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Hafren Dyfrdwy Drought Plan 2025–30

Strategic Environmental Assessment
Screening Report

Contents

Introduction

Background

Hafren Dyfrdwy has a statutory duty to prepare and publish a Drought Plan every five years under Sections 39B and 39C of the Water Industry Action Act 1991, as amended by the Water Act 2003, and in accordance with the Drought Plan Regulations 2005 and the Drought Plan Direction (Wales) 2017.

Hafren Dyfrdwy's Drought Plan 2025-2030 (herein referred to as the Drought Plan) details measures that will be taken to maintain supplies to customers under drought scenarios, including an Emergency Drought Order as defined in the Water Resources Act 1991 (as amended).

The Drought Plan contains a number of management actions, the implementation of which are determined by a series of drought triggers. The management actions include: five demand-side measures (e.g. water use restrictions) and one supply-side measure (e.g. increase the availability of water).

This Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report has been prepared in order that the Responsible Authority (in this case Hafren Dyfrdwy) can determine, following consultation with relevant consultation bodies, if Hafren Dyfrdwy's Drought Plan requires a full SEA under The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004.

Scope of the Drought Plan

Location and Setting

Hafren Dyfrdwy is a water and wastewater company which provides around 61 million litres of water per day, to over 100,000 household and business customers in a supply area covering mid and north-east Wales (Figure 1).

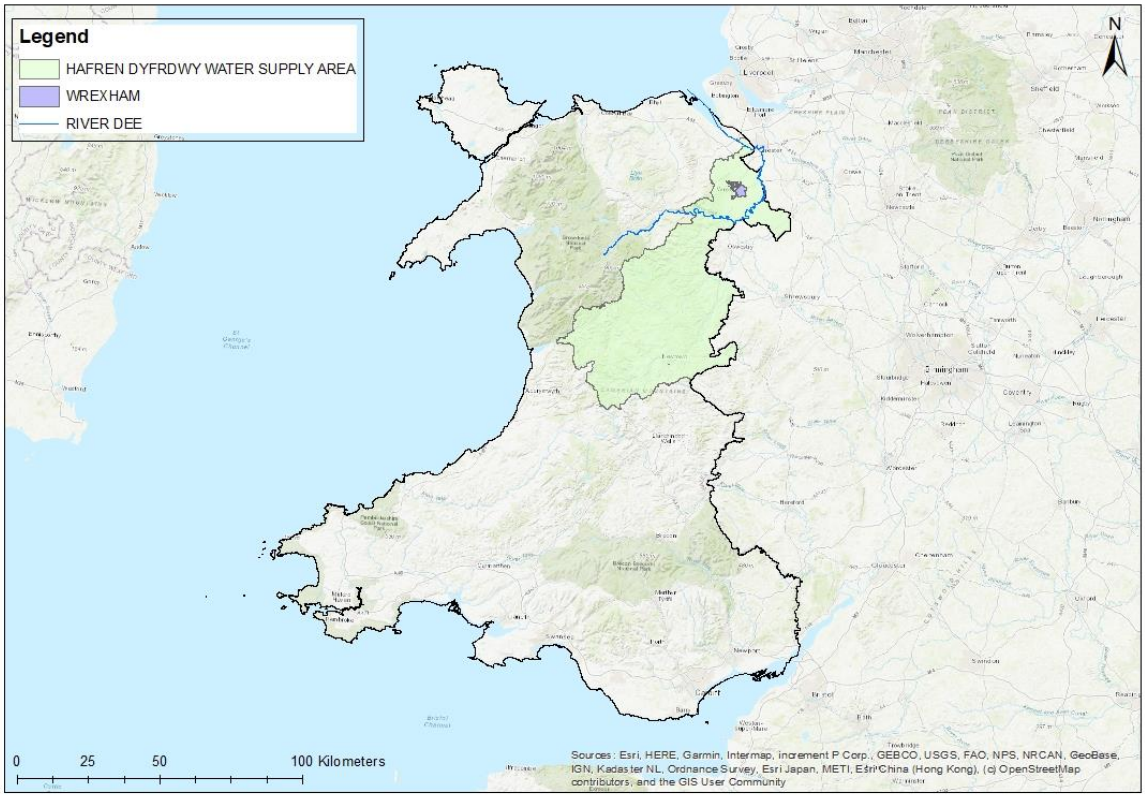

Figure 1: Hafren Dyfrdwy Water Supply Area

Hafren Dyfrdwy obtains a large proportion of its raw (untreated) water from the River Dee. A series of impounding reservoirs, boreholes and a spring source make up the remainder. This water is treated at five treatment works and is then supplied to customers through a network of approximately 2,600km of water mains, 100 pumping stations and 85 clean water storage reservoirs.

Hafren Dyfrdwy's supply area has been divided into four defined Water Resource Zones (WRZs) that include:

- Llandinam and Llanwrin WRZ, that is supplied by two sets of boreholes and the abstraction of groundwater;
- Llanfyllin WRZ, that does not have its own water sources and is supplied solely via bulk supply transfers from Severn Trent Water's Shelton WRZ;
- Wrexham WRZ, typically receives the majority of its water from the River Dee supplemented with water from upland reservoirs and a spring at Llangollen; and
- Saltney WRZ, that does not have its own water sources and is supplied solely via bulk supply transfers from Severn Trent Water' Chester WRZ.

Figure 2 shows the WRZs within Hafren Dyfrdwy's supply area.

