

6 Drought Permit Application – Consultation

October 2022



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1 BACKGROUND

South West Water is applying for a drought permit under section 79A of the Water Resources Act 1991 ("WRA 1991") to make temporary amendments to abstraction licence 15/48/18/S/40 as issued on 8 April 1987 ("the Licence") relating to abstraction from the River Fowey at the Restormel Water Treatment Works ("WTW"), for the purposes of replenishing the storage levels at Colliford Reservoir.

1.1 The drought permit application documents

This document is part of a suite of documents which form the application for the drought permit, as set out in Table 1.

The structure and contents of the documents follows the requirements set out in **Appendix E** of the **EA guidance on drought permit and drought orders**, which was issued in 2019 and revised in 2021 (Environment Agency, 2021), with some adjustments to the sequence of documents and sections.

Table 1 Document structure for drought permit application

Documents: Drought Permit Proposals		
1	1.1 1.2 1.3 Appendix 1 Appendix 2	Description of Proposals Draft Permit Drinking Water Services Report 2022 – Operations Supporting Evidence Restormel Abstraction Licence National Security Notice
2	2.1 2.2	Statement of Reasons Case for Exceptional Shortage of Rain (ESoR)
3	3	Restormel Drought Permit Environmental Assessment Report
4	4 Appendix 1 Appendix 2	Evidence the Company has followed its Drought Plan Enhanced Media Campaign Leakage and pressure management
5	5	Actions taken to reduce demand and conserve supplies in line with drought plan
6	6 Appendix 1 Appendix 2	Consultation Process Formal Notice Email and letter to Stakeholders

2 PUBLIC NOTICES

2.1 Publications

A Public Notice is to be published in the following publications on 13 October 2022:

- ❖ London Gazette
- ❖ Western Morning News
- ❖ Express

The notice informs the general public about the drought permit application and provides details of where the application documents may be accessed: either online, or in hard copy at three locations, and sets out how representations or objections may be made to the drought permit.

The notice is included as Appendix 1.

3 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

3.1 Stakeholder List

Angling Trust
Community Network Cornwall Councillors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Area 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Council Network Area 13 Officer o Fowey, Tywardreath & Par o Lostwithiel & Lanreath o Roche and Bugle o St Blazey - Area 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Council Network Area 15 Officer o Liskeard Central o Liskeard South and Dobwalls o Looe East and Deviock o Looe West. Pelynt, Lansallos and Lanteglos o Lynher o St Clear and Menheniot

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Consumer Council for Water
Cornwall Catchment Partnership
Cornwall Council
Cornwall Wildlife Trust
Environment Agency
Fowey Harbour
Natural England
<p>Parish Councils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Area 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Boconnoc o Broadoak o Fowey Town Council o Lanlivery o Lostwithiel o Luxulyan o St Blaise o St Sampson o St Veep o St Winnow o Tywardreath and Par Parish - Area 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Deviock o Dobwalls o Duloe o Lanreath o Lanteglos by Fowey o Liskeard Town Council o Looe Town Council o Menheniot o Morval o Pelynt o Polperro o Quethiock o St Cleer o St Keyne o St Martin by Looe o St Neot o St Pinnock o Warleggan

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South West Lakes Trust
South West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee
South West Rivers Association
Westcountry Rivers Trust

On 26 September 2022 all stakeholders listed in the table above were notified by email of the intent to apply for a drought permit to adapt how we manage water in the Colliford Water Resource Zone (“**WRZ**”), following the period of prolonged dry weather.

The email contained a letter detailing the challenges and the current water resource situation and invited comments from the stakeholders with a view to understanding and alleviating any concerns.

The email and enclosed letter are detailed in Appendix 2.

In addition to the explanation in the letter, we advised that we were hosting an online briefing session, with a Q&A session on Thursday 29 September, 10:00-11:00am.

Stakeholders were encouraged to register for the session on Eventbrite.

There were representatives from the following organisations at the briefing session:

- ❖ Fowey River Association
- ❖ Restormel Angling Ltd (95 anglers who own fishing rights and a riparian stretch)
- ❖ Westcountry Rivers Trust
- ❖ Cornwall Catchment Partnership
- ❖ Environment Agency
- ❖ Liskeard Parish Council
- ❖ Lanteglos by Fowey Parish Council
- ❖ Deviock Parish Council
- ❖ Cornwall Wildlife Trust

On 7 October 2022, all stakeholders listed in the Stakeholder List table above, were notified by email of a second 'follow-up' briefing event to take place at 4pm on 10 October 2022. Again, stakeholders were encouraged to register on Eventbrite. This email is enclosed at Appendix 2.

