

DRAFT DROUGHT ORDER

THE YORKSHIRE WATER SERVICES LIMITED (RIVER OUSE) DROUGHT ORDER 2025

Yorkshire Water Services Limited has made an application for an ordinary drought order under section 73(3)(b) of the Water Resources Act 1991 (“the Act”).

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (“Secretary of State”) is satisfied that proper notices of the application have been published and served by Yorkshire Water Services Limited in accordance with paragraph 1 of Schedule 8 to the Act and no objections to the application have been made.

The Secretary of State is satisfied that, by reason of an exceptional shortage of rain, there exists a threat of a serious deficiency of supplies of water.

It appears to the Secretary of State expedient to make the provisions in this Order with a view to meeting this deficiency.

The Secretary of State makes this Order in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 73(1) and 74(1)(d) and (5) of, and paragraph 2(5) of Schedule 8 to, the Act.

Citation, commencement and expiry

This Order:

1. may be cited as the Yorkshire Water Services Limited (River Ouse) Drought Order 2025; and
2. comes into force on [DATE] and ceases to have effect on [DATE].

Interpretation

In this Order:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| “Licence” | means the abstraction licence numbered NE/027/0024/065 issued by the Environment Agency on 31 st March 2017 authorising the Trust to abstract water from the River Ouse at Moor Monkton, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, to the extent and manner, and subject to the terms and conditions, set out in the Schedule of Conditions to the Licence. |
| “Trust” | means the Canal & River Trust |
| “YWSL Licence” | means the abstraction licence numbered 2/27/24/158 issued by the Environment Agency on 5 th December 2003 authorising Yorkshire Water Services Limited to abstract water from the River Ouse at Moor Monkton, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, to the extent and manner, and subject to the terms and conditions, set out in the Schedule of Conditions to the Licence. |

Modification of the quantity of water to be abstracted from the River Ouse

While this Order is in force:

1. Paragraph 9.1 of the Schedule of Conditions to the Licence is replaced with the following:

The aggregate quantity of water authorised to be abstracted under the Licence NE/027/0024/065 and licence 2/27/24/158 shall not exceed 210 MI/d when the flow in the River Ouse as gauged by the Agency at its flow gauging station at Skelton gauging station National Grid Reference SE 56832 55366 is equal to or less than 1,000 MI/d as may be notified by the Agency. The Agency's said gauging of the flow shall be conclusive.

2. Paragraph 9.2 of the Schedule of Conditions to the Licence is replaced with the following:

The aggregate quantity of water authorised to be abstracted under this licence NE/027/0024/065 and licence 2/27/24/158 shall not exceed 132 MI/d when the flow in the River Ouse as gauged by the Agency at its flow gauging station at Skelton gauging station National Grid Reference SE 56832 55366 is equal to or less than 650 MI/d as may be notified by the Agency. The Agency's said gauging of the flow shall be conclusive.

3. Paragraph 9.3 of the Schedule of Conditions to the Licence is replaced with the following:

The aggregate quantity of water authorised to be abstracted under this licence NE/027/0024/065 and licence 2/27/24/158 shall not exceed 70 MI/d when the flow in the River Ouse as gauged by the Agency at its flow gauging station at Skelton gauging station National Grid Reference SE 56832 55366 is equal to or less than 400 MI/d (7.523 cubic metres per second) as may be notified by the Agency. The Agency's said gauging of the flow shall be conclusive.

4. Paragraph 10.1 of the Schedule of Conditions of the YWSL Licence is replaced with the following:

Abstraction at all times under this licence shall reduce without delay to 210 MI/d when the flow in the River Ouse as measured at the Agency's gauging station at Skelton (NGR: SE568 554), is equal to or less than 1,000 MI/d (11.574 cubic metres per second (cumecs)).

5. Paragraph 10.2 of the Schedule of Conditions of the YWSL Licence is replaced with the following:

Abstraction at all times under this licence shall reduce without delay to 132 MI/d when the flow in the River Ouse as measured at the Agency's gauging station at Skelton is equal to or less than 650 MI/d (7.523 cubic metres per second (cumecs)).

6. Paragraph 10.3 of the Schedule of Conditions of the YWSL Licence is replaced with the following:

Abstraction at all times under this licence shall reduce without delay to 70 MI/d when the flow in the River Ouse as measured at the Agency's gauging station at Skelton is equal to or less than 400 MI/d (4630 cubic metres per second (cumecs)).

Supplemental provision

Yorkshire Water Services Limited shall undertake the environmental monitoring as set out in the Schedule to this Order.

If the monitoring identifies signs of environmental problems, 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:

- (i) upon finding any signs of environmental problems 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 shall be formulated to address the signs of environmental problems, which shall be implemented as directed in writing by the Agency.