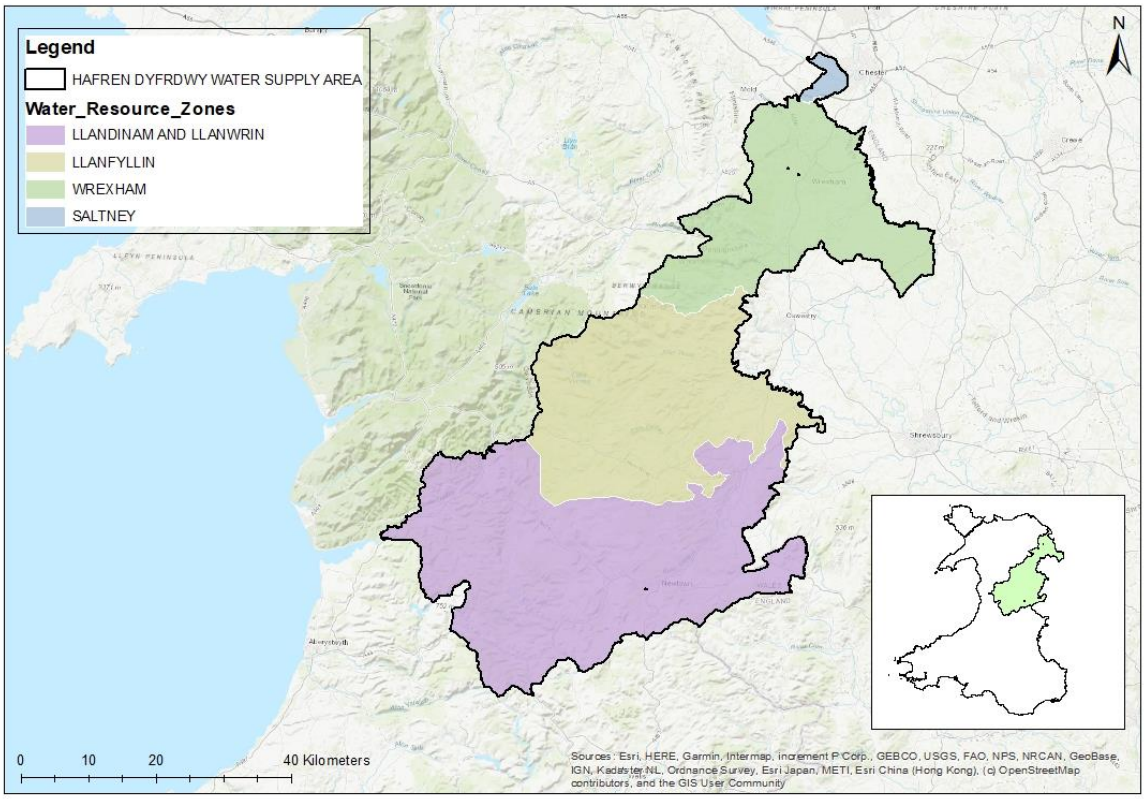

Figure 2: Hafren Dyfrdwy's Water Resource Zones

Each of the WRZs are aligned with the two main and strategically important river systems that lie within Hafren Dyfrdwy's supply area, that include the River Dee (Wrexham WRZ and Saltney WRZ) and the River Severn RBD (Llanfyllin WRZ and LLandinam & Llanwrin WRZ).

River Dee

The River Dee is regulated under the Dee General Directions (DGD) by the Dee Consultative Committee (DCC). The DGD ensure that a residual flow of at least 364 Ml/d is maintained over the Chester Weir through the controlled release of water to the River Dee via the Bala sluices and sets out the volumes of water that water companies can abstract from the River Dee.

River Severn

The River Severn is regulated by the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales' River Severn Drought Management Group (RSDMG), through releases from Clywedog Reservoir (owned and operated by Hafren Dyfrdwy) and Lake Vyrnwy (maintained by Hafren Dyfrdwy with water abstraction rights with United Utilities) and by the Shropshire Groundwater Scheme (owned and operated by the Environment Agency). Releases are made from these sources to maintain the statutory flow at Bewdley gauging station at or above 850 Ml/d over a five-day average with a minimum of 650 Ml/d in any one day.

During drought conditions, if storage in Clywedog Reservoir crosses the specific drought trigger levels, the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales may seek to apply for and implement the River Severn Drought Order (RSDO). The RSDO caps the maximum quantity of water that can be released from Clywedog

Reservoir, restricts abstractions from the River Severn, and reduces the statutory flow requirements at Bewdley. Compensation releases from Clywedog Reservoir are made throughout the year and during the '*regulation season*' (April to October inclusive), when flows at Bewdley decrease toward the minimum flow requirement.

Outline Description of Plan

The Drought Plan sets out short-term actions to monitor and manage the impact of drought on their customers and the environment. The Drought Plan complements the long-term strategic management of water resources contained within Hafren Dyfrdwy's Water Resources Management Plan 2024 (WRMP24).

The Drought Plan details the drought management actions that would be implemented as a reaction to a series of drought triggers to reduce demand (demand-side) or to increase supply (supply-side). The drought triggers used in the Drought Plan are provided in Figure 3 for the River Dee and Figure 4 for Llandinam and Llanwrin WRZ.

