



The British Dam Society

TECHNICAL SITE VISIT

Thursday 4th September 2025

Camps Reservoir – Spillway Upgrade Works

Crawford, South Lanarkshire



Source: George Leslie Ltd. Drone Footage, June 2025

Please register your attendance at the following link:

[Registration](#)

For more information or queries:

mairi.shaw@mottmac.com with subject heading 'Camps – BDS Visit'



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SYNOPSIS

Camps Reservoir, owned by Scottish Water, is situated approximately 5km north north-east of the village of Crawford, in South Lanarkshire, off Junction 14 of the M74. The reservoir was formed in the late 1920's by the construction of a substantial earth embankment across the watercourse known as Camps Water, in the headwaters of the River Clyde. It was built to provide storage for public water supply to Lanarkshire, and continues to be used for that purpose.

Following a Section 47 Inspection, conducted by Martin Hewitt, a MIOS recommendation was made to undertake a flood study to contemporary guidance to confirm flood capacity, together with an assessment as to whether the spillway chute could contain and safely pass, without critical damage, the outflow for a PMF event a flood study. In addition to the flood study, a CFD model was undertaken, together with some investigations of the existing spillway make-up, which confirmed the spillway was vulnerable. During the conceptual design phase, a physical model was produced to better understand the cross wave. Following the feasibility and optioneering study, the final decision was made to upgrade the spillway channel by internally lining with a new reinforced concrete channel, which is dowelled into rock underlying the existing spillway.

Access to the reservoir site is challenging, requiring the negotiated use of a wind farm access. The temporary and enabling access works commenced in April 2024 and the permanent works then started in April 2025. The works are progressing well and in July 2025, following the installation of the spillway rock anchors, the first concrete pour was completed. A 30m high temporary access ramp is being constructed on the downstream face of the embankment, parallel to the spillway, to facilitate construction. This work is ongoing and Scottish Water and George Leslie would like to invite you to the site to witness the construction progressing, learn about the challenges faced and the great work being carried out in collaboration between Scottish Water and George Leslie.

During the visit we will give a presentation on the history of the dam, the optioneering and construction work undertaken to date, followed by a site visit to observe the ongoing works. A short induction will be undertaken by George Leslie prior to the site walkover.



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GUIDANCE FOR ATTENDEES

All attendees must first register their attendance by completing the clicking the MS Form [Registration Link](#). Alternatively, please email mairi.shaw@mottmac.com with 'Camps – BDS Visit' as the subject. Please note, that due to site constraints, the visit will be limited to 20 BDS members, therefore, places will be allocated based on a first come basis.

Site visit will last approximately 3 hours from 13:00 until 16:00.

PPE will be required to be worn (hard hat, safety boots, gloves, safety glasses and high visibility vests).

There is parking available at site, but please make every effort to carshare. Please adhere to the 20mph speed restriction along the public road from the village to the site. The nearest address for site is:

Camps Reservoir
Biggar
South Lanarkshire
Scotland
ML12 6UD

There is a site car park within the site compound. GLL staff will park in the overflow car park on the approach to the site to ensure there are available spaces for the BDS visitors within the compound. The What 3 words for this location are: ///cape.crops.lengthen

Please note- the reservoir is quite remote and cannot be accessed by public transport. The nearest service station, Abington Services, are located a pproximately 8-miles north of the site.

