generation to do the same.

There are already public swimming pools so it's not the only option for swimming but public spaces shouldn't be polluted excessively.
Swimming in the river is a fun, easy, free way for children to exercise and play in the outdoors.

We have two young daughters who always ask to paddle in the water but with the current condition we have to say no. Ilkley is a beautiful town with the river as a visitor highlight. It's unacceptable that it is allowed to have sewage dumped into in this way. There are always lots of children and dogs swimming and paddling and so is a health hazard.
On warm days it is wonderful to be as a family and swim and paddle in the river in Ilkley. As an adult swimming in the river is a joy. It should be safe to do so

I enjoy wild swimming

Not just so we can enjoy the river safely but also to ensure the ecology of the river is as healthy as it can be and supports a greater diversity of species. It's also not acceptable that the water companies are not properly managing waste given we are their customers and are paying for a good service.

Contaminated water is a risk to health

Important place for all to experience the outdoors, good for mental and physical health

We have a fantastic stretch of river, it's a beautiful area, it would be good to know the water was safe and clean. No-one wants to gamble with their health by entering a polluted river. Children should be able to enjoy the local countryside without it being a health hazard.

So unsanitary to have sewage in the river. The river is used by so many people and should be an attraction for the town.

My daughter, along with lots of other children, paddles and fishes in the river in summer so of course I want it to be clean and not to have raw sewage in it.

Such a long way from the sea, river offers the only opportunity

Because I and others would like to swim in the river. Also this would mean cleaner water for children playing in the river. Hopefully better for wildlife too.

Children regularly play in the water & dogs swim in it. We should be keeping our river water clean for the wildlife regardless.

Bathing areas bring so many people that bring a ridiculous amount of rubbish with them. This needs rectifying urgently to protect the wildlife.

It's a free activity, out in nature, making the best of our surroundings.

Clean water is essential

Sewage being disposed of in river is never good. Impacts the community and people coming into the town. I also go in the river, as does my dog!!

It's unacceptable and unhygienic for the water to be contaminated with raw sewage- especially as area is known as a bathing / paddling location.

Me and my children and loads of others love playing and swimming in the river
Yorkshire Water should NOT be pumping waste into the river!
Because raw pumping human waste into any river is disgusting, never mind one with paddlers and swimmers in it.
children will go into water in all innocence and it is up to us to make it safe
So that my children can enjoy the river on a warm day
Because my boys love being outdoors and in the water.
We are in need of clean rivers for all our healths and wellbeing's. This day and age there is no need for human waste to be poured in to rivers. It affect not only humans but our animals as well.
We pay enough to the water company's and councils to allow this to happen. It's them who are not passing it on to the front line.
The town attracts both residents and tourists to the river. A safe, clean river protects human, animal and plant life.
I've grown up around the river wharfe my whole life , you can't always go the seaside and the river is a great place to relax and grow up ! Why would anyone want it to be dirty !
The river is a massive attraction tourism in Ilkley but fundamentally a large reason why many choose to live in Ilkley. It should be a protected asset
So many people travel to Ilkley to play by the river (and in the river!) not to mention we're a spa town!! And there should not be human poo and sewage pumped in to it, come on?!?!
Rivers are for fish, we should remain on dry land.
People should experience swimming and paddling in a natural environment. The river attracts many visitors.

I grew up paddling and swimming in the river and I feel very sad that my children are not able to do the same.

The future and well being of our children and children's children

Safer for children and pets who use the river And improves the water quality further down the river

Clean water should be the standard for all our water ways

It's a great place to hangout and cool down with Freinds when you have no money

I see people including young children playing and swimming in the river all the time. It's terrible to think that they're in sewage pollution.

I have many happy memories of playing in this river as a child, and wish others to have the same opportunity.

We live in a beautiful part of Yorkshire and naturally people believe that the river is as natural as the countryside - to great detriment. My niece was severely ill from playing in the river.....and that was seven years ago.

the river is a free resource for children to learn and play and make the most of their community. if we don't keep these areas clean and care for them, how are these children going to learn to care for our environment into the future?

To promote healthy, outdoors lifestyles

Because people are currently doing that and it's absolutely disgusting and a health issue that the river is not clean

So that current and future generations can enjoy the pleasure I had when I was a child, playing in the river.

It's important that families can make use of our wonderful river that is an important part of ilkley
It's shocking that the natural environment of the Wharfe in Ilkley has been overlooked until now -
it is important that there is clean water in the river that can be used as an amenity by different users.

It's unacceptable to have raw sewage overflowing into a river known for its beauty and attraction of bathers

It cleans up the river for fly fishing

it needs to be safe and clean for all to use

We often swim in the Wharfe and our family all swim have done so for decades so it's cleanliness is crucial

The river is already used as a bathing area and needs to be of that standard

Lots of people visit the river.

Because clean water better than dirty water I think

I've loved the river in Ilkley since I was a kid but unfortunately I get found it to be full of broken glass bottles recently

Clean water is a basic right

Sewage/effluent shouldn't be pumped into the river unless it meets EU clean water standards as an absolute minimum!

It's a simple fact that people DO bathe and paddle, especially at Burley and may not be aware of the dangerous water pollution caused by sewage from Ilkley.

A place for families to spend the day and let children paddle and play safe.

During the summer months there are so many families who enjoy the river and lots of anglers, dogs and firefighters who use it recreationally and for training purposes.

Environmental purposes

I don't want to swim, paddle or play in it, but I think the wildlife that lives in the river deserves a clean habitat

The river wharfe in Ilkley is a popular bathing spot but is blighted by poor water quality

The river is the key natural feature of the town's beauty. As such it should be a key amenity.

Ilkley is a tourist town and the river should be safe for children and animals to paddle in

My family and I visit often and the thought of them paddling in poo makes me feel sick and make make them actually ill!!!

I live in Ilkley, and there are many visitors to Ilkley. We need to encourage outdoor pursuits, especially for younger children in society. This would do just that.