Status	Trigger	Operational Action
Normal	Dee Storage System in Zone 1	Abstraction is only constrained by licence conditions / Lift restrictions if entering zone as part of drought recovery.
	Trigger 1 – Dee Storage System crossing the System Safe Yield Line	Maximum abstraction must not exceed Safe Yield Allocation.
Developing Drought	Trigger 2 - Dee Storage System crossing the System Conservation Rule Curve	Dee Consultative Committee must convene within 7 days to discuss the implementation of Stage 1 Drought General Directions.
Drought	Trigger 3 - Dee Storage System crossing Stage 1 Implementation Curve	Net reduction in abstraction of 0.4Ml/d through the augmentation of the River Dee with water from Pen-y-Cae Reservoir. Dee Consultative Committee convenes within 7 days to discuss the implementation of Stage 2 Drought General Directions. Increased leakage management activities.
Severe Drought	Trigger 4 - Dee Storage System crossing Stage 2 Implementation Curve	Net reduction in abstraction of 0.8Ml/d through the augmentation of the River Dee with water from Pen-y-Cae Reservoir. Dee Consultative Committee convenes to discuss the implementation of Stage 3 Drought General Directions. Plan to implement Temporary Use Bans.
	Trigger 5 - Dee Storage System crossing Stage 3 Implementation Curve	Introduce and enforce Temporary Use Bans. Apply for Drought Orders. Implement Drought Orders

Figure 3: Drought Triggers for the River Dee

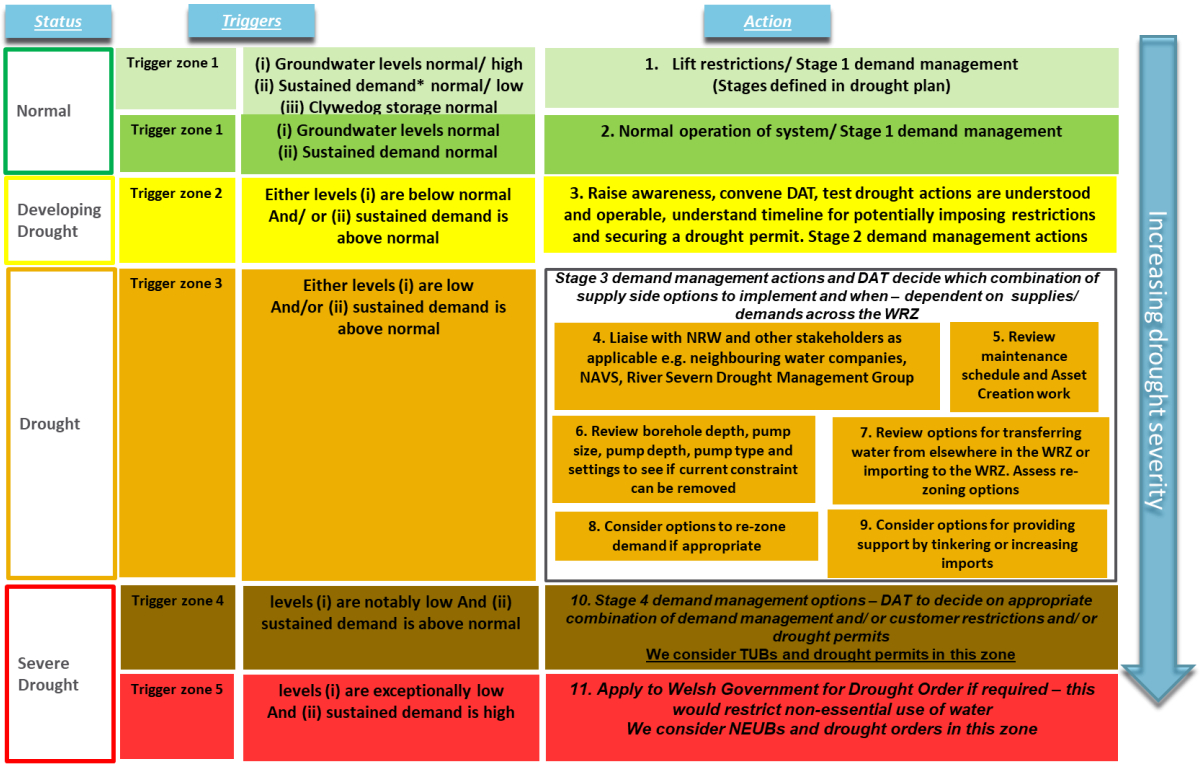

Figure 4: Drought Triggers for Llandinam and Llanwrin WRZ

The drought triggers for Llandinam and Llanwrin have been revised for the Drought Plan, taking into account recent abstraction data and demand factors reflecting seasonal demand across the year. Consideration has also been given to a reduction in abstraction of 5–10% and up to 20% under severe drought conditions from Llandinam boreholes, which are situated in river gravels next to the River Severn and subject to the RSDO. Due to the scale of the regulation releases from Clywedog Reservoir, it is determined that the river gravels and abstraction at Llandinam are highly resilient under drought and severe drought events. Any reduction in abstraction does not fall under the definition of a supply-side option and will not require any drought permit.

Demand-side Measures

Demand-side actions can be applied anywhere in Hafren Dyfrdwy's supply area to reduce the demand for water from its network and customers during drought conditions.

