



Mining  
Remediation  
Authority



# *Dalkeith Community Update*

*February 9<sup>th</sup> 2026*

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# Making a better future for people and the environment in mining areas

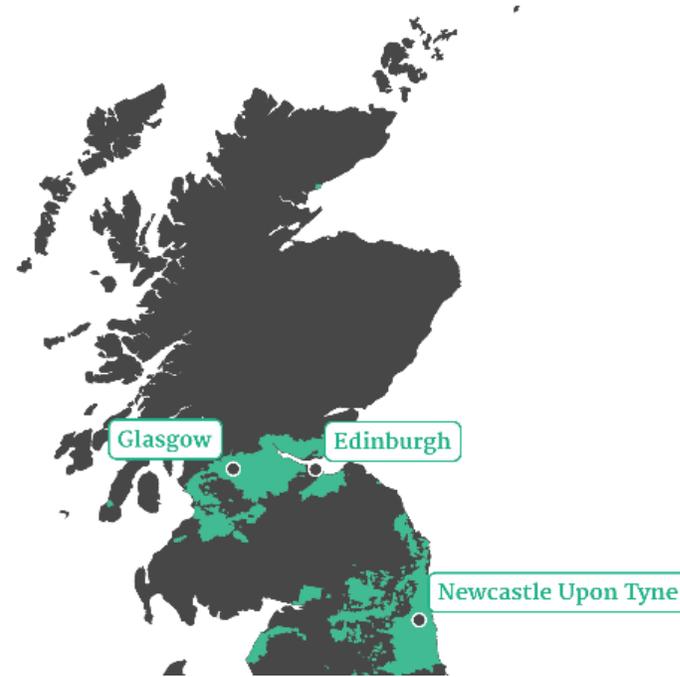


We:

- Keep people safe and provide peace of mind
- Protect and enhance the environment
- Use our information and expertise to help people make informed decisions

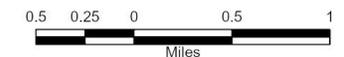
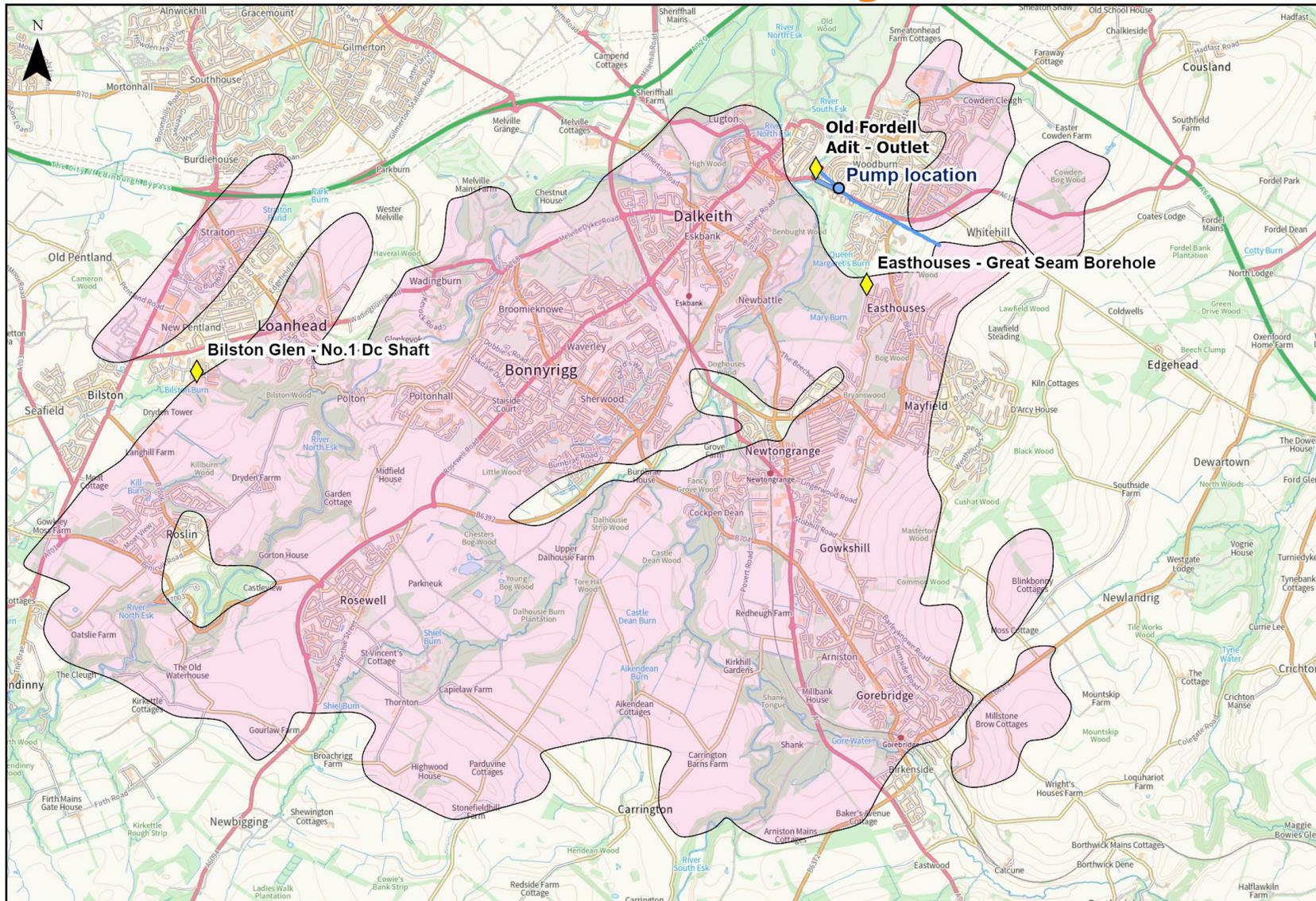


