

## Basic Details

**Publish Date**

18 February 2026

**Case ID#**

3361

**Title**

Spillway defect / rutting identified following heavy rainfall

**Nation**

Wales

**Regulator Reference No.**

81

**Legal Status**

Statutory

**Reservoir Type**

Impounding

**Reservoir Capacity**

100,000 - 499,999m<sup>3</sup>

**Year of Construction**

< 1800

**Main Construction Type**

Earth fill embankment

**Dam Height**

5 - 9.99 metres

**Dam Flood Category**

A

**Hazard Class**

High-risk reservoir

**Reservoir Use**

- Recreation or general amenity

**Owner Type**

Public body

## Incident Details

### Date & Time of Incident

12 March 2026 - 12:00

### Date Incident Closed

12 May 2026

### Observations that Caused the Incident to be Declared

- Slope or face deformation (slippage, cracking, slumps, mounds, depressions)

### Describe the Incident

Rutting of the grassed area along the spillway footpath. Voids formed behind the spillway bank walls. Missing blockwork identified on the spillway walls during the S12 inspection.

### Supporting Photos

No images provided.

## Causes and Impacts

### Natural Processes which Initiated or Contributed to the Incident

- Heavy/persistent rain (no flood)

### Main Contributing Factors to the Incident Occurring

#### Dam Factors

- Deterioration of materials
- Instability
- Spillway or overflow - blockage

#### External Factors

- None

### Shortcomings

- Maintenance shortcoming
- Surveillance shortcoming

### Root Cause of the Incident

Very intense rainfall combined with missing/deteriorated blockwork, which allowed water to leave the spillway and erode soil behind the walls. Earlier identification limited escalation, but post-storm inspections could further mitigate future incidents.

### Impacts on the Reservoir

- None - near miss
- Other (describe below)

### Supporting Photos

No images provided.

## Supporting Contributions and Studies

### Human Factors which Influenced the Incident

Contributing: None identified.

Mitigating: Early detection during the S12 inspection. Immediate infilling of voids with stone material.

### Instrumentation at the Reservoir

No relevant instrumentation was present or used during the incident. (N/A recorded for instrumentation usage)

### Was Instrumentation Effective?

Not Applicable

### Assistance by External Parties and Impacts on Downstream Population

No emergency services were alerted. No downstream population impacts or communications were required.

### Summary of Studies or Investigations Undertaken

Defects identified during the S12 inspection. Review of recent intense rainfall events that likely contributed to rutting. Analysis concluded missing blockwork may have allowed water to escape the spillway channel and cause soil washout.

### Supporting Photos

No images provided.

## Lessons Learnt

### Lesson 1

Greater emphasis required on scheduling inspections after periods of intense rainfall. Maintenance shortcomings identified (missing blockwork). Surveillance shortcomings identified (issue found during routine inspection rather than targeted post-storm checks).

### Lesson 2

### Lesson 3

### Lesson 4

### Closing Comments

### Supporting Photos

No images provided.

Information provided has been sent from reservoir owners and engineers, and cleansed of personal information by the enforcement authority. We cannot guarantee the accuracy of the data, but if you find an error please contact the relevant enforcement authority.