THAMES WATER UTILITIES LIMITED

Notice of granting of 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 applied to the Environment Agency on 17 September 2026 for a drought permit under section 79A of the Water Resources Act 1991.

On 29 September 2026 the Environment Agency granted the drought permit.

The 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 is 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 was implemented before the drought permit was granted and will be further implemented 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 permit, 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 26 October 2026. The documents will also be available on our website at https://www.thameswater.co.uk/farmoor-drought-permit.

Nevil Muncaster
Strategic Water Resources Director
Thames Water Utilities Limited

12 October 2026