

Dalkeith FAQs

Thank you for your questions which we collected during the public meeting.

For ease, we have grouped the questions into categories. Where similar questions have been asked, we have grouped these and provided one response.

Technical Questions

Question/s	Answer
Does the mine water from Monktonhall mine workings drain into the same block?	No, the mine water from Monktonhall flows into a different block / area. (showed plan of mine workings that flow into the drainage tunnel on slide 3 of the presentation).
What is a "day level" - does it refer to time of day?	No — this refers to the underground drainage tunnel connected to the mine workings, known as the Old Fordell Adit. It was originally used both to drain water and to provide access for miners.
What does m/AOD mean? (on graph slide 4 of the presentation)	This refers to the height of the mine water level measured in metres above a standard UK reference point called Ordnance Datum. It provides a consistent way to measure and compare heights across the country
Are you monitoring the gas that comes out of the mine workings?	The mine workings in this area are fully flooded, which means mine gas cannot build up. We also monitor for mine gas in the areas where we are working to ensure everyone's safety. This isn't a location where mine gas issues are common, but we remain vigilant and will respond quickly if anything changes.
Is there technology to put a pipe down the drainage tunnel, clear the obstruction and put a new pipe down? Why is this not feasible?	This could be an option to bypass any section where the tunnel has potentially become restricted, and we could install some piping. However, fully relining the drainage tunnel isn't practical due to the significant cost and engineering challenges involved.

Can you give us some information on the construction of the adit? I have tried to do some research but have found it hard to find any information	The adit has been cut through the local sandstone rock, driven underground by the miners c.200 years ago. We only have the adit mouth and shaft locations marked on plans.
Is all the monitoring you're doing automated?	We use a mix of automated and manual monitoring to keep track of the situation. Automated equipment measures water levels and flow at the pumping point, while our team also carries out manual checks such as water sampling and level readings. Once the Mine Water Treatment Scheme is built, more automated monitoring will be put in place to provide continuous updates.
Was there a single drainage tunnel for the mine?	The Old Fordell adit was used as the main drainage for the mine workings in the area. At Bilston Glen colliery, water was pumped away so didn't need an additional drainage tunnel.
In 2012 there was a recommendation for us to do more boreholes for monitoring, have we done this?	In 2011 we commissioned a report by partners WYG to identify suitable places to drill a borehole for monitoring mine water in the area. This report set out several options, which we considered and went with the preferred option in Easthouses. This borehole was drilled in 2012. It has helped us inform our understanding of the mine water treatment schemes build in Dalkeith, as well as being invaluable in monitoring the current situation.

Incident related

Question/s	Answer
How deep down is the tunnel?	At its deepest it is around 70m deep.
Any idea what has stopped the water coming out?	We are dealing with old, underground workings which makes it difficult to pinpoint exactly what has happened. We're carrying out detailed investigations — including camera surveys inside the

	<p>drainage tunnel — and exploring other ways to help us understand the cause. We have now stabilised the mine water levels and our focus is on putting in place a long-term, permanent solution for the pipeline so that we can manage the situation into the future.</p>
<p>Are you going to get the adit up and running again?</p>	<p>We're exploring all the available options, and it's likely we'll keep the pumping system in place so we can manage the situation confidently and provide extra reassurance should anything change in the future.</p>
<p>Is it to do with the piling works?</p>	<p>We don't yet know the exact cause, which is why we're carrying out further detailed investigations to understand what has happened.</p>
<p>Is there a likelihood of there being an issue further back towards Easthouses?</p>	<p>This is not likely due to workings at Easthouses being deeper.</p>
<p>Where the Saw Mill was demolished (Mine Water Treatment Scheme) would that have had an influence?</p>	<p>It's unlikely that the work taking place at the Mine Water Treatment Scheme has caused this issue. Throughout the construction we closely monitored vibration levels, and nothing we recorded suggested any cause for concern.</p>
<p>How are you looking for the blockage?</p>	<p>We don't yet know the exact cause of the issues, which is why we're carrying out further detailed investigations to understand what has happened including underground camera surveys.</p>
<p>Who ultimately decides what is the best option and what you will do? Will you take residents' views into account?</p>	<p>We will work with the Council to explore all the available options. It's likely that the final approach will depend on what is technically and practically achievable. As our plans progress, we're committed to listening to residents' views and will hold community meetings to make sure your feedback is heard.</p>

Pipeline

Question/s	Answer
How big will the permanent pipeline be?	The permanent pipeline will be the same size as the one currently in place so it can carry the same amount of water safely. This means it will either be a single 12-inch pipe or two smaller pipes, but the overall capacity will remain the same to keep risks low
Will you put in multiple pipelines?	As above.
What if you bury a pipeline and it bursts? You need to think through this risk, and it would be good to understand at a future meeting.	We make sure that any equipment we install is properly maintained and regularly checked. We follow the same testing standards used by water companies, and because the system uses modern materials and works by gravity rather than pressure, the risk of any issues is very low.