Because I walk my dog along the river most days and my children play frequently along the banks. Due to the pollution levels, I no longer allow my children to paddle or swim in the river. I would love to be able to allow them to enjoy it again.

I think we should be able to enjoy nature without having to worry about there being sewage in the water. It should be a given.

So many children get a great deal of joy from playing in the river- a natural source of fun! It must be clean and safe!

Because I believe this river should be made safe as lots of folk go in and could be potentially making themselves ill

It's a great asset of the town and bathing in the river and water around the town has been recognised as good for health and wholeness for generations.

Children have enjoyed playing in the river for years and they shouldn't be at risk of becoming poorly for enjoying themselves

I grew up playing in our river as did our sons, and I would like to be able to wild swim in it again.

It would be beneficial for local children and ensure the safety of residents.

So important for relaxation health and well being.

It is a beautiful place and it is reasonable to expect to be able to use the river safely.

If people are being made ill it needs sorting asap.

It would benefit everyone especially local wildlife who rely on the river .

I, my husband, and our 3 children while they were growing up here swam in the river every summer (though further upstream as we thought it was cleaner) and I would like to think that future generations of Ilkley children will be able to continue to use this wonderful natural facility. Because I used to swim in the river and because it is of fundamental importance to Ilkley as a tourist resort.

Because we are a Spa Town with beaches and lots of visitors. Primary reason is, it's unacceptable to pump human excrement into our river!

It is used as a bathing area already.

If it's clean enough for human leisure activities, then it will also be clean enough to support the natural ecosystem in and around the river.

The river should be clean and suitable for safe bathing.

I would like to wild swim in clean water.

Clean water gives everyone a chance to enjoy the river and surrounding countryside. Dirty water doesn't.

It's our natural resource we own it!

Swimming is free fun and exercise and should be healthy and available to do safely.

We chose our house, on the river bank, so that we could enjoy paddling, swimming and playing in it!

My children love to go and skim stones and currently it stinks of poo and feels dangerous to allow them to play there.

I think it would be a lovely place to swim and would create a nice environment for families to enjoy by being in nature.

I like to swim in the Wharfe at various points between Addingham and Otley. Also as a consideration to the wildlife in the river.

I love river swimming and the fantastic health benefits it has for wellbeing and physical fitness. I would love to introduce my children to the river but currently feel devastated about the lack of cleanliness of the accessible areas.

All of our rivers should be like that.

The river is integral to Ilkley and is one of the main attractions for very many visitors.

It will then also be better for wildlife and biodiversity.

Because the river is at the bottom of our garden and will flood into the garden, covering my fruit and veg that our family want to eat!

We took our children to play and paddle in the river and would love to be able to do the same with our grandchildren. Sadly due to the risk of infections from the raw sewage discharged into the river this isn't possible. In this time of public awareness about pollution and recycling to save the planet it is absolutely disgusting that Yorkshire Water allow this pollution to continue without any redress.

People have swum in these areas for a long time. Yorkshire Water make enough profit to be able to offer alternatives so sewage isn't dumped in our river, they should follow other water companies. The river should be a community resource; it is a lung for the people of the town and for visitors. Because it's an important wildlife habitat as well as a place many people enjoy paddling, swimming and spending time.

I have regularly kayaked on the Wharfe at various locations and currently enjoying wild swimming which would be great to do close to home on the Wharfe.

To promote good outdoor activities people which maintain a healthy lifestyle. Should be help our health.

We always have many visitors and locals as overflow from the Lido that detract to the river as a place to swim outdoors.

We need clean rivers for wildlife let alone ourselves

Because it's our river and my kids love swimming in it. It's a community thing.

Because it's a great local asset and especially important to help promote activity and participation / exercise and enjoyment of the outdoors.

More people are using the river for liesure, and it is disgusting when the river banks are littered with sewage waste

Important for a safe place for children

For the wildlife and conservation of the river and so children and adults can paddle safely the river is a wonderful, free chance for locals, visitors and families to spend time outside. the wildlife is fragile and once it is lost its impossible to get back.

I used to swim in the Wharfe & I want my grand kids to able to do it too.

The river should be clean to enable it to sustain life and fauna.

Great resource for the community

Isn't it obvious? Who would enjoy swimming in raw sewage?! It's a potential health hazard, and smelly.

The pollution to the river is unacceptable in this era. There are actions that can improve water quality and we need to implement them

The river is used extensively, especially when the weather is good and for people to be in the river with poor quality and the risks that that may bring is not acceptable.

Dogs and people swim in it. Our dog swims there every day.

My young children enjoy playing in and by the river

I am in the park most days running, see the plumes of sewage released, smell the discharge. Then see kids in it on sunny days. Parks are supposed to be places of beauty and escapism, not pollution hotspots.

For the future of the town

Many residents and visitors enjoy swimming and paddling in the river.

I would like to swim there

I have a baby and toddler and live opposite the park, and my eldest girl loves to paddle. It's such a shame to live so close and be uncertain about the safety of letting her do this. Also feel passionate about impact of pollution on local wildlife.

To encourage biodiversity within the wharfe. To protect our planet. To make it a safe environment for people to use for their leisure.

So people can paddle in the river without gettj g sick, dogs dont get sick, wildlife is not sdversely affected.

The river should be clean

I live here, my children play here and I want it to be safe and clean for everyone visiting or living here!

Because I swim in the river and so do my family and friends. It's horrible that there is sewage being discharged into our waterway.

As a family we enjoy wild swimming and would like to paddle and bathe in it

Because the river is dangerous and not a playground. People should not be in it, however from an environment perspective it would be a good thing.

Rivers should be clean. They should be a safe source of pleasure and a safe habitat for all creatures.

The river is an important local amenity for visitors and residents, of course it should be clean and safe!

It's important for the health and wellbeing of the community

My family would like to be able to paddle in our local river.

Rivers need to be clean, free from pollution and sewage. Detrimental to wildlife and humans if not clean.

i like to swim in the river

It should be safe for children to play and will promote tourism in our area

It's an important natural resource

For the health of anyone playing there

The river at Ilkley is visited by vast numbers of people throughout the year who bathe and paddle in it. The disgraceful pollution is a risk they are unaware of and presents a real health risk.

