



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 licence serial numbers 2/27/14/058 and 2/27/14/009 ("the Licences") to abstract water and is required to operate in accordance with the provisions of the Licences and the Agency's enforcement letter dated 7 July 2023 ("the Letter"). This drought permit suspends and/or modifies the provisions of the Licences 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 said Licences and Letter remain in full force and effect.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Young".

Phil Young

Date of issue – 10 September 2025

Date effective – 10 September 2025

Acting Area Director – Yorkshire

Date of expiry – 10 March 2026

Environment Agency

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. MAINTAINED FLOW

1.1 Subject to conditions 3.1.3 or 3.3, conditions 9.2(a) and 9.2(b) of the Licences shall be substituted with the following:

Unless conditions 1.1(ii), 1.1(iii) or 3.3 of this drought permit apply:

- (i) 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 maintain a flow of not less than 2 megalitres per day at Springhead Weir at National Grid Reference SE 02608 37753 (or such other location as specified in writing by the Agency).
 - (ii) On any day that the combined Option 2 Compensation Flows required to be released from drought permit numbers DP2025-NE0270014010 (Leeming) and DP2025-NE0270014011 (Leeshaw), under conditions 1.4-1.6 and 1.3-1.4 respectively, are reduced from no less than 2.66 megalitres per day to no less than 2 megalitres per day, the Water Company shall maintain a flow of not less than 2.67 megalitres per day at Springhead Weir at National Grid Reference SE 02608 37753 (or such other location as specified in writing by the Agency).
 - (iii) When the group reservoir stocks have increased to and remained above the North West Group Drought Control Line for a period of six consecutive weeks or longer the maintained flow at Springhead Weir at National Grid Reference SE 02608 37753 must return to the rates as specified under the Licences and the Letter.
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).
- 1.2 Conditions 9.3, 9.4 and 9.5 of the Licences shall be substituted with the following:
- (i) The Water Company shall use a gaugeboard to measure and derive the flow at Springhead Weir at National Grid Reference SE 02608 37753.
 - (ii) The Water Company shall maintain the gaugeboard in such a condition, and if necessary replace it, so as to ensure that accurate measurements of the flow are recorded at all times.
 - (iii) The Water Company shall use the measuring device specified in condition 1.2 (i) to record the flow three times per week during the whole of the period this permit is authorised, or at such other intervals as may be approved in writing by the Agency.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

2.1 The Water Company shall undertake the monitoring as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 of this drought permit.

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 as soon as practically possible notify the Agency in writing and by telephone on 0800 80 70 60 and shall provide details of signs of impact 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:

- (i) Increase the maintained flow at Springhead Weir at National Grid Reference SE 02608 37753 to the rates as specified under the Licences and the Letter, or such lesser quantity as may be specified in writing by the Agency.

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

The Water Company shall not thereafter reduce the maintained flows to those specified in condition 1.1(i) or condition 1.1(ii) until the Water Company 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 maintained flows 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, or 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 through 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 02608 37753, or such other location as agreed 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/or the (2025) Wastewater Treatment Works Optimisation and Maintenance for Drought Plan shall be applied by the Water Company to the following assets, in accordance with Appendix A of the same plan:

- (i) South Street Keighley/CSO discharging into the River Worth at National Grid Reference SE 05920 40223
- Baildon Coach Rd/CSO discharging into the River Aire at National Grid Reference SE 14064 38230

Brighton Street/CSO discharging into the River Aire at National Grid
Reference SE 14960 38030

Coach Road Baildon/CSO discharging into the River Aire at National Grid
Reference SE 14460 38140

Dockfield Road/CSO discharging into the River Aire at National Grid
Reference at SE 015189 37959

Dockfields/CSO discharging into the River Aire at National Grid Reference
SE 15452 38090

Esholt Lane/NO 2 CSO discharging into the River Aire at National Grid
Reference SE 17270 39570

Green Lane 125/CSO discharging into the River Aire at National Grid
Reference SE 14461 38146

Green Lane Junction/2 discharging into the River Aire at National Grid
Reference SE 14810 38038

Higher Coach Rd/NO 2 discharging into the River Aire at National Grid
Reference SE 13998 38241

Hird Street/NO 2 CSO discharging into the River Aire at National Grid
Reference SE 14687 37916

Metal Box/CSO discharging into the River Aire at National Grid Reference
SE 15830 38500

Midland Road/CSO discharging into the River Aire at National Grid
Reference SE 15730 38486

South Station Road/ CSO discharging into the River Aire at National Grid
Reference SE 15680 39160

