



**Canal &
River Trust**

Making life better by water

Toddbrook Reservoir Update

A massive thank you to the Whaley Bridge community

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

Although life is now returning to normal after the disruption of the last few weeks, we want to thank everyone in Whaley Bridge for their understanding and patience during the recent emergency.

The community spirit in Whaley Bridge has been amazing and we are very grateful for all the support we have received. Big and small acts of kindness have been very much appreciated and your response to this difficult situation has been amazing.

Now the reservoir is almost empty, our plans to keep it safe are in place and we start the work of planning how to repair and restore the dam – a big job which is likely to take a couple of years. We promise to keep you informed and involved at every step along the way, with regular updates and on-site visits and open days. But for now, we want to extend our thanks to all of you for the wonderful community spirit and resolve you have shown.

Thank you.



August 2019

Rebuilding the Dam Wall – Next Steps

Experienced Canal & River Trust project manager Rob Jowitt will be leading a team of experts to work out what went wrong and prepare a detailed design plan for repairing the dam wall.

Working alongside Rob, our contractor Kier is now on site to deliver repairs to the dam and keep the reservoir secure. Kier has set up a site compound next to the sports fields of Whaley Bridge Athletic Football Club. Eleven high volume pumps are in place to provide an immediate response to rain falling on the reservoir. They have the capacity to pump out the equivalent of more than 12 bath tubs a second. This will keep the water levels very low while repairs are carried out.

We are very grateful to the volunteers who run the club whose warm welcome and support has been very much appreciated.



Rob Jowitt



Drained reservoir, showing the high capacity pumps and the dam wall. A small darker patch on the left marks a section where the pitching was re-set in the 1980s.



Fish rescue

Protecting the environment

Toddbrook Reservoir is a special place for wildlife – designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). As the water levels have reduced, we have carried out an initial fish rescue to save some of the estimated 30,000 fish (5,000kg) which live there. A further phase will be carried out in mid-October when the weather is cooler.

Coarse fish, such as bream, roach, perch and pike, have been captured in large nets by the Trust's fish specialists and then transported to another Trust reservoir, Upper Bittell Reservoir, near Birmingham. Upper Bittell Reservoir, which is also a SSSI, was drained and refilled after major works two years ago and is in a good position to re-home large numbers of fish.

Paul Breslin, fisheries officer with the Canal & River Trust, said: "We want to save as many fish as we possibly can. We have installed aeration pumps to provide the remaining fish with extra oxygen in the water. The middle of summer is not an ideal time to move fish, as they can get distressed by the heat, but we are working hard to do our very best for all the wildlife caught up in this emergency."

Image: Arthur M Proctor



A boat on the Peak Forest Canal crossing Marple's famous aqueduct – the highest aqueduct in England.

Why do we need Toddbrook Reservoir?

The Toddbrook Reservoir was built in the 1830s to feed the Peak Forest and Macclesfield canals. It supplies hundreds of gallons of water each month to keep the local canal system running. While repairs take place, the Peak Forest Canal will rely on a reduced supply from another nearby reservoir. It doesn't provide drinking water.

Toddbrook Sailing Club, Moss Side Social Angling Club and Glossop Triathlon Club are just a few of people who enjoy the lake for leisure activities.

How do I find out more information?

We will be posting regular updates on our website at canalrivertrust.org.uk/toddbrook

If you need to contact someone at the Canal & River Trust, Gillian Renshaw has just been appointed the special community liaison manager for Whaley Bridge.

You can contact her by emailing: gillian.renshaw@canalrivertrust.org.uk
Mobile: 07741 307349.



Need extra help?

Derbyshire County Council has advice and support on its website www.derbyshire.gov.uk/community/support-for-whaley-bridge

Affected businesses can apply for financial support via the High Peak Council website: www.highpeak.gov.uk/BusinessInfoToddbrook

Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service has warned people against the dangers of exploring the deep muddy bottom of the reservoir. Please don't get stuck in the silt.