The river is used regularly by people and dogs and should therefore be clean to a minimum standard, definitely no sewage. If we want people to be healthy both physically and mentally they should have access to a clean river.

We live in a beautiful area, and believe we should be able children should be able to use the river with out any risk to their health.

Outrageous that raw sewage is discharged into a river by a water company who is making significant profit before investing in new solutions

I swim in the river.

The river brings much needed tourism to Ilkley, families picnic and children paddle in the water, it needs cleaning up urgently.

Clean bathing will encourage more visitors who bring their own problem, litter, anti social behaviour, parking

All waterways should be clean enough to swim in

The river Wharfe has been used for swimming for generations. It is part of the appeal of the area and most users assume that the water is clean. It's disgusting that the river is used as an open sewer to cut costs for the water companies

The river runs right through town and is very easy to access and the perfect geography for sitting next to, playing in, paddling and bathing

The river should be a beautiful natural playground and the sewage works should be a sewage works. The two things are completely separate things and it is incomprehensible that the river should be contaminated by raw sewage. Wild swimming is one of the greatest pleasures and this stretch of river is ideally suited for it, would be of the water we're safe to swim in. The shallow stretch with a natural beach by the main bridge is an ideal location for young children to paddle and play in-or again would be if the water were of a suitable standard.

Locals and visitors alike are not aware of the current state of the river and get ill after swimming in it

All water should be clean and accessible, especially so in a beautiful area like Ilkley, where there is the possibility for people to enjoy the outdoors easily. People come here to enjoy the countryside and that includes the river, Also we need to maintain the ecological balance of the environment for the good of all, raw sewerage poured into a river decimated the natural habitat, destroys the ecosystem and makes it unsafe for us as humans.

It just makes sense to have water that is clean enough to paddle and play in. Anything less than that is not acceptable.

So that we can use the river safely.

It's a beauty spot for people, families and children to enjoy near their homes, to not be able to experience this safely is sad

Children, young people use the water recreationally. It must be safe for their use

Regularly used by humans and dogs so needs to be safe and fit for purpose.

So people (children in particular) can paddle safely.

A clean river supports wildlife as well as human life

It's important to be as close to nature and enjoy the natural environment as much as possible. So little creative enjoyment can be found for free

Sewage should not be pumped into the River in the 21st century. Swimming in clean open water provides fantastic tourism for the town whilst visitors enjoy memorable days out for all the family.

The river is one of our amazing natural sources- people have swam in it for thousands of years.

Our river is one of Ilkley's attractions. Residents and visitors should be able to swim and play in the river without fear of getting ill.

The Wharfe could be a wonderful asset to residents and visitors. It's visual beauty should be matched by the quality of the water; important for people and wildlife.

The triple bottom line -It would improve quality of life for local residents- economic returns due to repeat visitors and the environment

The river should be clean for humans and animals alike.

Raw sewage going into the river where people are paddling and swimming is not healthy or acceptable.

Important family resource

It should be clean.

Children play in the river regularly. I am appalled at what I see being pumped into it. It is immoral and I cannot believe it is not illegal

I swam in the river as a child, over 50 years ago. It should be safe for all children now. Many people cannot afford holidays and it should be possible for everyone to enjoy a day out by the river.

I love being in the water. Paddling or swimming I spent many days in my youth swimming in the river

This can be the first of many on the wharfe

All waterways where people bathe should be clean enough to do so safely

Currently I don't even let my dog play in the river as it is ridden with sewage. Many visitors come to town and let their children swim in the river clearly unaware of the risks.

It's a beautiful natural resource we are lucky enough to live close to for enjoying both during leisure and as an environmental issue and it needs to be protected for both these reasons for the benefit of local people and visitors to enjoy now and for future generations.

It is important for health and for the environment that the river is clean. In the 21st century it is not acceptable that sewage should be allowed to pollute a river.

My children love to play, paddle down in the river by the swing Park.

As a Childminder who lives in Ilkley it is important to have somewhere safe and clean to take the children to play. As a parent it's important for my children to be able to enjoy our home town including the river.

I live next to the river, my dog swims in it, I would love to swim in it and it's a vital attraction for the local economy

Young children regularly play in water

Ilkley needs clean bathing water.

Just attracts jobs

The river is a community asset in the heart of the town; it is appalling that it is currently polluted by raw sewage for no technical reason.

I have Grandchildren

The river isn't fit if you can't paddle, play and swim in it

We swim and kayak in Ilkley a lot, it's free, beautiful and good for us and the kids

My children and I have swum/paddled in the river and would like to do so in future

Lots of people swim and use the river

We are a long way from the sea and in summer lots of children and young adults swim and paddle in the river already - it is very concerning that they are sometimes in raw sewage.

The river in Ilkley is used frequently for swimming and bathing

Ilkley is a popular town for people on holiday; from faraway and also local cities. The river is a popular attraction for families and it should be safe for paddling and swimming.

It is shocking that there is still raw sewage - or any sewage - being put into rivers these days. We want a cleaner environment, we want people to spend more time outdoors for both their physical and mental wellbeing, we want wildlife to prosper, so why, in this century, are we still putting raw sewage into a river. In addition, I have lived in the town for over 50 years and seen it grow in size with the council permitting significant housing, shopping and office developments without paying any attention to the infrastructure needs. This needs to be addressed.

Health and amenity issue but also potential threat to wildlife

I have children who wish to enjoy the river but I do not want them playing there at the moment

I want to be able to enjoy paddling in clean water and see wildlife that thrives in clean water.

Pollution by sewage into this water space prevents us from enjoying this water spot

My dog plays in the river and so many kids and adults too. Downside would be an increased invasion of people on every hot day.

Families should be able to enjoy the outdoors and it should be clean for wildlife too

Because the river is a resource for everybody.

