



Welcome to Tittesworth Water

Severn Trent Water built Tittesworth Water Visitor Centre in 1998, although the reservoir was first constructed as early as 1858. The reservoir is now used to store the water supplying homes in parts of the Staffordshire Moorlands, Stoke-on-Trent and Leek.

The original 1858 dam was formed by a small dam across the Churnet Valley and was constructed to regulate the flow of the Churnet and supply the local dyeing industry in Leek. Leek became well known for the dyeing and finishing of fabric and its connection with designer William Morris.

Today, Tittesworth Water is not only a reservoir; it offers an ideal day out for all the family. On site is a wealth of activities surrounding conservation and nature, walking, fun and relaxation. Please use the map overleaf to find out what you can do today. We hope this guide will help you make the most of your time at Tittesworth, but if you need any further information please ask a member of staff.



Facts and figures

Why was Tittesworth Water built here?
A small dam across Churnet Bay created the first reservoir here in 1858 – for the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board. It supplied water for use in Leek's textile and dyeing industry.

What was here before?
The original reservoir at Tittesworth formed part of a series of surface reservoirs to supplement the flows in the River Churnet. The other reservoirs were Blackshaw Moor, (where two dams are still standing) Deep Hayes (original dam has been replaced with three much smaller ones) and Fountain Street reservoir (now demolished and replaced by houses). The increased size of the reservoir caused the loss of some farmland and buildings.

When was it built and how long did it take to build?
Severn Trent Water built the existing reservoir and a treatment plant between 1959 and 1963 to provide water for households and businesses in Leek, Stoke-on-Trent and the surrounding area. The current reservoir is three times the size of the original and the water level raised by 12.8m. It is approximately 95ft at the deepest point and can now store just over 6,441 million litres (1.4 billion gallons) of water when full. It has a surface area of 76 hectares (188 acres). The reservoir and treatment works were officially opened by HRH Princess Margaret in 1963. A new treatment plant was commissioned in the mid 1990s to supply up to 45 million litres (10 million gallons) of water a day.

What is Tittesworth's role in the water supply network?
Tittesworth Water pumps on average 28 million litres of water a day, and has the capacity to provide up to 45 million litres a day. The water from the reservoir is treated to drinking water standards at the treatment works, and then pumped into a storage reservoir at Ladderedge. From there, in conjunction with borehole water from Wallgrange, Poolend and Highfield, it is distributed to approximately 186,000 people in parts of Stoke-on-Trent, Leek and the Staffordshire Moorlands.

Where does the water come from?
Water flows into Tittesworth Water from the River Churnet. The river enters the reservoir just by the Visitor Centre. Most of the water comes from winter floods, the reservoir acts as a huge storage tank, taking water in and out when needed.

Across the Severn Trent Water region

We supply over 7.4 million people with their water. Our network of 45,000km of mains supplies 420 million gallons (1.9 billion litres) of the highest quality drinking water every day.

Our sewerage population is even greater – over 8.3 million people – and we treat over 600 million gallons (2.7 billion litres) of dirty water daily through over 53,000km

of sewers. We operate more than 1,000 sewage treatment works across the Midlands.

On average, each person uses 130 litres of water every day. To ensure the water they drink is of the highest quality we carry out over 250,000 random quality tests every year. Our current compliance with required standards is 99.9%.



We work safe, so that you can play safe.

Work Safe

- What you can expect from us:**
- We make our sites safe and accessible
 - We manage our sites for diverse use
 - We protect and enhance our sites

We work with you to:

- Provide safe access and suitable amenities for visitors
- Have a partnership approach for multiple usage sites
- Provide information on site layout, facilities, rules and usage
- Use best practice to protect and enhance our sites and their environments
- Listen to visitor comments and feedback
- Ensure our work activities do not expose ourselves or others to further risks

Play Safe

- What we expect from you:**
- To be responsible for those in your care
 - To be considerate of other site users
 - To respect our site, facilities and staff
 - To tell us if something is wrong

We believe it is reasonable to expect visitors:

- Who are parents, guardians or leaders
- To supervise the people in their care
- To exercise responsibility for themselves
- To be prepared for their visit
- Not to put other visitors or site users at risk
- To follow site information, guidance and signs
- To co-operate with site staff



Broaden your experience

and discover what our other sites have to offer

Tittesworth Water
Meerbrook
Leek ST13 8SW
Tittesworth Water is situated three miles north of Leek on the Buxton Road.
For enquiries call: 01538 300400

These sites are open every day except Christmas Day. Car parking charge applies.

We have a variety of recreation sites stretching across the heart of the UK for you to enjoy. They are all unique but have the same goal - 'caring for the environment, education, health and well-being of our communities'. To find out more, go to www.moretoexperience.co.uk

For information on events and activities at all sites call: 0870 179 1111 or visit www.moretoexperience.co.uk

This publication is available in alternative formats, including large print and Braille. For further information please: call 08457 500 500 textphone 0800 328 1155 customer.relations@severntrent.co.uk

Severn Trent Water

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Conservation

Our full time rangers, supported by volunteers, are responsible for conservation – working to improve Tittesworth Water's rich variety of animal and plant life. The northern side of the causeway has been designated a conservation area. All money raised from car park charges goes to paying for the upkeep of the site and our invaluable conservation work. We thank you for paying and displaying.

