

Supporting guidance for Water-use Efficiency – Irrigation Lagoon

This is an old version of the page

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This item provides a contribution towards the costs of installing a lined lagoon for collecting and storing water to be used for irrigation purposes.

Benefits

Some rivers and burns in Scotland can in dry summers suffer from exceptionally low water levels with a number of burns running dry and so causing significant damage to aquatic life within the river.

An irrigation lagoon will allow water to be stored over the winter and stored and so help reduce the need to take water from burns and rivers at times when the water levels are low thus helping to protect the aquatic life within the river.

What needs to be done?

- if an abstraction from the water environment is required to fill the lagoon then an authorisation will be required from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency. The lagoon could be filled through collecting field run-off or run-off from nearby roofs or clean yards
- the lagoon must not be directly connected to the water environment (i.e. there should be no dams or other works which hold back flows in wetlands, rivers, lochs and estuaries)
- where the lagoon is not connected to the water environment no authorisation will be required from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, if there are any doubts it is best to speak to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency at an early stage
- it is important to check with the local planning authority to investigate if planning permission will be required
- where a proprietary lining is to be used (as opposed to a clay soil liner), a receipt for the liner will be required. This will be used to prove that a liner has been incorporated and may be checked as part of the process of verifying costs

Design guidelines

Where the lagoon is capable of holding 25,000 cubic metres (due to drop to 10,000 cubic metres) or more of water above the natural level of any part of the surrounding land then it will be captured under reservoir safety legislation.

At present reservoir safety in Scotland is covered under the Reservoirs Act 1975 by the local authorities, but this will be changing soon with the implementation of the Reservoirs (Scotland) Act 2011 which the Scottish Environment Protection Agency will regulate.

Where the reservoir is likely to exceed the 10,000 cubic metres threshold it is advised to speak to Scottish Environment Protection Agency at the early planning stage.

The [Thinking about an irrigation reservoir](#) booklet provides a useful guide to planning, designing and constructing a water storage reservoir.

Further information

- [Thinking about an irrigation reservoir? A guide to planning, designing, construction and commissioning a water storage reservoir](#)
- [Scottish Environment Protection Agency: Creation of Ponds, Pools and Lochans](#)
- [Reservoirs Act 1975](#)
- [Reservoirs: a guide for owners and operators](#)
- [Reservoirs \(Scotland\) Act 2011](#)

- [Construction \(Design and Management\) Regulations 2007](#)