Ilkley is a tourist town with many visitors coming to town, particularly on hot days. The river area is extremely popular for boating, swimming and paddling. The river has a number of beaches where people can do this. Ilkley is a hugely popular tourist destination.

Children play in the river and dogs go in it too. Environmentally I think it is totally unacceptable for raw sewage to be emptied into any water course

It is a right of people to have access to clean rivers. It is no longer a right of water companies to continue to add pollutants above safe levels to river water

Ilkley is a tourist town with many visitors and the river should be clean and safe for both residents and visitors alike.

The river is a vital leisure asset for the people of Ilkley and its visitors.

Because it a natural river and despite all the best efforts there will be a level of risk associated with swimming in a river

It is a natural beauty spot that should be accessible to the local community and safe to use. It is not a toilet!

Ilkley is a beautiful tourist and residential area and it's river is a key attraction, particularly for a historic spa town

We all live with this water around us

I have a child that likes to paddle which I have recently stopped due to awareness. Also good for the town from tourism & environment.or from old bridge all the way to swing bri

How can you not support.

Rivers should be clean not just for swimming but to encourage biodiversity too.

The smell from the sewage stops us wanting to walk by the river. We also keep the dogs away from the water & beaches because it is so dirty.

Have two young boys who love the beach

Important to support these outdoor leisure activities that can be accessed by families especially in these times of obesity and isolation.

It's important that we local areas of beauty are not avoidably contaminated with waste. We have such a great natural resource that should be safely accessible to locals and tourists (and their dogs!).

Myself and my family would be able to use it

Would be nice to have somewhere local with clean water for adults and children to swim in
The river should be clean as a matter of 'civilisation' and for the protection of wildlife, but I don't think that the river should be a place to swim. There are dangerous currents. Wasn't the Lido built to deter river bathing after some drownings?

Obvious reasons

My children and now my grandchild have all loved playing in the water at Ilkley, particularly the area at the back of the cemetery and down to Beanlands Island.

The river is a vital part of the town and is used by residents and visitors alike of all ages
Ilkley is a local beauty spot of which the river lays a big part. As well as being appreciated by locals who pay a premium to live in such a beautiful place, the river attracts many tourists from UK and overseas who bring a lot of money to the town. The rivers decline will lead directly to a decline of the health and wealth of the town. Once lost this is irrecoverable and irreversible. Clean water should not be a request, it is vital for all the wildlife that inhabits the riverside and should be treated and respected as such.

For wildlife and for people to swim

Ilkley riverside is a popular place for locals and visitors to play in the water. This should be safe to do.

That's just the way it should be in this day and age.

I love outdoor swimming and the physical and mental benefits I get from it.

So my grandchildren can use the river safely

I have regularly swam in the river in Ilkley and further down stream without any incident. That said I do support plans to improve this further

There's nothing more natural than swimming in your local river, but in Ilkley I don't even let my dog go in due to the awful quality of the water.

Health and safety issue for all using the river.

In this day and age a river connected so closely to a town, and that is one of the main attractions to it, should not be polluted at all regardless of how people enjoy it.

So we can swim in it safely

Nature & especially water environments are hugely beneficial to people's physical, mental & emotional wellbeing. Being able to use this natural resource is a great step towards the population's health.

Because being able to swim & paddle in the river is part of Ilkley & why should we have dirty, polluted water running through the town

the river is very dangerous and people should stay out! it encourages people to hang around there and litter!!

Would like my child to be able to play outdoors like I did

Supports an active lifestyle esp for kids...

Ilkley is a festival town, it relies on tourists who come into town and visit the river. To have it anything other than bathing water status goes against what Ilkley is NOW.

To encourage safe bathing and promote recolonisation of fresh water fish.

It is a very popular spot for children and families to visit. Currently the river is not fit for children to paddle in

Vital it is clean (free of heavy metals, unhealthy chemicals and sewage). Needs to be clean for wildlife, people and the environment as a whole.

As a child we used to swim and play in the river every summer and I would like it to be safe to do so for my children.

Would be added attraction to living/working in Ilkley. Cold/wild water swimming gives documented health and mental well being benefits

The river is a major attraction that is already being used for all these activities. The water need to be clean.

Because the environment should not be polluted

Safety and good health for all those in the river.

Because I swim in it in the summer.

I do not want to use the river as it is. I will not allow my children to play in it,

Bring more visitors to Ilkley, better appearance for the town

2 reasons - because people do swim in it now - outrageous that we as a rich country discharge untreated/sufficiently treated sewage into rivers

using rivers as open sewers is plainly not acceptable

Because it's a natural thing

To keep people healthy and to support river life

it's an attraction for the ton. Would also better support wildlife

The river is a big draw for visitors

It is not acceptable with today's technology that raw waste is discharged anywhere, let alone a beautiful river that many people swim and bath in. It also stinks !

The river is used as a bathing area by adults and children. It should be safe from sewage.

It's disgusting to have raw sewage contaminating our river. People should be able to enter the water and know it is clean. There is no need these days to have this pollution. It is also terrible for the fishes and insects.

I have 3 young children and a dog who we regularly walk down by the river. It is a natural playground and one that should absolutely be clean enough to paddle in.

Local residents and visitors have enjoyed bathing and swimming in the river for many years, it's important for health wellbeing and the local economy.

I enjoy open water swimming and it would be great to feel safe swimming in the river.

The river is a focal point of the town and is visited throughout the year, but in summer people will use the water to paddle or swim in so need to be clean and safe

As a family we have enjoyed wild swimming across Europe. Wild Swimming ie accesses rivers, lakes and the sea is an important way for everyone to access the natural environment

So the local community can enjoy it

Rivers should be clean and it should be safe for all

Healthy fun

The thought of letting my children into water so polluted is abhorrent. Such is the case we drive out of town to do it - thus spending money elsewhere.

Ilkley is a popular tourist destination where many families come to visit and frequent its' beaches and bathe in the river

The river is already heavily used and the water status should be the best it can be.

Wild swimming is a fantastic thing to do. Good for the body and mind.

