

Detailed guide: Measure, record and report your water abstraction

Measure your water abstraction

Most licences require you to [accurately measure and report the quantity of water you abstract](#). The Environment Agency will discuss these requirements with you while they determine your application.

You need to measure and record the amount of water you abstract so you can keep within the limits allowed in your licence. If you think you need to abstract more than your maximum quantity, you must tell the Environment Agency straight away. There is no guarantee that we will be able to increase the maximum quantity your licence allows you to abstract.

We need accurate records of how much water is taken so we can:

- ensure society's need for water is balanced with that needed to maintain a healthy aquatic environment
- allocate spare resources to other abstractors
- charge some abstractors based on how much water they take
- check compliance with licence conditions
- provide information on water usage

Report your water abstraction

Your abstraction licence will tell you how often you need to record the amount of water you abstract. Most licences will also ask you to submit a record of your actual abstraction (known as 'returns') to the Environment Agency.

Even if you have not taken any water, you must submit a 'nil' return if your licence states that you must report your water use.

If you do not submit your record of actual abstraction when required to do so, we may take enforcement action.

If you spray irrigate and hold a two part tariff billing agreement your charges are partially calculated on the amount of water abstracted. To gain the full financial benefits of this agreement it is important that you submit your return, even if you have not abstracted any water.

Submit your water abstraction returns

You can submit your water abstraction returns using forms supplied by the Environment Agency or use their online reporting system called Generic Operator Returns (GOR).

[Submit water abstraction returns.](#)

Contact the Environment Agency

General enquiries

National Customer Contact Centre
PO Box 544
Rotherham
S60 1BY

Email
enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Telephone
03708 506 506

Telephone from outside the UK (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm GMT)
+44 (0) 114 282 5312

Minicom (for the hard of hearing)
03702 422 549

Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm

[Detailed guide: Manage your water abstraction or impoundment licences online](#)

Updated: Added section 'About this digital service'.

You can view the information on each of your water abstraction or impoundment licences by creating an online account.

You can also:

- check your licence start and end dates
- check your points and periods of abstraction
- give other people access to view your licence information

[View your water abstraction licences online.](#)

About this digital service

We're modernising the water resources licensing service. One part of this work is to upgrade the water resources IT systems. This includes moving paper based licences into a digital format. You can find information about the latest upgrades to the service on this webpage.

Find out about the planned reforms in the [Water abstraction plan: Abstraction licensing service](#).

The information included in this service does not replace or affect the legal (paper) copy of the licence issued to you. The information must be used for reference only. You must refer to and comply with the licence issued to you as a paper copy when you make decisions about abstracting or impounding water.

[Press release: Events to find out more about North East natural flood management](#)

Weardale residents can find out more about how a £2.1million natural flood management project could reduce their risk of flooding and create a haven for wildlife in a series of events to be held next month.

The Weardale Natural Flood Management (NFM) pilot project will see the Environment Agency investigate and deliver natural features across 100km squared area to reduce the risk of flooding to 141 properties.

The project team is currently carrying out an assessment of NFM techniques that might help reduce flood risk in Weardale and takes in towns and villages including Stanhope, Westgate, Eastgate and Wolsingham.

The Environment Agency is working on the project with Natural England, Forestry Commission, Durham County Council and the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership.

They want to work with local farmers and landowners who are interested in getting involved in the project to assess the impact of different NFM features. Over the coming months, the North Pennines AONB partnership will be taking the lead in approaching farmers and landowners to discuss voluntary involvement in the scheme. They will be supported by Wear Rivers Trust.

A series of information events for communities is taking place in April to find out more about what it means for them and how they can get involved, as well as capturing their local knowledge about flooding history in the area.

First step in 'pioneering project'

Environment Agency Project Manager Kirsty Hardy said:

This is the first step in what is a pioneering project to explore and deliver natural flood management features to reduce flood risk, as well as enrich the landscape and habitat of what is a beautiful area of countryside.

Until December this year we will be assessing different techniques and our colleagues at the North Pennines AONB Partnership, supported by Wear Rivers Trust, will be speaking with local farmers and landowners before we can then identify any suitable locations for potential delivery of natural flood management features.

This project is ultimately going to increase our understanding of the impact natural flood management can have on reducing flows along tributaries on the Upper River Wear.

We're hosting a series of events where people can find out more about natural flood management and how they can get involved, as well as help us understand past flooding in the area. This really is an exciting project where the community can play a key role and I'd encourage people to come along.

Early discussions

Rebecca Barrett, Biodiversity Lead for the North Pennines AONB Partnership, added:

We have already had some early discussions with a number of farmers and landowners in Weardale. They are interested in the project and are happy to discuss ways to help reduce the impact of flooding on their community.

