



Canal &
River Trust

Restoring Toddbrook Reservoir

Planning application submitted for the permanent repair of Toddbrook Reservoir



A message from the
Canal & River Trust
North West Director,
Daniel Greenhalgh

I am pleased to report to you that this month we reach a major milestone in the restoration of Toddbrook Reservoir. We have just submitted a planning application to High Peak Borough Council seeking permission to repair the reservoir and construct a new overflow spillway channel on the northern side of the dam.

We are very grateful to everyone who has given feedback or attended our second public consultation in Whaley Bridge in June. We have had extensive discussions with local residents, particularly those who are likely to be impacted most, and have tried to adapt our plans and designs to cause the least disruption and inconvenience.

Unfortunately the repair plans will also impact on the Sailing Club, so as part of the same application

we are applying for permission to replace the current sailing club facilities with a new clubhouse, boat storage, slipway and car parking, located on a site behind the proposed tumble bay.

We appreciate the repair work will create disruption for some residents, particularly those living nearby, but we will do our very best to mitigate noise and inconvenience as far as we are able. We thank everyone for their patience and support over the last two years. Repairing the reservoir is a huge engineering challenge and sadly there is no easy, win-win solution.

Restoring Toddbrook is vital to ensure the long term viability of the Peak Forest and Macclesfield canals. We look forward to completing this challenging engineering project so we can

again rely on its essential water supply and for the beautiful reservoir to be re-instated for the benefit of everyone in Whaley Bridge.

If planning permission is granted, the plan will be to start major construction work on the dam in spring 2022. This will be followed later by works to the inlet cascade, at the far end of the reservoir, to increase its resilience to high flows from Todd Brook stream. The project is likely to take about two years to complete, with the aim of having the reservoir open again by summer 2024.

Further detail about the construction plans are contained inside this newsletter. As the project progresses, you can keep up to date with developments through the Canal & River Trust website: canalrivertrust.org.uk/restoring-toddbrook-reservoir

Thank you for your support.

Toddbrook Reservoir Repair Plan

Selecting the design solution for repairing Toddbrook Reservoir has involved a thorough examination of all the options. Public safety has always been our number one priority and we have also been guided in our choice by engineering best practice, public feedback, buildability and health and safety. After much careful consideration by a range of experts, we strongly believe that we have come up with the best solution for restoring the reservoir.

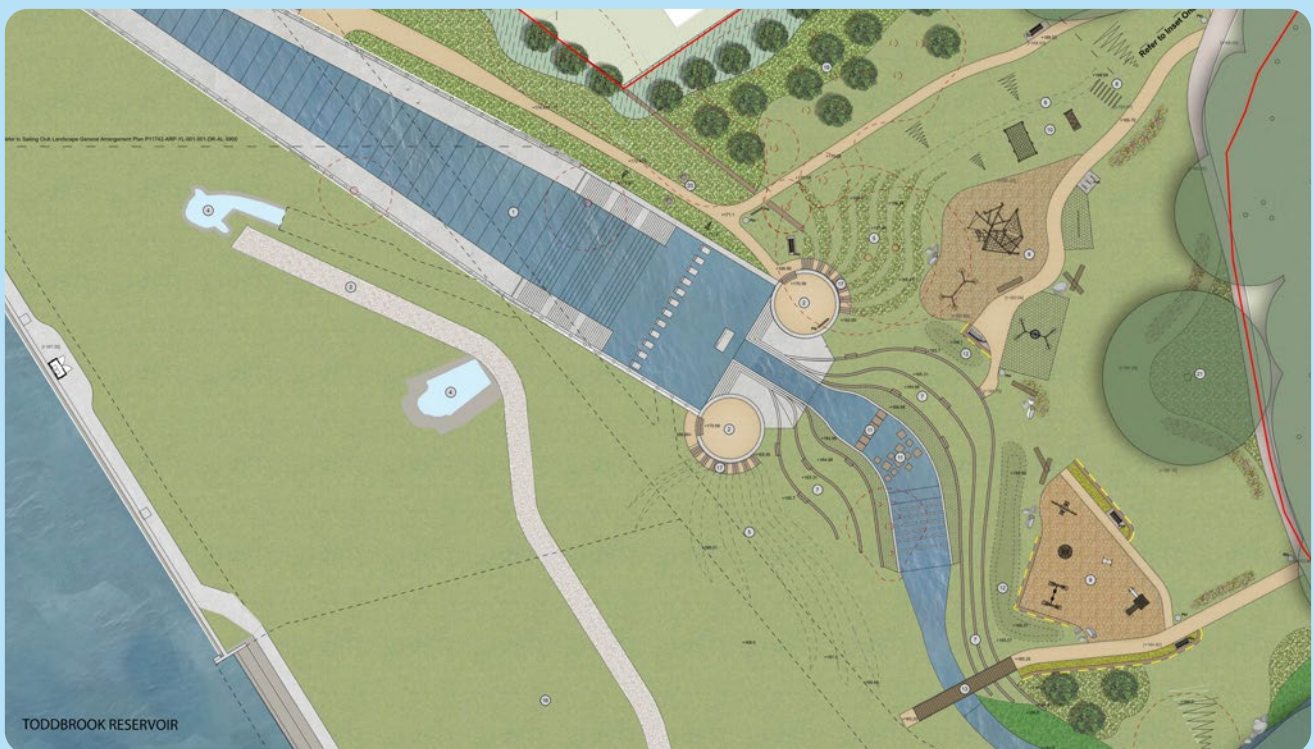
The proposal features construction of a new overflow side channel weir, 'tumble bay', spillway channel and stilling basin on the northern side of the dam. This then links into the existing bypass channel, which joins the River Goyt in the town's Memorial Park.

