

## PRESS RELEASE

---

Issued: 16 June 2023

# RESTORING TODDBROOK RESERVOIR – CONSTRUCTION MILESTONE CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN IN ENGINEERING DAY, 23 JUNE

### MEDIA INVITATION

**Event:** Film/photograph behind-the-scenes of the £15 million construction project to create a new dam overflow spillway at Toddbrook Reservoir, Whaley Bridge. Media briefing will be held on International Women in Engineering Day – a celebration of key female engineers leading the project from the Canal & River Trust (reservoir owner), Kier (principal contractor) and Arup (project designer). Interviews available with Julie Sharman (Canal & River Trust chief operating officer) and Karen Woods (Kier project manager).

**Date:** Friday 23 June 2023, 11am

**Place:** Toddbrook Reservoir, Whaley Bridge. Park near Whaley Bridge FC, just outside barriers of construction site office, off Park Road, Whaley Bridge, SK23 7DJ

**Contact:** Lynn Pegler (07783 686246), Communications Manager, Canal & River Trust

The Canal & River Trust charity, which cares for Toddbrook Reservoir in Whaley Bridge, celebrates a major milestone this month, with the installation of nearly 1,000 sheet piles forming the route of the new £15 million overflow spillway channel – a fundamental part of the design that will bring the reservoir back into use.

A new interactive fly-through 3D computer model showing how the finished structures will look is now available on the Trust's website and members of the public are invited to see progress up close at two public open days hosted on site on Friday 7 and Saturday 8 July.

The existing auxiliary spillway on the dam wall was damaged in the summer of 2019 after excessive rainfall and the reservoir has been kept virtually empty ever since. Following two public consultations and a detailed planning application, work started on the chosen restoration scheme in autumn last year and is expected to take just over two years to complete. The northern end of the town's Memorial Park has been temporarily closed to the public to make way for the site compound and spillway works.

The project, designed by Arup and delivered by principal contractor Kier, involves removing the damaged auxiliary spillway and replacing it with a new overflow spillway structure to the north of the dam. This will feature a side channel weir, tumble bay, spillway channel and stilling basin which will link into the existing bypass channel flowing into the River Goyt in the town's Memorial Park.

Now the sheet piles are in place, the ground can be excavated to form the new channel, which will be lined in concrete, forming a base and side walls for the new spillway. These will be constructed over the coming months, starting with the weir and tumble bay at the top by the reservoir, followed by the spillway chute, stilling basin and two cylindrical concrete turrets, which are an essential engineering feature to slow the water flow before it enters the open channel and River Goyt.

A further 500 concrete piles will be installed at two locations – the top of the dam crest and tumble bay, and at the stilling basin. This involves pouring concrete into cylindrical columns, which are then reinforced with steel to form the structure's foundations. A couple of further short periods of sheet piling are also expected to take place from early August.

Julie Sharman, chief operating officer with the Canal & River Trust, said: "We have reached a significant milestone with the project and it's important to share the progress made on the construction work to restore the reservoir - particularly so everyone can now see the route of the new overflow spillway. It's essential that we restore the reservoir both for the amenity value to the community in Whalley Bridge and also for its role in supplying water to the Peak Forest and Macclesfield canals.

"This month we are also celebrating the significant role female engineers are playing in delivering the Toddbrook construction project, not only from the Canal & River Trust but also from our contractors Kier and engineering designers Arup. Leading up to International Women in Engineering Day on 23 June, my colleagues have visited several local schools to hopefully inspire a new generation of female students to pursue careers in science and engineering. It is fantastic that we are leading by example on such a challenging and high-profile construction project."

At the end of the main construction works, concrete panels from the 1970s auxiliary spillway will be removed and the dam will then be repaired and grassed over. A new playground will be rebuilt in the Memorial Park, which will also be re-landscaped with trees, wildlife habitats, additional paths and a new footbridge over the bypass channel. The sailing club will be relocated behind the new tumble bay, where it will feature a new slipway, clubhouse, boat storage and car park.

Temporary sheet piles will be kept in place at the dam crest throughout construction to maintain essential flood protection measures. High volume pumps will also remain in the reservoir to manage water levels until the end of the restoration project.

**The public can go behind-the-scenes of the project at two free public open days on Friday 7 and Saturday 8 July. Places need to be booked in advance through the Canal & River Trust website:**

**<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/restoring-toddbrook-reservoir>.**

**ENDS**

**Notes to Editors:**

The Canal & River Trust cares for and brings to life 2,000 miles of canals and rivers across England & Wales. We believe waterways have the power to make a difference to people's lives and that spending time by water can make us all healthier and happier. By bringing communities together to make a difference to their local waterway, we are creating places and spaces that can be used and enjoyed by everyone, every day

[www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk).

**For further media requests please contact:**

Lynn Pegler

m 07783 686246 e [lynn.pegler@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:lynn.pegler@canalrivertrust.org.uk)

Communications Manager, Canal & River Trust

For more general information about restoring Toddbrook Reservoir and construction updates, please go to the Canal & River Trust website:

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/restoring-toddbrook-reservoir>