

# How we are considering the environment

We are preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for this project. The EIA will identify and measure potential environmental impacts of the project, and inform proposed mitigations for managing these impacts.

The findings of the EIA will be reported in an Environmental Statement, which will be submitted as part of the planning application.

The Environmental Statement will consider the following key areas:

- Ecology and biodiversity – understanding existing wildlife and habitats in the area
- Water environment – considering the impact of construction and the scheme on water quality
- Visual – considering how the new structure may change views
- Noise and vibration – understanding the change in noise and vibration levels during construction and operation of the scheme on human receptors



Artist's impression showing features that could be included with the design, looking from the park towards the spillway. Indicative concept proposals only.

## Key environmental considerations

We take our responsibility for safeguarding the environment very seriously. We understand the importance of managing potential impacts to the local environment, including the park area and surrounding local facilities. Our design seeks to avoid or reduce the impacts as much as possible, as well as providing enhancements to the environment and community.

Ecology and biodiversity were key considerations in our options assessment, with a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (including a Phase 1 habitat survey and a suite of bat surveys) undertaken to better understand the ecological environment of the area. The results will also be used to inform appropriate mitigation measures as part of the proposed scheme.

The reservoir is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) due to the presence of a rare moss species and permission will be required from Natural England for works within this area.

Unfortunately, to construct the new spillway, it will be necessary to remove a number of existing trees, including two mature sycamore trees that are close to the structure. The large feature tree between the existing play area and the River Goyt will be retained. We will be carrying out an arboricultural impact assessment to help inform proposals for mitigating the loss of any trees and we will explore options to keep parts of felled trees to use as informal play equipment, habitat piles or sculptures. Details of this will be confirmed with our planning application.

A visual impact assessment will be undertaken to assess the effects the proposals will have on views from the surrounding area. The spillway and stilling basin will be integrated within the landscape with carefully designed landform to minimise their impact. Our design also includes removing and grassing over the existing concrete spillway to improve views to and the setting of the reservoir.