We have a right to safe waterways

I swim in the river down stream of Ilkley.

It is our right!

So many people (and we) swim in the river, and fear infections such as diarrhoea illnesses from the sewage overflows.

I have swum many times there as a child and hope to see it remain a popular stretch of river to visit.

Ilkley has a strong tradition of families and young people coming in summer to picnic and enjoy the river. Swimming in the Wharfe is an important part of local kids' childhoods. So there's a public health issue but also surely ALL rivers should be clean and free of sewage.

I have 2 children and a dog who all love the water. We also love looking for the wildlife in the area.

Because my children love to play in the river, their Gran's garden backs onto Beanlands, however we are unable to play there because of the pollution.

Water is the single thing scientists look for when searching for life on planets. If we continue to pollute and abuse our waterways we won't have anything left.

Because I swim in the river regularly

Daughter swimming in river weds Thursday this week. D&V Friday. Shown her pictures of sewage outflow. She can't understand how we can let this happen

In this day and age there's is no need for polluted water, we are not living in a third world country. Water companies need to invest in protecting people's health and well-being rather than focusing on profits.

iLife opposite riverside park and have a baby and toddler. Toddler loves to paddle and it's terrible we can't enjoy the river on our doorstep. Also think it's terribly irresponsible that so many kids swim in the river in summer months with parents having no clue about the situation.

Ilkley is a tourist town, particularly popular with City dwellers in Yorkshire, notably Leeds and Bradford, both with direct rail and transport links. Visitors come in summer and hot days to bathe in the Lido and in the River Wharfe.

I want to stop Yorkshire Water getting away with murder

We all need to be in or near water that is not polluted!

it will be much safer especially for people swimming in it who don't realise that it is polluted!

It is disgusting that Yorkshire Water has the ability to pollute our rivers as and when they desire and not just during a major storm event.

I want my grandchildren to be able to paddle in the river knowing it's safe and free from pollution.

Love to do wild swimming

Well it's not very nice (or healthy) paddling in sewage! The river beaches are lovely for children to play on so it would be nice if the water were clean as well.

It s disgusting that raw sewage is able to be discharged into the river.

Health and well being of people and aquatic plant and animal life.

I strongly oppose such leading questions.

Because my children and dog love it in the river and it would be helpful to not have raw sewage in it with them!

Because it is a shame that children miss out on this natural fun to enjoy our beautiful surroundings without getting ill. My son and about 10 f his friends suffered a 3 day diaphorrea illness last summer because of this.

Nice to have somewhere in the open when it is hot

It's healthy, it is not fair on our children to play in pollution, I do't want my dogs bringing sewage water into my home from having been in the river. It is so sad that the river is being polluted. It is a sign of failure and needs to be on the political agenda.

A clean river is a healthy one which means it supports fish and wildlife. Playing and swimming in the river is pleasurable and a river which isn't clean will cause disease.

Sewage should always be treated if we are to protect the public from disease.

Because I use the river and want myself and others to not be exposed to a health risk. I am also concerned about the affect on the eco system if the river

I swim regularly all year

The river is beautiful and we should be able to enjoy it in every way. Also, if it's good for us, it's good for the wildlife.

Children play in the river and should not be exposed to sewage

Because ilkley river is a popular place to spend the day with family paddling in the river so it ya essential for the water to be clean and pollution free

Because it's such a beautiful place to be and the river is such a tourist attraction

To stop children and animals swallowing the contaminated water

It is important that we don't draw polluted water from our rivers for consumption, leisure activities, crops and wildlife. Clean water is a very basic requirement for a healthy nation and a healthy countryside.

I would like to swim in the river

People should be able to use the river to cool down and enjoy the beaches when the lido is too busy or can't afford it.

We area spa town and people use the river for recreational purposes. Also, to protect wild life Keeping the young, old and everyone in between using open space and open water to combat obesity and diabetes.

Swimming and use of the river should be opposed due to strong currents.

Our rivers should be kept clean, not just for us to enjoy but for all the wildlife both in them and around them.

Creates a good environment for tourism

Because many locals and visitors use the river for bathing in the summer . My children regularly bathed in the river.

River not always the safest

Great part of the local area that should be able to be enjoyed without the threat of illness

We live in a beautiful area and I love swimming in the river and taking kids to paddle and play when it is safe in the summer. It is appalling to think we are swimming in raw sewage. My son was very ill after swimming in the river in Burley last summer.

Our rivers should not have waste in them and people should be able to go in the river without worrying about being ill.

This is a lovely area for children to play and swim, but they must not be exposed to the possibility of illness as a result.

Love to swim in the river but put off due to raw sewage

We are a tourist town and as such the riverside area appeals to those visiting and residents.

It's important resource for our town and our children. Raw sewage needs banning NOW on health and safety basis

Not everyone can afford to go into the lido with an entire family so it makes a lovely day out to take children and dogs down to the river.

It should be a clean class A river being not that far from source yet horribly polluted by an unnecessary outdated outfall, likewise the outfall just upstream nearer addingham

In this day and age we should be able to keep our rivers clean and show consideration for the environment. Putting children's health at risk is unacceptable when we can make more effort to clean up the river

It's a beautiful natural resource which should be able to be enjoyed by everyone, without worrying about water quality

I love to swim in the river and want it to be clean for everyone

Children and pets should be able to paddle without fear of becoming ill and vets bills.
It's disgusting to think raw sewerage is in the river. Dogs and children swim in there and then visit local shops and cafes and bars causing contamination for others as well as possible illness for themselves.

The sewer next to river is contaminating the river The river smells of poo It's not nice
There is an enormous wildlife community and we will lose that if the pollution carries on
Cold

Health & Safety for all

The river is used by many and they need to know that the water is clean.

The area is regularly used by local and visiting people, and it should be safe, they'd be no reason to think otherwise.

Because my 2 boys and I love playing in it, by it, on it!

I have grandchildren I wouldn't want to go in at this moment

Because it's our right to be safe. My dogs like to swim in the river also, they keep picking up nasty bugs and passing them to my children.

