

Some Problems at Small Dams in the United Kingdom

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SYNOPSIS. The UK has a large number of small dams with diverse problems. Some have capacities of less than 25,000 m³ and therefore fall outside the ambit of the Reservoirs Act, 1975. Many were constructed in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries to impound ornamental lakes for stately homes. Whilst these reservoirs often require rehabilitation to meet modern safety standards the available funds are frequently tightly constrained.

This paper describes a number of recent case histories chosen to illustrate the breadth of issues which tend to arise, the nature of the solutions adopted and the lessons to be learnt. Some general principles are presented with regard to the rehabilitation of such structures.