

Liberty Construction Ltd

MARLBROOK QUARRY RESERVOIR

REPORT ON AN INSPECTION UNDER SECTION 8 OF THE RESERVOIRS ACT 1975

Final

October 2019



Inspecting Engineer
Dr A K Hughes
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CONTENTS

		Page
1.	NAME AND SITUATION OF RESERVOIR	3
2.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF ENGINEER MAKING THE REPORT	3
3.	PANEL OF WHICH THE ENGINEER IS A MEMBER	3
4.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER AND/OR UNDERTAKER	3
5.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY	3
6.	DATE OF INSPECTION	4
7.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF SUPERVISING ENGINEER	4
8.	CERTIFICATES, REPORTS OF PREVIOUS INSPECTIONS AND OTHER ITEMS OF INFORMATION WHICH WERE PROVIDED TO THE ENGINEER	
8.1	Certificates	4
8.2	Reports	4
8.3	Supervising Engineers Statements	4
8.4	Other Information including Drawings	4
9.	GENERAL DESCRIPTION	4
9.1	Description of Reservoir	4
9.2	Geology of the Site	5
9.3	Catchment	5
9.4	Dam Details	6
9.5	Details of Modifications, Remedial Works and History	6
9.6	Overflow	6
9.7	Inlet and Outlet Pipework and Valving Arrangements	6
9.8	Scour	. 7
9.9 9.10	Instrumentation	7
9.11	Method of Recording Water Levels Access	7
9.12	Valley Downstream of the Dam	7 8
10.	GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE INSPECTION MADE AND THE CONDITIONS	
10.1	General	8
10.2	Catchment	8
10.3	Dam	8
10.4	Overflow Structure and Channels	10
10.5	Valve Shaft and Tunnel	10
10.6	Inlet and Outlet Pipework and Valves	10
10.7	Seepages/Drainage Flows	11
10.8	Settlement and Movement	11
10.9	Instrumentation	11
10.10	Method of Recording Water Levels	11
10.11	Access for Maintenance and Emergency	12
10.12	Control of Inflow from Direct and Indirect Catchments	12
10.13	Movement of Surrounding Land which Might Affect the Stability of the Reservoir	12

10.14	Area Downstream of the Dam	12
10.15	Reservoir Risk Analysis	12
11.	ADEQUACY AND CONDITION OF WASTE WEIR AND OVERFLOW AND	40
11.1	CHANNELS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH Flood Assessment	12
11.1	11.1.1 Categorisation	12
	11.1.2 Freeboard Details, etc	13
	11.1.3 Flood Flow Capacity Assessment	13
	11.1.4 Summary of Flood Study Analysis	13
11.2	Alterations to Overflow Sill	13
11.3	Any Alteration in Level to which the Water may be Stored	13
11.4	Efficiency of Scour Pipe and Other Means of Lowering the Water in and Controlling	10
11.4	the Inflow to the Reservoir	13
12.	SEISMIC RISK	14
13.	SUPERVISION PROVIDED BY THE OWNER/UNDERTAKER	14
14.	CORRECTNESS OF PARTICULARS IN THE PRESCRIBED FORM OF RECORD	
	REQUIRED TO BE KEPT UNDER SECTION 11 OF THE ACT	14
15.	EMERGENCY PLANNING	15
16.	FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ENGINEER	15
16.1	Findings	15
16.2	Recommendations as to Measures to be taken in the Interests of Safety under	
	Section 10(3)(c) of the Act90	16
16.3	Recommendations as to Measures to be taken under Section 10(3)(b) of the Act	
	(Maintenance).	16
16.4	Other Recommendations, as to Measures to be taken in Respect of Maintenance	17
16.5	Measures Recommended in the Interests of Improving Monitoring and Supervision	
	under Section 11 of the Act	17
16.6	Recommendations in the Matters of Safety Relating to Personnel/Public	17
16.7	Matters to be watched by the Supervising Engineer in accordance with Section	
	10(4) of the Act	18 18
16.8	Recommendations as to the Date of the Next Inspection	

APPENDICES

Appendix A	Recommendations from Previous Report and Status
Appendix B	Main Failure Modes
	Di i

Appendix C Photographs



NAME AND SITUATION OF RESERVOIR

The reservoir is known as **MARLBROOK QUARRY RESERVOIR**, situated about 4 km north east of Bromsgrove in the County of Worcestershire. Site address – Old Marlbrook Quarry, Alvechurch Highway, Bromsgrove B60 1PA.