Access for all

Wheelchairs are available free of charge. Footpaths around the Visitor Centre are surfaced, but other tracks around the reservoir may be difficult for wheelchair users (please enquire at the shop), including those to the bird hides.

Events

We have events running throughout the year from bird box making to bat walks, from fun days to festivals. Tittesworth is now established as an ideal venue for plays, with a number being recreated at the site in recent years.

Ask a member of staff for more details, or call our events hotline on 0870 179 1111 or visit www.moretoexperience.co.uk.

Frequent Visitor

Are you a frequent visitor to Tittesworth Water? If so, why not purchase an annual permit which will save you money on parking costs each time you visit? A multi site permit is also available – just ask at reception for more details or call 01538 300400.



Natural habitat – all year round

Check out our many inhabitants and landscapes which continually change throughout the seasons

Spring

Take a walk through the species rich hay meadows, looking out for ox-eye daisies and the northern marsh orchid. Enjoy the bluebells in Fosters Wood. In the conservation area, little ringed plovers can be seen from afar. The woodlands ring out to the sound of a fantastic dawn chorus.

Summer

There are many species of dragonfly and damselfly zooming around. There are butterflies fluttering along the paths and trails or basking on Butterfly Beach - see how many species you can spot! Look out for the buzzards soaring high and the grass snakes bathing in the summer sunshine.

Autumn

Ducks such as teal, wigeon and pochard spend the winter here. Around the River Churnet you may see harvest mice searching for food, or kingfishers darting along the river bank. As the seeds and fruits ripen, fieldfare and redwing return for a good feed. Ospreys can often be seen on their winter migration as they stop here for a rest before heading south.

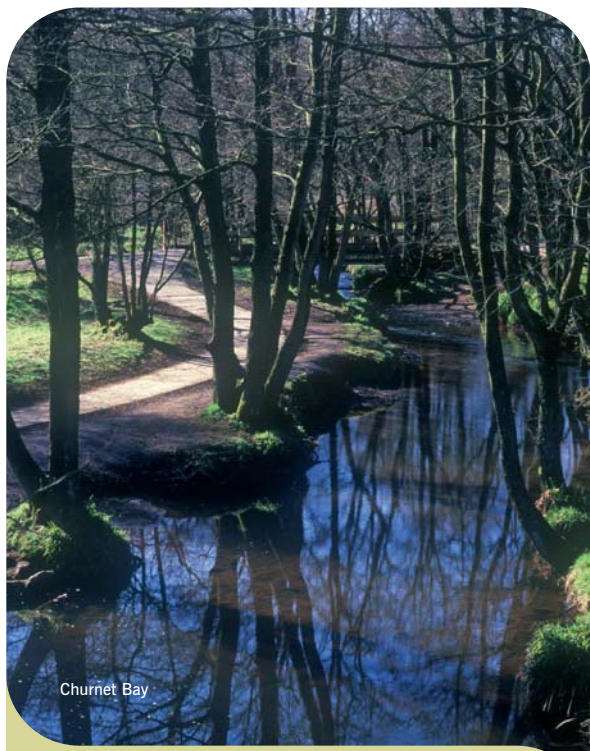
Winter

Listen out on a misty morning for the sounds of wigeon and goldeneye, and watch for the distinctive flight of the lapwings as they soar above the conservation area. On a late winter evening gulls come to roost on the water as the sun sets.

Tittesworth Water

visitor guide





Churnet Bay

Yellow trail:

four and a half miles

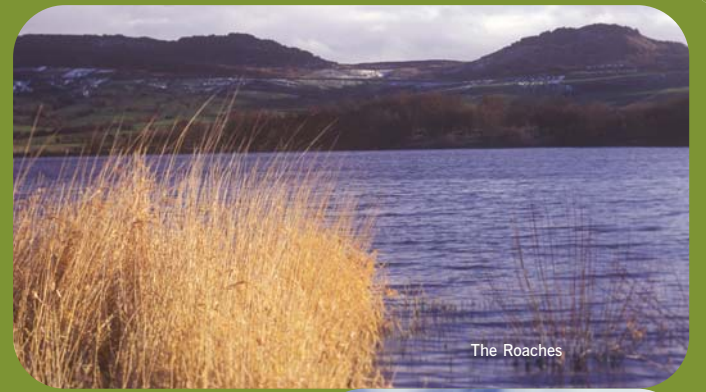
The yellow trail is an exhilarating circular walk that takes you around the full perimeter of the reservoir, giving stunning views of The Roaches (a gritstone escarpment marking the south-western edge of the Peak District, high above Leek and Tittesworth Water).

