

River Test Stage 0.1 Drought Order Application

3 - Consultation

Application
18 July 2025

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1 Background

Southern Water is applying for a Drought Order under Section 79A the Water Resources Act (WRA) 1991 to make temporary amendments to abstraction licence 11/42/18.16/546 to abstract water from the River Test.

Southern Water is also applying for a Drought Order to restrict non-essential uses of water under sections 73 and 74(2)(b) of the Water Resources Act 1991.

2 Public notices

2.1 Publications

A Public Notice, is to be published in the following publications on 18th July:

- London Gazette
- Daily Echo
- Hampshire Live
- Hampshire Chronicle
- Basingstoke Gazette
- Isle of Wight County Press

The notice informs the general public about the Drought Order application and provides details of how the application documents may be accessed either online, or at one of four locations, how representation or objections may be made, as well as details of the potential (virtual) Hearing.

The notice is included as Appendix 1 (document ref: **3 App1 Public Notice**). It has been updated to include copies of the notices which have been published at the time of submission of the application. Copies of the other notices will be forwarded to the EA when they are received.

3 Stakeholder Engagement

The relevant South Hampshire MPs and local authority leaders and Chief Executives will receive a separate update via email.

A full list of stakeholders receiving notice of the River Test Drought Permit Application are shown in Annex B below.

There is no Internal Drainage Board in the River Test catchment.

4 Permit holders

We are writing to one abstraction licence holder who has a groundwater abstraction licence in Southampton downstream of the River Test abstraction, to inform them of our intention to apply for a drought permit, that there would be public notices when the application was made, and to give them the opportunity to provide comment or feedback.

At the time of application we are writing to 18 discharge consent holders who have permits to discharge to surface waterbodies downstream of the River Test abstraction (as per the list provided by the Environment Agency) to inform them of our intention to apply for a drought permit, that there would be public notices when the application was made, and to give them the opportunity to provide comment or feedback.

5 Description of public inspection arrangements

Paper copies of the drought permit application documents are to be made available for public inspection for a minimum of seven days from 21st July onwards at the following locations:

- Southern Water's head office Southern House, Yeoman Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN13 3NX, or
- Environment Agency at Romsey Office, Canal Walk, Station Road, Romsey SO51 7LP, or
- Totton Library in Library Road, Totton, Southampton SO40 3RS, or
- Eastleigh Library at 1st Floor, Swan Centre, Eastleigh SO50 5SF

The documents will also be available to download from the Southern Water website at the following URL: www.southernwater.co.uk/our-story/water-resources-planning/hampshire-drought

6 Consent from Navigation Authority

We are seeking consent from the Navigation Authority

7 Comments from consultees

As we received comments from the public consultation and from other sources we will update our application with a log of all comments received and how they have been responded to

8 Details of objections

8.1 Detailed list of objections

No objections have been received at the time of application.

8.2 Detailed list of agreements

No agreements have been made at the time of application.

Annex A – Letters to Consent Holders

TBC

Annex B – Stakeholder List

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
Broadlands Estate
Campaign for the Protection of Rural
England
Consumer Council for Water
Dorset County Council
East Hampshire District Council
Eastleigh Borough Council
Environment Agency
Fareham Borough Council
Gosport Borough Council
Hampshire & IoW Wildlife Trust
Hampshire County Council
Hart District Council
Havant Borough Council
Isle of Wight Council
Little River Management
Natural England
New Forest District Council
New Forest National Park Authority
Portsmouth City Council
Portsmouth Water
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Rushmoor Borough Council
Salmon and Trout Conservation
South Downs National Park Authority
Southampton City Council
Test and Itchen Catchment Partnership
Test Valley Borough Council
Wessex Rivers Trust
Winchester City Council