

Ashford Dam Improvement Works

DRUMMOND MODLEY, Wessex Water Services Ltd, Bath, UK
CRAIG GOFF, Halcrow Group, Swindon, UK

SYNOPSIS. Ashford is a category B embankment dam built in 1934 and located in Somerset. The reservoir is very small compared to the size of the catchment. There is a small risk that, in an exceptional flood, the dam could be washed away. The principle of the “American Methodology” is that if a dam at a small reservoir with a large catchment fails during a large flood event, the resulting damage will be largely attributable to the flood. The failure of the dam would only add an insignificant increase to the resulting damage downstream. Hence, one opinion would be that no action needs to be taken. The alternative is to undertake physical improvement works. This paper reviews the decisions taken by Wessex Water and the solutions eventually chosen.