The Drought Plan contains five demand-side measures, two of which are triggered in extreme drought situations, that includes:

- **Standard demand-side measures:**
  - **water efficiency measures** – promoted during normal operational conditions and intensified as the Dee Storage System moves from a developing drought to a drought (trigger 3) and/or groundwater sources in the Llandinam and Llanwrin WRZ move from trigger zone 2 to zone 3;
  - **increased leakage management** – increased leakage management activities to find and fix leaks as the Dee Storage System moves from a developing drought to a drought (trigger 3) and/or groundwater sources in the Llandinam and Llanwrin WRZ move from trigger zone 2 to zone 3;
  - **voluntary use restriction** – customers asked to make voluntary restrictions on the water they use as the Dee Storage System moves from a drought to a severe drought (trigger 4) and/or when the Llandinam and Llanwrin groundwater triggers reach zone 4;

- **extreme demand-side measures:**
  - **temporary water use restrictions** – introduction of Temporary Use Bans (TUBs) and ultimately an application for a drought order in extreme situations (Dee Storage System trigger 5); and
  - **restrictions on non-essential use through a drought order** – extension of restrictions imposed on domestic customers to non-domestic customers.

Supply-side Measures

Supply-side measures are those that increase the availability of water within the system. The Drought Plan has only one supply-side action for the augmentation of the River Dee with water from Lower Pen-y-Cae Reservoir (Figure 5). It should be noted that the supply-side option for the augmentation of the River Dee does not require the abstraction or impoundment outside the schedule of any existing licence to increase the amount of water abstracted to supplement supplies, and therefore does not require a drought permit and no allowance has been made in the Drought Plan for any such application.

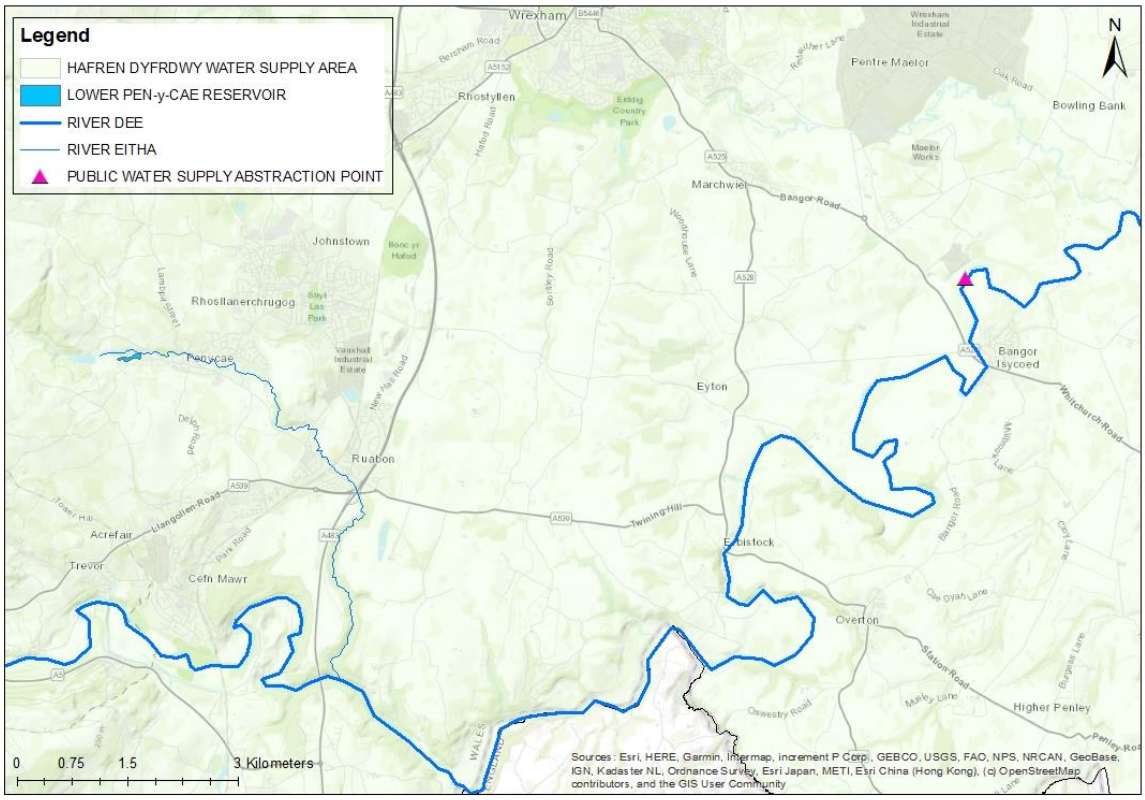

Figure 5: Location of Supply-side Option for the Augmentation of the River Dee

During normal conditions, abstraction from the River Dee at Bangor-on-Dee is constrained by licence conditions and assumes the maximum abstraction does not exceed the '*safe yield allocation*' as established the Dee General Directions (DGD) that regulate the River Dee.

Under the Dee General Directions, as the status of the Dee Storage System moves from '*developing drought*' to '*drought*' Hafren Dyfrdwy is required to further reduce its abstraction from the River Dee below '*safe yield allocations'* by specified volumes depending on the storage in the Dee Storage System, as detailed in Table 1. How these reductions are made is dependent upon Hafren Dyfrdwy and can be either through reducing

abstraction, or by augmenting the River Dee with water from a different source, in this case water from the Lower Pen-y-Cae Reservoir.

