

Restoring Toddbrook Reservoir

New Toddbrook Dam overflow spillway completed

Construction of the new concrete dam overflow spillway structure at Toddbrook Reservoir is now complete, we are delighted to report. A massive thank you to all local residents for their patience while our contractor Kier has delivered this major engineering project.

The structure features a new weir, tumble bay, stepped spillway channel and stilling basin, curving around the original Victorian dam wall, providing a new route for excess water to reach the River Goyt.

Over spring and summer 2026, the new structure will be connected to the river and the construction site will gradually be re-levelled and re-landscaped with hundreds of new shrubs, mature trees and spring bulbs. A new playground will be installed, replacement sailing club constructed, and the football field returned to Whaley Bridge Athletic Football Club.

More than 500 visitors joined us for two public open days at the end of September. Kier project manager Karen Woods is pictured inside the bottom of the new spillway channel explaining how the new dam overflow structure will work.



A final weir block is craned into place to complete the new side weir and tumble bay by the waters' edge, at the top of the new overflow spillway structure. This will channel excess water from the reservoir down into the River Goyt when the reservoir is full. A constant flow from the feeder stream Todd Brook will travel along the small, shallow channel on the left.

After the removal of scrub vegetation from the reservoir basin, Toddbrook Reservoir will be allowed to re-fill naturally over the spring and summer in carefully monitored stages, before returning to its primary function of supplying water to the Peak Forest and Macclesfield canals. It will then be restocked with fish towards the end of 2026, after all

the new reservoir controls have been thoroughly tested.

The redundant concrete panels on the dam wall are currently being removed, filled to be level with the remainder of the dam and the entire slope will be grassed over. The popular former walkway across the dam wall crest is also being reinstated with a new bridge providing access over the spillway near Toddbrook Lodge.

Kier site cabins and equipment will gradually be removed over several months, starting at the end of December, with a final withdrawal date of autumn 2026.

For more detailed timescales, see inside. For regular construction updates, please go to the Canal & River Trust website:

canalrivertrust.org.uk/restoring-toddbrook-reservoir

Thank you for your support.

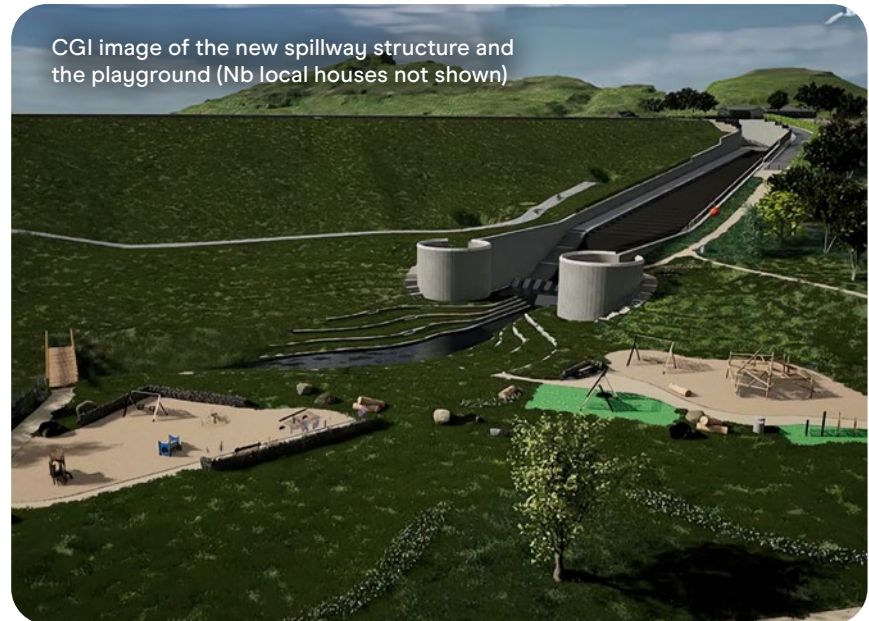


Returning Toddbrook Reservoir to community use again

Memorial Park and Playground

During spring and summer 2026, over a thousand mature trees, shrubs, perennials and ornamental grasses will be planted in the Memorial Park around the playground and on land currently occupied by the construction site.

The planting list includes over 40 mature trees like maple, birch, oak, elm and hornbeam, and 678 shrubs, such as hazel, sweet briar, guelder roses, woolly willow, blackthorn and elder. Over 340 new daffodil bulbs will adorn the park in the spring, supplemented by dozens of other perennials – yarrow, cornflowers, rosemary, sage, sweet woodruff and ornamental grasses.



Kier will withdraw site cabins and equipment, allowing the park to be reclaimed and rejuvenated by the Trust's landscape contractors, and the installation of an exciting array of playground swings, slides and climbing frames.