National Grid Reference SO 980 750 lies within the site.

2. NAME AND ADDRESS OF ENGINEER MAKING THE REPORT

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3. PANEL OF WHICH THE ENGINEER IS A MEMBER

All Reservoirs Panel (appointed to the Panel until 31 May 2021).

4. NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER AND/OR UNDERTAKER

Liberty Construction Ltd 20 Westley Street Dudley West Midlands DY1 1TS



5. NAME AND ADDRESS OF ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY

Environment Agency Manley House Kestrel Way Sowton Industrial Estate EXETER EX2 7LQ



DATE OF INSPECTION

29th April 2019.

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF SUPERVISING ENGINEER

No Supervising Engineer - under the 'control' of the Construction Engineer.

8. CERTIFICATES, REPORTS OF PREVIOUS INSPECTIONS AND OTHER ITEMS OF INFORMATION WHICH WERE PROVIDED TO THE ENGINEER

8.1 Certificates

 Inspecting Engineers Certificate under Section 10(5) of the Reservoirs Act 1975 by Mr P Kelham dated 6th March 2013.

8.2 Reports

- Inspecting Engineer's Report under Section 10 of the Reservoirs Act 1975 by Mr P Kelham dated 6th March 2013.
- (2) Inspecting Engineer's Report under Section 8 of the Reservoirs Act 1975 by Mr R Mann dated January 2015.

8.3 Supervising Engineers Statements

None seen although some have been produced in the past.

8.4 Other Information including Drawings

(1) Prescribed Form of Record Relating to the Reservoir

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

9.1 Description of Reservoir

Marlbrook Quarry Reservoir is a non impounding reservoir formed by the construction of an embankment built from 'landfill materials' across the Catshill Brook – on part of a much larger landfill exercise. Originally, before Liberty Construction's involvement, the embankment formed part of an active landfill,

The embankme	nt was cor	nstructed between 1940 and 1987.
	resulting	in the formation of what was deemed to be a reservoir under
the Reservoirs	Act 1975.	This is said to have happened in about 1987.



A notice issued by the Environment Agency dated 22nd September 2014 required the appointment of a Construction Engineer under Section 8 of the Act. Up to that time the reservoir had been subject to periodic inspections under Section 10 of the Act, with identified remedial measures in hand supervised by an appointed Qualified Civil Engineer (QCE) under Section 10(6) of the Act, with a Supervising Engineer duly appointed under Section 12 of the Act.

Robert Mann was appointed as Construction Engineer (CE) until recently – he resigned and I took over confirmed by a letter/email from Liberty Construction dated 27th March 2019.

My appointment as CE was confirmed by the EA on the 4th April 2019 by email.

9.2 Geology of the Site

The 'geology' of the site has been modified as a result of the development of the site. Superficial deposits are not indicated as being present at the site. The overburden of sands and gravel at the site was worked as a quarry and has in most parts been excavated and removed.

The immediate bedrock is Clent Breccia, which comprises a sub-angular breccia of volcanics and other strata within a mudstone matrix. This is underlain unconformedly by Carboniferous Sandstone and Mudstone of the Salop Formation (Enville Member). The Triassic Sandstones form a major aquifer in the region.

It is understood that the strata excavated comprised the base conglomerate horizon of the Kidderminster Formation of the Sherwood Sandstone group. The Kidderminster Formation encountered at the site consists of an approximately 16 metres thick unit of very poorly cemented pebbles with little sand matrix. The strata dip to the south-south-west at an angle of about 7 degrees. A section about 9 metres high supposedly was formed in the north-east of the quarry (SO 982 747) was logged in 1980. This report apparently recorded beds of loose conglomerate up to 3 metres thick with beds of pale red, coarse, cross bedded sandstone up to 1 metre high. Approximately 150 metres south of the site is the junction between the conglomerate band and the overlying pebbly sandstone of the Kidderminster Formation.