Combined Sewer Overflows

The additional monitoring and maintenance activities, specified in the Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO's) Optimisation and Maintenance for Drought Plan 2022, shall be applied by the Water Company to the following combined sewer outfall assets, in accordance with Appendix A of the same plan;

Riverside Gardens/CSO discharges into the River Ouse at National Grid Reference SE 55696 54982

Rawcliffe York STW discharges into the River Ouse at National Grid Reference SE 686 234

Jubilee Terrace CSO discharges into the River Ouse at National Grid Reference SE 5899 5254

Grosvenor Terrace CSO discharges into the River Ouse at National Grid Reference SE 59972 52840

Skeldergate Bridge CSO discharges into the River Ouse at National Grid Reference SE 60328 51287

Terry Avenue CSO discharges into the River Ouse at National Grid Reference SE 60483 51022

Trafalgar Street CSO discharges into the River Ouse at National Grid Reference SE 60227 50108

Fishergate CSO discharges into the River Ouse at National Grid Reference SE 607454 51000

The Esplanade York CSO discharges into the River Ouse at National Grid Reference SE 5919 5240

Lendal Hill CSO discharges into the River Ouse at National Grid Reference SE 60015 51986

Marygate Lane CSO discharges into the River Ouse at National Grid Reference at SE 59733 52285

Queens Staith CSO discharges into the River Ouse at National Grid Reference SE 60192 51592

Marygate Landing CSO (No2) discharges into the River Ouse at National Grid Reference SE 59743 52059

Knavesmire Road CSO discharges into the River Ouse at National Grid Reference SE 59260 50438

As agreed in writing by the Agency, any combined sewer overflow assets not identified in Appendix A, but subsequently deemed by the Water Company or the Agency to risk adverse impact to a watercourse while abstraction rates are increased.

For and on behalf of the Secretary of State

Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Dated

SCHEDULE
ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING SCHEDULE: STANDARD SCHEDULE

Assessment Type	Surveillance walkover surveys of habitat quality and ecological stress, Type recording signs of environmental problems. The Water Company shall discuss and agree with the Agency any proposed changes to this monitoring schedule in advance of carrying out any of the survey work
Duration of Monitoring	The environmental monitoring surveys shall take place from the first day that the licence is modified at the River Ouse Moor Monkton under this drought permit until this drought permit expires or is revoked, unless otherwise agreed by the Environment Agency.
Environmental Distress	<p>The following are suggested signs of environmental problems 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. For all environmental problems identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The location of the site of environmental problems observed. • A photo or photos should be taken of any signs of environmental distress. • Weather conditions at the time of the observations. • Dissolved oxygen concentration • Ammonium concentration <p>Where relevant to the environmental problem 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. • 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 flow changes implemented under conditions 1.1, the day after and then weekly thereafter until no further flow changes 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 flow changes.
Location of Monitoring	The River Ouse (Ouse 1) between SE 5653 5532 to SE 5703 5525
Survey Results	At the same time each week 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: · Monitoring data as required from Condition 2.1, The report shall be sent to drought.yorkshire@environment-agency.gov.uk Note: a calendar week is a period of 7 consecutive days beginning on a Monday.
Responsibility	Unless otherwise discussed and agreed in writing, the water company will be responsible for all of the costs associated with this monitoring programme. Health and safety requirements whilst carrying out the surveys are the responsibility of the water company.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

REASONS FOR MODIFICATIONS AND CONDITIONS

Mitigation

The Schedule of this Order has been included to make provision for environmental monitoring during the period this Order is effective.

Condition 1 to 6; to allow additional abstraction for 'public water supply' from the river, to preserve stocks in the reservoir(s) for future abstraction.

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 – River Options', dated June 2026

Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO's)

The order identifies the CSO assets where the risk of adverse impact has been established. The implementation of the measures detailed in this plan are referred to as IDMON_WSWQ2 CSO Monitoring in the River Options Environmental Impact Assessment dated June 2025.

The reach of watercourse identified as at risk of adverse impact through the CSO's detailed are defined in the River Options Environmental Impact Assessment dated June 2025 which, in the context of this licence is:

- Ouse 1

The Water Company or the Agency may be deem it necessary to implement the monitoring and maintenance measures on CSO assets that are not listed in Appendix A of the above mentioned plan.

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 River Options dated June 2025, respectively termed **IDMON_WSE** Surveillance walkover surveys of habitat quality and ecological stress, recording signs of environmental problems.

IMPORTANT NOTES

Temporary Use ban

You must follow your 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 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 permit are in addition to the Environmental Monitoring Plan agreed between the Agency and the water company.