



Councillor Sally Povolotsky
Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency and Environment
Vale of Whitehorse District Council

Sally.Povolotsky@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

By email only

01 November 2022

Dear Sally,

In response to your request for an update on the Drought Permit application, we had one objection to the proposal from Cotswolds Rivers Trust.

We have worked with them to agree mitigation measures. They are now broadly happy with measures and have now removed their objection.

We are close to agreeing the terms of the drought permit and expect it to be granted next week.

The measures we agreed were:

- Regular walkovers and hydrological, ecological and water quality monitoring
- A cut off of 54Ml/d such that if flows downstream of Farmoor fall below this level we cannot use the permit without over-pumping of water in to the Seacourt Stream (20Mld) and back-pumping over Kings weir (30Mld).
- If flows downstream of Farmoor fall below 35Ml/d we would need back-pumping over Osney, Godstow and Iffley weirs but this is more challenging to put in place.
- We will cease use of the drought permit if we get to close to storm discharges at Cassington or Oxford STWs.

Meanwhile, I'm pleased to say that the recent rain has improved matters, with Farmoor reservoir recovering from 60% full to 69% by yesterday) although we are not yet out of a drought risk situation.

I hope this is helpful and do please let me know if you have any questions.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Aylard".

Richard Aylard CVO
Sustainability Director