

Canal & River Trust

We are the UK's largest canal charity, caring for a 2,000-mile network of stunning canals and navigable rivers. Connecting many of the UK's urban and rural areas, we provide essential spaces for wildlife and people, helping us all feel happier and healthier.

The 250-year-old waterways in our care – the canals, embankments, culverts and reservoirs as well as the bridges, locks and towpaths – and their vital ecosystems are threatened by the growing impact of climate change and more extreme weather. They need constant upkeep and investment. Without it, they face decline, and we risk losing the incredible benefits they bring.

Through sustainable practices and a focus on climate resilience, our charity is committed to keeping our waterways safe, beautiful, and enjoyable for everyone.

Together, with the support of our donors and volunteers, we can keep canals alive. Join us and protect waterways for nature to thrive and everyone to enjoy, today and in the future.

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#KeepCanalsAlive



Slaithwaite Reservoir

This 200-year-old reservoir plays a vital role in managing water supply and providing flood control for West Yorkshire. It is also enjoyed by the local community and visitors for recreation and wayfinding.

Quick facts



Slaithwaite Reservoir is also known as Hill Top Reservoir.



It provides water to the Huddersfield Narrow Canal.



It was built between 1795-1799 by the Huddersfield Canal Company.



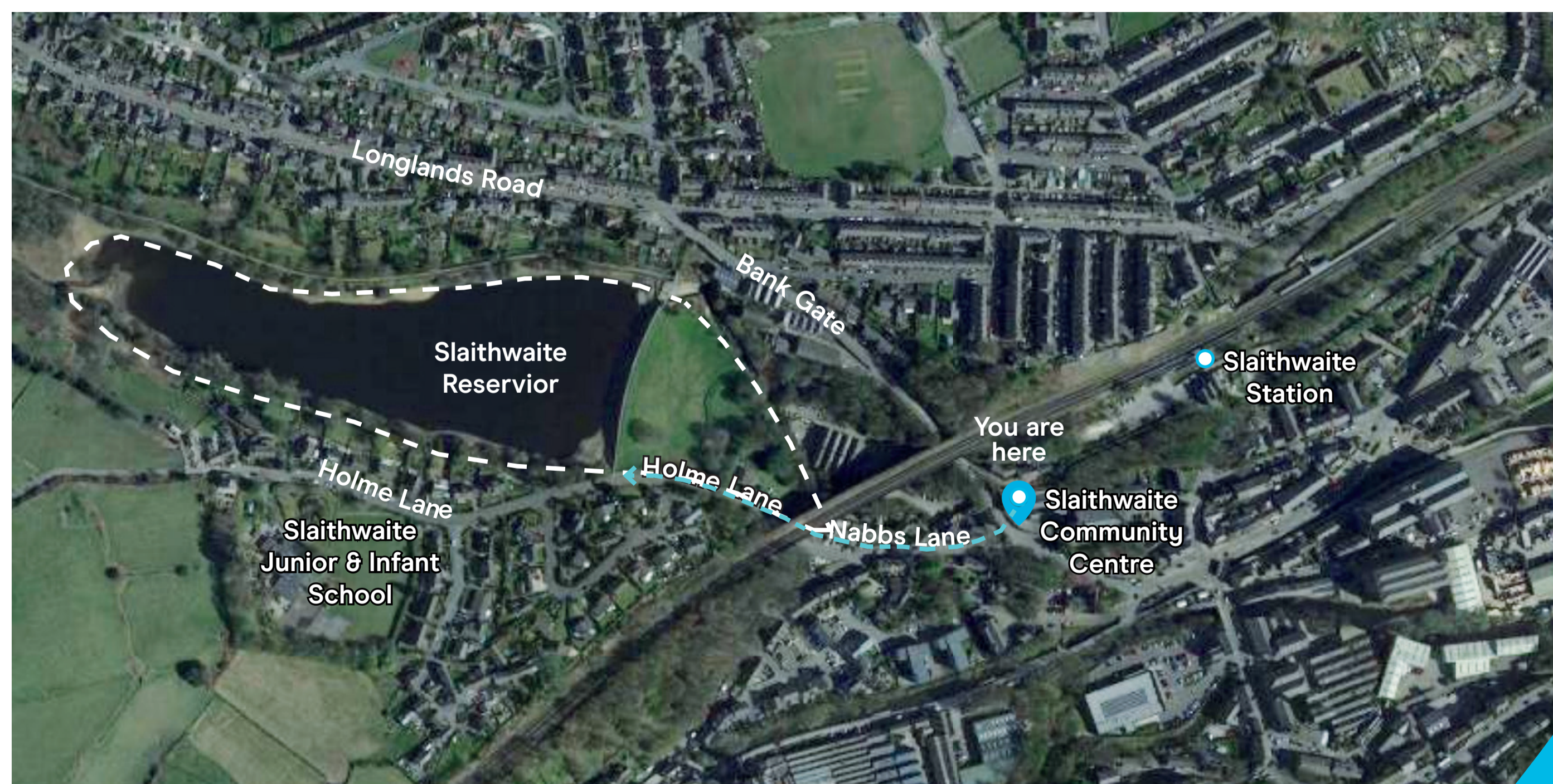
Walkers and wheelers can enjoy a promenade around the reservoir, taking in the scenery.



