



## Temporary Dewatering Guidance

Water from construction activities has the potential to have significant impact on water quality. Planning how you intend to manage water in advance of works will ensure activities do not pose a pollution risk.

A **Permit to Pump** must be issued prior to any activities which involve the pumping/discharge of water. **Refer to EMS form – Permit to Pump**

### **Pumping to grasslands/fields** – first priority

Obtain prior approval from the landowner if the land is not part of the development area. This method is only suitable for water that is unpolluted aside from its silt content and the area and levels of the site must be able to cope with the flows without any run-off to **surface water** (e.g. surface water drain or watercourse). The field must not have any land drains and it should have a gentle slope and a thick layer of vegetation next to the soil to trap the silt.

### **Pumping out excavations**

Temporary dewatering from excavations to **surface water** is permissible, providing the water is clean and uncontaminated.

Providing you have a short term (no longer than 3 months), temporary discharge of uncontaminated water which is wholly or mainly rainwater, from an excavation to surface water you do not require an environmental permit.



### **Pumping standing water**

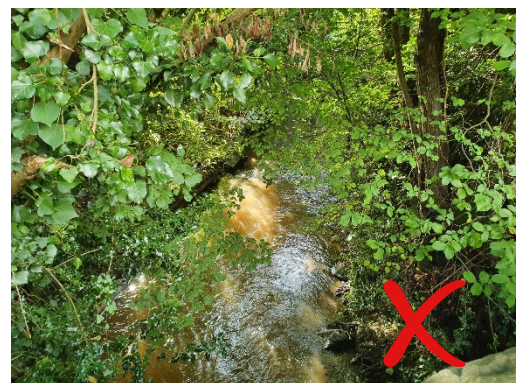
Pumping standing water to **surface water** is permissible, providing the water is clean and uncontaminated. Regulations allow this activity for a period of up to 6 months. After this time an environmental permit is required.

### **Controls**

If water is not clean and uncontaminated it cannot be discharged. Sediment is considered to be contamination and must be removed. To remove sands, gravels and silts a [sediment sock](#) must be used over the end of the hose. If this is not suitable, settlement tanks and or lagoons must be considered, which will aid with the settlement of suspended solids.



Clean filtered water entering storm water drain



Silty water in the watercourse

|                                                                                                  |                        |            |                                                                |
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Consideration must also be given to the flowrate of the pump when discharging directly into a watercourse. Too much flow may disturb (settled) sediment and create unwanted plumes, thus causing a pollution event. Also, placing a pump in the bottom of an excavation will cause sediment to be discharged. In this instance, raising the pump from the ground will help, or consider using a float pump.

## Monitoring

A risk assessment & method statement is required, which specify how the risk of pollution will be minimised (template risk assessment available: **EMS RA 001 Dewatering**). Monitoring of all discharges is required to evidence that no pollution is occurring (e.g. photographs, daily record sheets).

## Pumping to foul sewer

Where there is no option but to discharge to foul sewer, Persimmon **must** first obtain a trade effluent consent (England & Wales) or a Consents and Letters of Authorisation (Scotland) from the sewerage provider.

- England - applications can be made via [Open Water](#)
- Scotland - applications can be made via [Scottish Water](#)
- Wales - applications can be made via [Dwr Cymru Welsh Water](#)

This can take **upto 3 months**. Strict controls apply, and the volume of discharge must be monitored.

Where sites cannot comply with any of the above solutions, water must be removed by a licensed waste carrier and treated or disposed of under an appropriate permit. Failure to ensure this happens would be a breach of waste regulations.

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