It is a pleasure to meet with the people whose land management activities play such an important role in the appearance and function of our landscape and we are looking forward to developing the project in partnership with them over the coming months.

All drop-in events take place between 2.30pm and 7pm on:

Date	Location
4 April	Westgate Village Hall, Front Street, Westgate, DL13 1RX
5 April	Wearhead Village Hall, Wearhead, Bishop Auckland, DL13 1DY
10 April	Cowshill Village Hall, Bishop Auckland, DL13 1DA
11 April	Eastgate Village Hall, Eastgate, DL13 2HU
12 April	Stanhope Community Association, Front Street, Stanhope, DL13 2NQ

In March 2017 the Environment Agency announced £15million of funding had been made available for NFM schemes nationally. The Weardale project will allow the Environment Agency to gather and understand evidence to support that natural flood management can play a role in reducing flood risk.

NFM features are specifically designed to work with the natural processes in the landscape to slow river flows and reduce flood risk. As with traditional flood walls and embankments they are a tool to help reduce risk but can never eliminate the risk of flooding entirely.

Notice: Y043 4AZ, Annyalla Chicks (UK) Broilers Limited: environmental permit application advertisement

The Environment Agency consults the public on certain applications for waste operations, mining waste operations, installations, water discharge and groundwater activities. The arrangements are explained in its [Public Participation Statement](#)

These notices explain:

- what the application is about
- how you can view the application documents
- when you need to comment by

The Environment Agency will decide:

- whether to grant or refuse the application
- what conditions to include in the permit (if granted)

Detailed guide: Ministry of Justice and the environment

Sustainable development

Sustainable development is about applying economic, social and environmental thinking to an issue and paying particular attention to the long-term consequences. It can be thought of as a long-term, integrated approach to achieving quality of life improvements whilst respecting the need to live

within environmental limits.

Embedding sustainability

Embedding Sustainable Development in our business and operations is a shared responsibility within MOJ. The Chief Operating Officer acts as MOJ's Sustainability Champion and chairs the Senior Sustainability Board which includes representatives from a wide range of business units, our agencies and arms-length bodies. It is responsible for developing and overseeing the implementation of our sustainability strategy and supporting policy, standards, rules and guidance.

Sustainable operations

MOJ's Sustainable Operations Strategy sets out how we embed environmental sustainability throughout our estate, operations and procurement activity.

As the second largest estate in government we play an important role in ensuring that the government meets its [Greening Government Commitments](#). Energy, water and waste are managed to deliver a lower carbon, more resource efficient estate whilst reducing our operating costs and delivering value for money. Within our procurement processes and contracts, we are ensuring that there are specific sustainability clauses and measurable KPIs.

We have developed a range of sustainability strategies and policies for our staff and supply chain to follow:

- [Sustainable Operations Strategy](#)
(PDF, 347KB, 18 pages)
- [Carbon and Energy Reduction Strategy](#)
(PDF, 386KB, 22 pages)
- [BREEAM Policy](#)
(PDF, 202KB, 9 pages)
- [Biodiversity Policy](#)
(PDF, 208KB, 12 pages)

Adaptation to the impacts of climate change

MOJ is working towards increasing climate resilience and maintaining the operational capacity of the estate in an ever-changing climate. We participate in cross-Government Climate Change Adaptation activity.

The effects of climate change, such as flooding and overheating, are likely to become an increasingly important consideration, particularly on our

custodial estate. We are embedding climate resilience in our new Prison Estate Transformation Programme. Planning for future changes will minimise future costs and damage caused by the effects of climate change.

Biodiversity and ecology

MOJ's estate is one of the largest and most diverse across government, with a wealth of priority species and habitats reflecting a broad, dynamic and biologically diverse landscape. MOJ's Biodiversity Policy supports our work towards restoring our [Sites of Special Scientific Interest \(SSSIs\) to a favourable condition](#).

We have 10 sites that border or fall within a SSSI:

- HMP Coldingley, Woking – Bisley common Bagshot Heath SSSI
- HMP Dartmoor, Yalverton – Dartmoor National Park
- HMP Frankland, Durham – Brasside Ponds SSSI
- HMP Haverigg, Cumbria – Duddon Estuary SSSI
- HMP Hewell, Redditch – Hewell Park lake SSSI, Listed Parkland Landscape
- HMP North Sea Camp, Boston – The Wash
- HMYOI Portland and HMP The Verne, Isle of Portland SSSI
- HMP Prescoed, Usk – Cilwrgi Quarry SSSI
- Snaresbrook Crown Court, London – Epping Forest SSSI

We value the importance of conserving and, where operationally feasible, restoring our SSSIs and biodiversity significant sites. We are also taking steps to alleviate pressures on protected species, whilst ensuring we manage our priority habitats and landscapes based on a landscape scale ecosystem approach.

