

Glasson Dock Gate update

18 June 2024

This is a joint statement issued by the Lancaster Port Commission (LPC), the Environment Agency (EA), Canal & River Trust (waterways charity) and Aquavista.

We apologise for the impact to the community - particularly during the sailing season - and for the time taken to provide this update. Please be assured that our four organisations have been working hard to progress this as swiftly as possible, by identifying the funding to support the significant investment required to reinstate the navigation and carry out repairs to Glasson Dock gate whilst addressing the planning for these repairs.

The dock gate needs to be removed for inspection and repair. Lancaster Port Commission are leading on these removal works, which is part funded by the Environment Agency. Once removed, navigation will be restored. The gate will be placed on the dock side to undergo further inspection, and this will ultimately inform the extent of repairs that are required. The inspection will be led by the Environment Agency.

Further inspection and possible repairs are also required to the dock basin where the gate attaches. This can only be carried out in a dry working area, which requires a cofferdam to be constructed. The cofferdam will also act to restore some level of protection against flooding, but it will prevent navigation whilst in place.

With a cofferdam taking time to design, fabricate and install, there would be a significant interval between removing the gate and erecting the cofferdam. We are therefore considering what temporary flood defences can be put in place to maintain better flood protection during this period, with the Canal & River Trust working closely with the Environment Agency, as temporary flood defences may be required in the vicinity of the canal lock gate.

Contractors will be instructed and are expected on site within 2 to 4 weeks, with the gate to be removed within 4 to 6 weeks. We anticipate that the cofferdam will be in place by autumn 2025 and removed before spring 2026, to ensure that the impact on sailing in 2025-26 is reduced. We will provide more detailed timescales once we are able.

Councillor Sally Maddocks has been updated on the plans and we will keep her informed as they develop and issue further updates.

