

## Natural Watercourse from Haygate towards Bramham Beck

Until the houses on Prospect Bank were built around 1970 , and the old quarry at the Old Hall was filled in by a previous occupant c. 10 years later , there was a natural [ and, at times of heavy rain , regular ] watercourse taking the overflow down to the Beck . This is shown on the included sketch.

When the farm fields [ A ] became inundated , water ran down Heygate and across Windmill Lane into the Prospect Farm pond [ B ] , on which nos. 8 & 9 Windmill Road now stand. If there was further overflow downhill [ westwards ] , it ran across what are now the gardens of the houses on the north side of Prospect Bank [ C ] into the old quarry just inside the boundary of the Old Hall [ D ] . From there , once the quarry had filled , it escaped through the drainpipes still to be seen in the quarry wall under the chestnut tree , down Back Lane [ E ] , often causing flooding at the cottages on the east bank of the Beck [ F ] . There was another farm pond [ \* ] at the meeting of Windmill and Toulston Roads which also alleviated problems with surface water at the high , east , end of the village; that too has gone.

Since the building of Prospect Bank, and the filling in of the Old Hall quarry , 1970 -80 approx., flowing water from Heygate has streamed across the back gardens of the northerly houses on Prospect Bank [ C ] , and escaped in two ways . Some water takes its old route into the site of the quarry , and down Back Lane ; the rest flows onto Prospect Bank , and away down the drains. The building of Prospect Bank , and the filling in of the quarry , have taken away the two natural reservoirs which ameliorated the flooding of Back Lane. Thus, during the period 1970 - 2000+, at times of heavy , continuous rain , there has been the increased likeliness of flooding at the bottom of Back Lane , to the east of the Beck [ F ] . This flooding has been made worse by the lack of regular maintenance by Leeds City Council who , despite having a theoretical 13 day cycle of street cleaning , rarely do so unless pressed . The result is that drains and gutters are frequently blocked when they are most needed.

David Machin

August 2002.



part of BRANTHAM  
LS23

