



# Restoring Toddbrook Reservoir

## Repairing the Reservoir — First Steps Starting in January 2020



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

Thank you for bearing with us over the last few months. Although not always visible, a lot of work has been happening on site, particularly at the top end of the reservoir at the reservoir inlet.

We have been carrying out a range of modelling, investigatory works and other vital engineering to prepare for the future restoration of Toddbrook Reservoir. We're also preparing to resume fish rescues now that temperatures have fallen.

We have had a number of significant weather events over the last few months and the pumps on site have comfortably done their jobs and the reservoir remains near empty.

After Christmas we will be making temporary repairs to the damaged spillway itself. This will increase the dam's resilience and the reservoir's capacity to cope with potential extreme weather events. A full description of the



works is provided overleaf, along with an explanation of the works at the reservoir inlet.

We have also been supporting the independent inquiry we commissioned by specialist reservoir engineer Dr Andrew Hughes, and assisting the Government Inquiry team headed by Professor David Balmforth. Both reviews are seeking to establish the cause of the damage to the spillway and identify the lessons to be learnt.

Once the inquiries are completed, and the cause of the damage has been established, we will

be able to look further at the technical options to determine the best way to restore the dam to its full safe working order. Until that process is finished, we can't complete the detailed repair plan, or confirm an accurate timetable or costings. We do know, however, that it is likely to take several years and cost many £millions before the reservoir is fully and safely restored.

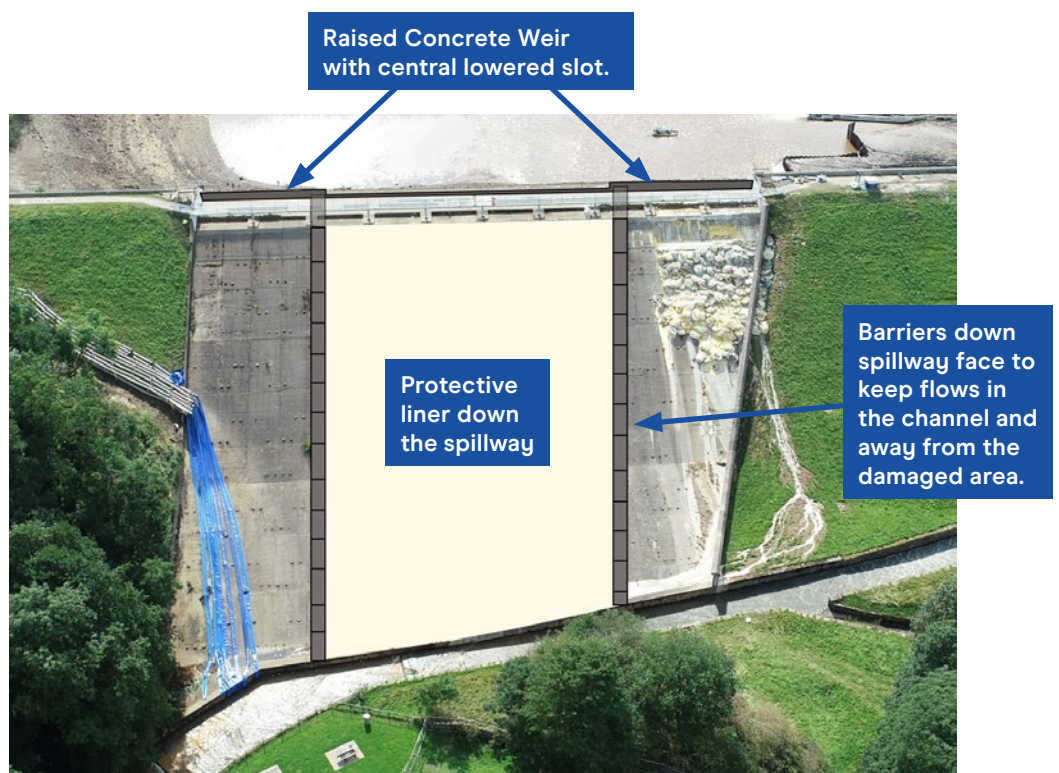
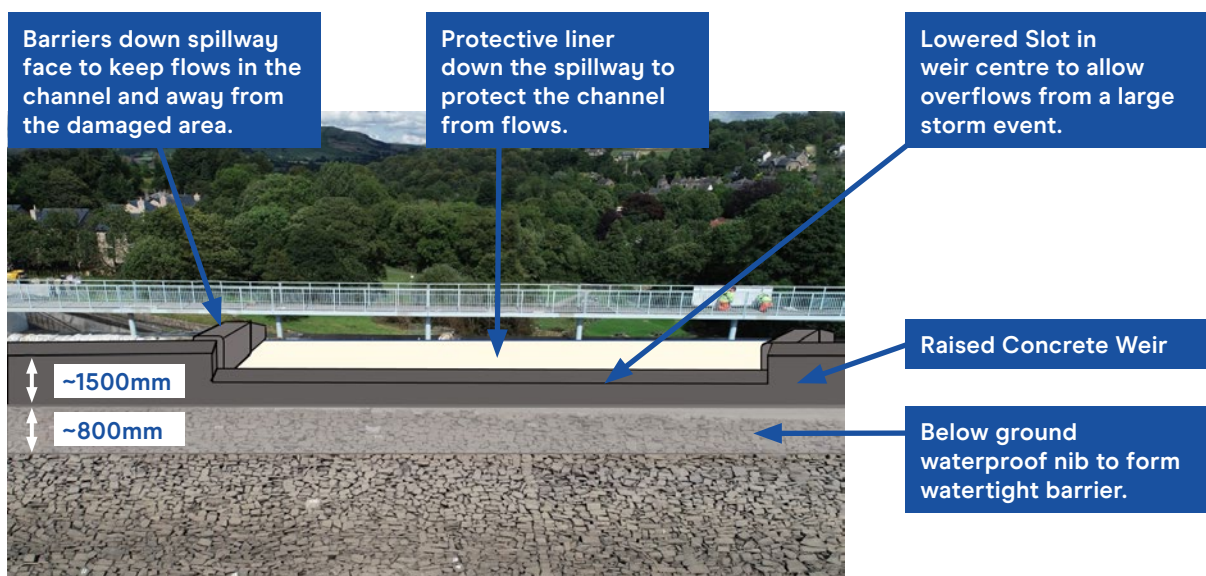
**Thank you for your support**