MOJ operates an Ecology network comprising volunteers, biodiversity champions and third sector partnerships from some of the UK's major wildlife societies and trusts. This network operates a national wildlife award scheme across the HMPPS estate, which recognises community support, restorative justice and creative learning and skills for custodial and non-custodial offenders, whilst supporting offending rehabilitation programmes.

Communities and social engagement

All staff are encouraged to take an active role in volunteering in the community. MOJ works with voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations to deliver a range of services, particularly within offender management and increasingly through 'payment by results'. This is an example of the Government working in partnership with the third sector to achieve common goals and outcomes for the benefit of communities.

MOJ delivers a range of training and development opportunities for staff in partnership with organisations such as the Prince's Trust and National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO).

MOJ is also committed to supporting the government's [Giving White Paper](#) which requires departments to:

- help make giving time and money to the third sector as easy and compelling as possible.
- give better support to organisations that provide and manage opportunities to give.

MOJ is committed to recognising the equality and diversity of its people and ensuring that staff are treated fairly and with respect without any discrimination; and has a wide range of number of equality and diversity networks in prisons and probation establishments.

Increasing social inclusion and enabling social mobility is a priority for MOJ. MOJ's Schools Outreach Programme involves volunteers working with pupils in schools who are from less advantaged backgrounds. The Programme was developed in November 2016 to increase awareness, build confidence and enhance the career aspirations of young people from a range of backgrounds as they transition from school to employment.

MOJ Schools Outreach Programme won the Championing Social Mobility Award at the Civil Service Diversity and Inclusion Awards in October 2017.

Heritage and Historic buildings

MOJ manages a diverse range of heritage and historic estate including courts, prisons, probation facilities and heritage estate on behalf of the Home Office. It has over 400 historic properties of which there are 335 buildings of historic interest on 148 sites. These include courthouses, churches, moats, towers, bridges, prisons, mansions, cottages, workshops, ancient monuments, and WWII war memorials.

The oldest buildings are former houses or other buildings attached to modern courts or prisons, e.g. the houses fronting Kings Lynn Crown court and the medieval barns at HMP Prescoed and HMP Durham. The oldest purpose designed justice building still in use is Derby Magistrates' court of 1659, which has a modern court building wrapping around it.

Among our heritage sites are:

- The 'Usk Roman Site', an open area around HM Usk
- The Victorian Fortress at HMP Rochester
- The Grade II Octagonal central office building at HMP Brixton
- The RAF Coltishall, monument located within the former World War II airfield at HMP Bure
- The Prison Chapel, HMP Durham is a Grade II site
- HMP Lancaster, Royal Courts of Justice and the Central Criminal Court, Old Bailey are all listed as Grade I sites
- Parts of the Prison Service College, Newbold Revel Rugby, including its H shaped plan, and gate are Grade II

Several other sites, including houses, forecourt walls, statues, a garden temple, and a water tower are included in the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England are Grade II listed.

It can sometimes be difficult to incorporate sustainability measures when making significant alterations to heritage estate due to the kind of materials and construction required and some planning restrictions. We aim to ensure that adequate standards of care are maintained by:

- Regular engagement with Heritage England and development of best practice in refurbishing heritage estate
- Regular surveys of the heritage estate from which we can identify opportunities for sustainable development
- Quinquennial Inspection are carried out to all historic properties to a standard format to:
 - Understand the general condition of the fabric.
 - Highlight areas of maintenance to be prioritise if there are any building at risk.
 - Recommendations for further detailed investigation.
 - Review repair or maintenance works previously carried out.

Sustainable construction

Sustainable construction is about being more resource efficient and reducing whole life costs, such as by:

- Using low environmental impact products and materials;
- Managing and reducing waste through effective design and construction;
- Providing resilience and flexibility in design, construction and operation.

MOJ policy requires that we use the Government Buying Standards (GBS) for [New Build, Construction Projects and Refurbishment](#), to ensure that each project incorporates sustainable construction throughout the project lifecycle.

MOJ uses the application of the [Building Research Environmental Assessment Method](#) (BREEAM) to assist in the creation of a fit-for purpose, less costly and more sustainable estate.

Sustainable procurement

MOJ's Sustainable Procurement policy is to ensure the incorporation of sustainability into all procurement activities to achieve long-term value for money. Associated programmes include:

- embedding specific sustainability clauses into all future estate contracts
- a whole life costs policy (i.e. production, in-use and disposal)
- ensuring procurement staff receive appropriate sustainability training

We comply with relevant [Government Buying Standards](#) when purchasing goods and services.

Sustainable development goals

MOJ's primary contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals is the implementation of Goal 16 i.e. the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, the provision of access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable institutions at all levels. MOJ will also contribute as relevant to the implementation of the wider set of goals.