

Where does the water come from?

The Lancashire section of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal from Gargrave Locks to Wigan is supplied by reservoirs which collect rainwater in the Pennines.

The most northern reservoir is Winterburn, from where water is piped 8 miles to the canal summit.

Summit water also comes from Upper Foulridge, Lower Foulridge, Slipper Hill and Whitemoor Reservoirs.

Barrowford and Rishton Reservoirs supplement the supply on the south-west side of the summit

Barrowford reservoir is filled only with surplus water from the summit pound, ensuring that we don't waste water

Small feeders (diverted streams) flow into the canal and augment the water supply

Reservoirs and feeders are dependent on rainfall to keep them supplying the canal throughout the year

When, from time to time, these resources are not sufficient to support the canal, drought measures e.g. restrictions may need to be applied

Restrictions make water use at locks more efficient, and allow the canal to refill overnight, preventing boats from grounding

The Trust carefully monitors the situation to minimise disruption to boaters and the environment

