

Technical Annex: Site

What comprises the 'site'?

The Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) support site based regulation by allowing different regulated facilities to be authorised within one permit where it is appropriate. Numerous regulated facilities exist in EPR, water resources will be adding two new regulated facilities: water abstraction activity and water impounding activity. Within the water abstraction activity are sub activities including full, transfer, temporary and groundwater investigation activities. The move into EPR will allow for multiple sub activities and regulated facilities to be authorised within one permit if they are all undertaken by the same operator and on the same site. Below are examples of how different activities could exist on one permit:

- A water abstraction activity and an impounding activity
- An installation activity and an abstraction activity
- A water discharge activity and a transfer abstraction activity

The move to EPR will also allow abstraction from multiple sources of supply to be authorised in one permit. A site may therefore contain groundwater and surface water abstraction points on one permit. This is different to how we currently issue licences where only one source of supply can be included on, and authorised by, a licence.

The number of activities, regulated facilities or sources of supply which can be authorised by one permit is limited by whether they all exist on one site and are under the control of one operator.

The extent of a site

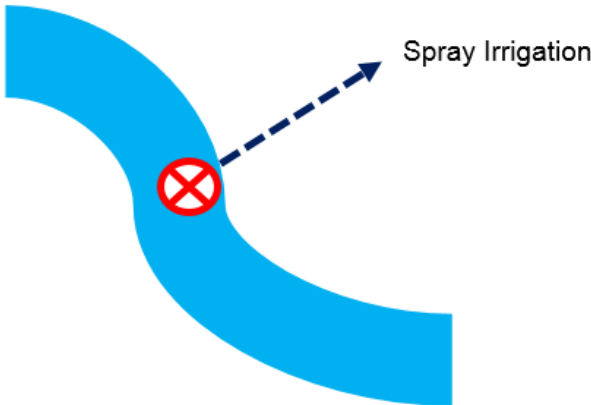
A site is defined on a case by case basis, we will take the following factors into consideration when defining the extent of a particular site:

- Proximity - where are the activities taking place in relation to each other? There is no distance 'cut-off' however they must be located within a reasonable area.
- Coherence - whilst not essential to be considered a site, whether there is an operational link between points or activities will be considered.
- Hydrological connection - points located within the same waterbody or catchment are more likely to be considered one site.
- Licensing boundary - We are likely to use the catchments described in our [Abstraction Licensing Strategies \(ALS\)](#) as a boundary.
- Other boundaries - we may consider other location features such as groundwater management units, Water Framework Directive (WFD) water bodies, and conservation designations.

Some examples of abstraction and impounding sites

Below are examples of common abstraction and impounding scenarios and the number of permits that would be required in each instance.

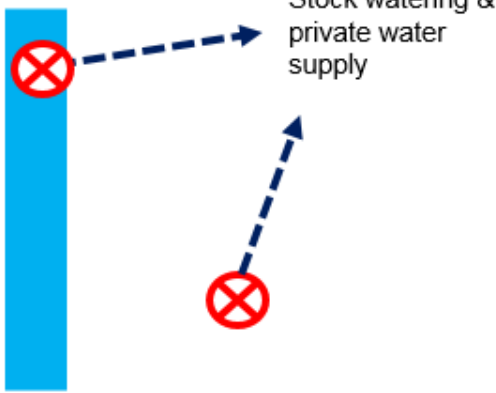
Scenario 1



Number of Permits	1
Number of Activities	1
Points of Abstraction	1
Source of Supply	Surface water

A permit authorising a water abstraction activity (full abstraction) at one site from a single location on a watercourse.

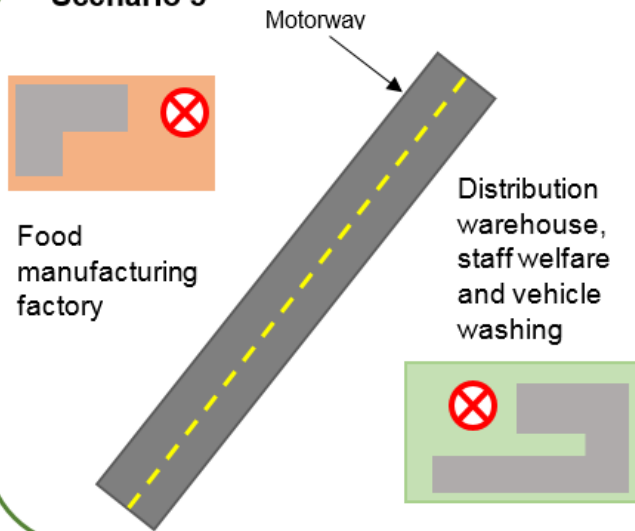
Scenario 2



Number of Permits	1
Number of Activities	2
Points of Abstraction	2
Source of Supply	Surface water & groundwater

A permit authorising a water abstraction activity (full abstraction) at two points in close proximity from two different sources of supply.

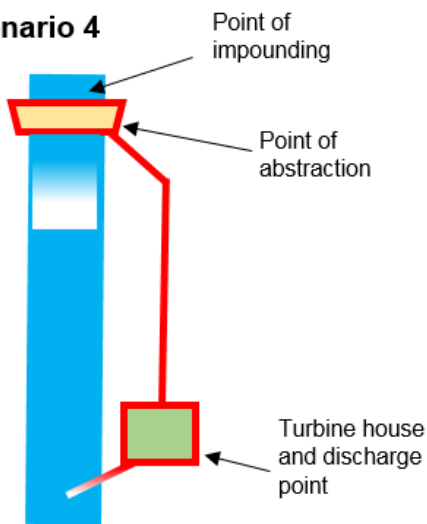
Scenario 3



Number of Permits	2
Number of Activities	1 activity on each permit
Points of Abstraction	1 point on each permit
Source of Supply	groundwater

Two permits authorising a water abstraction activity (full abstraction). Both permits owned by the same operator however on separate sites as not in close proximity.

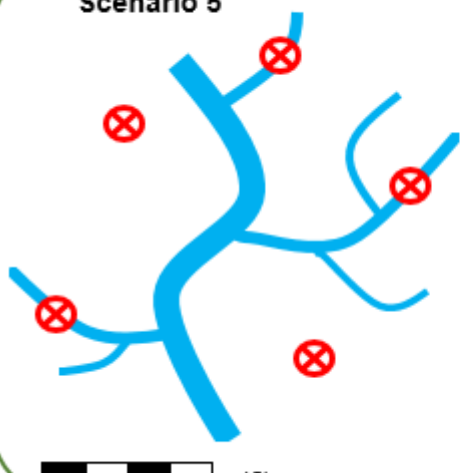
Scenario 4



Number of Permits	1
Number of Activities	2
Points of Abstraction or Impounding	2
Source of Supply	surface water

A permit authorising an impounding activity and water abstraction activity (full abstraction). Both activities are undertaken by the same operator, operationally linked and on the same site.

Scenario 5



Number of Permits	5
Number of Activities	1 activity on each permit
Points of Abstraction	1 point on each permit
Source of Supply	surface water or groundwater

Example of a distributed public water supply network where the abstraction points are not in close proximity to one another. If the sites are spread across different ALS, WFD or catchment boundaries they are likely to require separate permits.

Where can I find more information on what is meant by the term 'site' on an environmental permit?

The [Environmental Permitting Core Guidance](#) provides further information and guidance on the definition of site.