

Scottish Water Investment Project, Camps Reservoir - FAQs

What works are planned for Camps Reservoir?

Camps reservoir supplies over 30,000 customers in the Lanarkshire area, as well as some areas in Glasgow's southside. The improvements being made at the reservoir will include upgrades to the existing spillway (new u-shaped channel within the spillway to contain flows and prevent erosion of its floor), as well as some refurbishment and strengthening works on the existing bridge over the White Gill.

A new access road and bridge will be constructed on the approach to the reservoir to allow heavy plant to access the spillway. A large crane and temporary roads will also be located at the bottom of the reservoir embankment to move construction materials into the spillway.

Ultimately, these essential works will help improve our ability to draw down a greater volume of water from the reservoir when required and help improve resilience on the local water network.

What is the investment figure?

This is a multi-million pound project. The investment is essential to ensure Scottish Water complies with Section 48(3) of the Reservoirs (Scotland) Act 2011, and that customers continue to enjoy great-tasting Scottish water.

What are the timescales of the project?

The project is scheduled to begin with remote enabling works on Monday 29 April 2024. The main works at the reservoir will start around early June. The entire project is expected to take around 22 months for completion. This means demobilisation is expected around January/February 2026.

As with all works of this nature we are at the mercy of inclement weather and any unforeseen issues which may arise that could affect the programme. We will keep the landowners, key stakeholders and the Crawford community updated as the project unfolds.

Why has it taken so long to get the works to site?

The level of planning required means that it has taken a great deal of time to get the project to site. A decision was taken by the project team that no HGVs would access the reservoir via the narrow streets of Crawford village and this required extensive third party negotiations with land owners prior to any works starting. Those vehicles will take access through the Clyde Wind Farm. The project's start date was pushed out until these discussions had been completed.

Furthermore, we took onboard concerns raised at a stakeholder briefing earlier this month. We have worked to find solutions to those concerns and the start date for the project was moved to the end of April.

Will there be compensation?

There is no obligation for Scottish Water to consider compensation for essential need projects such as this one. However, where we have had to serve a notice to take access to property, the recipient is entitled to make a claim for losses they may feel are attributable to our work.

Since planning first began, we have regularly engaged with land owners and worked with them to find solutions to any issues they have raised. We continue to have open lines of communication with land owners and, respectfully, their individual circumstances is not something we can discuss in a public forum.

Have appropriate permissions been gained from the land owners?

Appropriate permissions to use the wind farm road have been agreed with Forestry and Land Scotland and SSE/SP Networks, as they own a short stretch of this road. However, discussions with two other landowners have been ongoing for some time. In order to protect Scottish Water's position, we do intend to rely on our statutory powers in terms of section 38 (1)(d) of the Water (Scotland) Act 1980. This means if amicable agreement cannot be reached with the private land owners in the meantime, we are permitted to secure unhindered use of their respective sections of the wind farm route.

What's being done to minimise any impact on livestock across the wind farm route?

Throughout the planning of this project, members of the project team and Scottish Water's Estates Team have been working closely with the Land Agent. We have shared our traffic management plans to help land owners understand our contingency methods to mitigate potential harm to sheep.

There will be no HGV movements on the wind farm route until around the beginning of June. This should help to minimise any impact on the lambing season for this year. HGV drivers and any other project personnel travelling the wind farm route will be fully briefed in advance of works beginning at the reservoir. With a strict 10mph limit in place for all Scottish Water related movements across the wind farm, they will be instructed to drive at a slow speed and to be mindful of livestock as they travel. We consider our traffic management plans, strict site rules and supervision will provide the necessary protection to sheep and other users of the route.

What's being done to minimise any impact on the local community?

When delivering any project, we always try to do so with as little impact on local communities as possible. We have carefully explored all options regarding works traffic, deliveries and contractors accessing the location.

Due to restrictions around infrastructure structures in Crawford Village and the volume of HGV traffic required to complete this project, the wind farm route has been

selected for HGV traffic. No HGVs will travel through Crawford Village. Crawford villagers may notice an increased vehicle presence (light vans and cars) with our teams travelling via the A702 roundabout at the Heatherghyll, along Carlisle Road, then Camps Road up to the reservoir. They will, of course, drive according to the road and weather conditions and adhere to the speed limit.

What has been done to help minimise any wider environmental impact of these works?

We have undertaken a suite of ecological surveys since 2021, checking for protected species and invasive non-native species and we will ensure appropriate mitigations are in place during construction. The most recent pre-construction ecological surveys were carried out in February and March of this year (2024). An Environmental Clerk of Works has been engaged to proactively check ecological and environmental compliance. Our main contractors George Leslie Limited have formalised all environmental protection measures including stringent pollution prevention measures within a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

Will the reservoir still be accessible for members of the public during these works?

You will still be able to access Camps Reservoir for leisure purposes. The areas where we are working will be fenced off and secured.

What action will be taken if the wind farm road surface is damaged?

Prior to our works beginning, we have carried out a condition survey of the road. We will make good any wear and tear our vehicles cause as a result of the project. A stockpile of quarry material and geotextiles will be stored at agreed locations along the length of the wind farm for ease of maintenance. We will work hard to avoid impacting any live operations of both wind farm and farming operations.

What happens if a vehicle breaks down on the windfarm route?

Should any emergency recovery be required, SSE protocols to be followed.

What has been done to raise awareness of these investment works?

In advance of the works taking place, letters have been sent to residents explaining the need for the project and inviting them along to a drop-in community information event (held on 26 March). Some letters were hand-delivered to more remote properties in the area and residents directly impacted by the works have been visited. Paid-for advertising on social media has also helped raise awareness of the project and information event.

We have liaised with key stakeholders and land owners throughout the planning process, with a mixture of communications in person and in digital format (emails, online briefing for stakeholders). This will continue for the duration of the project.

Will my water supply be affected during these works?

We do not anticipate any impact on water supplies as a result of these works.

How do you intend to keep everyone updated on the works as they unfold?

Letters will be issued as and when deemed appropriate and regular updates will be provided for stakeholders and land owners when required.

Updates will also be posted on our digital channels – via social media and the Scottish Water website. A dedicated web page will be published online – www.scottishwater.co.uk/camps.