Members of my family regularly swim in the river.

Because myself and my children are enthusiastic river swimmers and paddlers. It's a very enjoyable and healthy activity that we should be able to enjoy without worrying about sewage!
Everyone already uses the beach and river so we need to make it safe and the best it can be, to become a high quality part of Ilkley.

there just should not be sewage going into our rivers at all: bad for environment, wildlife and humans

The River Wharfe is a beautiful clean river for wildlife and leisure. It should not be polluted by profit making organisations.

I used to swim in the river (New Bridge/Swing Bridge sections of river) used to jump off New Bridge as well into river and swim known local as the Bend towards Ilkley Golf Club in the 70s good times (76 great year)

So children can use the water safely

The river up and down Wharfedale has been a location for children to play and explore for generations and should be safe for future generations.

The river is a magnet for residents and visitors to our town. They entrust their health and safety including their children to the town. There should be zero tolerance in terms of raw sewage disposal into our river.

Ilkley is a tourist destination and visitors come here for the river. It is a disgrace that raw sewage ends up in the River Wharfe particularly in this day and age!

People should be able to swim in a clean river without risk of becoming ill.

My children paddle in it the sewerage is a major worry

A great way to spend summer is going down the river with family and friends. The fact it is filled with such filth is disgraceful and must be stopped. As well as damaging the environment!

My children swim in the river. Also wildlife conservation

Depends how the water is kept clean....

Popular tourist destination, great for kids and families, free fun day out. Important that kids are safe and don't pick up nasty bugs and bacteria. Yes, we can pay to go to Ilkley Lido but not all families/people can afford to.

People should be able to enjoy the river knowing that their children and pets are safe. To use the river as an overflow to avoid having to spend upgrading our foul drainage system is criminal. No additional mass housing schemes should be allowed until fit for purpose sewerage systems have been established.

I swam in the river as a child and would like my family to do So without fear of illness

Health and wellbeing are paramount.

We go paddling in the river, and use a canoe down river

I want my child to enjoy the river safely

There's no reason the river shouldn't be clean enough to swim in. It's not a dump.

I like to swim in the river and have since I was a child that's 70 years

My son has been extremely ill from swimming in the river. There's no warnings of the pollution so this is a serious risk to public health

It is a driving point for visitors into Ilkley and directly impacts local business'

To protect bathers and the environment

Because so many people passel and swim in the river now but the potential for someone to get seriously sick from the sewage is too high.

Clean water

So many people come to enjoy the river in summer why would we not want it to be safe?

Ilkey river attracts alot of tourists who swim/paddle in the river so it needs to be free from sewage
Rivers are a natural asset for the community. Being in and around them 'should' promote well being, health and an appreciation for the natural environment. Going into rivers should not be a game of Russian Roulette.

Local and my children enjoy playing in it. Also I have begun wild swimming and want this to be in clean water.

Raw sewage should not be in rivers in the first place. A clean river would an asset for all people to enjoy.

I use the river frequently and wish to feel safe

Swimming in the river is great for both mental and physical health

We want to keep visitors and residents using the area creating great memories.

No one wants people or animals to be unsafe

Everyone young and old likes a paddle. I want to live where the river is clean and wildlife flourish

So it is safe for people. It brings people/money to Ilkley

It a river, if it's safe then it for getting wet in.

tourism is part of our local economy a clean river is essential

We are in an area away from the sea but close to our beautiful river. Everyone loves to paddle and play by water... it's part of simple life cleansing and feel good moments.

It's a natural thing that has been done since humans began! Why should it become unsafe

We want our children and dog to be able to swim there without risk.

If the river is healthy then it's healthy for wildlife not just people

The river is an integral part of our town. Our kids swim in it. Our dogs swim in it. It is a tourist attraction

It's a real asset & attraction to the local area

Because people are already using the river to swim paddle and play in.

I like to swim. My children like to paddle and fish

Our Childre should be able to paddle in local rivers in the same way as children can paddle in the sea, not all children are able to visit the seaside. It should be a right for all children.

The Ilkley community and visitors to the town use the river at this time of year without being aware of the foul pollution they are paddling or / and swimming in.

Our river should be pollution free

We live in a beautiful place with a beautiful river that should be able be free for use by both animals and humans

Tourist town where the river is a vital attraction - people should be able to swim / paddle without fear.

The river is for fish!

Our river should be safe and clean for everyone.

My children swim in the water

It's part of the attraction for visitors to Ilkley and something I enjoyed as a child

It is one of the best places in Britain to swim and have an enjoyable splash in a river.

I enjoy swimming in the river, as do my kids. I had no idea Yorkshire water allowed sewage to enter the river.

We live beside the river; love it!

There is no reason in this day and age to discharge any pollutants into a river.

Because I want to swim in the river but feel I no longer can because of the sewage & consequent health risks.

Small children 🧒 regularly swim in the water in the summer months. We should have same status as the coast, not everyone can afford to go to the seaside which is a fair distance away.

The River Wharfe should be available for everyone to safely enjoy - for swimming, paddling and boating.

I swam in the river when I was younger and would like to know I still can swim there in the future without getting ill. We should all be able to use the natural resource our town has.

The river is used extensively by swimmers and paddlers regardless of the current high levels of pollution and sewage. Introducing measures to ensure the cleanliness of the river is a sensible response to safeguard people's health.

River swimming is turning Ilkley into blackpool

Outdoor swimming in fresh water is unbelievably good for health particularly mental health

I would like to make use of the river

I'd like my kids to be able to play there in the summer

Because the river made my daughter very poorly

I'm a regular swimmer in the summer and there are no good reasons why it shouldn't be clean

So people can swim and play safely in the river and enjoy the outdoors.

My children swim in the river

So the community can be proud of using and having a natural resource to swim and play in.

To keep safe from illness for those playing in the water.