*Trusted | Inclusive | Progressive*

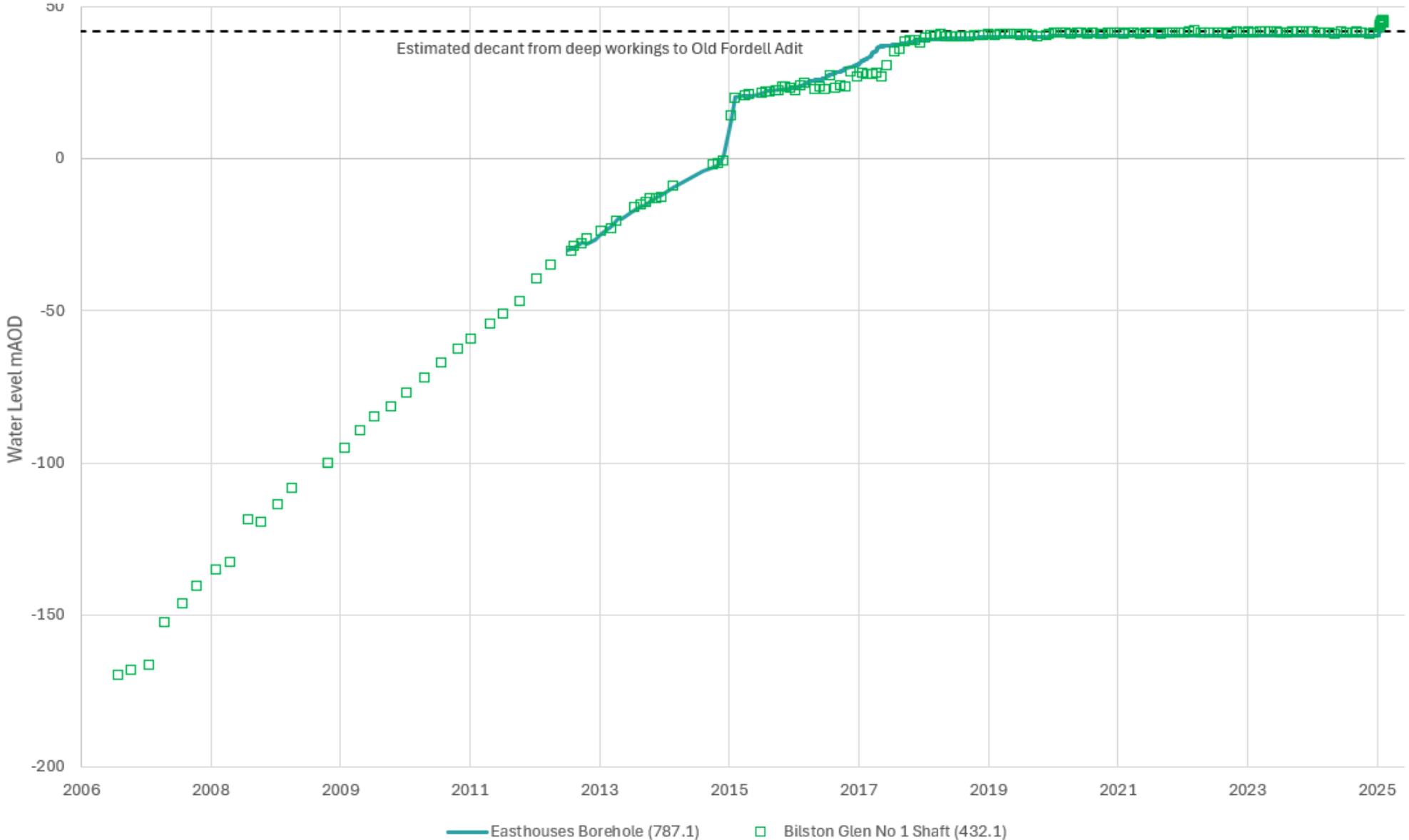


*Bilston Glen colliery*

# Dalkeith Area Coal Mining



# Dalkeith Area Mine Water Regional Recovery



# Dalkeith Mine Water Treatment Scheme



1989 - Bilston Glen colliery ceased coal production and closed.

The pumping system used to prevent water entering mine workings also stopped - water built up in the mine workings.

Since c.2010 the mine water has been discharging from the workings at Old Fordell Adit in Dalkeith into the River South Esk.



*Mine water flushing into the River South Esk at Old Fordell Adit*



*Water discharges from Old Fordell Adit*

As the water goes through the mine workings, it picks up minerals and metals – iron and manganese - from the coal seams.