9.3 Catchment

The 'catchment' quoted by the last Inspection Engineer is 0.59 square kilometres. The catchment comprises open fields with some areas of woodland in the valley of the incoming stream. The catchment rises to a raised elevation of about 300 metres AOD.

The Alvechurch Highway crosses the valley just upstream of the reservoir at an elevation of approximately 204 metres AOD. At the crossing there is a culvert under the highway. The culvert is said to be 800 mm wide by 900 mm high.

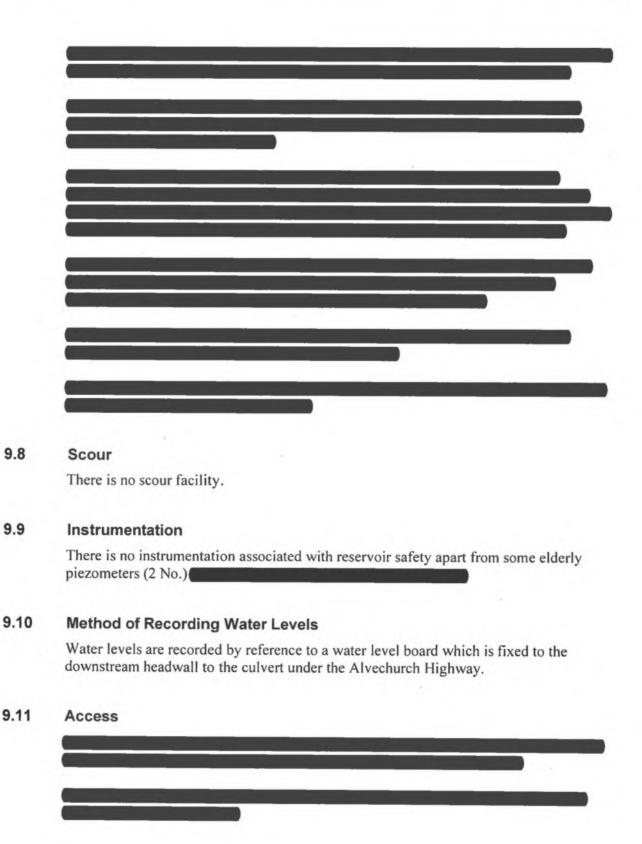
The invert of the culvert is said to have an invert level of 200.7 metres AOD.

There is no indirect catchment.



	evel is about 215 metres AOD and the invert about 200.7 metres AO
the bank wa	which survey has been carried out which suggests that between 2007 as raised from 19 metres to 27 metres. At a previous S10 in 2013 it ment of about 75 metres in length.
The downs	treem slones of the site and the dam appear to have a gradient of sh
	stream slopes of the site and the dam appear to have a gradient of ab- stream slopes in the region of the reservoir ranging from about 1 in
Details of	f Modifications, Remedial Works and History
	e downstream side on the west side and the extreme south sides were returned to pasture by 2013.
	stood there has been a dispute with Bromsgrove Borough Council abovels and an order has prevented for the earthworks for many years.
Overflow	







9.8

9.9

9.12 Valley Downstream of the Dam

Immediately downstream of the dam are a number of houses and the village and public roads.

10. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE INSPECTION MADE AND THE CONDITIONS FOUND

10.1 General

I inspected the site on the 29th April 2019. I was accompanied in part by Eddie McIntosh but also Marie McIntosh for the whole of the walkover.

The weather at the time of inspection was fine, dry, sunny and mild and in the preceding two weeks had generally been good with warm periods and some rain; showers and heavier periods.

The flow in the stream was fairly low at the time of the visit	
The 'inspection' covered the whole of the site, the road downstream area and the embankment ancillary elements.	the

It is understood site operations to complete the earthworks were stopped in April 2011 when the local authority ordered a cessation of operations on the basis that the site had been overfilled. It is not the purpose of the report to comment on works that have been undertaken.

10.2 Catchment

The catchment was seen to be limited in extent, but quite steep and to include arable farmland and some woodland.

The culvert under the road and its associated headwalls were examined.	The headwalls
appeared to be in a satisfactory condition.	

