



Drought Permit

- Section 79A Water Resources Act 1991 as amended by the Environment Act 1995

The Environment Agency ("the Agency") grants this drought permit to:

Yorkshire Water Services Limited ("the Water Company")

Western House
Halifax Road
Bradford
West Yorkshire
BD6 2SZ

Company registration number 02366682

The Water Company is authorised by the 1890 Baildon Local Water (Weecher) Act dated 1890 ("the Act") to impound water and is required to operate in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the Agency's enforcement letter dated 16 June 2014 ("the Letter"). This drought permit suspends and/or modifies the provisions of the Act and the Letter to the extent set out in the Schedule of Conditions.

This drought permit commences from the effective date shown below and shall remain in force until the date of expiry shown below.

All other provisions of the Act and Letter remain in full force and effect.

Signed Mike Dugher

Date of issue – 05 September 2025

Area Director – Yorkshire

Date effective – 05 September 2025

Environment Agency

Date of expiry – 05 March 2026

Lateral House
8 City Walk
Leeds
LS11 9AT

Note: References to "the Agency" are to the Environment Agency or any successor body.

SCHEDULE OF CONDITIONS

1. COMPENSATION FLOW

- 1.1 Subject to conditions 3.1.3 or 3.3 of this permit, Section 7(1) of the Act is substituted with the following:

(i) subject to 1.1(ii) below, the Water Company shall make a uniform and continuous release of compensation flow of not less than 215 cubic metres per day from Weecher Reservoir to Weecher Brow Beck at National Grid Reference SE 13819 41994 (or such other location as specified in writing by the Agency).

(ii) if the group reservoir stocks are below the North West Reservoir Group Drought Control Line defined in the Water Company's Drought Plan 2022 dated 29 April 2022 ('the 2022 Drought Plan') for a period of four consecutive weeks or longer, then the Water Company shall make a uniform and continuous release of compensation flow of not less than 143 cubic metres per day from Weecher Reservoir to Weecher Brow Beck at National Grid Reference SE 13819 41994 (or such other location as specified in writing by the Agency), until group reservoir stocks have increased to and remained at or above the North West Reservoir Group Drought Control Line for a period of six consecutive weeks or longer, upon which the Water Company must return to the compensation flow specified in condition 1.1(i).

The 'North West Reservoir Group Drought Control Line' is shown in Figure 2.1 in Section 2.1 of the 2022 Drought Plan marked 'DCL' in the graph for the North West Reservoir Group (with the left-hand vertical axis representing in percentage terms the reservoir stocks).

2. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

- 2.1 The Water Company shall undertake the monitoring as set out in Appendix 1.

3. MITIGATION CONDITIONS

- 3.1.1 If the monitoring identifies signs of environmental impacts, including but not limited to fish in distress, a pollution incident, water quality deterioration, algae blooms or spread of invasive non-native species the following actions shall be undertaken by the Water Company:

- 3.1.2 (i) upon finding any signs of environmental impacts the Water Company shall notify the Agency in writing and by telephone on 0800 80 70 60 and shall provide details of the signs of distress and the location;

(ii) a remedial course of action to address the signs of environmental impacts shall be formulated by the Water Company (and amended by the Agency as necessary), and implemented as directed in writing by the Agency.

- 3.1.3 If, upon being notified of any signs of environmental impacts in accordance with condition 3.1.2(i), or at its own instigation, the Agency gives written notice that there is a disruption to the ecology, the Water Company shall increase compensation flow from Weecher Reservoir to Weecher Brow Beck at National

Grid Reference SE 13819 41994 to a rate of not less than 430 cubic metres per day, or a lesser quantity if agreed in writing by the Agency.

The Water Company shall commence the stated compensation flows as soon as possible and within 48 hours of receipt of written notification from the Agency

The Water Company shall not thereafter reduce the compensation flow to that specified in condition 1.1 until it has confirmed in writing that appropriate remedial action has been taken, and the Agency has confirmed in writing that it is satisfied with this.

- 3.2 The changes to the compensation flow specified in conditions 1.1, 3.1.3 and 3.3 of this drought permit shall be made in a steady and controlled manner, at a rate so as not to cause any flooding of land, disturbance to water users downstream, any adverse effects on the quality of water in the inland water, or any adverse impacts on the ecology of the inland water or dependent ecosystems.

3.3 **Temporary Flow Adjustments**

Upon being notified by the Agency, or upon discovering by environmental monitoring, or other evidence, that an increase in flow is needed to support riverine ecology, as identified in the Water Company Environmental Monitoring Plan North West Area Appendix A2, the Water Company shall increase flow at a time, to a rate and for a duration, as specified in writing by the Agency, at National Grid Reference SE 13819 41994, or other location as specified in writing by the Agency.

3.4 **Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) and Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTWs)**

The additional monitoring and maintenance activities specified in the (2025) Combined Sewer Overflows Optimisation and Maintenance for Drought Plan and the (2025) Wastewater Treatment Works Optimisation and Maintenance for Drought Plan shall be applied to any CSO and WwTW assets not identified in Appendix A of the same plan, but subsequently deemed by the Water Company or the Agency to risk adverse impact to a watercourse while compensation flows are reduced.

4. FURTHER CONDITIONS

- 4.1 Unless the Agency otherwise specifies in writing, this drought permit shall have no effect unless the Water Company has imposed Temporary Use Ban restrictions from the 2022 Drought Plan for the Grid Resource Zone, and such restrictions remain in force.