Table 1: Dee General Directions and Drought

Abstractor	Maximum Daily Authorised Quantity (Ml/d)	Safe Yield Allocation Net (Ml/d)	Stage 1 Maximum Allocation Net (Ml/d)	Stage 2 Maximum Allocation Net (Ml/d)	Stage 3 Drought General Directions (Ml/d)
Hafren Dyfrdwy at Bangor-on-Dee	45.5	41.5	41.3	41.1	Dee Consultative Committee (DCC) agreed reduction
Severn Trent Water at Boughton (Barrelwell Hill)	36	28.8	28.6	28.4	DCC agreed reduction

As the Dee Storage System enters drought, the River Dee would be augmented with 0.4 Ml/d of stored raw water from the Lower Pen-y-Cae Reservoir, negating the requirement for a 0.2 Ml/d net reduction in abstraction at Bangor-on-Dee and 0.2 Ml/d net reduction in abstraction by Severn Trent Water at Chester. As the Dee Storage System moves from '*drought*' to '*severe drought*' the augmentation would increase from 0.4 to 0.8 Ml/d accounting for a further required reduction in abstraction of 0.2 Ml/d at Bangor-on-Dee and at Chester.

As drought conditions develop, decisions made by the DCC at different stages of the drought will be used to inform early planning of the temporary pump installation process as managed by Hafren Dyfrdwy's Drought Action Team (DAT). The preparation time to install the temporary pumping station and implement the flow augmentation is anticipated to be within a period of seven days from the day of notification.

When activated, event water would be pumped from the Lower Pen-y-Cae Reservoir to the Trefechan Brook / River Eitha by the installation of a temporary pumping station, that would abstract water from the top level of the reservoir and convey water via a pipe placed over the spillway.

The duration of any augmentation of the River Dee will be dependent upon the storage in the Dee Storage System and the volume of water stored at the Lower Pen-y-Cae Reservoir when a drought event (Trigger 3) occurs. Based on the reservoir being full at the start of any augmentation and assuming no flow into the reservoir, the Lower Pen-y-Cae has the capacity to augment flows in the River Dee for up to an estimated 176 days based on an augmentation rate of 0.2 Ml/d reducing to 88 days based on a rate of 0.4 Ml/d in drought conditions (Trigger 3).

In severe drought (Trigger 4) conditions where the augmentation is increased 30 days or 14 days after crossing Trigger 3, releases could be sustained for 59 or 51 days respectively. The scenario period of 30 days is based on the approximate time that it took in 1995 for the Dee System to move from stage 1 to stage 2; the 14 days scenario is more conservative and is approximately the time that it would take to move between the stages based on the most rapid drawdown in 1995.

Table 2 presents a summary of the estimated number of days that Lower Pen-y-Cae Reservoir could potentially augment the River Dee.

Table 2: Estimation of the Potential Duration of Augmentation of the River Dee from the Lower Pen-y-Cae Reservoir

Scenario	Estimated Augmentation Days	
	Hafren Dyfrdwy or Severn Trent	Hafren Dyfrdwy and Severn Trent
Drought (Trigger 3)	176 days (0.2 Ml/d)	88 days (0,4 Ml/d)
Drought (Trigger 3) then Severe Drought (Trigger 4) after 14 days	95 days (0.2 then 0.4 Ml/d)	51 days (0.4 then 0.8 Ml/d)
Drought (Trigger 3) then Severe Drought (Trigger 4) after 30 days	103 days (0.2 then 0.4 Ml/d)	59 days (0.4 then 0.8 Ml/d)

Changes Since the Last Drought Plan

Fundamentally the Drought Plan has not significantly changed from the Drought Plan published in 2020 with the demand-side and supply-side measures remaining unchanged.

A number of improvements have been made to the Drought Plan to reflect legislative and regulatory changes that have occurred since the previous plan, and to comply with the latest guidelines and codes of practice. These changes include:

- creating a non-technical summary to make it easier for our customers to understand droughts and Hafren Dyfrdwy's approach to them;
- the Drought plan and non-technical summary available in both Welsh and English;
- improving the communications plan, incorporating agile communications following stakeholder pre-consultation;
- working with New Appointments and Variations (NAVs) and other organisations involved in the Water Resources West Regional Planning Group to ensure the drought planning approach is consistent by improving information sharing;
- updating drought management actions which build on our dry weather experiences since 2019;
- updating drought triggers for the Llandinam and Llanwrin water resource zone to reflect changes in demand since 2019; and
- updating of environmental assessments, including this SEA, and ongoing environmental monitoring.

The SEA prepared for the 2020 Drought Plan assessed that this plan was unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment and was screened-out from requiring a formal SEA.

Baseline Information

This section summarises baseline environmental information for Hafren Dyfrdwy's supply area.

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

There are a total of 16 internationally designated sites (11 Special Area of Conservation (SAC), three Special Protection Area (SPA) and two Ramsar sites), 99 nationally important biological Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), three National Nature Reserves (NNR), and one Local Nature Reserve (LNR) that lie in or partially within Hafren Dyfrdwy's supply area.

Hafren Dyfrdwy's supply area also supports areas of ancient woodland and 17 priority habitat-types and numerous terrestrial and aquatic priority species as listed under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (as amended).

A Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening assessment has been undertaken to assess likely significant effects of the Drought Plan, alone and in-combination with other plans and projects, on European sites, which in the context of the HRA includes SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites.

An Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) has been prepared for the supply-side measure for the augmentation of the River Dee from the Pen-y-Cae Reservoir, that considers the implications of the implementation of this measure on all statutory designated sites, priority habitats, and protected and other notable species of flora and fauna within each zone of influence.

