

Recent incidents at canal reservoirs

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SYNOPSIS Two incidents at Cofton reservoir are described; the first relating to leakage of an old dam predominantly made of sand and the second being a problem with the draw-off pipes, which led to internal erosion in the body of the dam.

An incident at Lilly Loch Reservoir is also discussed. This was an unusual problem for a UK reservoir; the threat of material falling into the reservoir from an unstable hillside, potentially leading to an overtopping of the dam as a result of the displaced water and the impulse wave caused by the rock fall.

At the time of the incidents, the author was the Supervising Engineer for both reservoirs.

The actions taken at the time and subsequently are described.