Traffic and disruption

Question/s	Answer
Will the bus stops be reinstated?	We are working with the Council on traffic management and will put in place a temporary bus stop whilst our works continue.
Can you provide an estimate of how long the disruption will take? Weeks / Months?	We're considering all possible options for the temporary pipeline, and no final decision has been made yet. As soon as we have a clearer understanding of what's achievable, we'll provide an update to residents on what is achievable.
Any chance the pipe could be buried at junction of James Lean Avenue	We are looking at all options for minimising disruption from the pipeline and will update residents as soon as we identify the best options.
Permanent pipeline: this could take a long time and be complicated if looking to bury under the road, concern this	We're working through all the possible options to minimise disruption for residents. Any final decisions will be

could lead to further, full road closures. Mention of a high-pressure gas main in the road	made together with our partners and the relevant utility providers to ensure the approach is safe, practical and well-coordinated.
It sounds like it could take a long time to sort out and for disruption to continue	We may carry out the work in phases to help minimise disruption for residents. We're committed to being open and honest as the plans develop, and we'll keep the community updated as soon as we have clearer information

Property and insurance

Question/s	Answer
What are the risks to residents and houses? Where are the highest risk properties, and what if the situation doesn't improve or gets worse?	We acted quickly to bring the water levels under control, and as a result there is no risk to properties. This is why the pumping system and temporary pipeline are so important—they help us manage the situation safely.
Are other areas affected or is this quite localised? The map you have shown (slide 3) is quite a big area to those living here	The issue is very localised. We're also keeping an eye on the wider area through regular monitoring so we can respond quickly if anything unusual is spotted.
Will we underwrite insurance against this risk, or will we write to insurance companies to provide reassurance?	In our experience, it isn't usually necessary to contact every insurer. While we're not able to underwrite policies or approach insurers on your behalf, we do work closely with the Association of British Insurers and are always happy to contact an insurer directly if you have any concerns. If you'd like our support, please get in touch with our customer service team at customerservice@miningremediation.gov.uk or call 01623 637000 — we're here to help.

Communications

Question/s	Answer
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<p>I signed up for updates on the website but haven't received anything</p>	<p>If you'd like our support, please get in touch with our customer service team at customerservice@miningremediation.gov.uk or call 01623 637000 — we're here to help</p>
<p>I live on James Lean Avenue and had to find out about the road / junction closure 3rd hand</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback. We've now updated the wider Woodburn community area, and we have made a letter drop to help make sure more residents are aware of the information. Anyone who would like to receive regular updates in future can sign up through our website or contact our customer service team on 01623 637000 if you would like to receive updates by post.</p>
<p>Some people will not have heard about the meeting tonight; the signs were too small - can you please do letter drops to let people know?</p>	<p>Thank you for letting us know. We'll make sure the signs are larger in future so they're easier for everyone to see. We'd also really value any suggestions from the community about where these signs would be most helpful — your local knowledge makes a big difference.</p>
<p>Are you going to have these meetings regularly (weekly)?</p>	<p>We'll continue to keep the community updated through our website, and our Community Liaison Officer, Sarah, is always available to help with any questions or concerns. We'll also hold further community meetings whenever there is a significant update to share, which we expect to be once we've made progress on the permanent solution for the pipeline</p>
<p>The 'keeping in touch signs' - can community councillors have some to distribute?</p>	<p>Dalkeith Community Council, a ward councillor and a local charity have all taken copies of our 'keeping in touch' flyers to share locally. You can also find them in the library and at Dalkeith Miners Club, and we've placed posters in several shops around the Woodburn area.</p>
<p>You are asking the local community to report things that are out of the ordinary, we aren't the experts, why aren't you doing this?</p>	<p>When we include this in our updates, it's because we know local residents understand their area better than anyone. We're also carrying out our own monitoring, but if you notice anything that seems</p>

	unusual, please do let us know — your observations help us respond quickly and keep everyone informed
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Mine Water Treatment Scheme

Question/s	Answer
Who monitors the Mine Water Treatment Scheme? Who holds you to account?	The Mining Remediation Authority will be responsible for monitoring and maintaining the Mine Water Treatment Scheme once it is in place. SEPA will also oversee our work through their permitting process to ensure everything is managed safely and to the required standards
How much waste material will be produced by the Mine Water Treatment Scheme? Will there be much traffic?	The Mine Water Treatment Scheme will produce around 20 tonnes of ochre each week, which will require one weekly lorry collection. Ochre is a natural by-product of the treatment process and can often be reused in positive ways, such as in land remediation and decontamination projects. We already recycle ochre from other sites through our environmental programme, and we'll look at whether similar recycling options are suitable for the ochre produced at Dalkeith.
Is there a danger the Mine Water Treatment Scheme is in the wrong place? (now, given the issue with the water)	This location remains the most suitable place for treating the water.