Population and Human Health

Hafren Dyfrdwy supplies water to over a quarter of a million people in the area of mid and north-east Wales out of a total population for Wales of 3.13 million people (2019). The Local Authorities that are wholly or partially in the Hafren Dyfrdwy's supply area are all expected to incur population increases by 2043 with the population of Wales projected to increase by 2.7% to 3.22 million by 2028, and by 3.7% to 3.26 million by 2043, based on Office of National Statistics 2019 projections.

In the delivery of its services, including drought planning, Hafren Dyfrdwy takes into account the national well-being indicators and goals for Wales (Figure 6).

	Prosperous	Resilient	Healthier	More Equal	Cohesive Communities	Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language	Globally Responsible
Guarantee future water supplies	✓	✓	✓				✓
Ensure water is used wisely		✓	✓		✓		✓
Delivery a high quality, affordable service	✓			✓	✓	✓	
Lower the risk of flooding and pollution	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Protect and enhance our environment	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Make a positive social difference	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Maintain a safe, inclusive and fair workplace	✓	✓	✓	✓			

Figure 6: Matrix of Deliverables to National Well-being Indicators and Goals

The Drought Plan has the potential to influence quality of life, including human health, well-being, amenity and community, through temporary water use restrictions and drought orders. Drought management and planning is of critical importance in maintaining reliable and safe water supplies for the health and wellbeing of the population supplied by Hafren Dyfrdwy. The demand-side and supply-side measures try to ensure that water can be supplied to its customers during periods of drought.

The Environmental Assessment Report which has been prepared for the supply-side measure for the augmentation of the River Dee from the Pen-y-Cae Reservoir considers the implications of the implementation of this measure on the human population in terms of recreation.

Material Assets

Hafren Dyfrdwy supplies 61 million litres of water per day, to over 100,000 household and business customers. It obtains a large proportion of its raw (untreated) water from the River Dee. A series of impounding reservoirs, boreholes and a spring source make up the remainder. This water is treated at five treatment works and is then supplied to customers through a network of approximately 2,600km of water mains, 100 pumping stations and 85 clean water storage reservoirs across its four WRZs.

Water

Hafren Dyfrdwy's supply area crosses three River Basin Districts (RBDs), as defined by the Water Framework Directive (WFD), including Western Wales RBD, Severn RBD and the Dee RBD and numerous associated water bodies (ground and surface). However, the two main strategic rivers of importance are the River Dee and the River Severn.

A WFD Compliance Assessment has been prepared to demonstrate that the Drought Plan will fulfil WFD obligations by ensuring that the demand-side and supply-side measures support the environmental objectives set out in River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs), including preventing deterioration, achieving protected area objectives and achieving water body status objectives.

Soil, Geology and Land-use

Hafren Dyfrdwy's supply area is geologically diverse, underlain by predominantly sedimentary bedrock of varying age. The overlying drift geology which dominates the supply area is glacial diamicton with some scattered areas of alluvium, glacial sand and gravel, and river terrace deposits. The Hafren Dyfrdwy supply area includes two principal aquifers: Carboniferous Limestone and Permio-Triassic, with several minor aquifers: Ordovician-Silurian Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone.

There are 13 SSSIs recognised for their geological interest with a further three of geological and biological (mixed) interest that lie within Hafren Dyfrdwy's supply area.

Land use ranges from open areas, moorland, areas of forestry, sparsely populated rural areas to thriving towns with growing populations. The majority of land in Hafren Dyfrdwy's supply area is poor Grade 4 and 5 agricultural land. Soil quality and structure is affected by changes in land use, groundwater levels and farming practices.

The Environmental Assessment Report which has been prepared for the supply-side measure for the augmentation of the River Dee from the Pen-y-Cae Reservoir considers the implications of the implementation of this measure on any geological SSSI and land-use.

Air Quality and Climatic Factors

The main sources of air pollution in Wales include particulate matter (PM) (domestic solid fuel, industrial processes, vehicle exhaust and braking) and Nitrogen Oxide (NO_2) vehicle exhaust[1].

Climate change is predicted to result in warmer drier summers and milder wetter winters in Wales with increased frequency of drought throughout Wales, and in particularly in the south[2].

The Drought Plan, at a strategic level, is not likely to have a significant effect on air quality at a local, regional or national level. Whilst the use of a temporary pumping station for the supply-side measure for the augmentation of the River Dee from the Pen-y-Cae Reservoir has the potential to generate carbon dioxide this will not be significant.

Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

There is one World Heritage Site (WHS), seven Historic Landscapes, 51 Registered Parks and Gardens, 442 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM) and nearly 4000 listed buildings within Hafren Dyfrdwy's supply area.

[1] Welsh Government Air Quality in Wales 2022/23. Welsh Government

[2] Jenkins, G.J., Perry, M.C. & Prior, M.J.O. (2009). *The Climate of the United Kingdom and Recent Trends*. Met Office Hadley Centre, Exeter, UK.

The Environmental Assessment Report has been prepared for the supply-side measure for the augmentation of the River Dee from the Pen-y-Cae Reservoir. It considers the implications of the implementation of this measure on the archaeological and cultural heritage assets.

Landscape and Visual Amenity

Hafren Dyfrdwy's supply area consists of a variety of landscapes and settlements reflecting its history and development that includes one Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and 16 National Landscape Character Areas (NLCA).

The Environmental Assessment Report which has been prepared for the supply-side measure for the augmentation of the River Dee from the Pen-y-Cae Reservoir considers the implications of the implementation of this measure on the landscape and its visual amenity.

SEA Screening

An assessment has been undertaken to determine whether the Drought Plan requires a SEA under The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004.

