

John Sykes

john@sykesj.co.uk

Our ref: EIR2025/21670

Your ref:

Date: 27 August 2025

Dear John

RE: Environmental Information Regulations: EIR2025/21670

Thank you for your request for information regarding Boreholes in and around Shepton Montague, which we received on 29 July 2025.

We respond to requests for information that we hold under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). The Regulations requires that we respond to requests by advising you whether information is held or not, and if so by providing you with that information.

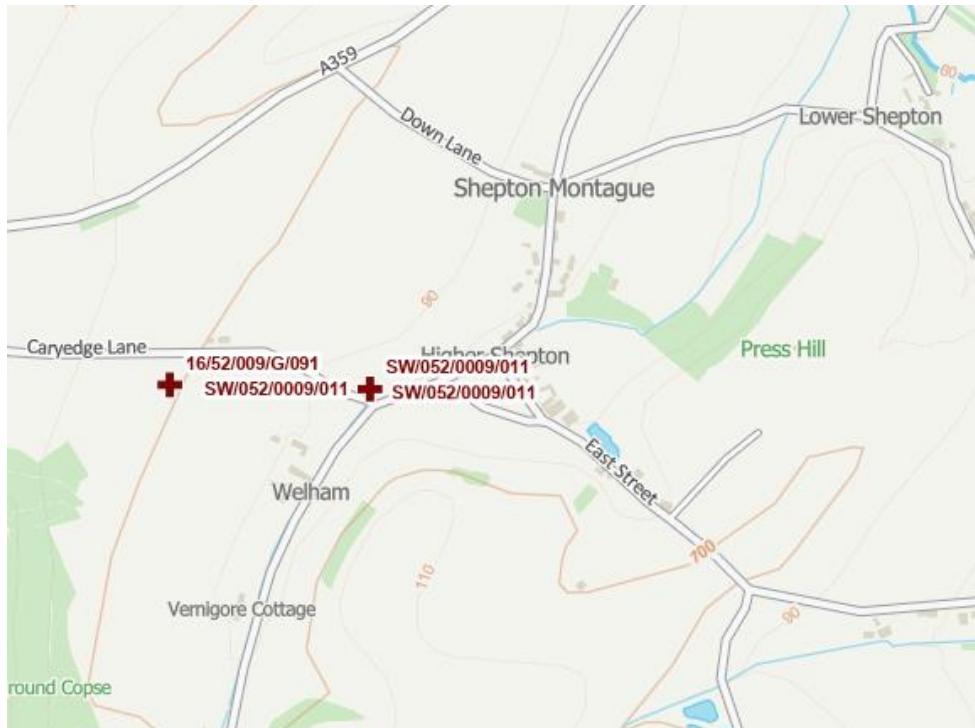
Information provided

Our regulatory role means we inspect and monitor the use of the abstraction licences to ensure that the licence holders comply with the conditions in their licence. The licence has limits on the volumes that can be abstracted, and they have meters which record these volumes. We check the meter readings and records to ensure the volume limits are being complied with.

Please find responses to your questions below:

Which boreholes are active in this area which may theoretically impact the (spring /water-table?) feeding this stream

The Environment Agency's Hydrology team have confirmed that only The Newt abstraction licences, shown on the map below as red crosses, have the capacity to impact flows on the Shepton Montague stream. There are also likely to be other private wells and boreholes which could, but we have no record of these. The Local Authority or the British Geological Society may have them.



What extraction rates are licensed for any such boreholes

Licence ref: 16/52/009/G/091

MAXIMUM QUANTITY OF WATER TO BE ABSTRACTED

Between 1 March and 31 October:

4.6 cubic metres per hour
54.6 cubic metres per day

Between 1 November and the end of February:

4.6 cubic metres per hour
45.5 cubic metres per day

During times when the swimming pool is being filled:

54.6 cubic metres per day
454.6 cubic metres per year

Subject to overall aggregate quantities of:

4.6 cubic metres per hour
19,275.0 cubic metres per year

Licence ref: SW/052/0009/011

MAXIMUM QUANTITY OF WATER TO BE ABSTRACTED

For the purpose of private water supply:

2.556 cubic metres per hour
28.116 cubic metres per day
9,250 cubic metres per year

At an instantaneous rate not exceeding 0.71 litres per second.

For the purpose of agriculture other than spray irrigation:

3.96 cubic metres per hour
43.56 cubic metres per day
15,000 cubic metres per year

At an instantaneous rate not exceeding 1.1 litres per second.

For the purpose of spray irrigation:

0.36 cubic metres per hour
3.96 cubic metres per day
750 cubic metres per year

At an instantaneous rate not exceeding 0.1 litres per second.

The aggregate quantity of water authorised to be abstracted under this licence and under licence serial number 16/52/009/G/091 shall not exceed:

6.876 cubic metres per hour
75.636 cubic metres per day
25,000 cubic metres per year

At an instantaneous rate not exceeding 1.91 litres per second.

Are you aware of other boreholes missing from the BGS database?

The Environment Agency only regulate water abstraction which take more than 20cubic metres per day, as under this limit there is no requirement to hold a licence with us. The Local Authority Environmental Health Department hold records of private water supply boreholes.

Has there been any over-extraction and is that being addressed?

During the 2022/2023 compliance year (April-March) water was abstracted above the authorised quantities as listed in licence SW/052/0009/011 , since this time the licence holder has operated the licence in compliance with the authorised quantities.

How is extraction volume monitored - self-reporting?

The borehole meter readings are regularly recorded by the licence holder as a condition of their licence. These records are checked during our inspections. Any over-abstractions are highlighted and dealt with.

Please refer to the [Open Government Licence](#) which explains the permitted use of this information.

Rights of appeal

If you are not satisfied with our decision, you can contact us within two calendar months to ask for the decision to be reviewed. We will then conduct an internal review of our response to your request and give you our decision in writing within 40 working days.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can then make an appeal to the Information Commissioner Office, the statutory regulator for EIR and the Freedom of Information Act 2002. Please follow this link to the [ICO online complaints portal](#). The address is: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire. SK9 5AF.

Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or 01625 545 745 (national rate) | Fax: 01625 524 510 Email: icocasework@ico.org.uk | Website: www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Dalene Ellis
WSX Area Customers and Engagement Team

Your feedback is important to us - please visit [Environment Agency FOI Customer Satisfaction Survey](#)