

## Drought Permit – modify existing abstraction

Section 79A Water Resources Act 1991 as amended by the Environment Act 1995

The Environment Agency (“the Agency”) grants this drought permit to:

United Utilities Water Limited (“the water company”)  
Haweswater House  
Lingley Mere Business Park  
Lingley Green Avenue  
Great Sankey  
Warrington  
WA5 3LP

Registered Company Number: 02366678

This drought permit modifies abstraction licence serial number 25/69/010/034 dated 23 March 1966 (“the Licence”) and how section 5 (1) of the Manchester Corporation Act 1954 (“the Act”) is applied through the Licence as set out in the Schedule of Conditions to this drought permit.

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 and the Act relating to Bottoms Lodge Reservoir remain in full force and effect.

**Signed** Lee Rawlinson  
Area Director

Environment Agency  
Richard Fairclough House  
Knutsford Road  
Latchford  
Warrington  
Cheshire  
WA4 1HT

**Date of issue**.....28 September 2018

**Date effective** ..... 28 September 2018

**Date of expiry**.....27 March 2019

## **SCHEDULE OF CONDITIONS**

### **1. COMPENSATION FLOW**

- 1 Other condition (a) of the Licence is modified so that during the period that this drought permit is in force, section 5 (1) of the the Manchester Corporation Act 1954 shall be treated as if:
- 1.1 For the words in section 5 (1) “seventy million gallons per week” there be substituted the words “260.42 litres per second (22.5 megalitres per day)”.

### **2. FISHERIES MONITORING AND MITIGATION**

- 2.1 The water company shall undertake the Fisheries Monitoring as set out in Appendix 1 attached to this permit.
- 2.2 If the Fisheries Monitoring identifies signs of environmental distress, the following actions shall be undertaken by the water company:
- 2.2.1 (i) upon finding any signs of ecological distress the water company shall notify the Environment Agency in writing and by telephone on 0800 80 70 60 and shall provide details of the signs of distress and the location;  
(ii) the water company shall undertake a remedial course of action to address the signs of ecological distress, as directed in writing by the Environment Agency.
- 2.2.2 If, upon being notified of any signs of ecological distress in accordance with Condition 2.2.1(i), the Environment Agency gives written notice that there is a disruption to the ecology, the water company shall increase compensation flow to the River Etherow as specified in condition 1.1. above to a rate of not less than 526.62 litres per second (45.5 megalitres per day). The increase in compensation to the River Etherow shall continue until the Environment Agency serves a subsequent written notice stating that the reduction in compensation flow in accordance with Condition 1.1 may be resumed.
- 2.3 **Freshet flows**  
The water company shall make a release of compensation water for 24 continuous hours each week if the Agency notifies them in writing that additional flow is needed to support spawning for trout and salmon species. These releases of compensation water are referred to here as “freshet flows”. The freshet flows shall take place between 1 October 2018 and 27 March 2018 inclusive or shorter period if notified in writing by the Agency. The Agency may agree a lesser duration and frequency for each freshet flow. The freshet flow shall be:  
  
not less than 526.62 litres per second (45.5 megalitres per day) to the River Etherow from the Longdendale reservoir complex via Bottoms reservoir through the basin located at National Grid Reference SK 02294 97123.
- 2.4 The additional compensation water specified in condition 2.2.2 and 2.3 shall be released 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.

## **SCHEDULE OF CONDITIONS**

### **3. TEMPORARY USE BAN**

From 1 April 2019, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Agency, conditions 1 and 1.1 in this drought permit shall not apply unless a Temporary Use Ban for the Integrated Resource Zone, as set out in the water company's 2018 Drought Plan, is in force.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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

### **REASONS FOR MODIFICATIONS AND CONDITIONS**

Condition 2 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.

### **IMPORTANT NOTES**

#### **Temporary Use ban**

You must follow your current 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 Environment Agency and United Utilities.

#### **Mitigation**

With regards to Condition 2 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 Longdendale Drought Permit Environmental Assessment Report, September 2018.

For the purpose of Conditions 2.2.1 the water company shall notify the Environment Agency via email to: IEP\_GMMC@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 'Longdendale Drought Permit.'

#### **Compensation release calculations**

The water company will provide the Environment Agency with details of how the water level will be set to ensure no less than 260.42 litres per second (22.5 megalitres per day) is released as compensation flow. This is to ensure compliance with Condition 1.1

## APPENDIX 1

### FISHERIES MONITORING SCHEDULE

Assessment Type	<p>Visual monitoring “walkover surveys” of the riverine environment to identify environmental problems on the River Etherow between Glossop and Compstall that may be affected or caused by the water company lowering compensation flows.</p> <p>The water company shall discuss and agree with the Agency any proposed changes to this monitoring schedule in advance of carrying out any of the survey work.</p>
Duration of Monitoring	<p>The environmental monitoring surveys shall take place from the first day that the total compensation flow to the River Etherow from the Bottoms Reservoir is 260 litres per second (22.5 megalitres per day) until this drought permit expires or is revoked, unless otherwise agreed by the Environment Agency.</p>
Environmental Distress	<p>The following are suggested signs of environmental problems 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, 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.</p> <p>For all environmental problems identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The location of the site of environmental problems observed.</li> <li>• A photo or photos should be taken of any signs of environmental distress.</li> <li>• Weather conditions at the time of the observations.</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> <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> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presence of algal blooms/scums.</li> <li>• Species, location and extent of invasive non-native species.</li> </ul>
Frequency of monitoring	Weekly (and not within three calendar days of the previous survey)
Location of Monitoring	<p><u>Site 1 River Etherow downstream of Bottoms Lodge Reservoir</u> National Grid Reference SK 01358 96320 – 400 metres upstream</p> <p><u>Site 2 River Etherow at Woolley Bridge</u> National Grid Reference SK 00929 95791 – 200 metres upstream and downstream</p> <p><u>Site 3 River Etherow at Broadbottom</u> National Grid Reference SJ 99611 93926 – 400 metres upstream</p> <p><u>Site 4 River Etherow – Botham’s Hall</u> National Grid Reference SJ 98462 92921 – 200 metres upstream and downstream</p> <p><u>Site 5 River Etherow – Compstall Weir</u> National Grid Reference SJ 97340 91289 – 400 metres upstream</p> <p>Or any other suitable location as agreed between the Agency and the water company.</p>
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> <p>i) Fisheries Monitoring data as required from Condition 2.1,</p> <p>The report shall be sent to the Environment Agency IEP (Integrated Environmental Planning) team IEP_GMMC@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>