

Restoring Toddbrook Reservoir

Construction Project Update

The repair of Toddbrook Reservoir has progressed well over the summer and is on course for the new overflow spillway channel to be finished by Christmas. The new weir and spillway will channel water from the reservoir into the River Goyt when the reservoir becomes full. It replaces and makes redundant the 1970s structure that was damaged back in 2019.

More than 450 bags of aggregate, dropped by Chinook helicopters during the 2019 emergency and concreted into the dam slope, have now been removed by diggers. The old concrete panels are also being taken away and the whole dam slope repaired and grassed over.

A couple of months ago the spillway channel was inspected and approved by a government qualified civil engineer, allowing a new opening to be made in the dam crest to enable completion of the final works on the spillway structure.

Below the dam wall, a new stepped spillway structure has been created out of reinforced concrete to carry water from Todd Brook, plus any reservoir overflow, on its journey into the River Goyt. Black and white plinths for a new bridge over the channel can be seen in the bottom right.



A new side weir and tumble bay are being constructed next to the reservoir at the top of the spillway. This will channel excess water from the reservoir into the River Goyt when the restored reservoir is full.

All water from the feeder spring, Todd Brook, that feeds the reservoir and gives it its name, is now flowing into the reservoir while the works to divert the stream into the new spillway are constructed, eventually enabling a regular flow down the spillway channel to create an attractive stepped waterfall feature.

On the site of the old playground, foundations are being laid to construct a pedestrian bridge

over the channel just before it enters the River Goyt. The two large turrets, whose job is to slow down the water flow, will be partially buried as part of the final landscaping works.

Early in 2026, work will start to provide a replacement Sailing Club facility, the construction site will be reduced, park re-landscaped, football ground restored to its original size and the reservoir allowed to fill up in carefully monitored stages. (More details overleaf)

Many thanks to everyone for their continuing patience with the construction project.

For regular construction updates, please go to the Canal & River Trust website:

canalrivertrust.org.uk/restoring-toddbrook-reservoir

PUBLIC OPEN DAYS – Friday 26 and Saturday 27 September 2025. For booking details, please see the back page.



Returning Toddbrook Reservoir to community use again

Re-filling the Reservoir

Toddbrook Reservoir will be allowed to re-fill naturally in over spring 2026 after the dam spillway and weir construction are complete. Levels will be held at different heights during the gradual re-filling process, allowing engineers to closely monitor and inspect the reservoir as it refills.

The speed of the re-fill will be influenced by the prevailing weather conditions in early 2026, so if we experience a dry spring, the process will be slightly slower than if rainfall is plentiful.

The reservoir will be re-stocked with fish and, hopefully by the summer, the reservoir will be fully restored as a community resource for sailing, angling and swimming.

Replacement Sailing Club

We're committed to arranging new facilities for the Sailing Club. Planning permission is in place to build a new sailing club on the edge of the reservoir by the newly constructed side weir. There is also the possibility of re-purposing the former reservoir keeper's lodge. Options are currently being explored, and we are working closely with the Sailing Club to come up with a suitable new facility so they can return to sailing on the reservoir.

Whaley Bridge Athletic Football Club Field

A small construction site office has been on the edge of the football field for six years to manage the high-volume pumps which are still connected to the reservoir to manage water levels until the dam is repaired. As soon as the Environment Agency agrees it's safe to do so, these will be removed, the construction compound reduced and the junior football pitch repaired and returned to Whaley Bridge AFC, hopefully in time for the 2026/27 season.

Memorial Park and Playground

Artwork decorating the two concrete turrets will be added at the end of the construction project in early spring 2026. We are expecting our contractor Kier to remove their site cabins from the edge of the Memorial Park in late spring/early summer 2026. The parkland will then be restored with new playground equipment, trees, grass and stone walls. New foot bridges will be installed over the channel near the playground and at Todd Brook inlet at the top end of the reservoir.



Construction Progress



More than 450 bags of aggregate, dropped by Chinooks during the 2019 emergency, have now been excavated by diggers. The old 1970s concrete panels are also being removed over the summer and the whole slope will be repaired and grassed over. The public side of the concrete spillway channel is being faced in natural stone to soften its appearance.



CGI images of the new Memorial Park playground at the foot of the new spillway structure. (Nb local houses not shown)



Left: Toddbrook project manager Dilwyn Parry, from the Canal & River Trust, at the foot of the new spillway channel.



The former bywash channel, near Reservoir Road, will be filled in and landscaped. All water from Todd Brook will now flow into the reservoir. Any excess will enter the River Goyt via the new spillway channel.

Community Matters

Keeping in Touch

Tess Smith is Kier's dedicated Whaley Bridge Stakeholder Manager, who is responsible for keeping residents informed and updated about progress on the Toddbrook construction project.

She and the Trust's project manager Dilwyn Parry are available to give construction updates or discuss any issues on request.

Tess sends out regular updates by email. If you have any specific construction queries or would like to join the email list, please get in touch with her at Toddbrook@kier.co.uk or Tel: 07731 987228.

Tess Smith



INVITATION Public Open Days

**Friday 26 and Saturday
27 September, 10am – 3pm**

You are invited to join a behind-the-scenes tour of the construction project. The one-hour slots include a view of the construction works and an update on progress from project engineers. Places are limited and must be booked in advance. For a booking link, visit the Canal & River Trust website:

canalrivertrust.org.uk/restoring-toddbrook-reservoir

What will the new playground look like?

Examples of play equipment to be installed in the new playground.



If you have further questions about the restoration of Toddbrook Reservoir:

For more information, check out the Canal & River Trust website:
canalrivertrust.org.uk/restoring-toddbrook-reservoir

You can also contact the Project Team with any comments or questions by email:
toddbrook@canalrivertrust.org.uk