These minerals and metals remain suspended or dissolved as the mine water progresses towards the surface.



# *Midlothian Mining – river catchment pollution*

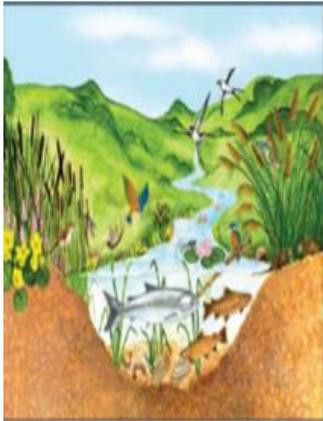
From the Old Fordell Adit, the river flows downstream to where the River South Esk and the River North Esk join .

Continues to flow as the River Esk through Musselburgh to the Firth of Forth estuary .

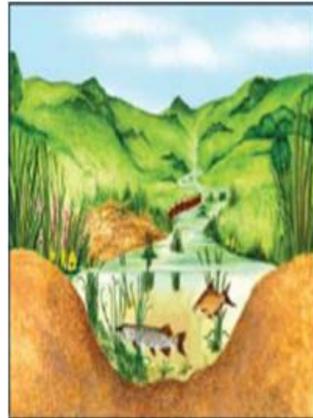
High level of iron damages the watercourse and ecology is significant.

Intercepting discharge and removing iron and other minerals from the mine water through our mine water treatment scheme.

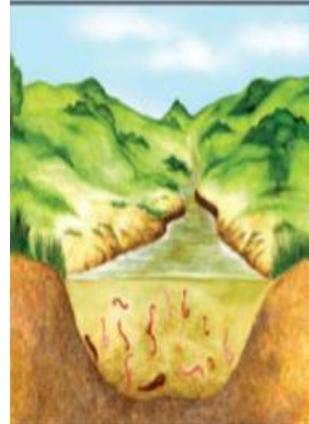
Mining Remediation Authority prevent pollution of the River South Esk and River Esk and allow them to recover.



