

Ulley Reservoir and high velocity spillway flows

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SYNOPSIS. In the small hours of Tuesday 26 June, 2007 Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council requested the evacuation of areas downstream of Ulley Dam and the closure of the M1 motorway because of fears about the safety of the dam. The danger arose because of the failure of the masonry walls of one of the original spillways at the dam during a flood with a return period of about 200 years.

This paper discusses the background to the incident, the problems associated with high velocity flows in masonry spillways, the handling of the emergency and plans for the restoration of the dam.