

South West Water

South West Water takes water from the River Cober for public water supply. It is treated at Wendron Water Treatment Works and sent through our distribution pipes to domestic and business customers in Wendron, Helston and the Lizard peninsula. Treated water can also be brought in from other parts of the network (such as Penzance, Falmouth or North Cornwall) when necessary. Once the water has been used, it then passes through the wastewater network to one of several wastewater treatment works in the area.

It is a requirement that water can only be taken from the river when it is above a certain level, to avoid impacting the environment. During the summer when there is less rainfall, the level of water in the River Cober will naturally drop. To make sure there is enough water available in the river to meet the demand for drinking water, extra water can be released from Stithians reservoir into the River Cober further upstream.

In the winter the opposite occurs and water can be pumped from local rivers back into Stithians reservoir to help it refill ready for the next summer. But pumping water uphill takes a lot of energy and has a significant carbon footprint associated with it, therefore it is preferable to let the reservoir refill naturally when there is enough rainfall to do so.

When demand for water is highest during the summer, Wendron Water Treatment Works typically treats more than 9 million litres (around 4 Olympic swimming pools) of water every day. If everyone uses less water, this will reduce demand, so more water will remain in the River Cober, for the benefit of the local environment.

Useful links:

Further information about SWW and how the supply of water is balanced with the needs of the environment can be found on the SWW website: <https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/>

Tips on saving water including free water saving products:
<https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/save-water/>