*Good*



*Moderate*



*Bad*



*View of the River South Esk from New Cows Bridge in October 2023*

# What has happened



- On 7<sup>th</sup> January we identified a reduced flow in water on site, and the mine water was rising within the historical mine workings
- We acted immediately, pausing works on site to focus on understanding this issue
- We remain aligned with SEPA and all resilience partners on works being undertaken



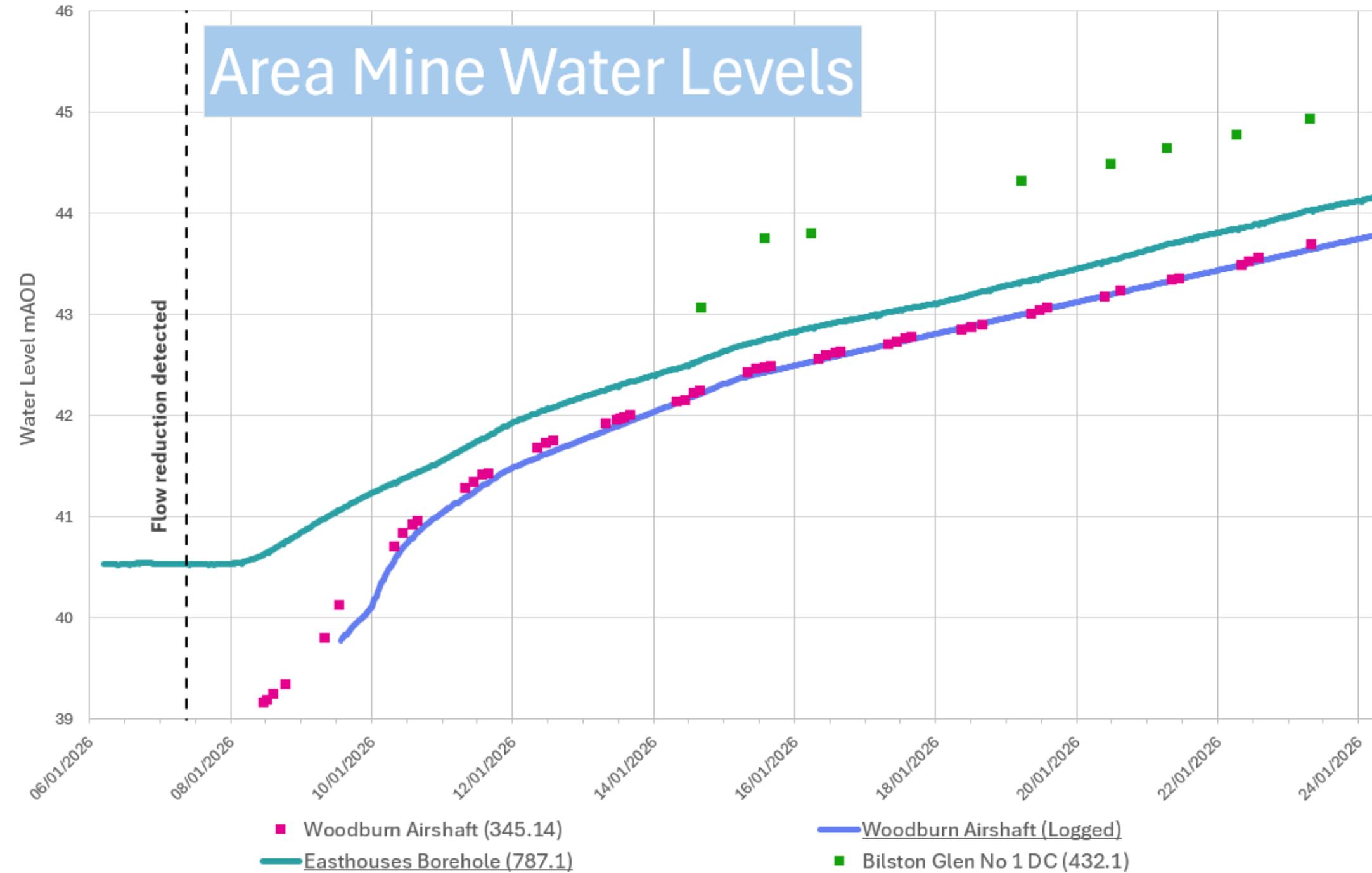
*Adit outfall, normal flow, 150 litres per second*



