

# Dovestones Reservoir Query Response

- The video clip is showing water that has run off Greenfield Catchment, through Birchen Tunnel and is heading down to Dovestones reservoir. **It has not been released from a reservoir.**
- **However,** it should be noted when dealing with similar queries regarding discharged from reservoirs that:
- UU must discharge ‘**Compensation Flows**’ from reservoirs to ensure that a minimum flow is maintained in downstream watercourses for ecological reasons – this is a statutory requirement enforced by the EA with controlled discharge volumes and rates.
- Many reservoirs were formed by damming watercourses. The dams hold back flows, and cause the water to pool until the reservoir is full (and can provide a buffer from upstream flows). When the reservoir is full, any additional inflowing water will pass out of the reservoir over the overflow, and down a spillway, re-entering the natural watercourse.
- **This does not mean that any additional water is flowing out of the reservoir.** Once the reservoir is full, any additional inflow to the reservoir passes out through the spillway. The amount of water flowing out is dependent upon the amount of water flowing in, and is not related to the size of the overflow.
- Some reservoirs have “scour valves” to realise water in emergency conditions (e.g. should there be risk of dam collapse). We are required by law to exercise the scour valves on every one of our reservoirs every 6 months. This is permitted by the Environment Agency , but they would not create flows anything we have seen this week. We do not carry out scour tests during flood alerts.
- Some reservoir systems have by-pass gates to divert flows from one reservoir to another. The gates do **NOT** allow water out of the reservoir. They divert inflows only. **UU reservoirs do not have ‘flood gates’.**