

Restoring Toddbrook Reservoir

Construction Project Update

Many thanks for your patience

This summer a major construction project to create a new spillway structure at Toddbrook Reservoir, near Whaley Bridge, has made great strides forward, despite constant challenges caused by wet weather.

Many of the spillway features, like the two concrete turrets and stilling basin steps, are taking shape and the route of the new overflow spillway is now clearly visible on the ground.

Over recent months we have welcomed many visitors to the site, including local residents at two popular summer open days, new High Peak MP Jon Pearce, and more than 40 representatives from the emergency services, who enjoyed a productive training day at the site in September.

Our contractor Kier is working hard to complete the construction project by the end of 2025, allowing the reservoir to fill up naturally over the winter of 2025/26. This will be followed by the creation of a new sailing club and extensive landscaping to return Toddbrook Reservoir and Memorial Park back to public use.

During 2026, Whaley Bridge Athletic Football Club field, currently partially occupied by a construction site office, will be restored to its original size and reservoir levels will hopefully enable sailing, angling and other recreational activities to resume.

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

**Thank you for
your support.**



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.



Constant wet weather this year has resulted in construction delays due to difficult ground conditions.

Welcoming visitors behind the scenes

We were delighted to welcome dozens of visitors over the summer to see behind the scenes of the construction project. On Friday 19 and Saturday 20 July, Canal & River Trust and Kier project staff gave residents and the media a chance to see construction work up close and ask questions about next steps.

A personal tour was also arranged for new local MP Jon Pearce, soon after the General Election to brief him on this important construction project within his constituency.

And on Wednesday 18 September, the Trust and Kier joined with the Environment Agency to host a day on reservoir safety for the emergency services in Derbyshire, Greater Manchester and across the North West. Specialist staff from the Police, Fire Brigade, Army and RAF were given a hard hat tour of the construction site and the major project to build a new dam spillway. They were also briefed on new guidelines for reservoir safety and emergency incident response.

Canal & River Trust project manager Dilwyn Parry explains construction progress at a public open day.



Community Art Project

Artist Tom Edwards (We are Culla) is leading a community art project at Toddbrook Reservoir. The site hoardings overlooking Whaley Bridge AFC are now adorned by his fantastic artwork inspired by local wildlife. The two turrets, which play an essential

role in controlling water volumes cascading down the spillway, will ultimately be decorated with some of his artwork. Many thanks to everyone who has engaged in the consultation to choose the most appropriate designs.



Artist Tom Edwards



Construction Progress

Right: A new side weir and tumble bay are being constructed next to the reservoir at the top of the spillway. The main structures are currently being installed in reinforced concrete, supported by hundreds of piles.



Left: The new turrets and spillway steps are now clearly visible at the bottom of the existing dam wall.

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



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 or the Trust's project manager Dilwyn Parry are available to discuss progress and any issues at regular drop-in community hubs at the Transshipment Warehouse in the town's Canal Basin and at the Whaley Bridge Footsteps community café on Market Street. These are held every other Wednesday afternoon. See local noticeboards or contact Tess for details.

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



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, up to 2,500 bags will be 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

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