

Drought Permit No.

DP2025-2/27/05/030

Damflask

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 2/27/05/030 dated 20 February 2017 ("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

Environment Act 1995
Water Resources Act 1991

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:

Subject to 1.2 and 1.4 below, the Water Company shall make a uniform and continuous release of compensation flow of not less than 28,000 cubic metres per day from Damflask Reservoir to the River Loxley at National Grid Reference SK 28512 90683 (or such other location as specified in writing by the Agency).

- 1.2 Condition 9.2 of the Licence is substituted with the following:

The Water Company shall maintain a gauge in Damflask Reservoir for measuring the distance between the level of water therein and the top water level of 153.92m above Ordnance Datum (Newlyn), and subject to conditions 1.4, 3.1.3 and 3.3:

(i) If the said distance as gauged at 9.00am on any Monday equals or exceeds the value shown in column 2 of the table below, as relates to the number of that Monday in column 1, the quantity of water that the Water Company shall release from Damflask Reservoir to the River Loxley on each subsequent day shall reduce to no less than 9,000 cubic metres per day, until the said distance at 9.00am on any subsequent Monday is equal to or less than the value in column 3 of the table below as relates to the number of that Monday in column 1, whereupon condition 1.1 shall apply. The first Monday in each calendar year is numbered 1 and each subsequent Monday is numbered consecutively thereafter.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
1	6.78m	5.56m	28	4.78m	4.37m
2	5.56m	4.47m	29	5.23m	4.78m
3	4.47m	3.40m	30	5.69m	5.23m
4	3.40m	2.72m	31	6.17m	5.69m
5	2.72m	2.08m	32	6.76m	6.17m
6	2.08m	1.47m	33	7.21m	6.76m
7	1.47m	0.86m	34	7.70m	7.21m
8	0.86m	0.81m	35	8.20m	7.70m
9	1.07m	0.86m	36	8.69m	8.20m
10	1.27m	1.07m	37	8.79m	8.69m
11	1.50m	1.27m	38	8.89m	8.79m
12	1.70m	1.50m	39	8.99m	8.89m
13	1.78m	1.70m	40	9.07m	8.99m
14	1.83m	1.78m	41	9.65m	9.07m
15	1.88m	1.83m	42	10.24m	9.65m
16	1.93m	1.88m	43	10.82m	10.24m
17	2.06m	1.93m	44	11.43m	11.23m
18	2.18m	2.06m	45	11.23m	11.02m
19	2.31m	2.18m	46	11.02m	10.85m
20	2.44m	2.31m	47	10.85m	10.64m
21	2.62m	2.44m	48	10.64m	9.93m

Drought Permit No.	DP2025-2/27/05/030
--------------------	--------------------

22	2.77m	2.62m	49	9.93m	9.25m
23	2.92m	2.77m	50	9.25m	8.66m
24	3.10m	2.92m	51	8.66m	8.10m
25	3.53m	3.10m	52	8.10m	6.78m
26	3.71m	3.53m	53	7.44m	6.17m
27	4.37m	3.71m			

(ii) The Water Company shall take and record readings of the gauge specified in condition 1.2 at 9am each Monday during the whole of the period during which abstraction is authorised or as otherwise approved in writing by the Agency.

(iii) Each record shall be kept and be made available during all reasonable hours for inspection by the Agency for at least 6 years.

1.3 Condition 9.3 of the Licence shall cease to have effect throughout the subsistence of this drought permit.

1.4 Subject to conditions 3.1.3 or 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 5,940 cubic metres per day from Damflask Reservoir to the River Loxley at National Grid Reference SK 28512 90683 (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).

2. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

2.1 The Water Company shall undertake environmental monitoring as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 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 3.1.2(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 Damflask Reservoir to the River Loxley at National Grid Reference SK 28512 90683 (or such other location as agreed in writing by the Agency) to a rate of not less than 18,000 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 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 flow specified in conditions 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 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 Damflask Reservoir to the River Loxley at National Grid Reference SK 28512 90683 or (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:

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

(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 River Loxley from Damflask 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, 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 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, 1.4, 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 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 • Loxley 1 - Site 1: 500m located within SK 31340 89557 to SK 31782 89612, Site 2: 350m located within SK 31683 89658 to SK 31960 89427 to encompass depleted reach and site 3: 500m located within SK 29605 89812 to SK2990189515 • Loxley 1 - Minewater discharges in the vicinity of Myers Grove, 10m upstream and at least 100m downstream of SK 32544 89337. • Loxley 2: 500m located within SK 32776 89321 to SK 32954 89413 (incorporating Malin Bridge to River Don LWS)
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 total compensation flow to the River Loxley from Damflask Reservoir is reduced under this drought permit until this drought permit expires or is revoked, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Agency.
Environmental impacts	<p>The following are signs of environmental impacts but are not exhaustive. If advice is required, 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 in priority areas such as pools and weirs where aquatic species may become isolated during low flows. 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 • Ammonium concentration <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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 reductions implemented under conditions 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 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	Loxley 1 - Minewater discharges in the vicinity of Myers Grove, 10m upstream and at least 100m downstream of SK 32544 89337
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 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 –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 the plan is referred to as:

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

The reach of watercourse identified as at risk of adverse impact through the CSOs detailed in condition 3.4 is defined in the South Area Reservoirs EMP dated June 2025 which, in the context of this permit, is:

- Don 5

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 Appendices 1 and 2 are the downstream points, reach 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, and **IDMON_WSWQ1** Targeted surveillance walkover surveys of water quality and ecological stress, local to 'significant' water quality pressures and **IDMIT-H1** Third-party abstraction.

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