

Yorkshire Water Report to Gouthwaite Board of Management April 2023

2022-2023

A dry January 2022 was followed by a record breaking wet February, and then a very dry spring and summer, with drought permits implemented for the first time in Yorkshire since 1996.

Figure 1 shows the reservoir levels from the start of 2022, and the required and actual releases. The actual releases followed the required releases well. Due to the dry weather, stocks in Gouthwaite fell to the lowest levels in recent years apart from when we have had a drawdown in place (See Figure 2). The prolonged dry weather in the summer meant that the release fell into the 28MI/d band for much of the period from July to early September.

Figure 3 shows the reservoir stocks plotted with the control lines, and shows that for much of the summer the stocks fell along the 28MI/d control line, but at no point fell into the 22MI/d release zone.

The work to install the second phase of the syphon will recommence next week (24 April 2023). A drawdown to -2.7m (50%) will again be required, and main construction is planned to last until October when the weather window is most favourable. All works on site are forecast to be completed by March 2024. The drawdown process has started, and will be made at a rate of no more than 150mm per day.

Following the release of silt into the watercourse when the works began in April 2021, a robust silt mitigation plan has been produced and approved by senior management at Yorkshire Water and has been shared with the Environment Agency.