

Metering keeps reservoirs full – despite dry weather

Rainfall only half the average, but demand for water has dropped

THE Island's reservoirs are still almost full – thanks to Jersey Water's new metering programme, utility company bosses have said.

Despite an exceptionally dry start to the year, during which the Island has seen only half of the long-term average rainfall, reservoirs are still 95 per cent full.

And Jersey Water says that levels are holding up well following a sharp drop in demand in homes that have been fitted with a water meter.

The company has metered almost half of homes in the Island as part of a programme to install a meter in every house

By Richard Heath

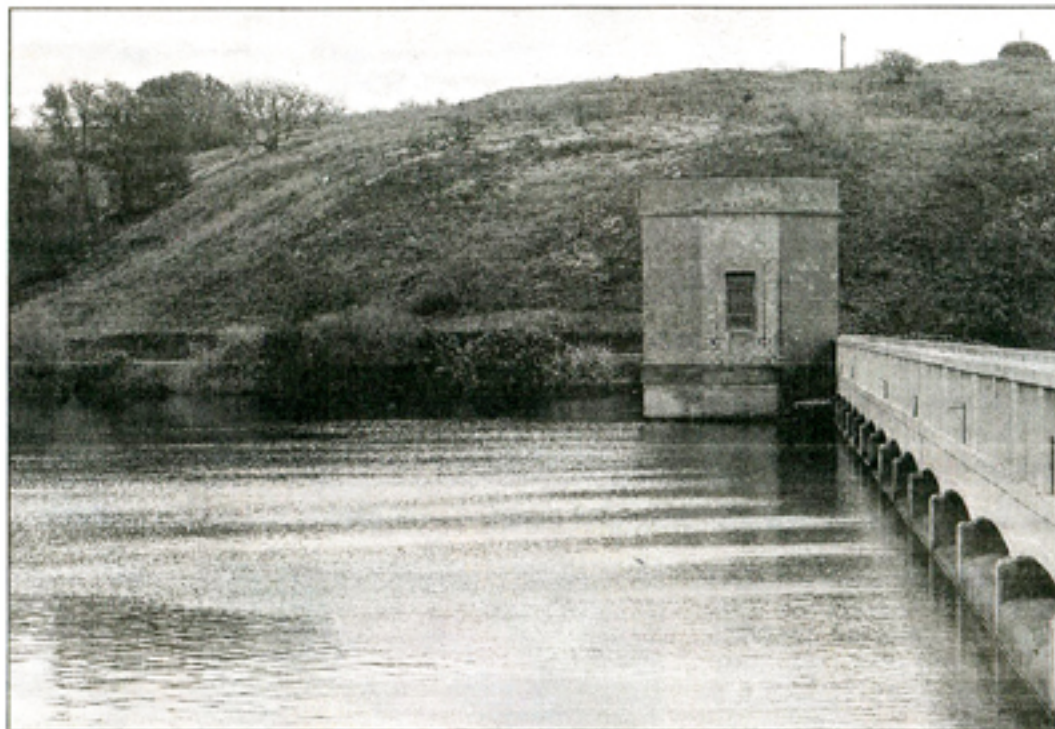
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by the end of 2015.

Howard Snowden, managing director at Jersey Water, said that demand in some areas which had already been metered had dropped by 25 per cent.

'Our water levels are holding up well, but we are getting a bit concerned that this dry spell is going on for so long.

'However, demand has not been as high as expected, and this is due to our metering programme. Demand in some areas has been significantly lower than this time last year.



Reservoirs (pictured here is Val de la Mare) are still 95 per cent full

'If it wasn't for our metering programme, I think our water levels would be lower than they are now,' he said.

The company has now metered most of the homes in the north of the Island and is currently working on properties in St Peter. It will begin metering homes in St Brelade later this year before moving east across the Island.

Meanwhile, forecasters are predicting that the dry spell will continue well into the month.

Jersey Met Office forecaster Joanna Chambers said that the Maison St Louis weather centre had recorded just 170 mm of rain this year, well below the long-term average of 315.2 mm.

She added that the Island was not likely to see any significant rain during the next week.