Public access across the reservoir is via a footpath at the crest of the reservoir dam.



A popular fishing spot, it's home to Roach, Perch, Bream, Carp, and Pike.



Maintaining the reservoir

Our charity is undertaking a significant programme of investment to improve our large reservoirs across the country.

Like all large bodies of water in England and Wales, the care of Slaithwaite Reservoir is regulated by law under the Reservoirs Act 1975.

Routine inspection, regular maintenance, and occasional upgrades are required to keep the reservoir running safely and effectively now and for many years to come.



Planned improvements to the reservoir

A recent routine inspection under the 1975 Reservoirs Act identified improvement works needed at Slaithwaite Reservoir to help secure the future of this important local feature. The reservoir supplies water to the Huddersfield Narrow Canal and therefore the works are of vital importance to the canal.

Key features of the work

- 1 Dam** – this is the main structure of the reservoir, it gathers water which is steadily released into the river Colne and the Huddersfield Narrow Canal. Repair works will be undertaken at the dam to reduce leaks so that it's able to hold water more effectively.
- 2 Spillway** – this allows for the controlled release of excess water from the reservoir. An improved spillway is proposed which is future-proofed to face the challenges of climate change. This will be built over the existing footprint and will help keep the reservoir running efficiently for decades to come.



Key features of work (Courtesy of Google Maps).

Before and after

The improved spillway will be designed to meet modern safety standards. To meet technical requirements the walls need to be of a certain height but have been minimised as far as possible. Material selection is currently being considered for the external faces of the walls.

The following visuals are intended to illustrate how this might look, however, this is subject to approval of the designs by the local authority under the Permitted Development Rights 'Prior Approval' process.



Photograph of the current spillway.



Photograph showing the current view of the spillway from the footpath at the crest of the dam.



Visualisation of the improved spillway once works are completed.



Visualisation of the new spillway from the footpath once works are completed.

What you can expect

We are working closely with our construction partner JNB to finalise our plans for construction management to ensure that any disruption to the community is minimised.

Before construction

Ground investigations are currently underway on site and are expected to be completed by January 2025.

JNB will set-up an enclosed site compound. Access plans for the delivery of materials and equipment, as well as the setup of the site compound, are being finalised. Deliveries will be kept to off-peak, daylight hours where possible.



Site access points (Courtesy of Google Maps).

During construction

Construction traffic, access, and parking

Traffic from vehicles moving to and from the site compound will be managed by JNB. We anticipate that most movements will happen at the start of the works as we move materials and equipment into the compound. There are currently two access routes being considered as needed.

We anticipate that parking for JNB will be contained on site and the aim will be to avoid impacts to on-road parking for residents and visitors.

Minimising disturbance from the site

A variety of methods will be used to reduce any potential disturbances to the community while the vital works are underway. This includes scheduling tasks that may cause noise or vibration for daylight, off-peak hours, where practical.

Good site housekeeping will be maintained by JNB, with specialist equipment brought in where needed.



**Canal &
River Trust**

Making life better by water



Public access to the reservoir

We want to ensure that the community can keep enjoying the reservoir while vital upgrade works are taking place.

Access will be maintained as much as possible and disruption will be kept to a minimum. There will be occasions where we will need to restrict access or close areas for public safety, however, this will be communicated in advance.



Footpath

The right of way across the crest of the dam and paths around the reservoir will be kept open as much as possible. Where we need to close footpaths temporarily, this will be managed to avoid disruption as much as possible.



Fishing

Anglers will still be able to enjoy fishing in the reservoir, however, in the event of footpath closures, JNB will be on site to manage access and advise on alternative routes.

There are no plans to drain the reservoir, however, there will be times during the construction phase when the water levels will be significantly reduced, this will be carefully managed and monitored to protect fish stocks.



Safety

The safety of residents and construction staff is our top priority. A full and detailed risk assessment and mitigation plan is in development, but key features are likely to include signage and CCTV on site.

When there is a need to restrict pedestrian access for safety reasons, there will be signage at the entrances to the footpath and access will be managed by JNB.




What happens next?

Your feedback will help us to finalise our plans. Before any works start, we will share the finalised plans on our dedicated webpage. See the 'Find out more' section below for details.

Keep up to date with progress

Get in touch

 info@slaithwaite-reservoir.co.uk

 **Freephone 0808 281 4669**
Lines are open weekdays, excluding bank holidays
9am – 5pm

Find out more

Signage will be placed at the entrances to the construction site and around the area to let passers by know what is happening and provide guidance on access.

Visit the dedicated Slaithwaite Reservoir webpage on the Canal & River Trust website for the latest updates on the project.

 www.canalrivertrust.co.uk/slaithwaite-reservoir



Timescales

- Early 2025:**
Application for 'Prior Approval' submitted to the Local Planning Authority. Ground investigations concluded.
- Spring 2025:**
Works start subject to receiving Prior Approval from the Local Planning Authority.
- Autumn 2026:**
Planned completion of site works.
- Early 2027:**
Deadline for completion under the Reservoirs Act 1975.

