



Thames Water Utilities Limited
Clearwater Court
Vastern Road
Reading
Berkshire
RG6 1LP

By hand

17 September 2026

Thames Water Utilities Limited – application for a drought permit under section 79a of the Water Resources Act 1991

To whom it may concern,

Please find a copy of the notice of Thames Water Utilities Limited's application for a drought permit under section 79a of the Water Resources Act 1991 and the application documents.

Thames Water Utilities Limited is applying for a temporary variation of licence number 28/39/16/0078 for a period of up to six months to abstract water from the River Thames at Farmoor.

Kindly note that some aspects of the information supporting the application may alter during the consultation period, which is open from 9.00am on 17th September 2026 to 5.00pm on 23rd September 2026. If you wish to review any alterations please contact Laura Beardsworth laura.beardsworth@thameswater.co.uk, at Thames Water Utilities Limited.

Kind regards,

Nevil Muncaster
Strategic Water Resources Director
Thames Water Utilities Limited



Thames Water Utilities Limited

Application for a Drought Permit

Section 79A of the WATER RESOURCES ACT 1991

TAKE NOTICE that due to a serious water shortage in Oxfordshire, part of Wiltshire (centring on Swindon) and part of Gloucestershire (centring on Cirencester) caused by an exceptional shortage of rain, Thames Water Utilities Limited of Clearwater Court, Vastern Road, Reading RG1 8DB is applying to the Environment Agency for a drought permit under section 79A of the Water Resources Act 1991.

The proposed drought permit will involve a temporary variation (for a period of six months) of the Thames Water Utilities Limited licence to increase the licensed abstraction of water from the River Thames at Farmoor (Licence No. 28/39/16/0078).

The anticipated effect of the drought permit, if granted, will be to increase the amount of water available for abstraction into Farmoor reservoir in order to reduce the rate of fall in reservoir levels. This will help to safeguard longer term supplies for public use. The effect on the river will be a reduction in flow downstream of Farmoor.

It is not anticipated that this will have any adverse effect on downstream abstractors. In consultation with the Environment Agency, Thames Water Utilities Limited have carried out comprehensive environmental assessments into the potential impact of the proposed permit.

In order to understand the impacts of the drought permit a programme of monitoring has been agreed with the Environment Agency and Natural England and will be implemented before the drought permit is granted, during operation of the drought permit and following cessation of the drought permit. Key environmental parameters included in the monitoring programme comprise river flow, designated sites, protected habitats, water quality and ecology (including assessment of potential impacts on Invasive Non-Native species). In addition, mitigation measures will be implemented if the monitoring indicates it is necessary. This mitigation will include pumping

to support sensitive watercourses and may also include targeted rescues of fish where necessary.

Anyone may inspect the proposals, free of charge, at (a) Farmoor Fishery, Farmoor Reservoir, Cumnor Road, Farmoor, Oxon OX2 9NS (b) Thames Water Utilities Limited, Clearwater Court, Vastern Road, Reading RG1 8DB, (c) The Environment Agency, Red Kite House, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford OX10 8BD during normal working hours until 23 September 2026. The documents will also be available on our website at thameswater.co.uk/farmoor-drought-permit.

Objections may be made to the Environment Agency at Water Resourcing Permitting and Support Centre, Environment Agency, Water Resources Team, Quadrant 2, 99 Parkway Avenue, Parkway Business Park, Sheffield S9 4WF or by Email to PSC-WaterResources@environment-agency.gov.uk, quoting the name of the application and reference.

Objections can be made from 9.00am on 17 September 2026 with a deadline of 5.00pm on 23 September 2026. The response should outline if you are making a formal objection to the proposal and the grounds for the objection.

Nevil Muncaster
Strategic Water Resources Director
Thames Water Utilities Limited

17 September 2026

Thames Water Utilities Limited, a company registered in England and Wales with company number 02366661.
Registered office address: Clearwater Court, Vastern Road, Reading RG1 8DB. VAT registration number: GB 537-4569-15.