



Gladhouse Reservoir Newsletter May 2023

Latest Updates

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide an overview of what progress has been made and what we are continuing to work on through the Enabling Responsible Access pilot.

Carpark

Since the carpark planning application was submitted to Midlothian Council in Dec, we have been working with them and are making final tweaks for its approval, which we are hoping to receive in the upcoming weeks. Once we have planning approval, we will work to get on site as quickly as possible.

Biodiversity area

We have completed an ecology report and following some changes to size of the bio-diversity planting area, we are working with our contractors to finalise the design. We will plant native varieties, as well as introducing bird and bat boxes. The area will be fenced off to prevent access while the area gets established. We aim to have this in place for the summer months.

Parking restrictions

Parking restrictions have been implemented by Midlothian Council from 3rd April - 1st October 2023 on part of the U80 Gladhouse Road along the reservoir's northern shore. No parking is permitted within this area. This is in place to allow for farm or emergency vehicles to pass safely. The Police do regular patrols of the clearway and are issuing Fixed Penalty Notice's (FPN) to motorists parked within the restricted area. More information here:

[Traffic restrictions reinstated at Gladhouse Reservoir | Midlothian Council](#)

Health and Safety

You may have noticed public safety improvements are under way at Gladhouse. Safety guard rails have been erected around the Dam area and we have a team actively looking and working on other improvements.



Air-curtain safety boom project

Gladhouse reservoir has an air curtain north of the reservoir, marked with orange buoys, next to the dam structure. This is an important water quality feature which releases millions of bubbles, aerating the water to disperse potential impurities like algae. But these bubbles create negative buoyancy, so if you swam into this area, you would struggle to stay afloat. Scottish Water are installing a new floating boom apparatus in the reservoir surrounding the air curtain. This piece of apparatus will be in place for the safety of water users.

Current proposed date to start the work on the new safety boom around the air-curtain is end of May however this is subject to change. We are working with contractors, diving teams and engineers to finalise the plan for this work. We will be onsite for approximately 2 weeks, weather dependant. To keep equipment to a minimum in the fisherman's carpark, we plan to use the compound area in the field, which was established

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last year for other enabling works, and materials will be brought to site when needed. The team involved in this project will be in contact with our nearest neighbours to keep all updated.

Visitor Management



Elspeth has been with Scottish Water for over 6 months as a ranger at Gladhouse Reservoir, mainly in the evenings and weekends when the site tends to be busier with visitors. Our rangers welcome visitors to come enjoy Gladhouse for the many different activities.

Elspeth said, 'Since Easter weekend and the start of the nicer weather, visitor numbers have started going up. Part of my job is to engage with visitors using Gladhouse about responsible access and water safety. There have been some issues with visitors leaving litter, having ground fires under trees, leaving stone rings from fires, and cutting down trees. We should all try to look after Gladhouse it's a beautiful place to visit and home to lots wildlife. School groups will be soon coming out to Gladhouse to do activities for example mini-beast hunting to find insects, tree nature trail and water safety activities. There are important species at Gladhouse one of which is wintering Pink Foot Goose by leaving no trace this is looking after the area for them'.

Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC [NatureScot \(outdooraccess-scotland.scot\)](https://www.naturescot.org.uk/outdooraccess-scotland.scot))

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 [Investing in Gladhouse Reservoir - Scottish Water](#)

If you have any questions or want to provide any feedback, please email us at GladhouseReservoir@ScottishWater.co.uk