

P-N-01/02/03: Newbald Beckies, Mires and Ings

Newbald Beckies is an SSSI, owned by Newbald village, and managed by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, with oversight from Natural England. It was the source (or conduit) of notable groundwater flooding in Newbald in spring 2021, following heavy rain and snow melt.

This resulted in surcharge of sewers in Newbald, which became a major issue for Yorkshire Water (YW), who have now committed to a £500,000 project to line the sewers and reduce/prevent ingress of ground water. This will hopefully allow the sewerage infrastructure to be more resilient, but does not address the root issue - the excess of surface water.

The beck was noted as being at historically high levels this February, although the preceding rainfall had not been not excessive. This suggests that other factors may be at play, such as high levels of runoff and/or leaching through catchment soils into groundwater. Therefore, the YW and University of Hull work on soil carbon/moisture may be particularly relevant.

Could the Beckies or surrounding upstream area be designed to hold back more water? Also relevant; there is an abandoned YW extraction plant upstream of the Beckies (abandoned due to water quality or other issues?). Does this or could this assist in monitoring ground water levels?

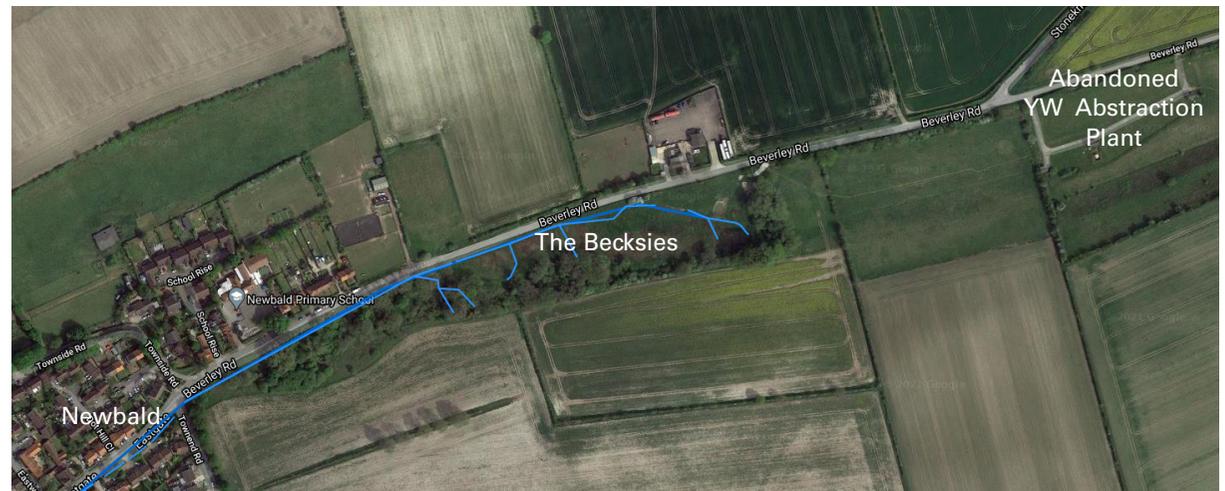
The following are to be considered:

- whether improved soils management could contribute to reduce surface/ground water in Newbald
- contact with and involvement of relevant landowners
- opportunities for physical interventions around the beckies and Beverley Road could direct or detain more water.