Feedback from two public consultations influenced several design features, including the addition of natural stone cladding to most of the exterior side walls above ground level to reduce the

visual impact of new concrete structures and the need to keep wall heights as low as possible. There was also a public wish to see water constantly flowing down the spillway channel instead of it being predominantly dry and this has been achieved by connecting the top of the tumble bay into the existing reservoir bypass channel.

The 1970s overflow spillway overlooking the park, which was damaged in summer 2019, will be de-commissioned, the concrete panels removed and the dam slope grassed over. The original 1840s spillway, near the existing sailing club, will also be removed and some of the stone reclaimed and re-used as cladding on the exterior walls of the new structures.

The Trust has been working closely with engineering and consultancy firm Arup to prepare the detailed plans after carrying out extensive technical investigations and design work. If the application is approved, the construction project will be delivered by the Trust's main contractor Kier.



Above: Plan of the new proposed spillway channel.

Below: Artist impression of the new Sailing Club.



Temporary site compound on the Memorial Park

In order to carry out the essential repairs, the Trust intends to set up a temporary site compound at the northern end of the Whaley Bridge Memorial Park, next to the dam. Following feedback from local residents, a footpath will be retained across the park, connecting Wharf Road along the river to the Memorial Park Bridge, providing a viewing point for the construction site.

During the works the playground will unfortunately have to be removed but will be replaced with alternative temporary play equipment at the top of the dam next to Whaley Bridge Athletic Football Club. A new playground, similar to the existing one, will be constructed at the same location in the Memorial Park at the end of the project in 2024. The park will be re-landscaped, with extra footpaths and a new footbridge over the bypass channel.

Access for construction vehicles into the site compound will be along Reservoir Road. There will be no temporary traffic lights at weekends or evenings and the Trust will arrange for weekday construction traffic to be managed

by having staff on duty with 'stop' and 'go' signs and radios to provide a more personal and interactive traffic management service.

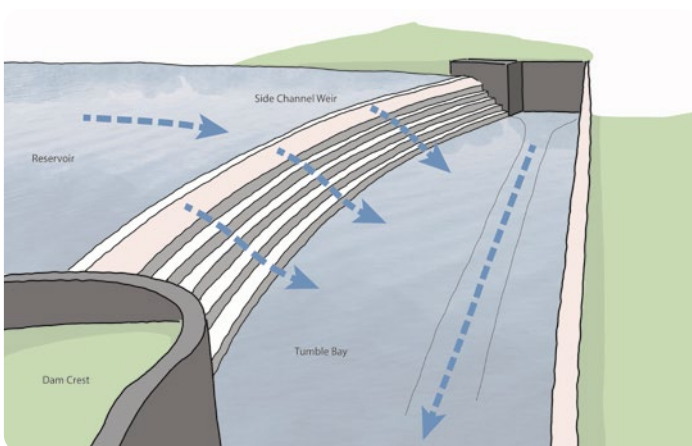
Some site cabins will remain by the football field to oversee the high volume pumps, which will keep the reservoir water at a low level until construction work is finished. Earlier in the year, the setup was modified to reduce the overnight noise levels from the generators, which power the data recording telemetry, pumps and welfare facilities.

A number of trees will need to be felled to make way for the construction of the new spillway but the Trust has worked closely with the council to discuss replacement planting and habitat creation which is predicted to achieve a net biodiversity gain of more than 10%.

The planning application can be viewed on the High Peak Borough Council website: planning.highpeak.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet



Above: Artist impression of the new spillway channel behind the playground in the Memorial Park. The existing damaged concrete spillway will be removed, and the dam slope grassed over.



Left: Diagram of the new side channel weir and 'tumble bay' leading into the new spillway channel.

Improving waterside paths by Combs Reservoir

Many thanks to all the community volunteers who are working with us to improve the footpath around Combs Reservoir.

Sections of the waterside path now have a wonderful all-weather surface of slate chippings and can be enjoyed by walkers and cyclists all year round. But there is still much more to do...

Canal & River Trust area operations manager Tracey Jackson said: "All the volunteers are doing an amazing job. The upgraded path looks fantastic now and will be a brilliant resource for everyone wanting to enjoy a lovely waterside walk beside the reservoir, even when it's wet and muddy."

"We would particularly like to thank Chapel-en-le-Frith Parish Council for purchasing the slate path topping and two councillors, Cllr Chris Sizeland, from Chapel Council, and Cllr Kath Sizeland,

from High Peak Borough Council, who have been at the centre of the renovations, promoting our work parties and joining us each day.

"There will be more work parties in the future to upgrade even more pathways and we would love to see more volunteers for as much or as little time they have available. It's a great opportunity to try something different, meet new people and get out into the wonderful Peak District air."

Combs and Toddbrook Reservoirs are two of 72 reservoirs nationwide cared for by the Canal & River Trust. All man-made canals rely on reservoirs for their water feed to keep them flowing. Every time boaters fill or empty a lock, it can take hundreds of gallons of water. Combs and Toddbrook provide the main water supply for the popular Peak Forest and Macclesfield canals.

If you would like to volunteer for one of the work parties, look out for posters in the local area or contact Jason Lock on 07917 753263.



If you have further questions about the restoration of Toddbrook Reservoir

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

You can also contact the Project Team with any comments or questions by:

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Phone: 0808 196 8809

Post: Freepost CRT Toddbrook

Charity no. 1146792