



# Restoring Toddbrook Reservoir

## Work to start on permanent restoration of Toddbrook Reservoir



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

I am pleased to tell you that we have the green light to proceed with the complex permanent repair works to Toddbrook Reservoir. In early March, High Peak Borough Council granted us planning permission for the major two year project, which includes constructing a new overflow spillway structure on the north side of the dam.

To make way for the new spillway works, the current sailing club will have to be relocated behind the new tumble bay. The existing clubhouse will be taken down and replaced by a new sailing club slipway, clubhouse, boat storage and car park.

The concrete panels from the 1970s-built overflow spillway, damaged in summer 2019, will be

removed. The dam will then be repaired and grassed over.

We are very grateful to everyone for their continued patience and cooperation, as we appreciate that the repair works will inevitably cause disruption for some local residents, particularly those living nearby.

Following two public consultations and discussions with residents and stakeholders, we have adapted our plans and designs to respond to feedback and to cause the least inconvenience. We will do our very best to mitigate noise and disruption as far as we can.

Restoring Toddbrook Reservoir 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 enjoyment of the local community. The reservoir will be restored to the most stringent 21st century engineering standards - keeping everyone safe is our top priority.

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

**Thank you for your support.**



Artist impression of the dam and new spillway structure from the Memorial Park.

## What happens now?

**Over the next few months, the Trust and its contractor Kier will set up a temporary site compound at the northern end of the Memorial Park, by the playground next to the dam.**

Preparation work will include installing new fencing and hoardings, essential tree felling, creating new access routes to the compound and tumble bay area, removing the sailing clubhouse, diverting drainage and feeder channels, and site clearance. The road surface along Reservoir Road will also need to be improved.

The former Victorian reservoir-keeper's house, Toddbrook Lodge, has been acquired by the Trust and will be carefully preserved. It will initially serve as a site office for the construction works.



Above: Toddbrook Lodge will be preserved.

New play equipment is being installed as a temporary measure at the top of the dam, next to Whaley Bridge Athletic Football Club. At the

end of the project in 2024, a new playground, similar to the existing one, will be rebuilt at the same location in the Memorial Park. The park will also be re-landscaped with replacement trees, wildlife habitats, extra paths and a new footbridge over the bypass channel. The project will achieve a net biodiversity gain of more than 10%.



Above: New replacement play equipment will soon be available next to Whaley Bridge Athletic Football Club.

During the construction project, a footpath will be retained across the park, connecting Reservoir Road along the river to the Memorial Park Bridge and will feature a viewing point for the works.

Construction access will be along Reservoir Road and we very much appreciate the cooperation of those residents in particular as we make preparations for the main works. Our contractor Kier will provide a dedicated traffic liaison officer who will be onsite throughout the main works to help with any issues.



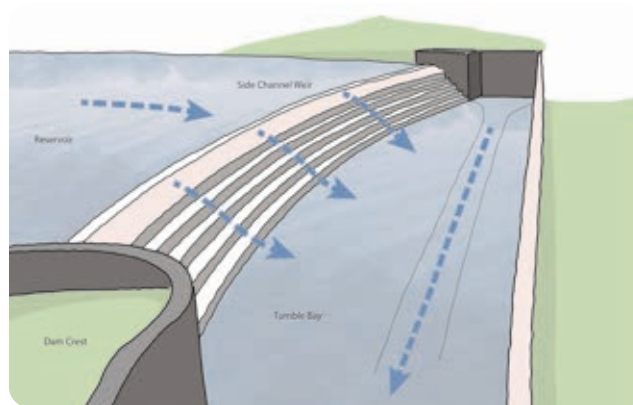
# Toddbrook Reservoir Main Works

The main construction phase for the spillway is likely to start this autumn and take around two years to complete, with the aim of re-opening the reservoir in 2024.

The new overflow spillway structure will be constructed on the north side of the dam, near to the existing boat slipway and primary spillway. Much of the stone will be rescued and reused on the exterior of the new structure. The new spillway will involve building a side channel weir, 'tumble bay', spillway channel and stilling basin which will link into the existing bypass channel flowing into the River Goyt in the town's Memorial Park.

The main construction project will be followed by works to the inlet cascade, at the far end of the reservoir, to increase resilience to high flows from Todd Brook stream.

High volume pumps will remain in the reservoir to manage water levels until the end of the restoration project.



Above: Diagram of the new side channel weir and 'tumblebay' leading into the new spillway channel.



Above: Site of the new structure on the north side of the dam.



Above: Artist impression of the new Sailing Club.



Left: Concrete panels from the 1970s spillway, damaged in summer 2019, will be removed. The dam will then be repaired and grassed over.

# Canal warehouse transformed into craft centre and community hub

**Whaley Bridge's historic Transhipment Warehouse in the town's canal basin has been transformed into a thriving craft centre and community hub, thanks to a group of dedicated volunteers.**

Craft classes in pottery, stained glass-making, painting and willow weaving, sit alongside a second hand book and vinyl record store, café and community food bank. A regular weekly Men's Shed drop-in session will start on Thursday 14 April. This comes on top of an existing Monday morning pottery class and Thursday afternoon arts and crafts group. On the second Saturday of every month, a popular local produce and craft market is held at the warehouse and a beer festival is scheduled for July.

A group of canal heritage enthusiasts, led by Neville Clarke, set up the Whaley Bridge Canal Group. Working closely with the Canal & River Trust, they have now formed a community interest company to develop the 19th century Grade2\* listed building into the High Peak Heritage Craft Centre.

Neville said: "Despite the challenges of Covid and successive lockdowns, we have managed to convert an old, empty canal warehouse into a thriving centre for traditional crafts. With inflation reaching an all-time high, the foodbank is appreciated by many members of the local community. And after the social isolation of the last couple of years, the informal drop-in craft and art sessions are proving very popular too.



"We would love to see you, whether to try a new craft skill, browse the huge range of books and records or pop in for a cup of tea and a chat. Everyone is welcome."

For more information, check out the website: <https://www.high-peak-crafts.co.uk> or email [info@high-peak-crafts.co.uk](mailto:info@high-peak-crafts.co.uk).

Below: Directors Nicola Shrimpton and Neville Clarke.



## 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](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)

Phone: 0808 196 8809

Post: Freepost CRT Toddbrook

Charity no. 1146792