In the fifth economy in the world, our rivers should not have raw sewage in them. This causes huge issues for wildlife and pets in the river. People also should be able to safely use the river for swimming, paddling and paddle boarding without fear of becoming ill. Outdoor active sports are good for peoples' mental and physical well-being. When obesity and particularly childhood obesity is being a serious issue and a drain on our NHS this is really important.

Because ilkley is a tourist destination

Health and safety for the people/animals who play in the river.

It is a perfect place for the kids to paddle

So many people use the river and it is an asset to our town.

Amenity for the area and visitors

It is a really healthy and cheap way to spend time, encourage healthy activities for kids, enjoy the outdoors and make the most of our lovely natural resources.

My children like to play in the river. We shouldn't be putting raw sewage in the river for environmental damage it causes

Important for general health of community and environment of surroundings

All our rivers should be safe to swim in so that can enjoy the outdoors more and without worry. My children love to be in and around natural water sources like rivers. It's a real shame they cannot swim in it due to fear of getting ill.

I don't want myself nor my children's health to be at risk from an activity we do most summers. Nor anyone else for that matter.

Me & my family swim in the river

I swim and canoe with my family on the wharfe in Burley on Wharfedale...

The river is strong at times. Making it clean will not make it safe. Also all the rubbish and trash left is bad enough already.

It's a very scenic area and people will come and use the river for swimming, paddling etc unaware of what is polluting it. It is an important health issue to make the river water clean and safe to use. Lots of people like to enjoy bathing in the river especially in summer, Ilkley is a tourist town, this should be essential in order for people to enjoy safely.

It's a beautiful river that my children enjoy playing in

We swim in the river daily during summer. My two children and I cherish it.

Because I walk by the river daily and regularly swim in the river in the summer and spring

Because it is the 21st century and we shouldn't have raw sewage in our rivers.

It's an important community resource and there's the environmental aspect too - Ilkley is a beautiful town in a stunning setting and to have a polluted river seems wrong in every way.

It should be a resource for all to enjoy, not a dumping ground for raw sewage.

Nature is a public amenity, not a private company's waste disposal system. It's important for everybody to be able to enjoy nature. It's especially important for children to be able to learn and explore nature, and that includes playing paddling in rivers. And because there are pebble-beach like parts of Ilkley which specifically invite playing there. It's ridiculous to have scenic picnic/barbecue/sunbathing spots next to a river yet for people not actually be able to enjoy the river because it isn't really a river, it's actually a sewage pipe.

One of Ilkley great natural attractions is the river with its parks and beaches

Ilkley is historically a spa town and has over the past century become an ideal picnicking and paddling place for those from bigger towns without the lovely aspect we enjoy. The river is full of people paddling and goodness know what infections are being passed to the young in particular.

It is mad that a town known for its bathing waters (even if the river wasn't the focus) should have such filthy bathing facilities for the modern day tripper and the locals.

It's a natural resource that should be available to all for leisure purposes. It's also hugely important to protect all the wildlife and fish that have been in the river until recently.

The river is potentially a super recreational resource in Ilkley for residents and visitors

Because I actually do swim in rivers when I can (and have done so in the Wharfe), but wouldn't do it downstream of Ilkley because of the current issues

Because they have got away with it for decades and the reason I say that is the fact of they release or use to release sewage into the river, I use to fish down stream and my fishing line would catch all the toilet paper

All rivers should be clean, hygienic fit for humans and or animals. Ilkley is a tourist town for families and school outings, therefore should be a priority.

People need to know that playing in the river is safe

For health reasons when swimming or paddling in the river

I used to swim in the river as a child and spent most holidays on Beanlands island. It will make it safer all including children adults dogs and the local wildlife.

Other more pressing needs that the money could be spent on as outdoor swimming is available at the lido. Also could encourage jumping in the water from the bridges and I have concerns about the current of the Wharfe and if this would be safe.

Only poor countries with no money have an excuse for discharging raw sewage into rivers. This country has no excuse. I would take water companies back into public ownership and fund them properly via a rise in taxation so they no excuse for this damaging practice.

Many people, including my children, like to swim and paddle in the river as we are as far from the sea as you can probably get in England.

The river is a popular attraction for locals and visitors.

The Wharfe is a much-visited river with good access from its banks. Residents and visitors should be confident to swim in it without fear of illness due to pollution.

I had no idea previously about how often untreated sewage discharges were entering the river and contaminating it. The river is a key part of Ilkley, and the water should be clean and safe for all to enjoy; not a hazard for people and wildlife.

River should be fit to use by both residents and visitors to the town. We are not a third world country!

The river is a lovely place for families to relax and enjoy swimming, paddling, boating and picnicking and is a great community asset for people in the town as well as others from Bradford and surrounding areas who do not have access to many free leisure sites.

My grandchildren swim in the river.

Ilkley riverside is beautiful and attracts lots of visitors and locals in the summer months who use the river. The fact that the river is contaminated with sewage and people inc. children are swimming in it is disgusting and unsafe

We often paddle in the river, it's an integral part of our town and it needs to be looked after

I enjoy wild swimming in the river, but I am repulsed and shocked that raw sewage is allowed to be released into the river wharf and so be a danger to health

Because I feel very strongly that we should be able to use the river for these activities. It should be a healthy, relaxing way of spending time which is free and available for all to use.

Children and animals love to take a dip and they need to be safe and not become ill for our rivers

Because I have paddled and swam in the water and I want it to be safer

We need to look after our environment so our children's children can continue to enjoy it in the decades to come

People will paddle, swim and play in it anyway, as they have for generations and assume that it is safe

It's disgusting that sewage is being released but especially in areas where people and animals swim and paddle in the river

We have a young family who love to play, paddle and ideally swim in the river... but the water needs to be clean and safe for this to happen

Before I knew of the sewage discharges, I used to swim in the river

I want to use the water. I don't want my kids to get ill

Because rivers should be clean and not have sewage dumped in them

Do you need to ask? People paddle, swim, play and it must be got for it. Pets swim and play and the contamination from the river is on them to transfer to other animals and humans. A "no brainer" me thinks.