APPENDIX 1**ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING SCHEDULE**

Assessment Type	<p>Surveillance walkover surveys of habitat quality and ecological stress, recording signs of environmental impacts.</p> <p>The Water Company shall not make any changes to this monitoring schedule without the Agency's prior written agreement.</p>
Duration of Monitoring	<p>The environmental monitoring surveys shall take place from the first day that the total compensation flow to Weecher Brow Beck from Weecher Reservoir is reduced under this drought permit until this drought permit expires or is revoked, unless otherwise agreed by the Environment Agency.</p>
Environmental Impacts	<p>The following are suggested signs of environmental impacts but are not exhaustive. If advice is required then the Agency can be contacted on 0800 80 70 60.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish in distress, for example gasping at the surface or leaping out of the water. • Dead fish. • Concentration of fish in restricted areas/pools which could increase susceptibility to predation. • Inhibition of movement of fish past river structures or other barriers. • Reduced habitat availability for adult and juvenile life stages (including spawning/nursery areas). • Reduced depth of flow over brown trout redds. • Signs of polluting discharges during walkover surveys, problems exacerbated during lower flows and/or reduced dilution. • Algal blooms. • Establishment and/or expansion of invasive non-native species.
Monitoring Method & Standard of Assessment	<p>The Water Company shall measure and record the following information.</p> <p>For all environmental impacts identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The location of the site of environmental impacts observed. • A photo or photos should be taken of any signs of environmental impact. • Weather conditions at the time of the observations. • Dissolved oxygen concentration measurements shall be taken and recorded anywhere in the survey area where signs of environmental stress are identified. • Ammonium concentration measurements shall be taken and recorded anywhere in the survey area where signs of environmental stress are identified. <p>Where relevant to the environmental impact observed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximate number of dead fish. • Any signs of damage or disease. • Approximate number of fish in distress, gasping at the surface or leaping out of the water. • Whether the fish are being stranded in shallow pools. • Depth of water over brown trout redds • Description of structures and stretches of any watercourses that have no flow or significantly reduced flow. • Approximate size of the fish affected. • The species affected.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signs of pollution. • Presence of algal blooms/scums. • Species, location and extent of invasive non-native species.
Frequency of monitoring	On the day of any reductions in compensation flow implemented under conditions 1.1, 3.1.3, or 3.3, the day after, and then weekly thereafter until no further reductions are made. If no signs of environmental distress are noted from two consecutive walkover surveys no further walkover surveys are necessary until there are further reductions.
Location of Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gill Beck 1 between National Grid References SE 15150 41384 to SE 15490 41207 • Gill Beck 2 between National Grid References SE 16199 40664 to SE 16444 40377
Survey Results	<p>Weekly, for the duration of the Drought Permit, the Water Company shall provide to the Environment Agency in the form of a calendar week report the following details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring data as required from condition 2.1 <p>The report shall be sent to drought.yorkshire@environment-agency.gov.uk</p> <p>Note: a calendar week is a period of 7 consecutive days beginning on a Monday.</p>
Responsibility	<p>Unless otherwise discussed and agreed in writing with the Agency, the Water Company will be responsible for all the costs associated with this monitoring programme.</p> <p>Health and safety requirements whilst carrying out the surveys are the responsibility of the Water Company.</p>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Note: the following information is provided for information only. It does not form part of the drought permit.

REASONS FOR SUSPENSIONS AND/OR MODIFICATIONS

Mitigation

Condition 3 of this drought permit has been included to mitigate against any environmental impacts that may be caused by or affected by the Water Company reducing compensation flows.

The Agency will take into consideration any other actions the Water Company are taking or plan to take in order to mitigate effects on the environment, such as mitigation actions identified in their 'Drought Plan: Environmental Assessment Report – North West Area Reservoirs', May 20205.

Temporary Flow Adjustments

Condition 3.3 allows for compensation flows to be temporarily increased from the quantities specified under condition 1.1 through the range of flows up to the compensation flows required under section 7(1) of the 1890 Baildon Local Water (Weeher) Act dated 1890. The 'In Drought Mitigation Options' of Yorkshire Water's Environmental Monitoring Plan identifies these alterations in flows in the context of this drought permit as;

IDMIT_E1 Gradual or temporary adjustments to abstraction or compensation flows to prevent stranding, displacement, or stress in sensitive aquatic species (e.g. fish, macroinvertebrates, white-clawed crayfish).

Monitoring Locations

The Monitoring Locations referred to in Appendix 1 are the downstream reach or reaches where monitoring is required, in accordance with Water Company Environmental Monitoring Plan North West Area dated May 2025, respectively termed IDMON_WSE Surveillance walkover surveys of habitat quality and ecological stress, recording signs of environmental impacts.

Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) and Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTWs)

Condition 3.4 provides for the possibility that the Water Company or the Agency may deem it necessary to implement the monitoring and maintenance measures from the optimisation plans on CSO and WwTW assets that are not identified in Appendix A.

IMPORTANT NOTES

Definition of a day

A day means any period of 24 consecutive hours.

Temporary Use ban

You must follow the Water Company's Drought Plan 2022 dated 29 April 2022 ("the 2022 Drought Plan") and implement a Temporary Use Ban (under sections 76 and 76A – C of the Water Industries Act 1991) before using the powers granted by this drought permit, unless the Agency agrees that such ban is not necessary due to the circumstances at the time.

Environmental Monitoring Plan

The conditions and monitoring incorporated on this drought permit is in addition to the Environmental Monitoring Plan agreed between the Agency and the Water Company.

Contact details

For the purpose of condition 3.1.2 the Water Company should contact the Agency by email to drought.yorkshire@environment-agency.gov.uk including the drought permit number in any correspondence.

For the purpose of condition 3.3, the Water Company shall, prior to making any increase in compensation flows, first seek agreement of the Agency via email to: drought.yorkshire@environment-agency.gov.uk and by telephone on 0800 80 70 60 and make reference to the fact that this is in regard to the 'Weecher Reservoir Drought Permit.'