

## **Statutory reservoirs: matters of opinion**

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**SYNOPSIS** The question of whether a reservoir falls within the ambit of the Reservoirs Act 1975 is not contentious for the great majority of reservoirs. This paper deals with some particular cases where efforts have been made to form an opinion on the legal status of reservoirs and where difficulties have been encountered. In a number of instances the wording of the Act has led to difficulties of interpretation between panel engineers, the enforcement authority and legal advisors in guiding the case to the most appropriate outcome. The aim of the paper is to highlight the range of issues encountered in the past to share lessons learned and to inform debate on the drafting of future legislation relating to reservoir definition.