10.3 Dam

I am aware that there have been reports previously which repeat recommendations that relate to the capping of the whole of the site. This has been an issue with the Planning Authority which has led to restrictions on site. This can create a situation where reservoir safety can be compromised. As an All Reservoirs Panel Engineer (ARPE) acting under the Reservoirs Act 1975, my role is to try to ensure reservoir safety and as stated within the Act to 'protect persons and property against an escape of water'. As



such my role relates to the dam which retains the reservoir and its appurtenant structures and no other part of the site which may be called the landfill.

I consider the embankment, although difficult to be define previously, is as shown on the drawing in the Appendix. Thus, my comments and recommendations relate **only** to that part of the site and the associated channels and structures downstream.

The reservoir has been in existence for more than ten years and the grass, vegetation, saplings and trees have become established.

The upstream face of the embankment and the inside slopes of the basin were seen generally to be in a satisfactory condition with stable slopes which are in the main, because of the dispute with Bromsgrove Borough Council at about finished levels.

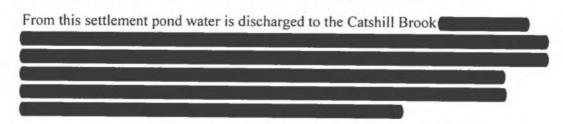
Some filling had been done since the last inspection which has improved stability particularly on the left hand side of the basin.

The main part of the upstream face of the embankment appeared to have a satisfactory line and level and good grass cover. There are a number of saplings on the face.

The crest is a little uneven in places but has a satisfactory line and level and good grass cover.

The downstream face appeared to have a satisfactory line and level although clearly the restoration of the lower part of the slope is much better than in the upper part of the slope. However, even the upper part of the slope the situation appears satisfactory with good grass cover and no signs of instability. In my opinion, if attempts were made to 'improve' the site then one would have to remove material that had been in place for more than ten years without problem – and this would be a retrograde step.

The surface drainage channels traverse the downstream slope, taking water to a settlement pond which also takes outflow water from the reservoir.



I recommend the grass to all surfaces of the embankment is cut frequently and at least once a year to ensure the grass is cut short and coarse vegetation is cut off, to encourage a good sward,



		1,	
Valve Sha	aft and Tunnel		
Inlet and	Outlet Pipework a	and Valves	
			-

10.7 Seepages/Drainage Flows

I saw no signs of seepage or drainage flows to give me cause for concern.

I recommend the piezometers, if operable, are read at least 6 monthly and the results plotted and analysed to identify any changes or trends.

10.8 Settlement and Movement

I saw no signs of settlement or significant movement anywhere on the site

The site has been essentially undisturbed for many years. Parts have been fully restored and parts have not. Grass cover has established itself over most of the site and there is some shrub and sapling growth.

Mr Kelham in his report of 2013, reports that the advice from AECOM in 2012 was to ensure stability of the slopes by making them 1 in 4.

However, since Mr Kelham's inspection, as confirmed by Mr Mann, the site has been capped with 'clay' and areas also covered with topsoil. Since Mr Mann's inspection areas have been covered because of concern about erosion channels and loss of fill. Over the last three or four years,

grass has become established. Thus, whilst I do not require 300 mm of soil over the whole site, I consider that many areas within the basin that are not top soiled, should be top soiled and then if any areas of instability are noted over the years the advice of an All Reservoirs Panel Engineer should be sought. However, any work to topsoil areas should not destroy areas of good grass cover already existing.

10.9 Instrumentation

There are said to be two piezometers

10.10 Method of Recording Water Levels

Water levels are recorded by reference to a water level board fixed to the headwall to the culvert under the Alvechurch Highway.



I recommend water levels are recorded at least monthly and daily at times of significant impoundment.