Figure 7 presents a flow diagram, taken from the Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive[3], that has been used as a guide in the screening assessment (the Practical Guide has been superseded by the Planning Practice Guidance but still provides a useful and relevant guide to the process to use in making SEA screening decisions). Boxes outlined in red show the direction of flow through the decision process.

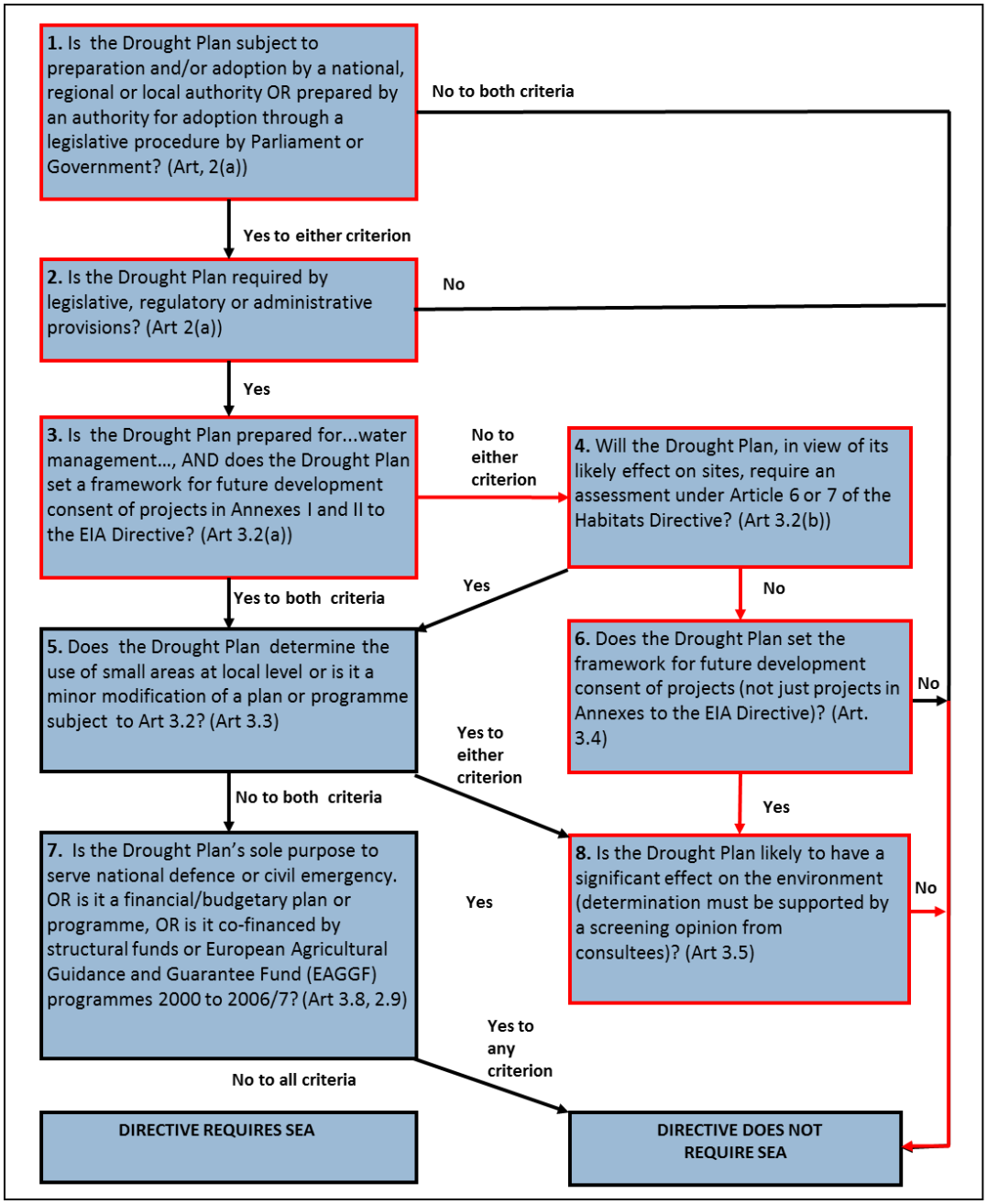

Figure 7: Application of the SEA Directive to the Drought Plan

[3] Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (2005). *A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.* OPDM, London.

Table 3 presents the assessment of whether the Drought Plan will require a full SEA. The questions in the first column are drawn from Figure 7 above which sets out how the SEA Directive should be applied.

Table 3: Application of the SEA Directive to the Drought Plan

Stage		Yes / No	Rationale
1.	Is the Drought Plan subject to preparation and/or adoption by national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoptions through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art 2(a))	Yes	The Drought Plan is required to be prepared by Hafren Dyfrdwy for adoption through the Water Industry Action 1991, as amended by the Water Act 2003, in accordance with the Drought Plan Regulations 2005 and the Drought Plan Direction 2020. **Move to Q2**
2.	Is the Drought Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art 2(a))	Yes	A Drought Plan is required to be prepared by Hafen Dyfrdwy every five years under The Water Industry Action 1991, as amended by the Water Act 2003, in accordance with the Drought Plan Regulations 2005 and the Drought Plan Direction 2020. **Move to Q3**
3.	Is the Drought Plan prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does the Drought Plan set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))	No	The Drought Plan is prepared for water management but does not set a framework for future EIA development. The Drought Plan does not contain plans for any EIA development of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive. **Move to Q4**
4.	Will the Drought Plan, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art 3.2(b))	No	A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening of the Drought Plan has been undertaken separately by Hafren Dyfrdwy and has concluded that the Drought Plan is not likely to cause a significant effect on any European site, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects. **Move to Q6**

