

Fish Legal is a not-for-profit membership association using the law to promote the sustainable management and conservation of rivers and stillwaters and the role of angling within them. We represent the Bideford and District Angling Club (BDAC), an interested party in this matter. BDAC operate the Tarka Swims coarse fishery to the south-east of Gammaton Reservoir which lies just beyond the Order Limits but falls within the 250m cable route buffer for the project. We are writing to suggest an accompanied site inspection for the fishery for the reasons given below.

The fishery is located at grid SS 488 246. It is fed by a groundwater spring and a borehole and depends on the continuous supply from both sources (please see the marked up map attached). As noted in our comments submitted on 10 March 2025, there is a real risk that if the hydrogeological regime in the area is not fully understood before the cable route is finalised, this could result in the cable going through the groundwater sources and cutting off or contaminating the supply to the fishery. There is also a risk of contamination/pollution to the groundwater sources from the proximity of the cable works. Any damage to the groundwater supplies will have a devastating impact on the fishery and BDAC's ability to continue operating as an angling club. It is therefore imperative that the hydrogeological regime is fully understood. The fishery is located on private land operated by BDAC. The fishery is the best site to see the locations of the groundwater sources and where they feed into the lakes. It is for this reason that we are suggesting an accompanied site visit. Representatives of BDAC would be able to walk the ExA through the location of groundwater sources and how this supplies the fishery to ensure the ExA is familiarised with the site. We believe that a site visit would help contextualise the position of the fishery in relation to the proposed works to ensure that the groundwater supplies are sufficiently protected from the cable route and associated works.

