

Project Background

The Canal & River Trust is currently working on a major project to restore the reservoir after the dam's auxiliary spillway was damaged in August 2019 during a period of intense rainfall.



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This triggered a major emergency response in Whaley Bridge. Supported by the local community, Trust staff and volunteers worked around the clock with the military and local emergency services, including Derbyshire Fire & Rescue, Derbyshire Police and the Environment Agency, to stabilise the dam. Over a billion litres of water were pumped from the reservoir during this emergency phase and water levels continue to remain nearly empty to ensure the safety of the dam while it is repaired.

We are currently adhering to a water management plan agreed with the Environment Agency to ensure the reservoir is maintained safely until a new spillway has been built.

Restoring Toddbrook Reservoir

The project includes the following aspects:

- Replacement of the existing spillway system
- Increasing the capacity of the pipes that are used to empty the reservoir
- Dam strengthening works
- Addressing other recommendations made to improve reservoir safety following the 2019 incident

By restoring the reservoir, it will be able to serve its function to feed the canal, and through our work we aim to enhance it as an asset for the community. The design is based upon this and the following principles:

- Considering all factors such as reservoir safety, ground conditions, buildability, environment, heritage, landscape, amenity, community and stakeholder impact as part of the assessment process to ensure we develop the best solution for the dam, the reservoir and for Whaley Bridge.
- Collaborating and engaging with the community and key stakeholders, including through multiple rounds of consultation.
- Integrating community and environmental enhancements where possible.
- Protecting the environment: This reservoir is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) due to the presence of Dwarf Bladder Moss. The final design will deliver the restoration project while protecting the natural environment.