

Drought Permit No.

DP2025-NE0270012032

Widdop

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 NE/027/0012/032 ("the Licence") to impound 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** Mike Dugher

**Date of issue** - 24 September 2025

Area Director - Yorkshire

**Date effective** - 24 September 2025

Environment Agency  
Lateral House  
8 City Walk  
Leeds  
LS11 9AT

**Date of expiry** - 24 March 2026

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 and 3.3 of this drought permit, conditions 4.1 and 4.2 of the Licence are substituted with the following:

- (i) Subject to condition 1.1 (ii) of this drought permit, the Water Company shall make a uniform and continuous release of compensation flow of not less than 1,620 cubic metres per day from January to September inclusive, and not less than 3,240 cubic metres per day from October to December inclusive, from Widdop Reservoir to Graining Water (Hebden Water) at National Grid Reference SD 93681 32699 (or such other location as specified in writing by the Agency).
- (ii) If the group reservoir stocks are below the South West Reservoir Group Drought Control Line as defined in the Water Company's Drought Plan 2022 ('The 2022 Drought Plan') for a period of more than four consecutive weeks, then the Water Company shall make a uniform and continuous release of compensation flow of not less than 1,070 cubic metres per day from January to September inclusive, and not less than 2,140 cubic metres per day from October to December inclusive from Widdop Reservoir to Graining Water (Hebden Water) at National Grid Reference SD 93681 32699 (or other location as specified in writing by the Agency) until group reservoir stocks have increased to and remained at or above the South 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 'South West Reservoir Group Drought Control Line' is shown in Figure 2.1 in Section 2.1 of the Drought Plan 2022, marked 'DCL' in the graph for the South West Reservoir Group (with the left hand vertical axis representing in percentage terms the regional reservoir stocks)

### 2. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

2.1 The Water Company shall undertake the monitoring as set out in Appendix 1 attached to this 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 notify the Agency in writing and by telephone on 0800 80 70 60 and shall provide details of the signs of impacts 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), the Agency gives written notice that there is a disruption to the ecology, the Water Company shall increase compensation flow from Widdop Reservoir to Graining Water (Hebden Water) at National Grid Reference SD 93681 32699 to:

From January to September inclusive:

a rate of not less than 3,240 cubic metres per day, or a lesser quantity if agreed in writing by the Agency

From October to December inclusive:

a rate of not less than 12,960 cubic metres per day, unless the total volume of water in Widdop Reservoir is equal to or less than 1,385,360 cubic metres, then 6,480 cubic metres per day should be released, or a lesser quantity if agreed 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 compensation flow to that specified in condition 1.1 of this drought permit 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, 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 or 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 compensation flow is needed to support riverine ecology, as identified in the Water Company Environmental Monitoring Plan South West Area Appendix A.3, 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 SD 93681 32699, or 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 (CSO's) Optimisation and Maintenance for Drought Plan* and 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;