Access for Maintenance and Emergency
Control of Inflow from Direct and Indirect Catchments
There is no indirect catchment.
Movement of Surrounding Land which Might Affect the Stability of the Reservoir
I saw no signs of movement of the surrounding land which might affect the stability of the reservoir.
Area Downstream of the Dam
Immediately downstream of the dam are a number of residential properties associated with Lower Marlbrook and Upper Catshill in the natural valley of the stream before it passes under the M42.
Reservoir Risk Analysis
ADEQUACY AND CONDITION OF WASTE WEIR AND OVERFLOW AND CHANNELS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH
Flood Assessment
Categorisation



Freeboard	Details, etc
Flood Flov	v Capacity Assessment
Summary of	of Flood Study Analysis
Summary o	of Flood Study Analysis
Summary (of Flood Study Analysis
	ns to Overflow Sill
Alteratio There do n	ns to Overflow Sill ot appear to have been any alterations to the "overflow sills" since t
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Alteration There do not the last in the la	ns to Overflow Sill ot appear to have been any alterations to the "overflow sills" since inspection. ration in Level to which the Water may be Stored that the water may continue to be stored up to top water level.

12. SEISMIC RISK



I do not consider a seismic safety evaluation is required at this time.

13. SUPERVISION PROVIDED BY THE OWNER/UNDERTAKER

The owners are on the site almost on a daily basis but I recommend someone from the owner's staff visit the site at least weekly.

The Construction Engineer or his representative should visit the site at least once a year.

If this happens then I consider the level of the supervision to be acceptable.

14. CORRECTNESS OF PARTICULARS IN THE PRESCRIBED FORM OF RECORD REQUIRED TO BE KEPT UNDER SECTION 11 OF THE ACT

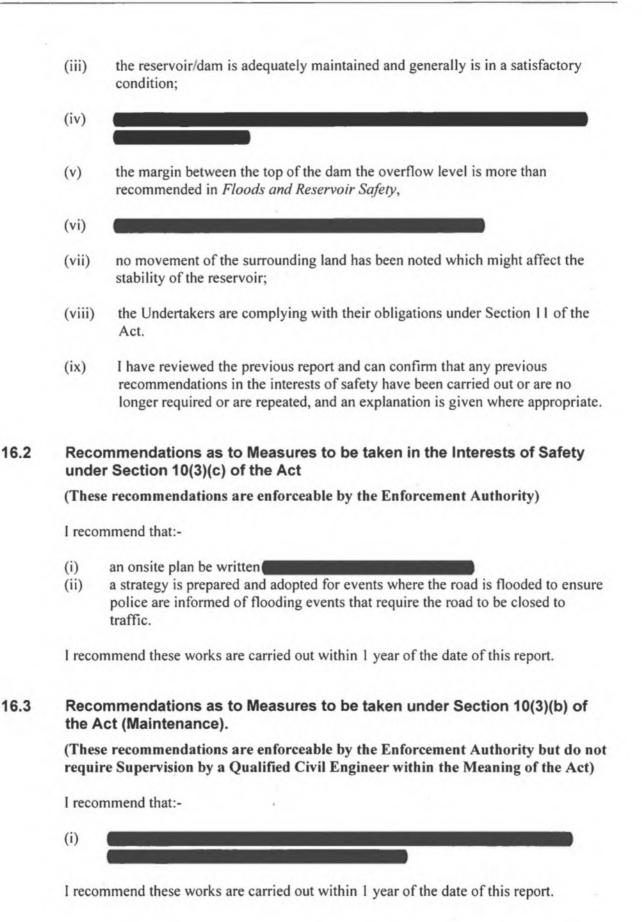
I examined the Prescribed Form of Record Relating to the Reservoir and it was found to be in a satisfactory condition.

I have the following comments on the various parts of the Form as follows:



	Part 1	I recommend water levels are recorded at least monthly.
	Part 2	Part 2 No comment
	Part 3	Amendments are required as a result of this inspection.
	Part 4	No comment
	Part 5	No comment
	Part 6	No comment
	Part 7	No comment
	Part 8	No comment
	Part 9	No comment
	Part 10	No comment
	Part 11	No comment
	Part 12	Additions are required as a result of this inspection.
	Part 13	No comment
	Part 14	No comment
	Part 15	No comment
	Part 16	No comment
45	EMEDO	ENGV BLANKING
15.	EWERG	ENCY PLANNING
	I recomm	nend an onsite emergency plan be written.
16.	FINDING	SS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ENGINEER
16.1	Findings	3
	My findin	gs as a result of the inspection are that:-
	(i)	
	(ii)	
	()	
	_	



