



Harthill Reservoir FAQs

Introduction

Harthill Reservoir in South Yorkshire is to be given a £5 million upgrade by its owner, waterways and wellbeing charity, Canal & River Trust.

This document includes frequently asked questions (FAQs) and answers relevant to this project.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with any further questions or comments on this project by using the contact details below:

Project Contact Channels

Freephone: 0800 028 8141

Email: harthill@canalrivertrust.org.uk

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Harthill Reservoir

Q: Where is Harthill Reservoir and why is it important?

A: Harthill Reservoir, situated between Sheffield and Worksop, near to the village of Harthill, was constructed more than 200 years ago to supply water to the Chesterfield Canal, located approximately two miles to the north. It still retains this important function today.

The reservoir is also a popular attraction that hosts many health and wellbeing activities, from sailing and swimming clubs to angling and walking.

It is important to ensure the future of Harthill Reservoir so that it can continue to provide these functions for years to come.

Q: Is Harthill Reservoir safe?

A: Yes. We have reassurance from a detailed reservoir inspection in May 2020.

The upcoming works are to upgrade the reservoir, improving its future resilience and bringing it up to date with our modern 21st century standards.

The Project – upgrading Harthill Reservoir

Q: What works will the Trust be undertaking on Harthill Reservoir?

A: At this early stage we don't yet have full details of what the project will involve, as the project team is currently working through feasibility and optioneering phases. We look forward to sharing more detail on this project as it becomes available.

We do know that the main upgrade works will involve redesigning the overflow spillway to increase the resilience of Harthill Reservoir. Further operational enhancement works to the reservoir will also be explored.

In the meantime, we will be carrying out a range of ground investigation and topographical studies, as well as heritage and ecological assessments.

Q: When will these works take place?

A: Early on-site investigations are now underway and will continue during 2021. The results of these investigations will be used to inform ongoing assessment work.

The main upgrade project, including the associated construction work, is expected to start in 2022 and be completed within 12 months.

Q: Why is the Trust undertaking this project now?

A: A recent detailed inspection of Harthill Reservoir identified a number of upgrades and improvements to bring the reservoir up to our 21st century modern standards. This £5 million upgrade project will secure Harthill Reservoir's long-term future and ensure people can continue to enjoy the important health and wellbeing benefits of being by water for many years to come.



Temporary disruption to Harthill Reservoir

Q: Why has the water level been lowered, and will the reservoir be completely drained?

A: The water has been temporarily lowered as part of the ongoing investigation works. We expect water levels to be drawn down below the normal level for the duration of the project, but there will always remain a low-level of water in the reservoir.

We are sorry for any inconvenience this is causing local people and are committed to working closely with regular users who will be most affected, for example Yorkshire Outdoor Swimmers, Rotherham Sailing Club, model boaters, and anglers.

Q: Can the reservoir be used for sailing, swimming, and angling during the main works?

A: Sadly not. The water levels in the reservoir and the presence of construction machinery means that it would not be safe for these leisure activities to continue during the upgrade works in 2022. We are talking directly to groups most affected as the project progresses.

Q: Can the footpaths around the reservoir be used during the works?

A: We will work to minimise disruption during the works, but footpaths around the reservoir may need to be closed at times. The footpath along the reservoir dam will need to be closed during the upgrade works to ensure safety.

Pebley Reservoir and Chesterfield Canal

Q: Will the upgrade works to Harthill Reservoir affect Pebley Reservoir and Chesterfield Canal?

A: Water levels at Pebley Reservoir will also need to be temporarily reduced until the upgrade works are completed at Harthill Reservoir.

This is because Pebley Reservoir supplies water into Harthill Reservoir, and we need to carefully manage the flow of water to ensure no over-spilling occurs, even in a storm event.

The normal feed of water from Harthill Reservoir to Chesterfield Canal will be affected whilst the upgrade work is undertaken. As part of the investigations and planning of the upgrade works, we are analysing the potential impacts on water supply to the canal and how this can be managed during the construction stage.

We will minimise potential impact as far as possible but must also ensure that the work at the reservoir is undertaken safely. Further information will be shared as the project progresses.



Local Engagement

Q: How are you keeping local people and users of the reservoir updated?

A: We are committed to engaging local community members, user groups, and anyone interested in these works throughout the project. While we don't yet have full details of what the works will involve, we are keen to communicate openly and provide information where we can.

As a first step, we have written to over 800 properties in the proximity of Harthill Reservoir and Pebley Reservoir, and all interested members of the public are invited to join us for an online meeting where we will introduce the project and respond to questions. This meeting will be held on Thursday 7 January at 7.00pm.

In the meantime, we have also directly contacted reservoir user groups and local representatives to notify them of the project.

Our dedicated project team can be contacted via email at harthill@canalrivertrust.org.uk or by Freephone on 0800 028 8141.

Q: How can I sign up to the online meeting?

A: Please register your interest by emailing or calling a member of our team using the project contact channels. We will then register your interest and provide you with the necessary joining instructions.

If you are not able to attend the online meeting, please be assured that a recording of the Trust's presentation and a written record of relevant questions will be made available following the session.