# Temporary works to the Dam Auxiliary Spillway

On 6th January we will begin work to install some temporary measures to make the damaged spillway more resilient in case of extreme weather.

On the damaged spillway a protective, waterproof nib (that is, a short wall) will be introduced along the crest which will reach down into the dam's clay core. This will ensure that no water from inside the reservoir can penetrate beneath the concrete slabs at the top of the spillway.

The spillway crest will be increased in height by just over one metre at either end and sturdy waterproof barriers will be installed on the spillway slope to channel any overflowing water into the central section. This section of the spillway will also be lined with a waterproof material as an extra precaution. This is shown on the diagrams below:



A short film about the works has been posted on our website [canalrivertrust.org.uk/restoring-toddbrook-reservoir](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/restoring-toddbrook-reservoir)





The head of Toddbrook Reservoir: the inlet weir on the left and the bypass channel on the right

# Improving the Todd Brook inlet and bypass channel

## New inlet footbridge and sluice gates

Toddbrook Reservoir is fed by a stream – Todd Brook. The stream can either feed into the reservoir or be diverted along a bypass channel. This bypass channel runs along the North West edge of the reservoir before feeding into the River Goyt.

During normal weather conditions, while the reservoir remains drained, all flow is sent down the bypass channel i.e. none into the reservoir.

After the emergency in August, the masonry weir at the inlet channel was raised with the installation of mesh baskets filled with sandbags. These will now be replaced with the installation of sluice gates to provide a high degree of control over water flows.

Whilst these works are being undertaken, and in response from calls from a number of residents, we will take the opportunity to install a footbridge across the inlet. **Once construction work is complete, this footbridge will create a safe route for people wishing to walk across the weir from one side of the valley to the other.**

## Close Monitoring of the Bypass Channel

The flow down the bypass channel is being carefully managed so as not to flood surrounding areas. Our hydrologists have carried out extensive modelling to assess the topography and the maximum capacity at all points along the channel.





Transhipment Warehouse  
at the canal basin

## How do I find out more information?

We are posting regular updates on our website at [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/restoring-toddbrook-reservoir](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/restoring-toddbrook-reservoir)

### Weekly Wednesday Drop-in Sessions

We appreciate that not everyone will have been able to make the information session on the 17th December, and we hope that this Newsletter provides the information about the works that you need. Our weekly surgeries continue to be held every Wednesday at the Transhipment Warehouse by the canal basin, from 10am – 3pm where the Trust's community liaison manager for Whaley Bridge, Gillian Renshaw, is available. Gill will also be supported by specialists from the Trust on the following dates:

- 18 Dec:** Communications
- 8 Jan:** Volunteering and waterway operations
- 15 Jan:** Local volunteering opportunities
- 22 Jan:** Local environment & ecology
- 29 Jan:** Repair project manager

We'd ask all those who attend these drop-in sessions to respect the Trust employees and volunteers who are there to help and assist, as well as our colleagues and contractors at the reservoir site. We know how vital it is that we maintain open communications with the local community but we will not tolerate any threatening or hostile behaviour.

Thank you.

Alternatively, if you cannot make it along to the drop-in events, you can contact the Trust by email [toddbrook@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:toddbrook@canalrivertrust.org.uk) and we will do our best to respond as soon as we can.



Gillian Renshaw

**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.**