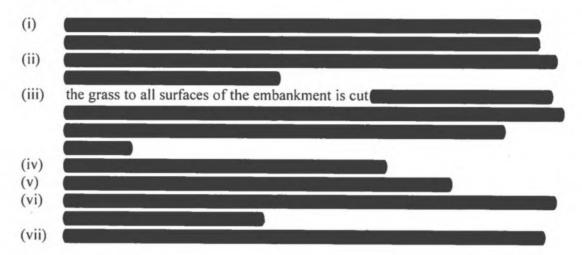




16.4 Other Recommendations, as to Measures to be taken in Respect of Maintenance

(These recommendations are not enforceable by the Enforcement Authority and do not require Supervision by a Qualified Civil Engineer within the Meaning of the Act)

I recommend that:-



16.5 Measures Recommended in the Interests of Improving Monitoring and Supervision under Section 11 of the Act

I recommend that:

- (i) the piezometers, if operable, are read at least 6 monthly and the results plotted and analysed
- (ii) water levels are recorded at least monthly and daily at times of significant impoundment.
- (iii)

16.6 Recommendations in the Matters of Safety Relating to Personnel/Public None.

The comments with respect to Health and Safety relate only to those elements of Health and Safety associated with the owner and his staff and any other individuals associated with the safety of the dam. They relate only to issues noted during the inspection and should not be considered to be exhaustive or complete. The comments in no way relate to issues associated with others and in particular members of the general public or those using facilities at or visitors to the site.



16.7 Matters to be watched by the Supervising Engineer in accordance with Section 10(4) of the Act

I recommend that the Supervising Engineer visits the site at least twice a year and in particular ensures that:-

- (i) the Prescribed Form of Record is complete.
- (ii)

16.8 Recommendations as to the Date of the Next Inspection

The next inspection by an Inspecting Engineer under Section 10(2) of the Act should be undertaken within 2 years of the Final Certificate being issued. I intend to issue a Final Certificate once the works recommended in Sections 16.2 and 16.3 are carried out.

This inspection report results from a visual inspection of the reservoir's condition on the date of the inspection. No liability can be accepted in respect of any defects not visually apparent or that arise subsequent to the date of the visit. It is important that the Undertaker or their agents, reports as soon as possible any change in the condition of the reservoir to the Supervising Engineer.

Appointment to All Reservoirs Panel until 31 May 2021.

APPENDIX A

Recommendations from Previous Report and Status

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS REPORT AND STATUS

(i)	Re-grade the upstream slopes of the embankment around the shores specified maximum slope of 1 Vertical in 4 Horizontal	Mostly done
(ii)	Complete restoration soils over the upstream slopes of the embankment around the shores of the reservoir area to a minimum 300 mm depth and include a growth medium to establish suitable grass cover	Partly done
(iii)	Re-profile the erosion channels on the left shore of the reservoir pool and extend the restoration soil layer specified to the areas draining from the site to the channels arid the reservoir shores, in conjunction with re-profiling of the steep parts of the upstream face	Done
(iv)	Complete the restoration soils over the unrestored areas of the site to a minimum 300 mm depth and include a growth medium to establish suitable grass cover,	Within 12 months
(v)		Done
(vi)	Provide a data logger in piezometer L4A to record water/leachate levels as advised in the stability assessment report and directed below, and provide survey monitoring points on completion of the restoration soils	Done
(vii)		Done
(viii)		Within 12 months
(ix)	Repair the polymer lining of the drainage channels where disrupted, or replace it with a suitable alternative,	Done
(x)	Modify the flood studies to take account of the altered impounding height and related surface area and volume.	Being done by others

