



Gladhouse Reservoir Newsletter August 2022

Summary

Scottish Water are continuing to work on the commitments made to the local community through our Enabling Responsible Access pilot project at Gladhouse Reservoir.

It is worth reiterating that visitor management is still a relatively new concept for Scottish Water and, as a pilot site, Gladhouse is a site where new activities are to be trialled and learnt from.

We recognise that we have not delivered the improvements we had planned for this year. We assure you that we are working hard to get them in place and respond to visitor and local community feedback.

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide an overview of what progress has been made, what we are continuing to work on and to highlight some of the problems we experienced this summer.

Wildfires & caring for the environment

As our environment contributes greatly to our quality of life, it is important that we all care for and respect it.

While most visitors come to enjoy the great outdoors responsibly, some unfortunately do not. We are aware of a range of issues and challenges faced at Gladhouse Reservoir such as wildfires, littering, irresponsible camping, anti-social behaviour and a general disregard for the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. If you aren't familiar with this please look here - [NatureScot \(outdooraccess-scotland.scot\)](https://www.naturescot.org.uk/outdooraccess-scotland/scot)

Wildfires have become a great concern as abandoned fires and used disposable BBQs have been left alight dangerously close to surrounding woodland which has resulted in Scottish Fire and Rescue attending the site numerous times this summer to extinguish fires. The hot and dry weather we've experienced this summer

 [scottishwater.co.uk](https://www.scottishwater.co.uk)

 customer.services@scottishwater.co.uk

 [Gladhouserervoir@scottishwater.co.uk](tel:01754 844444)



Damaging trees is vandalism and a criminal offence – please stop.



Please do not light fires in woodland areas.

combined to create the perfect conditions for wildfires. The BBC have reported that so far there had been 745 wildfires in the UK this year- more than a 200% increase from the total figure of 247 for all of last year.

We have also seen an increase of healthy growing trees and branches being hacked down to be used as firewood causing damage to the environment.

As a result, new signs have been erected at Gladhouse stating no fires allowed, to keep the public

 [facebook.com/scottishwater](https://www.facebook.com/scottishwater)

 [@scottish_water](https://twitter.com/scottish_water)

safe and stop trees being vandalised.

We also have a suite of temporary responsible behaviour signs ready to go up at the site and these will be placed in locations where there are other known issues e.g. camping and litter. The signs will be temporary so they can be easily rolled out and positioned where the issues are prevalent, with positions and effectiveness reviewed on an annual basis.

Act responsibly

It is important to remember that the outdoors is not risk-free and people exercising their access rights should do so with care. There are hazards associated with the water environment, especially reservoirs which are used as a drinking water source such as this one. While we welcome visitors to enjoy the outdoors for walking, swimming and other activities, we want to remind everyone to know the risks before entering the water as there are many hidden dangers. Reservoirs are deep and the water just below the surface is icy cold which can send your body into shock in seconds. Reservoirs have strong water currents and there could be underwater obstacles such as pipework. Every year we proactively share water safety messages on our social media during the school summer holidays and as summer is drawing to an end we ask that you keep the conversation alive, speak to your young ones. More can be found here:

[Water Safety - Scottish Water](#)

Littering



Tackling antisocial behaviour remains a significant problem at many of our reservoirs. Despite our efforts to keep Gladhouse a clean environment for visitors and wildlife, we have seen an increase of rubbish and littering being left behind and human waste and used toilet paper around the site, often close to the water.

Please do not do the toilet near the water and leave your litter behind. Remember, Gladhouse is the source for drinking water for everyone who lives in Midlothian.

We will continue to carry out a litter picking service of the site weekly however if there are additional clean-ups required, this can be arranged.

We are working in partnership with Midlothian Council to provide a regular Ranger style presence which will help support responsible behaviour and visitor engagement. The recruitment is underway for this position and will work along-side the rangers in Midlothian to learn the roles and responsibilities which we will be able to put into action for the next season at Gladhouse.

Car parking

We are continuing to work with our project team to deliver a car park facility with approx 40-50 spaces. Regrettably this has taken longer than what we initially anticipated and will not be ready for use until Spring 2023.

We have engaged with contractors George Leslie Ltd to carry out the work and they are in the process of designing the carpark and will be carrying out ground investigations in the next few weeks.

The Temporary Clearway order to restrict parking on the carriageway and verge on the U80 Gladhouse is still in place until 2nd October. The Police do regular patrols of the clearway and are issuing Fixed Penalty Notice's (FPN) to motorists parked within the restricted area. We remind visitors to please park considerately to ensure safety on the road, particularly access for emergency vehicles.

Further info

Scottish Water are part of a multi-agency group, which includes community representatives, discussing the challenges and plans for Gladhouse Reservoir and we are listening to feedback on a range of topics for the future of visitors to this beautiful place.

If you are planning a visit, please check out our [Visiting Gladhouse Reservoir - Scottish Water](#) page, where we provide information and advice on how to act responsibly to protect and enjoy Gladhouse.

Please feel free to share this with others and a copy and further updates will be available on our website – www.scottishwater.co.uk/Gladhouse