

RIPON CITY PLAN

Supporting Document: Environment & Heritage

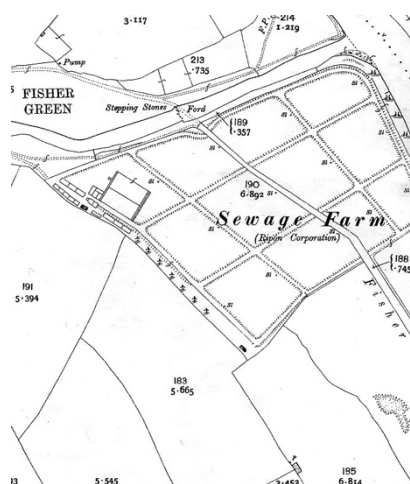
Appendix H.c: Sewage Treatment Works

History

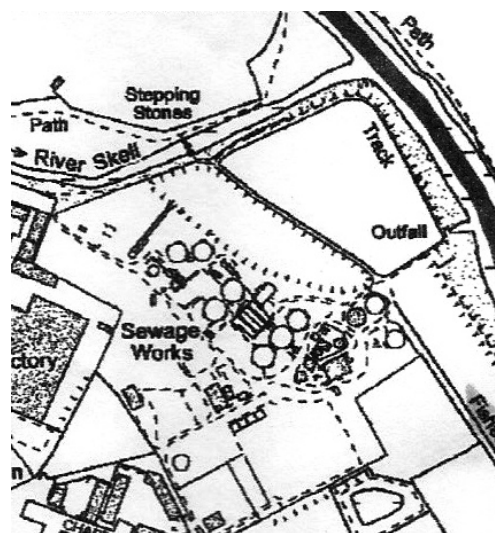
The sewage works was opened in October 1896 to serve the whole of Ripon. At that time it was operated by the City Council but is now managed by Yorkshire Water.

Despite the growth of the city's population and the increased demands on the works (not least during the time of the First World war when pipelines were laid to it from the army camp) the site still serves the whole city. Changing treatment methods have led to the works vacating the low lying land nearest the Ure and expanding westwards to accommodate storage tanks and plant. This is shown in the two maps below.

1908



2013



Assessment

The works is well-sited in low ground south of the confluence of the Rivers Ure and Skell and has little visual impact on the city as a whole. To the west lies an industrial estate and to the south are the Fisher Green allotments. Much of the river corridor to the east is designated as a Special Landscape Area (shown hatched on the map).

Visually the most intrusive element is the perimeter security fencing running along the north and east boundaries. This introduces a very harsh element to an otherwise rural fringe to the city and is particularly unfortunate where it is close to riverside paths. Attempts have been made to soften the boundary in places with close-planted conifers but these have now grown oppressively tall and provide almost no screening at eye-level. Elsewhere the galvanised palisade fencing is unrelieved by any perimeter planting and provides little visual screening. The effects of this are shown in the photos below.

An area of land to the south and marked A on the City Plan map is a possible area of expansion either for allotments or for the works. If proposals are brought forward for works expansion the opportunity should be taken to ensure adequate screening especially from the access road on its eastern boundary.



The Treatment Works sign is the only evidence of its existence when viewed from the Boroughbridge Road



The site itself is low rise with little impact externally on neighbouring properties.



The perimeter fence here is softened by a roadside hedge which significantly reduces the impact of the works.



A little further north and the planting has gone leaving the unrelieved bulk of the storage tanks in full view



Further still and lack of planting leaves the fencing a forbidding but unsuccessful screen for what lies behind.



The jarring effect is particularly striking when the palisade is seen contrasted with the low key timber fencing on the left of the path



The path reaches the Skell



And here by the Skell the fence is ugly and oppressive when combined with an overgrown evergreen hedge behind.



The approach from the south showing the edge of the allotments.



The land in the foreground is the area for possible expansion.

The combined effect of the harsh perimeter treatment and lack of screen planting is that the site is prominent from the riverside. This view is taken looking south west across the Special Landscape Area from close to the confluence of the Ure and the Skell.

