

Drought Permit No.	DP2025-22715149 Silsden
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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 2/27/15/149 ("the Licence") to abstract water and is required to operate in accordance with the provisions of the Licence. This drought permit authorises the Water Company to take water subject to the conditions and/or restrictions set out in the Schedule of Conditions and 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 said Licence 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. HANDS OFF 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:

(i) no abstraction shall take place from the stilling basin unless the rate of flow over the notch or weir at National Grid Reference SE 04449 47482, is equal to or greater than 1,200 cubic metres per day and the abstraction shall not cause the flow immediately downstream of the said abstraction point to fall below that rate. This shall be known as 'hands off flow 1'.

(ii) 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 no abstraction shall take place unless flow over the notch or weir at National Grid Reference SE 04449 47482, is equal to or greater than 800 cubic metres per day (or such other location as specified in writing by the Agency). This shall be known as 'hands off flow 2'. Upon group reservoir stocks increasing too and remaining at or above the North West Reservoir Group Drought Control Line for a period of six consecutive weeks or longer, the Water Company must return to the hands off flow specified in Condition 1.1(i).

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).

### 2. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

2.1 The Water Company shall undertake the monitoring as set out in Appendix 1.

### 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 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 the compensation flow from Silsden Reservoir to Silsden Beck at National Grid Reference SE 04449 47482 to a rate of not less than 2,409 cubic metres per day (or such lesser quantity as may be specified in writing by the Agency).
- The Water Company shall commence this compensation flow as soon as possible but in any event, within 48 hours of receipt of written notification from the Agency.
- The Water Company shall not therefore reduce the compensation flow to that specified in Condition 1.1 until it 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 flows over the notch or weir 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, 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 04449 47482, or other location as specified 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 the (2025) Wastewater Treatment Works Optimisation and Maintenance for Drought Plan shall be applied to any CSO and WwTW assets not identified in Appendix A of the same plan, but subsequently deemed by the Water Company or the Agency to risk adverse impact to a watercourse while 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**

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 hands of flows 1 or 2, as specified on this permit, are in use or that the total compensation flow to the Silsden Beck from the Sidsen 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 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"> <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 or poaching.</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, problems 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 problem 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> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> <li>• Species, location and extent of invasive non-native species.</li> </ul>
Frequency of monitoring	From the first day that hands of flows 1 or 2 as specified on this permit are in use or changes to flow are implemented as specified by condition 3.3, the day after, and then weekly thereafter until no further 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 reductions.
Location of Monitoring	Silsden Beck between SE 04007 45679 to SE 03940 45232.
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 of the costs associated with this monitoring program.</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 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 – 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 the Licence 2/27/15/149. 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).

#### Monitoring Locations

The Monitoring Locations referred to in Appendix 1 are 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.

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

Condition 3.4 provides for the possibility that the Water Company or the Agency may deem it necessary to implement the monitoring and maintenance measures from the optimisation plans on CSO and WwTW assets that are not identified in Appendix A.

### 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 contact the Agency by email to: [drought.yorkshire@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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 'Silsden Reservoir Drought Permit.'