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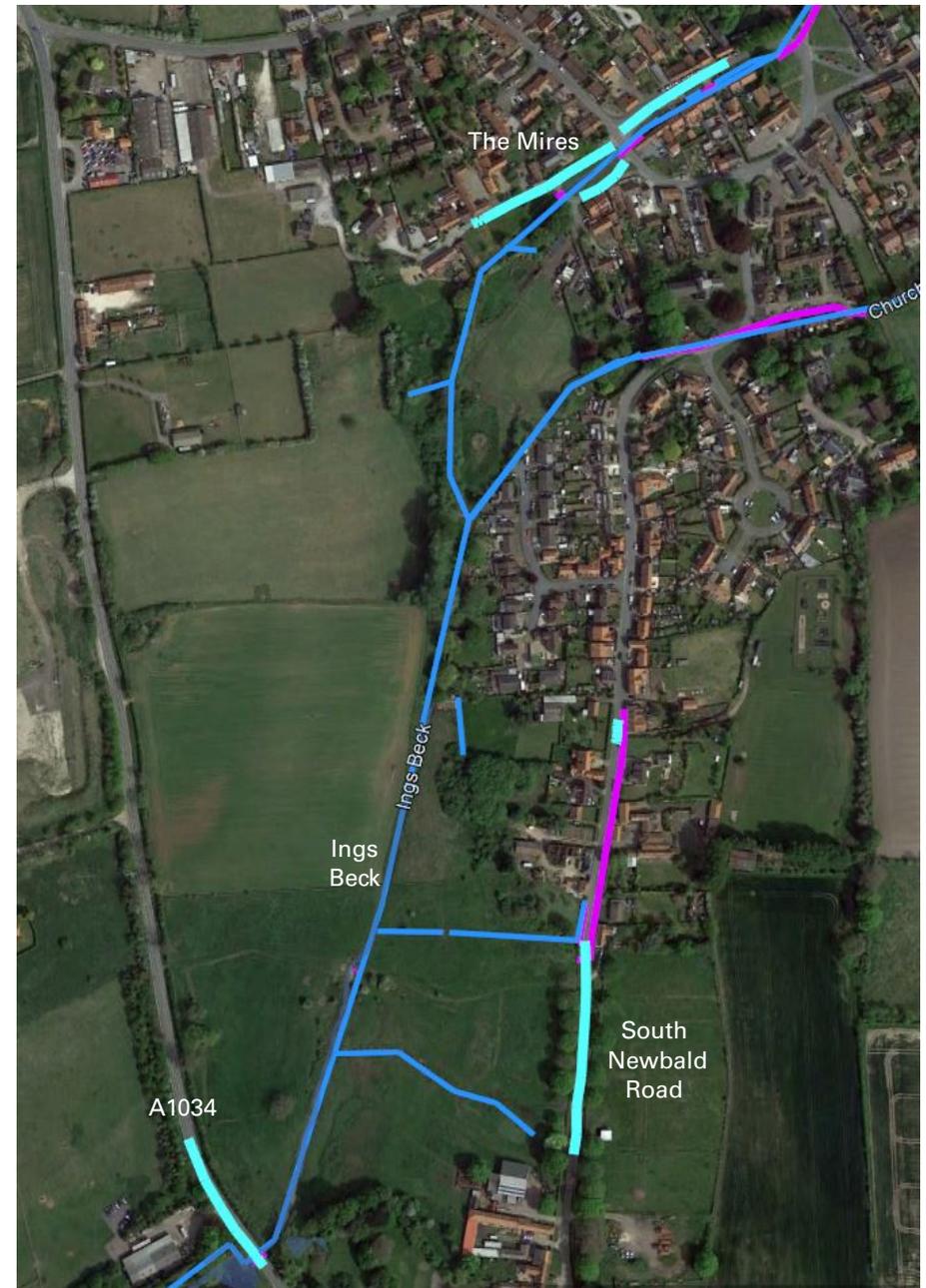


Newbald Beckies 2021-02-23 - water running onto and back off the road



P-N-01/02/03: Newbald Beckies, Mires and Ings - continued

- whether there is any scope to reduce the bottlenecks (culverts/bridges) as the beck passes through the village.
- Whether there is capacity, at The Mires and The Ings, to detain water or otherwise slow its onward passage down the catchment.
- To consider the above in the light of protected species which are highly valued by local people aiming to improve water quality and biodiversity.



Flooding locations identified by Newbald Parish Council