

# Restoring Toddbrook Reservoir

## Update on reservoir repairs and opening up waterside paths

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



We hope you and your families have stayed safe and well during these difficult times of coronavirus. Due to the importance of the Toddbrook repair project, our staff and contractors Kier have continued to work to deliver the project throughout the pandemic lockdown, operating within strict social distancing rules.

A year on from the emergency, thanks to these dedicated staff, we reach an interim milestone with the end of the temporary repair project to make safe the damaged spillway. These works have increased its resilience even further against any extreme weather event.

I am also pleased to announce the appointment of Arup as the design consultants to lead on the permanent reservoir repair. They bring a wealth of expertise and are working closely with the Trust on this second crucial phase in the restoration project.

We are currently examining a range of potential repair options and the views of local residents are a key part of the decision-making process.

We are planning to host a public consultation event in late summer and then confirm the preferred option in the autumn.

After August, there will be a pause in construction work and we bring the good news that some of the paths around the reservoir will be opened up to the public again for a few months until spring 2021, when the main repair project begins. The full restoration is likely to be completed in 2023.

For more details, please check out our website: [canalrivertrust.org.uk/restoring-toddbrook-reservoir](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/restoring-toddbrook-reservoir)

**Thank you for your support**

Summer 2020



# Temporary repairs to the Dam Auxiliary Spillway Completed

By the beginning of August, we are due to have completed the temporary repairs to the dam's damaged spillway. This will increase its resilience against extreme weather events.



Work on the dam crest

A protective, waterproof nib (short wall) has been added to the crest of the dam wall above the damaged spillway. This reaches down to create a seal with the dam's clay core and ensures no water from inside the reservoir can penetrate beneath the concrete slabs at the top of the spillway.

The spillway crest has also been increased in height by just over one metre with the installation of a sturdy waterproof concrete wall. Engineers are currently adding the finishing touches with the installation of new pressure relief holes and joint repairs on the spillway.

Any excess rainwater falling in the reservoir continues to be removed by 11 on-site pumps and the reservoir will remain drained until the permanent reservoir restoration project is finished in about three years' time.

Once the work is finished in August, construction site boundaries will be reduced and the path along the reservoir bypass channel will be reopened to the public for a few months until construction work begins again in spring 2021.



Popular reservoir footpath to be reopened for a few months

# Arup appointed as design consultants for the permanent repair project



Engineering design consultancy Arup is leading on the permanent Toddbrook Reservoir repair project.

Arup's role will be to devise a solution to upgrade the existing overflow system, increase drawdown capacity, improve dam stability and address other recommendations made to improve reservoir safety following the 2019 incident.

They will prepare a range of potential designs and following a public consultation in late summer, the preferred option will be confirmed in the autumn.

Construction work will start at the Todd Brook inlet channel at the head of the reservoir in spring 2021. After the emergency in August 2019, the masonry weir was raised by the installation of mesh baskets filled with sandbags. These will be replaced by a new flow management structure and a footbridge. This new structure will provide greater control over how much water flows from the brook into the reservoir or around the reservoir via the bypass channel.

*“The disruption experienced by the community last year was deeply unsettling, but our work will ensure the longevity of the dam to keep residents downstream safe. We will be working closely with the Canal & River Trust to ensure that local residents are involved in the process and we are already exploring options of virtual consultations, should social distancing measures need to remain in place in the longer-term.”*

Rachel Sandham, Project Director at Arup

# Whaley Wharf Weekend – a (socially distanced) community celebration

Transshipment Warehouse, Canal Basin, Whaley Bridge. Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd August, 11am – 4pm.

Whaley Bridge's beautiful old Transshipment Warehouse at the end of the Peak Forest Canal has benefitted from a major face lift. The £100,000 project, funded by the Canal & River Trust and High Peak Borough Council, has resulted in a new watertight roof and dredging of the boating channel inside the main public room. Courtesy of a dedicated band of volunteers, picnic benches have been painted, rooms upgraded and grounds landscaped.

This creates the perfect setting for a wonderful weekend of family fun at the beginning of August organised by the Whaley Bridge Canal Group. Visitors will be able to enjoy craft workshop taster sessions, FAB market stalls, live music, beer tent and kids' face painting.

The event marks the launch of an exciting new craft enterprise, High Peak Heritage Crafts, led by Whaley residents Neville Clarke and Gemma Roe, which from September will have a more permanent base at the warehouse. Public courses will include pottery and ceramics, ironmongery, green woodworking, silver-smithing, glassblowing, glass artwork, textiles, wool, weaving and ropework.



## How do I find out more information?

We are posting regular updates on our website at [canalrivertrust.org.uk/restoring-toddbrook-reservoir](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/restoring-toddbrook-reservoir). Don't forget to check for details of the public consultation to be arranged in a few weeks' time.