APPENDIX B

Preliminary Failure Mode Assessment

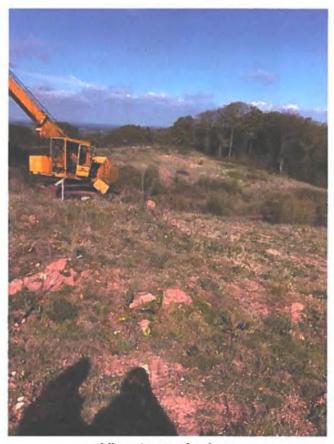


APPENDIX C

Photographs



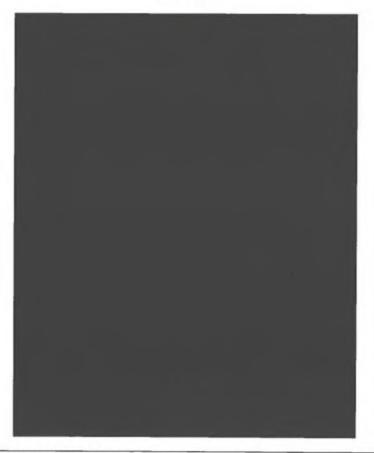
Basin

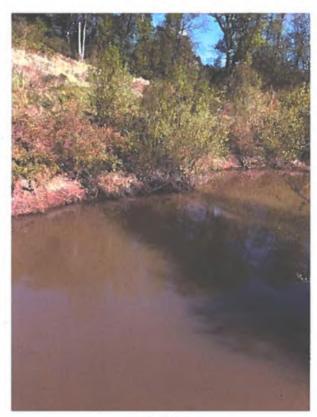


View towards dam

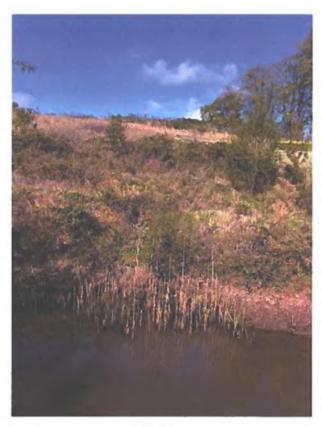


Basin





Basin



Basin



View back to road



Main road



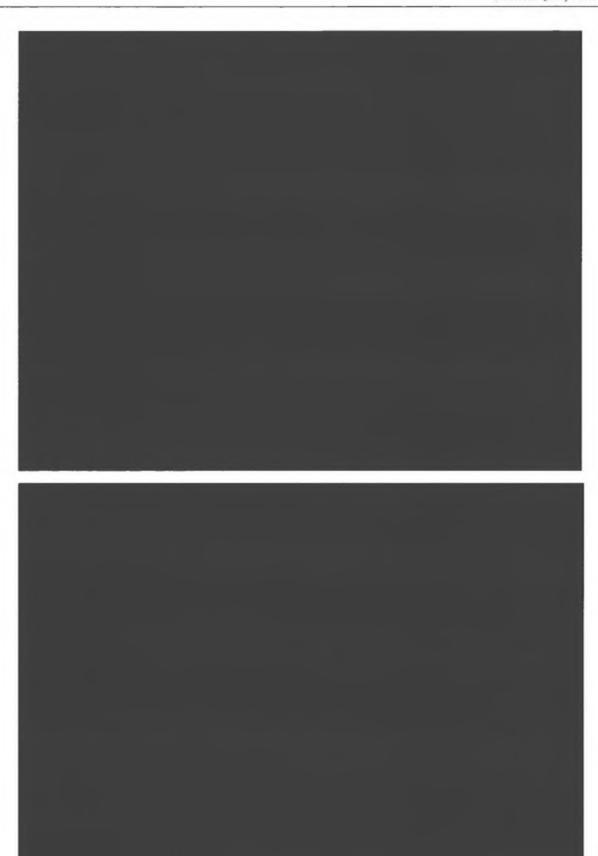
Main road





General view









Downstream face

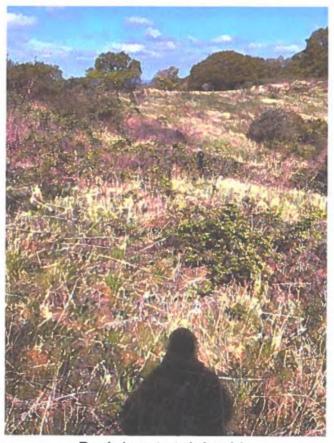




Downstream face



Property downstream



Basin/crest at right side



Basin



Basin