*Adit outfall, after, 5 litres per second*



# Area Mine Water Levels

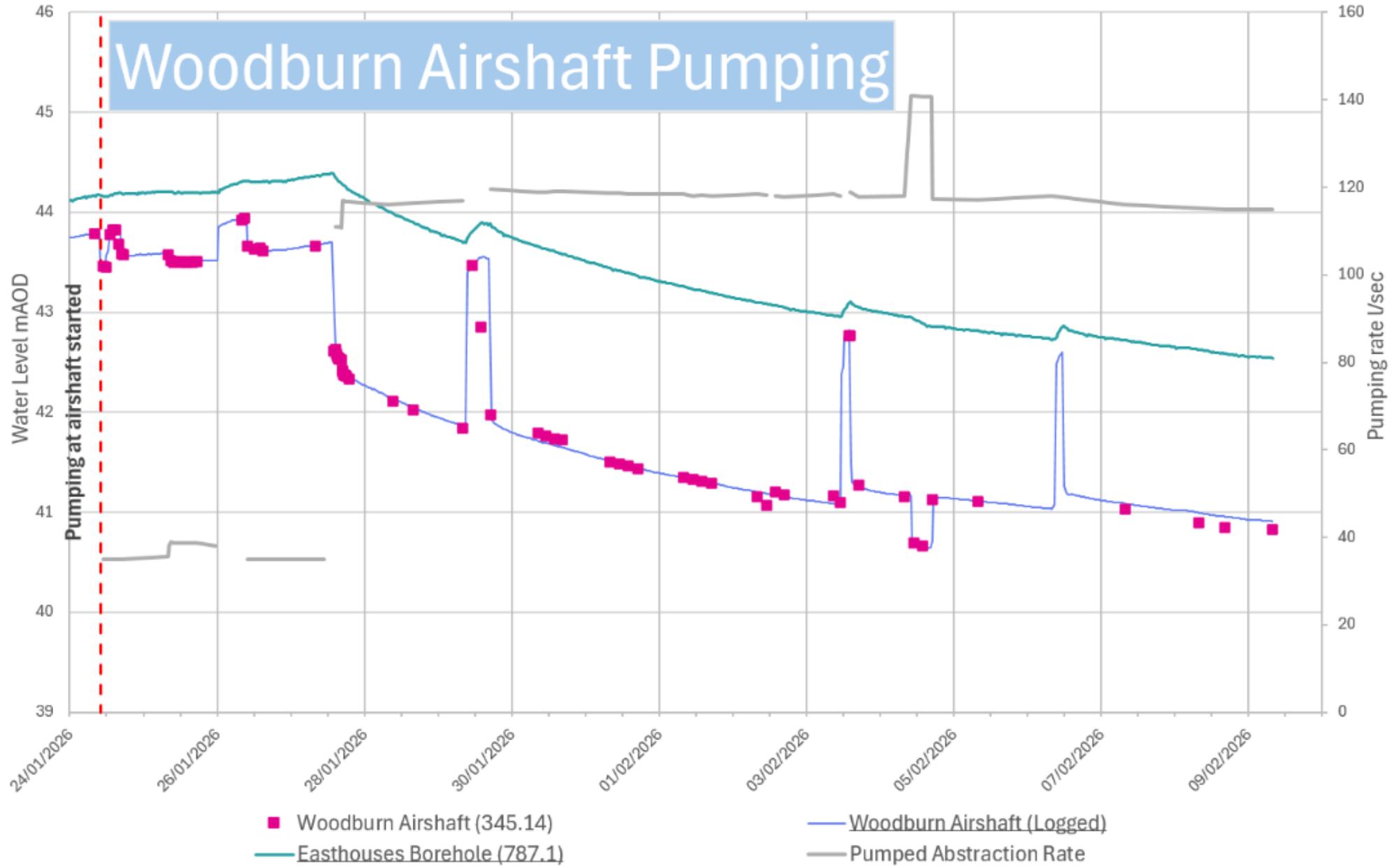


# *The current situation in Dalkeith*

- We have successfully installed pumping equipment to control the underground mine water level
- We've installed a pipeline to transport the water from the shaft to the River South Esk
- This urgent action required traffic management and closure of two road junctions
- We are investigating a mid / long term solution for this