Stage	Yes / No	Rationale
6. Does the Drought Plan set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in Annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	No	The Drought Plan does not set the framework for future development projects. The Drought Plan does not contain any plans for any development of projects for its demand-side and supply-side measures. The Drought Plan could be screened-out at this stage. However, there is a requirement to assess the environmental effects of all supply-side measures for which consent is required under the DGD. **Move to Q8**
8. Is the Drought Plan likely to have a significant effect on the environment (determination must be supported by a screening option from consultees)? (Art 3.5)	No	The Drought Plan is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment supported by the HRA Screening Report, Water Framework Directive (WFD) Compliance Assessment and Environmental Assessment Report for the supply-side measure of augmentation of the River Dee from the Lower Pen-y-Cae Reservoir (Please refer to Table 4). **SEA NOT REQUIRED**

Schedule 1 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 sets out the criteria for determining the likely significant effects. Table 4 lists these criteria with comments on how these are met by the Drought Plan.

Table 4: Review of the Drought Plan in Relation to SEA Criteria of Likely Significant Effects

SEA Requirement	Comments
The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to -	
The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	The Drought Plan details the drought management actions that would be implemented as a reaction to a series of drought triggers to reduce demand (demand-side measures) or to increase supply (supply-side measures) by Hafren Dyfrdwy to manage the impact of drought on their customers and the environment.
The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.	The Drought Plan complements the long-term strategic management of water resources contained within Hafren Dyfrdwy's Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) published in 2024.
The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	The Drought Plan sets out short-term actions to monitor and manage the impact of drought not only on their customers but also the environment in the sustainability of water resources during drought conditions.

SEA Requirement	Comments
Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme.	Baseline environmental information relating to Hafren Dyfrdwy's supply area is described earlier in this report and in supporting documentation in the Drought Plan including HRA Screening Report, Water Framework Directive (WFD) Compliance Assessment and Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) for the supply-side measure of augmentation of the River Dee from the Lower Pen-y-Cae Reservoir.
The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of legislation on the environment	The Drought Plan is not relevant for the implementation of environmental legislation.
Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to the -	
The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects.	The Drought Plan covers a five-year period from 2025 with the implementation of any demand-side and supply-side actions dependent upon a series of drought triggers with any effects likely to be temporary and reversible. The supply-side measure of augmentation of the River Dee from the Lower Pen-y-Cae Reservoir will not require any licence modification and therefore does not require a Drought Permit.
Cumulative nature of the effects.	Cumulative effects may occur where there is any overlap with other water company drought plans with the supply-side measures contained within the Drought Plan. The EAR for the supply-side measure of augmentation of the River Dee from the Lower Pen-y-Cae Reservoir has not identified any cumulative effects.
Transboundary nature of the effects.	Although there is the potential for transboundary effects between Wales and England, as recognised for consultation with statutory bodies in both these countries, transboundary effects under the SEA Regulations refer to transboundary effects on other EU Member States and is not relevant to the Drought Plan.
Risks to human health or the environment.	The Drought Plan details measures to reduce demand or increase supply during drought conditions to customers and the environment. As the Drought Plan is aimed at maintaining the supply of water there are no anticipated risks to human health or to environment from the implementation of the Drought Plan as required during drought conditions.
Magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).	The Drought Plan covers the entirety of Hafren Dyfrdwy's supply area and 97,000 households and 8,000 business customers in each of its WRZs. However, the supply-side measure of augmentation of the River Dee from the Lower Pen-y-Cae Reservoir is within the Wrexham WRZ and for the population within this particular zone only.

SEA Requirement	Comments
Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: • special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; • exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or • intensive land-use.	Hafren Dyfrdwy's supply area encompasses areas of high value and vulnerability (please refer to the baseline information presented earlier in this report). However, the demand-side measures are designed to reduce demand and are not anticipated to affect any valued or vulnerable area. The one supply-side measure of augmentation of the River Dee from the Lower Pen-y-Cae Reservoir is not likely to have any effects on any valued and vulnerable area, especially the River Dee as detailed in the HRA Screening Report as not likely to have any significant effects alone and in-combination with other plans or projects, and its EAR.
Effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or internal protection status.	The demand-side measures are designed to reduce demand and are not anticipated to affect any valued or vulnerable area. The one supply-side measure of augmentation of the River Dee from the Lower Pen-y-Cae Reservoir is not likely to have any effects on any valued and vulnerable area, especially the River Dee as detailed in the HRA Screening Report as not likely to have any significant effects alone and in-combination with other plans or projects, and its EAR.

SEA Screening Conclusions

A screening assessment has been undertaken based on the Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive and Schedule 1 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 to determine whether or not Hafren Dyfrdwy's Drought Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects when assessed against the topics listed in Schedule 1.

On the basis of supporting documentation in the Drought Plan including HRA Screening Report, Water Framework Directive (WFD) Compliance Assessment and EAR for the supply-side measure of augmentation of the River Dee from the Lower Pen-y-Cae Reservoir, it is considered that the Drought Plan is unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment and a full SEA is therefore not required.

Next Steps

This SEA Screening Report is submitted to all relevant statutory consultees in Wales (Natural Resources Wales and Cadw) and England (Environment Agency and Natural England), and will be reviewed as appropriate in light of any comments received.

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