

# Restoring Toddbrook Reservoir

## Construction Project Update

Over the last few months, we've continued to make good progress with the restoration of Toddbrook Reservoir, near Whaley Bridge. The major construction project to create a new reservoir overflow spillway is now in a final phase of intense activity over the next nine months.

With the challenging excavations and successful installation of foundations and piling complete, our contractor Kier is now well on course to build the new side weir, tumble bay and spillway with hundreds of tons of reinforced concrete

On the site of the old playground, foundations are being laid to construct a new bridge over the channel just before it enters the River Goyt. And the stilling basin staircase and two large turrets, whose job is to slow down the water flow, are now clearly visible



A new side weir and tumble bay are being constructed next to the reservoir at the top of the spillway.

and nearly finished. Ultimately, they will be partially buried as part of the final landscaping works.

Later this spring, when the overflow spillway structure is sufficiently advanced, the work will be inspected by a government-approved specialist reservoir engineer before a new

opening in the dam is made to enable completion of the spillway structure. The damaged concrete panelling will then be removed, the dam slope repaired over the summer and then completely grassed over.

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 naturally in carefully monitored stages. (More details overleaf)

Many thanks to everyone for their continuing patience and support.

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

[canalrivertrust.org.uk/restoring-toddbrook-reservoir](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/restoring-toddbrook-reservoir)

Watch out for details of two Public Open Days scheduled for late summer.

Below the dam wall, a new stepped spillway structure is being created out of reinforced concrete to carry water from Todd Brook, plus any reservoir overflow, on its journey into the River Goyt.



# Returning Toddbrook Reservoir to community use again

## Re-filling the Reservoir

Toddbrook Reservoir will be allowed to re-fill naturally over winter 2025/spring 2026 after the dam spillway and weir construction project is completed. 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 eight 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. Hopefully by the summer, the reservoir will be fully restored to supply water to the Peak Forest and Macclesfield canals and as a community resource for sailing, angling and swimming.

## Replacement Sailing Club

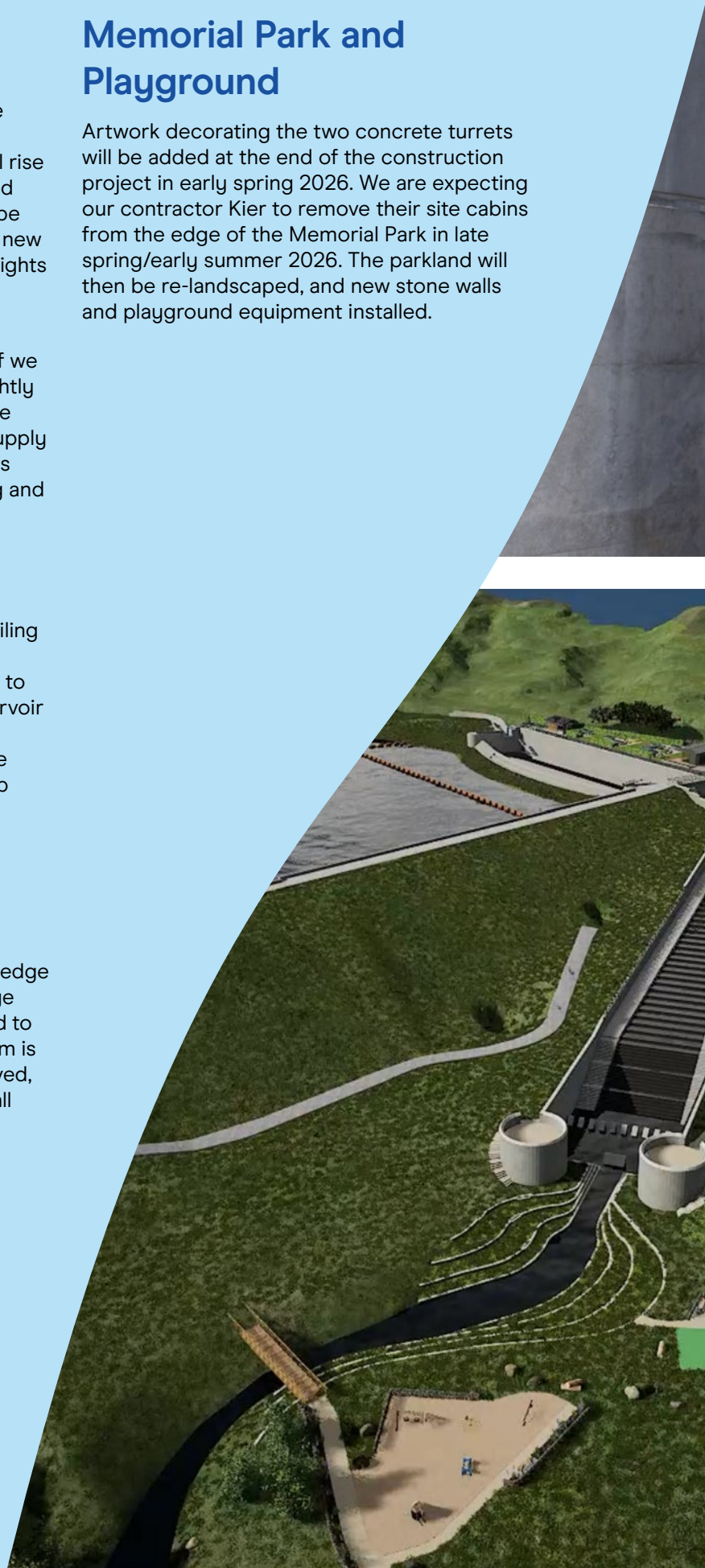
Planning permission is in place to build a new sailing club on the edge of the reservoir by the newly constructed side weir. We have also been asked to look at potentially re-purposing the former reservoir keeper's lodge as an alternative club house. All options are currently being explored, and we are working closely with the Sailing Club to come up with a suitable new facility for them.

## Whaley Bridge Athletic Football Club Field

A small construction site office has been on the edge of the football field for nearly 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 it's safe, these will be removed, the construction compound reduced and football field returned to its original size.

## 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 re-landscaped, and new stone walls and playground equipment installed.





# Construction Progress



*The new spillway staircase and concrete turrets to slow the waterflow are now almost complete.*



CGI image of the new spillway structure on the edge of the Memorial Park. (Nb local houses not shown)



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



Foundations have been installed to support a new bridge over the overflow channel at the bottom of the spillway. The dam's 1970s concrete panels will be removed at the end of the construction project and the slope grassed over.



# 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 will be available to give a construction update or discuss any issues at a special public open drop-in session on Thursday 29 May, 11am – 1pm at the Transhipment Warehouse, Whaley Bridge Canal Basin.

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](mailto:Toddbrook@kier.co.uk) or Tel: 07731 987228.

Tess Smith



## Sandbag Replacement

Some of the original emergency sandbags from the incident in 2019 have started to disintegrate. Please be assured we are aware of the problem and the plastic bags are now being replaced by stronger, more environment-friendly hessian covers.

Using labour provided by the MoJ Community Payback scheme, around 2,500 bags are being filled and re-installed to raise banks

around the reservoir and along the Todd Brook inlet to protect surrounding areas from flooding.

Project manager Dilwyn Parry explains: "The great advantage of hessian covers is that they're made of natural materials and over time can gradually be absorbed back into the earth. The raised banks then become permanent as they're held in place by vegetation."



## 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](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/restoring-toddbrook-reservoir)

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