- 3.4 (i) Salem Cricket Ground CSO discharging at National Grid Reference SD 99204 28057  
Crow Nest Bridge CSO discharging at National Grid Reference SD 99587 26845  
Princess Bridge No 2 CSO discharging at National Grid Reference SD 99470 26932  
Back Wharf Street CSO discharging at National Grid Reference SE 06225 23620  
Rochdale Canal CSO discharging at National Grid Reference SE 06405 23627  
Wharfe House CSO discharging at National Grid Reference SE 06463 23638  
Sowerby Bridge CSO discharging at National Grid Reference SE 07240 23635  
Copley Village No 2 SPS discharging at National Grid Reference SE08466 55676  
Halifax Copley STW discharging at National Grid Reference SE 09220 22290
- 3.4 (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 problems.</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 Graining Water (Hebden Water) from Widdop Reservoir is reduced under this drought permit until this drought permit expires or is revoked, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Environment Agency.</p>
Environmental Impact	<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"> <li>• Fish in distress, for example gasping at the surface or leaping out of the water.</li> <li>• Dead fish.</li> <li>• Concentration of fish in restricted areas/pools which could increase susceptibility to predation.</li> <li>• Inhibition of movement of fish past river structures or other barriers.</li> <li>• Reduced habitat availability for adult and juvenile life stages (including spawning/nursery areas).</li> <li>• Reduced depth of flow over brown trout redds.</li> <li>• Signs of polluting discharges during walkover surveys, impacts exacerbated during lower flows and/or reduced dilution.</li> <li>• Algal blooms.</li> <li>• Establishment and/or expansion of invasive non-native species.</li> </ul>
Monitoring Method & Standard of Assessment	<p>The Water Company shall measure and record the following information. For all environmental impacts identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The location of the site of environmental impacts observed.</li> <li>• A photo or photos should be taken of any signs of environmental impacts.</li> <li>• Weather conditions at the time of the observations.</li> <li>• Dissolved oxygen concentration measurements shall be taken and recorded anywhere in the survey area where signs of environmental stress are identified.</li> <li>• Ammonium concentration measurements shall be taken and recorded anywhere in the survey area where signs of environmental stress are identified.</li> </ul> <p>Where relevant to the environmental impact observed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximate number of dead fish.</li> <li>• Any signs of damage or disease.</li> <li>• Approximate number of fish in distress, gasping at the surface or leaping out of the water.</li> <li>• Whether the fish are being stranded in shallow pools.</li> <li>• Depth of water over brown trout redds</li> <li>• Description of structures and stretches of any watercourses that have no flow or significantly reduced flow.</li> <li>• Approximate size of the fish affected.</li> <li>• The species affected.</li> <li>• Signs of pollution.</li> <li>• Presence of algal blooms/scums.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Species, location and extent of invasive non-native species.</li> </ul>
Frequency of monitoring	On the day of any reductions in compensation flow implemented under conditions 1.1 or 3.1.3, the day after and then weekly thereafter until no further flow changes 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 changes.
Location of Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Graining Water 1: 500m located within SD 9372 3283 to SD 9400 3251</li> <li>Graining Water 2: 500m located within SD 9536 3120 to SD 9584 3133</li> <li>Hebden Water 1: 500m located within SD 9728 3089 to SD 9714 3042 and 150m from SD 97257 29937 to SD 97317 29814 and 40m from SD 99270 27355 to SD 99248 27324</li> <li>Calder 2: 500m located within SD 9986 2664 to SE 0040 2647</li> <li>Calder 3: 500m located within SE 0693 2371 to SE 0722 2365</li> </ul>
Survey Results	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring data as required from Condition 2.1,</li> </ul> <p>The report shall be sent to  <a href="mailto:drought.yorkshire@environment-agency.gov.uk">drought.yorkshire@environment-agency.gov.uk</a>  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 permit.

### Mitigation

Condition 3 of this drought permit has been included to mitigate against any environmental problems 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 West Area Upper Calder Reservoirs', July 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 Licence No. NE 027/0012/032 dated 1 May 2018. 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 (CSO's) and Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTWs)

Condition 3.4 (i) identifies the CSO and WwTW 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 South West Reservoirs Upper Calder Environmental Impact Assessment dated July 2025.

The reach of watercourse identified as at risk of adverse impact through the CSO's detailed in Condition 3.4 (i) are defined in the South West Reservoirs Upper Calder Environmental Impact Assessment dated July 2025 which, in the context of this drought permit are:

- Graining Water 1
- Graining Water 2
- Hebden Water 1
- Calder 2
- Calder 3

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 and 2 are the downstream reach or reaches where monitoring is required, in accordance with Water Company Environmental Monitoring Plan South West Upper Calder Area dated July 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 shall notify the Agency via email to: [drought.yorkshire@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto: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 'Widdop Reservoir 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](mailto: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 'Widdop Reservoir Drought Permit.'