Start at the Visitor Centre, following the path which will take you clockwise around the reservoir. Walk up past the play area towards the River Churnet – there's an excellent picnic spot at Churnet Bay.

Follow the yellow markers, which will take you through Fosters Wood and out into the hay meadows. Keep a look out for orchids and other wildflowers.



Crab Apple Bay



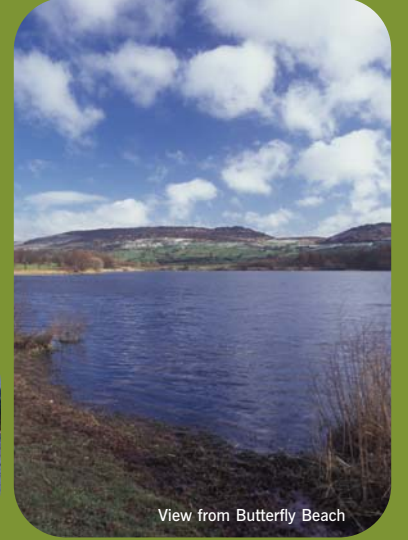
The Roaches

Then through Crab Apple Bay, where you can enjoy the view and maybe a picnic or alternatively, you can take the high path through Crab Apple Wood. This route will take you walking up the hill, and past the second oldest oak tree on site.

The paths join and continue up the hill towards Troutsdale Inlet, named after the neighbouring farm. Cross the footbridge at the head of the inlet, climb up some steps, walking along a ridge and then drop down towards the dam and the overflow tower.



Butterfly Beach



View from Butterfly Beach

Trails

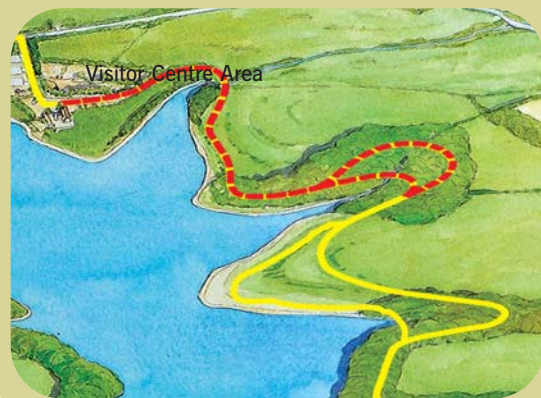
Both trails start from the Visitor Centre. The red trail loops through Fosters Wood, and takes about 45 minutes.

The long yellow trail is about 4.5 miles (7km) and at a leisurely pace should take approximately 3 hours.

Red trail:

one mile

The red trail is a short and gentle way for everyone to enjoy the reservoir. This pleasant amble will give you the opportunity to spot some of the wildlife that lives on and around the water. Look out for the perfect picnic spot at Churnet Bay.



View from Dam wall

Walk across the dam, up the steps and through South Hillswood. Join the farm track, enjoying the fantastic views of The Roaches and the reservoir. Turn right, passing through North Hillswood Farm and down to the country lane. Follow the country lane, and re-enter our site through a kissing gate on your right, and continue the walk towards the shoreline. If you're lucky you'll see butterflies basking in the sun on Butterfly Beach. Continue on the path through the hay meadows, over the footbridges and onto the Meerbrook Road. Please cross the road carefully and follow the public footpath past our Conservation area, crossing back over to re-enter our site, where you can enjoy a well earned treat at our Visitor Centre restaurant.

what can I do today?



relaxation

- Visit the licensed restaurant with stunning views overlooking Tittesworth Water
- Seasonal outdoor café at the play area, open Easter weekend, and throughout July and August
- Ice-cream kiosk – seasonal opening
- Picnic areas – there are a number of picnic benches around the site where you can enjoy lunch alfresco
- Barbecue shelter – please do not use disposable BBQs anywhere else at Tittesworth Water

shopping

- Our gift shop offers a wide range of quality gifts and souvenirs
- We also sell outdoor clothing and walking accessories

playing

- Outdoor adventure play area
- Toilets
- Car park

nature and conservation

- Birdwatching at our two bird hides - part of the south west peak ESA (Environmentally Sensitive Area)
- Bird Island – constructed primarily for little ringed plovers to nest on. The island is managed solely for the purpose of the natural habitat. Access to this area is limited to the east and west bird hides on either side of the pool, ensuring the wildlife remain undisturbed
- Sensory Garden – garden designed just for the senses, providing a peaceful sitting area. This popular attraction was initially designed by three Midland schools specifically for the benefit of the partially sighted and people with disabilities

exploring

- Walking trails – there are two to choose from as follows:
The **Red** short trail - look out for Churnet Bay, a tranquil valley where you can picnic right on the water's edge.
The **Yellow** longer trail guides you through Crab Apple Bay, a picturesque beauty spot, perfect for a spot of lunch. Further along the walk the dam wall provides you with a bird's eye view of the water treatment works!

- Gentle walk —
- Moderate walk —