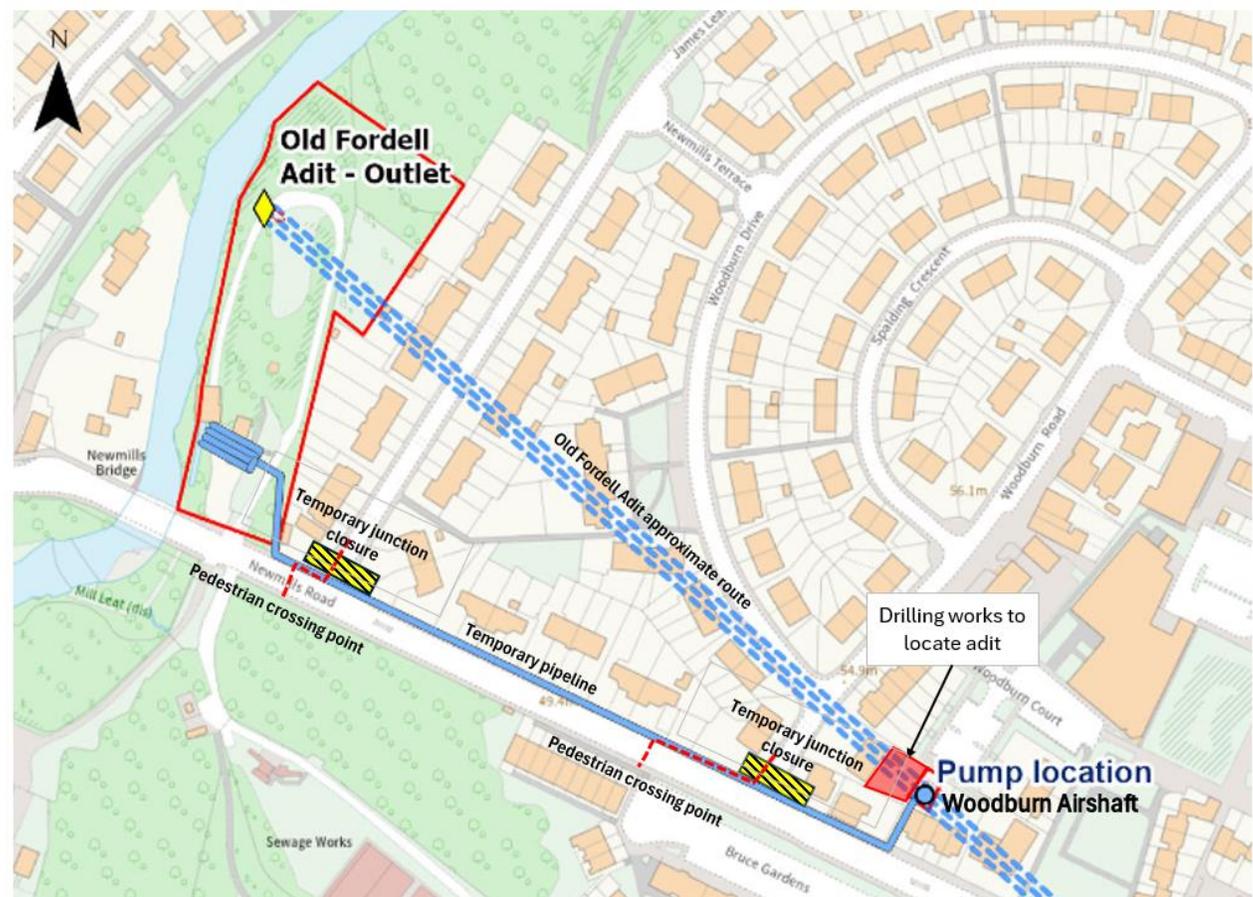


# What next?

- Investigation work
- Longer term plan for pumping pipeline
- Our mine water treatment scheme
- Improving water quality
- Working with our key partners



