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**WAT-G-048**

**EASR Guidance: Registration Activity: Abstraction from an offline impoundment fed solely by field drains or groundwater**

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# Purpose

This document provides information and guidance for anyone undertaking the abstraction of water from an offline impoundment fed solely by field drains or groundwater which requires a registration under The Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations.

This guidance does not cover any other permissions that may be required.

# What activity does this guidance apply to?

This guidance applies to abstraction of water from an offline impoundment (e.g. storage pond) fed solely by field drains or groundwater.

# Understanding the activity

This activity covers the abstraction of water from an [offline impoundment](#_Definitions_1) (e.g. storage pond) fed solely by [field drains](#_Definitions_1) or groundwater and is not supplied by an already authorised abstraction. The offline impoundment could be fed by either field drains, groundwater or a combination of field drains and groundwater.

# Understanding and minimising risks to the water environment

## Risks to the water environment

The abstraction of water poses the following risks to the water environment:

* Drying out of rivers and wetlands.
* Interference to the flow of sediment, which reduces the amount of gravel available (needed by fish to spawn).
* Interference with other users of the water environment. For example, loss of dilution capacity and resulting deterioration of water quality, or loss of abstraction capacity.

To minimise the risks operators should use the water in an efficient and sustainable manner. Everyone is strongly encouraged to build water resilience into their business as this can help with plans for the future. By taking the right steps now, it could help reduce the impact of water scarcity in the future.

To minimise risks to the water environment and to help you comply with the standard conditions for this activity, you should follow the Do’s and Don’ts below.

## Dos and don’ts

* Do take all reasonable steps to secure efficient and sustainable water use.
* Do regularly check your abstraction equipment to make sure it’s in good condition and fix any leaks straight away.
* Don’t use your impoundment to hold back flows in the water environment and consequently affect downstream water flows, sediment transport and migration of fish.

# Glossary

A full list of terms is available in the main Glossary.

**‘Offline’ impoundments** are built on land to store water (including surface run-off, groundwater or land drainage) and do not hold back flows.

Typically, an impoundment is regarded as ‘off-line’ if there is no river/estuary flowing in.

**Field drains** are an underground system of pipes and channels designed to remove surface and sub-surface water from a given area of land. Field drains should only run intermittently, primarily after prolonged periods of rainfall. Field drains do not include ditches.

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