

Drought Permit No.	DP2025-2/27/05/011
	Underbank (Midhope)

Please quote the reference number in all correspondence



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 number 2/27/05/011 dated 28 January 2016 ("the Licence") to abstract water and is required to operate in accordance with the provisions of the Licence. This drought permit suspends and/or modifies the provisions of the Licence 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 Licence remain in full force and effect.

Signed **Date of issue**.....05 September 2025

Mike Dugher **Date effective** 05 September 2025

Area Director

Date of expiry.....05 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. COMPENSATION FLOW

1.1 Subject to conditions 3.1.3 or 3.3 of this permit, condition 9.1 of the Licence is substituted with the following:

1.1.1 Subject to conditions 1.1.2 and 1.2, the Water Company shall make a uniform and continuous release of compensation flow of not less than 21,700 cubic metres per day from Underbank Reservoir over or through the "Underbank Gauge" to the Little Don River (or The Porter River) at National Grid Reference SK 25331 99154 (or such other location as specified in writing by the Agency).

1.1.2 The Water Company shall maintain a gauge at Underbank Reservoir for measuring the distance in metres between the level of water therein and the top water level thereof, and subject to conditions 1.2, 3.1.3 and 3.3:

Provided that:

(i) During any period when the Water Company maintains in the said reservoir a gauge for measuring the distance in metres between the level of the water therein and the top water level thereof, if the said distance at 9:00am on any Monday equals or exceeds the figure shown in column 2 of the following table opposite to the number of that Monday in column 1 (the first Monday in each calendar year being numbered 1 and each succeeding Monday being numbered consecutively thereafter) the said quantity flowing over or through the Underbank Gauge in each subsequent day shall not be required to exceed 8,000 cubic metres until the said distance at 9:00am on any subsequent Monday equals or is less than the figure shown in column 3 opposite to the number of that Monday.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
1	3.78m	2.74m	28	3.20m	2.95m
2	2.74m	1.80m	29	3.38m	3.20m
3	1.80m	0.94m	30	3.56m	3.38m
4	0.94m	0.89m	31	3.76m	3.56m
5	0.89m	0.84m	32	3.96m	3.76m
6	0.84m	0.81m	33	4.24m	3.96m
7	0.81m	0.76m	34	4.52m	4.24m
8	0.76m	0.71m	35	4.83m	4.52m
9	0.84m	0.76m	36	5.13m	4.83m
10	0.91m	0.84m	37	5.49m	5.13m
11	0.99m	0.91m	38	5.87m	5.49m
12	1.09m	0.99m	39	6.25m	5.87m
13	1.12m	1.09m	40	6.63m	6.25m
14	1.14m	1.12m	41	6.76m	6.63m
15	1.17m	1.14m	42	6.86m	6.76m
16	1.19m	1.17m	43	6.98m	6.86m
17	1.32m	1.19m	44	7.11m	7.04m
18	1.42m	1.32m	45	7.06m	7.01m
19	1.55m	1.42m	46	7.04m	6.98m
20	1.68m	1.55m	47	7.01m	6.93m

21	1.83m	1.68m	48	6.98m	6.73m
22	1.96m	1.83m	49	6.43m	5.89m
23	2.11m	1.96m	50	5.89m	5.41m
24	2.26m	2.11m	51	5.41m	4.93m
25	2.49m	2.26m	52	4.93m	3.78m
26	2.72m	2.49m	53	4.37m	3.28m
27	2.95m	2.72m			

(ii) The Water Company shall allow any person interested to inspect and examine any such gauge in the said reservoir and any records made thereby or kept by them in connection therewith and to take copies of any such records.

(iii) This condition 1.1 and conditions 1.1 and 1.2 in the Drought Permit Serial number DP2025-2/27/05/032 are coincident and not cumulative.

- 1.2 Subject to conditions 3.1.3 and 3.3 of this permit, if the group reservoir stocks are below the South Area 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 5,330 cubic metres per day from Underbank Reservoir over or through the Underbank Gauge to the Little Don River (or the Porter River) at National Grid Reference SK 25331 99154 (or such other location as specified in writing by the Agency) until group reservoir stocks have increased to and remained at or above the South Area 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.

The 'South Area 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 South Area Reservoir Group (with the left-hand vertical axis representing in percentage terms the reservoir stocks).