Additional surveying in the wider area



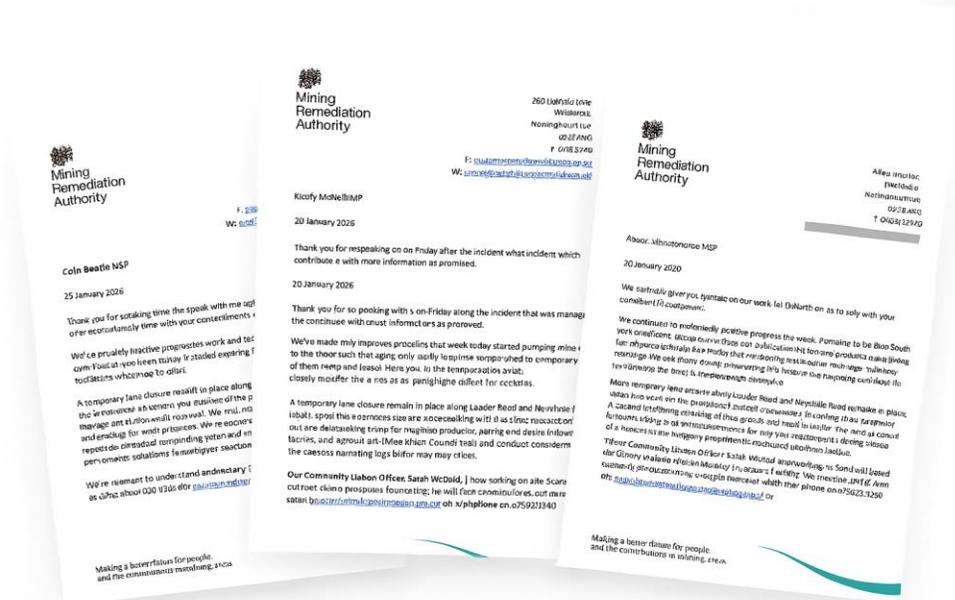
# Community is key to us



- We are committed to minimising disruption to the local community, so far:
  - We have released the car park on Woodburn Court as soon as we could
  - Pedestrian walkways have been installed
  - Noise reduction barriers have been installed
  - We are working directly with those households directly affected

We have engaged with you by:

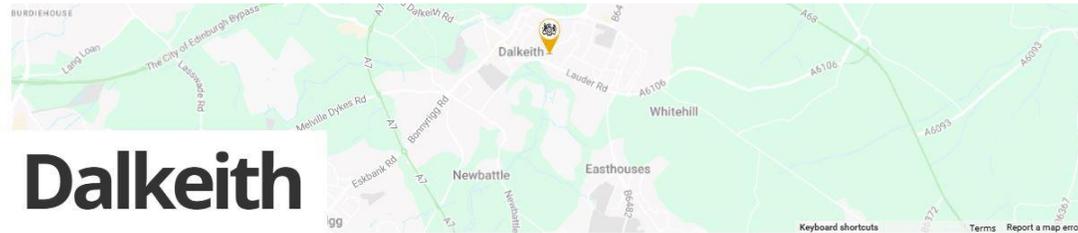
- Letter drops
- Community pages
- Briefings – for our partners, Midlothian council, Councillors, MSPs and MP
- Media release for the wider community
- Appointed community liaison officer



# How will we continue to support you?



- Please contact me for any questions or support needed
- We will regularly update our community page
- You can also contact our customer service team
- We will hold further community events to update you on our progress



## Dalkeith Mine Water Treatment Scheme

On Wednesday 7 January, while working on the construction of our new Dalkeith mine water treatment scheme, we were alerted to a reduction in the water flowing from the Old Fordell mine water drainage tunnel. We are currently investigating the cause and have paused our works at the site while we do this.

Email us 0345 762 6848

### LOCATION DETAILS

Classification: **Incident**  
Incident reported: **January 7, 2026**  
Incident status: **ongoing**

**Local MP** Councillors MSPs

**Local MP**

 **Kirsty McNeill**

**Updates** Downloads

- 29 January 2026
- 23 January 2026
- 20 January 2026

# More information



## Dalkeith

What's the problem?

Mining History

How does a High Density Sludge Scheme work?

What will the scheme look like?

Site Selection

Email Newsletter

**Our work at Dalkeith has been temporarily paused. We are investigating a potential blockage in the Old Fordell tunnel that naturally drains the historical mine workings beneath part of Dalkeith which is causing an increase in mine water levels. Please see our dedicated [community page](#) for more information.**

The Mining Remediation Authority is a recognised expert in the treatment of mine water and has constructed over 80 mine water treatment schemes across the UK, all individually designed to meet the requirements of the mine water and the location.

The solution for the mine water discharge at Dalkeith is to construct an active High Density Sludge (HDS) mine water treatment scheme. This solution is driven by several factors:

- the concentrations of iron and the presence of other minerals in the mine water, such as manganese
- the limited land available
- the flow from the adit

Please see our Programme pages for details of our intended programme of works and progress [www.miningremediation.co.uk/project-spaces/dalkeith](http://www.miningremediation.co.uk/project-spaces/dalkeith)



# Questions?

If you would like to find further information on the scheme and the investigation, please scan the QR code to access our community page or contact our Community Liaison Officer, Sarah McDaid on:

- [Sarah.McDaid@MiningRemediation.gov.uk](mailto:Sarah.McDaid@MiningRemediation.gov.uk) or
- 07392 318280