Replacement Sailing Club

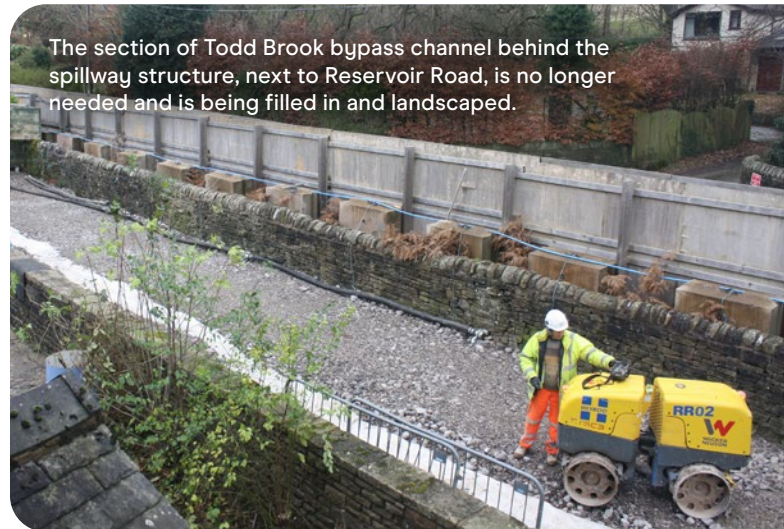
Planning permission is in place to build a new sailing clubhouse on the edge of the reservoir near the newly constructed side weir. Building work is expected to start in spring/summer 2026 and will include a new carpark and launch slipway for boats. The clubhouse is likely to be operational by next winter. The former reservoir keeper's lodge, which was considered as an alternative clubhouse, will be put up for sale.



Whaley Bridge Athletic Football Club Field

A small construction site office has occupied the edge of the football field for over six years to control the high-volume pumps which manage water levels. The pipes are due to be removed soon, the construction compound reduced and this section of the football field returned to Whaley Bridge Athletic Football Club by next summer. A reparation grant from the Trust will enable the club to develop their facilities in line with their own aspirations.

Toddbrook project manager Dilwyn Parry, from the Canal & River Trust, during the construction of the new spillway channel.



The section of Todd Brook bypass channel behind the spillway structure, next to Reservoir Road, is no longer needed and is being filled in and landscaped.



Kier site cabins and equipment will gradually be removed over several months, starting in mid-December. The park will be re-levelled and re-landscaped with hundreds of new shrubs, mature trees and spring bulbs, and a new playground will be installed.

Re-stocking the reservoir with fish and the return of angling

The reservoir will be re-stocked with fish, once the Trust has thoroughly tested all the reservoir controls after re-filling it naturally over spring and summer 2026. It is likely to be winter 2026 before fish, such as roach and bream, are introduced to their new home and angling can begin again.

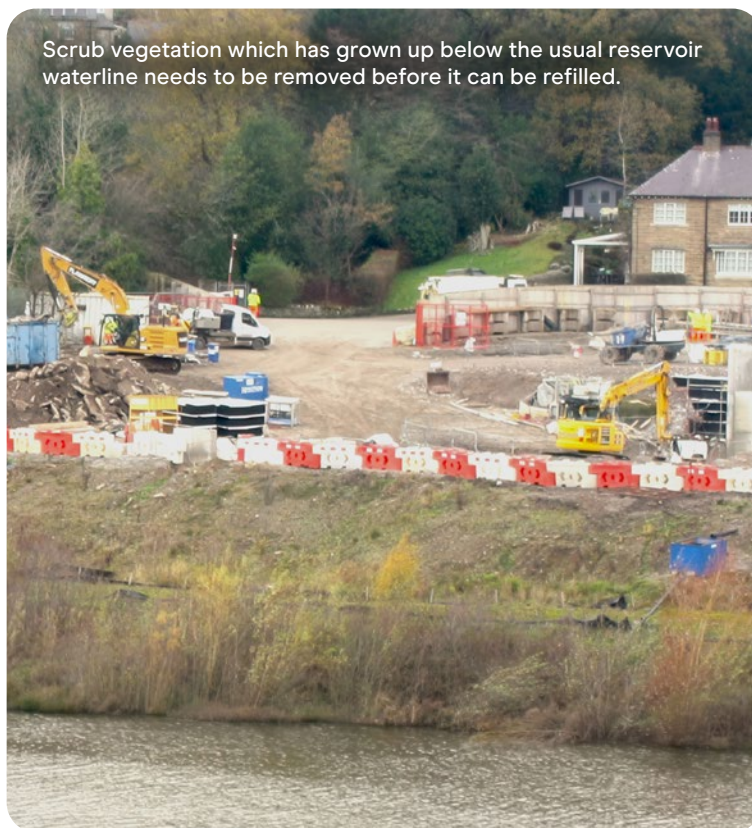


Re-filling the Reservoir

In advance of re-filling Toddbrook Reservoir, the Trust needs to remove scrub vegetation which has sprung up below the usual waterline of the reservoir. As this is a Site of Special Scientific Interest due to the presence of a rare dwarf bladder moss, we are working closely with Natural England on a plan to clear trees and shrubs before the start of the 2026 bird nesting season.

The reservoir will then be allowed to re-fill naturally over spring and summer 2026 in carefully monitored stages. Safety is paramount and the gradual rise in water level will be a phased 16-week monitored process. The effectiveness of the reservoir will be thoroughly tested to ensure the integrity of the new structure, as levels are held at different heights during the re-filling process.

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.



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.

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.

In the New Year, she will resume public drop-in sessions at the Transhipment Warehouse in Whaley Bridge. Contact her for dates and more details.

Tess Smith



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