Children have the right to play in the river. It's part of growing up on Ilkley

The river should be made fit for paddling etc simply because of the amount of people who already do.

As a fisherman on the river it is pretty unpleasant having raw sewage drift past you
It's extremely important to have clean rivers. It's not only important for humans who interact with it, it's imperative for the life within that the river supports.

Our family love natural swimming

Because we live in Ilkley and spend a lot of time by the river, we're currently very cautious about paddling and bathing because of the raw sewage that is pumped into the river.

Who wouldn't want safe clean water for everyone to enjoy??

I don't want sewage in the river for wildlife, people & dogs

The Wharfe in Ilkley is a beautiful and accessible river whose wide pebble beaches and, further downstream, its complex of backwaters is extremely attractive to children and adults. It is essential that it is safe to swim and play in.

I like to swim in rivers and think it's also important for wildlife.

If it's fit to swim in then oxygen and nutrient levels will be good for wildlife

A clean river attracts visitors to the area who spend. A clean river gives people a chance to spend time in water which is proven to strengthen our mental health, if we can swim in it we can add exercise to our daily routine keeping us fit and healthy and away from the doctor so we end up saving the health service money

It's a natural environment and needs to stay that way

Pollution is a health hazard, for people wanting to swim

Appendix 5: Letters of Support

Bradford Metropolitan Council



Department of Place

Right Honourable Theresa Villiers
Secretary of State for Environment, Food
& Rural Affairs
70 Whitehall
Westminster
London
SW1A 2AS

Britannia House
3rd Floor, Argus Chambers
Hall Ings
BRADFORD
West Yorkshire BD1 1HX

Tel: (01274) 434748
E-mail: steve.hartley@bradford.gov.uk
Website: www.bradford.gov.uk

Date: 18 October 2019

Dear Secretary of State

RE: Bathing Water Designation – River Wharfe, Ilkley

I am writing on behalf of the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, as landowner, in support of the application for Designated Bathing Water Status for the River Wharfe at Ilkley.

The River Wharfe is central to Ilkley, physically and figuratively, with public open space alongside the river that is enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. As a landowner, there is common law right that the natural water of a stream should flow past land substantially unaltered, in quality or quantity, and the Water Resources Act 1991 (WRA 1991) provide that consent is required under Section 88 (S88) WRA 1991 to discharge any trade effluent to any controlled waters. Any discharge consent issued may include conditions covering quality, rate and volume discharged.

The River Wharfe is designated as main river and as such issues relating to it in respect of flooding and water quality fall within the statutory duties of the Environment Agency (EA), under the Water Framework Directive 2000 (WFD 2000/60/EC) and Flood & Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA 2010). However, as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), Bradford works in close partnership with the EA and Yorkshire Water (YW), through our Flood Programme Board, to manage flood risk within Bradford District and projects that we undertake do encompass wider environmental benefits where feasible.

We are currently undertaking a Defra funded pilot Natural Flood Management (NFM) project on Ilkley Moor and Backstone Beck in Ilkley, which joins the River Wharfe at the Ashlands Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW). We also support the Addingham 4 Becks group

(upstream of Ilkley), who are working as a community to raise awareness of the value of Addingham's becks, develop a plan to reduce flooding, enhance biodiversity and reduce nutrient pollution.

A Bathing Water Designation on the River Wharfe could support the overall aims of the Council, and other agencies, to progress water quality and environmental improvements on the river in a town where people openly use the river for swimming and paddling in warmer weather, despite current signage advising against this.

CBMDC are mindful that improvements to the current water quality on the Wharfe in this area will take time and progress in line with River Basement Management Planning, the EA's Asset Management and Environmental Management Plans (six year cycle) and YW's five year Asset Management Programme (AMP7; 2020 – 2025). CBMDC will need to work with the EA and YW to determine what can realistically be achieved in the six-year period to reduce pollution, manage public expectation and develop a longer term strategy.

I hope that this assists the application but please let me know if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely



Steve Hartley
Strategic Director – Place



Cllr Alex Ross-Shaw
Portfolio Holder Regeneration, Planning & Transport

cc Kirsty Breaks-Holdsworth – Flood Risk Officer



Ilkley Town Council

Right Honourable Theresa Villers
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
70 Whitehall
Westminster
London
SW1A 2AS

8th October 2019

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing on behalf of Ilkley Town Council in support of the application for Designated Bathing Status for a section of the River Wharfe as it passes through Ilkley. This is in accordance with a Resolution approved by the Full Council meeting of Monday October 7th 2019.

The Town Council has been active in supporting the development of this application by funding water microbiology testing, attending the Ilkley Clean River Group's Town Meeting consultations with the residents of Ilkley, and by making representations to other stakeholders including City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency.

The River Wharfe in Ilkley has been used for generations for recreational swimming and paddling. It lies at the heart of a green corridor of interlinked public parks that contributes to the wellbeing of the town's residents and the enjoyment of the many visitors we receive every year. Achieving Designated Bathing Status would be an important next step in ensuring a regulatory environment for the river that will protect current and future users, and the aquatic environment itself.

There is widespread support across the Ilkley community for this application.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Stidworthy".

Cllr Mark Stidworthy
Mayor, Ilkley Town Council

John Grogan MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

Right Honourable Theresa Villers
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
70 Whitehall
Westminster
London
SW1A 2AS

04 October 2019

Dear Theresa

I am writing in strong support of the application for Designated Bathing Status regarding a section of the River Wharfe at Ilkley. I write not only as the Constituency Member of Parliament but also as the Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Inland Waterways.

It is commonplace for rivers to be designated for bathing upstream in many other European countries such as France. The River Wharfe has been used for bathing by generations of townsfolk and visitors. Particularly on a hot summer's day it has a similar atmosphere to Scarborough beach with the tide in. Families and young people enjoy a Yorkshire day out with paddling and swimming every bit as important as the ice cream van.

I strongly support this application which has widespread support in Ilkley and across Wharfedale.

Yours sincerely

John Grogan Member of Parliament

John Grogan MP | Member of Parliament for Keighley

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