The Underbank Gauge means the gauge so designated by Section 53 of the Sheffield Corporation (Consolidation) Act 1918.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

- 2.1 The Water Company shall undertake environmental monitoring as set out in Appendix 1 attached to 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 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 3.12(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 Underbank Reservoir to the Little Don River (or The Porter) at National Grid Reference SK 25331 99154 (or such other location as agreed in writing by the Agency) to a rate of not less than 16,000 cubic metres per day, or such lesser quantity as may be 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 reduce compensation flows back to those specified in condition 1.1 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 compensation water specified in conditions 1.1, 1.2, 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**

If, upon being notified by the Agency, or upon discovering through environmental monitoring, or other evidence that an increase in compensation flow is needed to support riverine ecology, as identified in the Water Company Environmental Monitoring Plan South Area Appendix A.4, the Water Company shall increase compensation flow at a time, to a rate and for a duration, as agreed in writing by the Agency, and release from Underbank Reservoir to the Little Don River (or the Porter River) at National Grid Reference SK 25331 99154 (or such other location as agreed in writing by the Agency).

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

(i) 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:

Herries Road No 2 CSO discharging at National Grid Reference SK 33767 90737

Brinsworth Street CSO discharging at National Grid Reference SK 42306 92630

Jordan CSO discharging at National Grid Reference SK 40810 92245

Marsh Street CSO discharging at National Grid Reference SK 42350 92230
Masbrough Street CSO discharging at National Grid Reference SK 42066
92590

Union Street CSO discharging at National Grid Reference SK 41760 92810

Vickers Road CSO discharging at National Grid Reference SK 36777 91072

Blackburn Meadows STW storm overflow discharging at National Grid
Reference SK 40250 92110

Manchester Road Weir CSO discharging at National Grid Reference SK 28483
98153

(ii) Any CSO or WwTW not identified in Appendix A4 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 agrees 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 total compensation flow to the Little Don River (or the Porter) from Underbank Reservoir is reduced under 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, 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 distress. • 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 reductions implemented under conditions 1.1, 1.2, 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 impacts are noted from two consecutive walkover surveys no further walkover surveys are necessary until there are further flow reductions.
Location of Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don 3 – 500m located within SK 29768 95925 to SK 29890 95506 • Don 4 – 500m located within SK 310499 3598 to SK 30794 93327 (incorporating Upper River Don: Deepcar to Hillsborough LWS) • <u>Don 4 – fish pass effectiveness only:</u> Locally at Wharnccliffe Side Weir fish pass SK 29925 94461 and at Niagara Weir fish pass SK 32867 91532 • Don 5 – 500m located within SK 36552 88196 to SK 37000 88100 • Don 5 – 500m located within SK 38207 89566 to SK 38460 90002 (Sheffield) • Don 5 – 500m located within SK 41107 91682 to SK 41568 91834 (Ickles) • <u>Don 5 – fish pass effectiveness only:</u> Locally at Steelbank Weir fish pass SK 34465 88670, Kelham Weir fish pass SK 35030 88270, Lady's Bridge Weir fish pass SK 35714 87797, Walk Mill Weir fish pass SK 36208 88114, Burton's Weir fish pass SK 36767 88219, Sanderson's Weir fish pass SK 37240 88920, Brightside Weir fish pass SK 38680 90140, Hadfield's Weir fish pass SK 39015 91004, Jordan's Weir fish pass SK 40272 92031, and Ickles Weir fish pass SK 41792 91871 • Little Don 1 – 500m located within SK 25314 99132 to SK 25727 99038 and 500m located within SK 28497 98162 to SK 28918 98075, and 500m located within SK 25603 99084 to SK 26024 98890
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>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

REASONS FOR MODIFICATIONS AND CONDITIONS

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 is taking or plans to take in order to mitigate effects on the environment, such as mitigation actions identified in its 'Drought Plan: Environmental Assessment Report –South Area Reservoirs', August 2025.

Temporary Flow Adjustments

Condition 3.3 allows for compensation flows to be temporarily increased from the quantities specified under conditions 1.1 and 1.2 through the range of flows up to the maximum authorised under the Licence. 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 identifies the CSO assets where the risk of adverse impact has been established. The implementation of the measures detailed in this plan is referred to as:

- **IDMON_WSWQ2** CSO Monitoring in the South Area Reservoirs Environmental Monitoring Plan dated June 2025.

The reaches of watercourse identified as at risk of adverse impact through the CSOs detailed in condition 3.4 are defined in the South Area Reservoirs Environmental Monitoring Plan dated June 2025 which, in the context of this permit, are:

- Don 4
- Don 5
- Little Don 1

The Water Company or the Agency may deem it necessary to implement the monitoring and maintenance measures on CSO 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 Appendix 1 are the downstream points, or reaches where monitoring is required, in accordance with Water Company Environmental Monitoring Plan South Area dated June 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.

Environmental Monitoring Plan

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

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.

Contact details

For the purpose of condition 3.1.2 the Water Company shall notify 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 'Underbank (Midhope) Drought Permit.'

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 'Underbank (Midhope) Reservoir Drought Permit.'