Towngate/NO 2 CSO discharging into the River Aire at National Grid
Reference SE 15483 39698

Victoria Road Shipley/CSO discharging into the River Aire at National
Grid Reference SE 1405 138209

Victoria Terrace/CSO discharging into the River Aire at National Grid
Reference SE 14051 38209

Esholt Lane 291/CSO discharging into the River Aire at National Grid
Reference SE 17928 40126

Bradford Esholt/NO 2 STW CSO discharging into the Rive Aire at National
Grid Reference SE 18480 39830

Bradford Esholt/ NO 2STW CSO discharging into the River Aire at
National Grid Reference SE 18480 39820

- (ii) Any CSO or WwTW not identified in Appendix A but subsequently deemed by the Water Company or the Agency to risk adverse impact to a watercourse while compensations 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: STANDARD 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 maintained flow is implemented under condition 1.1 of this drought permit until this drought permit expires or is revoked, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the 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, impacts exacerbated during lower flows and/or reduced dilution. • Algal blooms. • Establishment and/or expansion of 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 and 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximate number of fish in distress, gasping at the surface or leaping out of the water. • Whether 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 reductions in maintained 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 impact are noted from two consecutive walkover surveys no further walkover surveys are necessary until there are further reductions.
Location of Monitoring	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Worth 1 between SE 02380 37708 to SE 02802 37831 2. Worth 2 between SE 05105 38813 and SE 05304 39241 3. Aire 1 between SE 13123 38376 and SE 13675 38239 4. Aire 2 between SE 17481 39782 to SE 18025 40113
Survey Results	<p>Weekly, for the duration of the Drought Permit, the Water Company shall provide to the Agency in the form of a calendar week report the following details:</p> <p>i) Monitoring data as required by condition 2.1</p> <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, the Water Company will be responsible for all of 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>

Appendix 2**ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING SCHEDULE: SHORT-TERM POLLUTION SCHEDULE**

Assessment Type	Targeted surveillance walkover surveys of water quality and ecological stress local to 'significant' water quality pressures', to include water quality spot sampling in priority areas such as pools and weirs where aquatic species may become isolated during low flows.
Duration of Monitoring	The environmental monitoring surveys shall take place from the first day that the maintained flow has to be implemented under condition 1.1 of this drought permit until this drought permit expires or is revoked, unless otherwise agreed by the Agency.
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 or poaching. • 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, impacts exacerbated during lower flows and/or reduced dilution. • Algal blooms. • Establishment and/or expansion of non-native species.
Monitoring Method and 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 and 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximate number of fish in distress, gasping at the surface or leaping out of the water. • Whether 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 reductions in maintained flow implemented under condition 1.1, 3.1.3, or 3.3, the day after, and then weekly thereafter until no further flow reductions are made. If no signs of environmental impact are noted from two consecutive walkover surveys no further walkover surveys are necessary until there are further flow reductions.
Location of Monitoring	Worth 2: 10 metres upstream and at least 100 metres downstream of the Oxenhope WwTW discharge outfall at SE 03550 35670.
Survey Results	<p>Weekly, for the duration of the Drought Permit, the Water Company shall provide to the Agency in the form of a calendar week report the following details:</p> <p>ii) Monitoring data as required by condition 2.1</p> <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, the Water Company will be responsible for all of 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 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 'Drought Plan: Environmental Assessment Report – North West Area Reservoirs', May 2025.

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 Licences.2/27/14/058 and 2/27/14/009 and the Letter. 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).

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

Condition 3.4 (i) identifies the CSO assets where the risk of adverse impact has been established. The implementation of the measures detailed in the plan are referred to as:

- **IDMON_WSWQ2** CSO Monitoring in the North West Reservoirs Environmental Impact Assessment dated May 2025

The reach of watercourse identified as at risk of adverse impact through the CSOs detailed in condition 3.4 (i) are defined in the North West Reservoirs Environmental Impact Assessment dated May 2025 which, in the context of this permit, are:

- Worth 2
- Aire 1
- Aire 2

The Water Company or the Agency may deem it necessary to implement the monitoring and maintenance measures on CSO and WwTW assets that are not listed in the above mentioned plan. Condition 3.4 (ii) provides for this possibility

Monitoring Locations

The Monitoring Locations referred to in Appendices 1 and 2 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.

IMPORTANT NOTES**Definition of a day**

A day means any period of 24 consecutive hours.

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 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 that fact that this is in regard to the 'Springhead Weir Reservoir Drought Permit.'