There were representatives from the following organisations at the follow-up briefing session:

- ❖ Liskeard and district angling club (125 anglers)
- ❖ Fowey River Association
- ❖ Restormel Angling Ltd (95 anglers who own fishing rights and a riparian stretch)

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- ❖ South West Lakes Trust
- ❖ Westcountry Rivers Trust
- ❖ Deviock Parish Council
- ❖ Part of the Fowey Fisheries Resource Group
- ❖ Environment Agency
- ❖ Lanreath Parish Council
- ❖ Cornwall Councillor
- ❖ Lanteglos by Fowey Parish Council
- ❖ Cornwall Catchment Partnership Officer

3.2 Notices to MPs

South East Cornwall MP Mrs Sheryll Murray was informed of the planned application on 12 October 2022, as was Trudy Harrison, Parliamentary under Secretary of State in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 13 October 2022.

Notices to protected persons

Protected persons are those protected under any Licence order or enactment.

There are not any in this instance, however as a courtesy we have included the Fowey Harbourmaster.

The Fowey Harbourmaster also received the email and the invitation to join the online briefing.

4 DESCRIPTION OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

Paper copies of the drought permit application documents are available for public inspection for seven days from 13 October 2022 at the following locations:

- ❖ South West Water Head Office, Peninsula House, Rydon Lane, Exeter, EX2 7HR (9am – 5pm Mon-Fri).
- ❖ Sir John Moore House, Omaha Road, Bodmin, Cornwall, PL31 1EB (9am – 5pm Mon-Fri).
- ❖ Bude Post Office, Belle Vue, Bude, EX23 8LU (9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-12.30pm Sat).

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- ❖ Lostwithiel Community Centre, Pleyber Christ Way, Lostwithiel PL22 0HA (10am-3pm Mon-Fri)
- ❖ The documents are also available on the South West Water website at <https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/advice-and-services/save-water/hosepipeban/>

5 CONSULTATION COMMENTS

The stakeholder briefing event on 29 September was well attended.

Restormel Anglers Limited raised concerns about the volumes of water passing over the fish pass at Restormel Weir, and the impact of reduced flows on fish. We confirmed that the position regarding fish had been reviewed in detail, noting that the proposed hands-off flow allow fish passing along the weir, and that there will be measures in place ready to relocate fish if necessary.

Bodmin Angling Association were unable to attend the briefing event but also raised concerns regarding fish migration.

The potential ecological impact of the drought permit measures downstream and on other rivers was a concern for Stakeholders including the Fowey Harbour Commissioners, and the environmental impacts of the proposal are set out in the EAR accompanying this drought permit at **Document 3.0 the Environmental Assessment Report**.

Lostwithiel Town Council asked about alternative options and the use and generation of renewable energy. We highlighted various activities we have undertaken to conserve water, including media campaigns, water butts, reduction tools, advice, and water audits. We also discussed the £10m infrastructure investment at Porth Rialton with the construction of a new water treatment works, as well as using supply options at Stannon, Park Lake and Hawks Tor.

Looe Town Council and Lostwithiel Town Council raised concerns about leakage. South West Water has implemented measures to reduce water demand, including increased leakage management. We have set out our approach to leakage and the measures we are taking in **Document 4.0 Evidence the Company has followed the Drought Plan** and in **Appendix 2 of Document 4.0 Leakage and Pressure Management**. Further details on other measures include publicity campaigns (detailed at Appendix 1 of **Document 4.0 Evidence the Company has followed its Drought Plan**), leakage control, outage management, pressure reduction and temporary restrictions on water uses through the implementation of a TUB across the area.

The second stakeholder briefing took place on 10 October 2022.

Fowey River Association queried whether South West Water were intending to use the fisheries water bank to manage a potential pollution incident and/or water quality concerns. South West Water explained that we are not intending to use the fisheries water bank and furthermore, should water bank released be required for salmonid spawning, we do not intend to apply the normal recharge period as a consequence of this drought permit. The mitigation measures are set out in more detail in **Document 3.0 – Environmental Assessment Report**.

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The Fowey River Association also questioned how the fish counter at the Restormel weir was to be monitored in 'real-time' and the availability of that data. South West Water will discuss suitable conditions and access to the data at Restormel Weir with the EA, as part of this application.

The Westcountry Rivers Trust asked whether the data collected from the monitoring would be shared publicly. South West Water will consider how we can make this information readily available, subject to the granting of the drought permit.

6 DETAILS OF OBJECTIONS

No formal objections have been raised at the time this document was published.