

Friends of Milngavie Reservoir (FoMR)

Position Paper – Reservoir masonry (including Mugdock and Craigmaddie reservoirs’ dam banks and aqueduct exits/measuring ponds)

Background:

The reservoir masonry includes the sloping walls of the dam banks of Mugdock and Craigmaddie reservoirs (revetments or pitching), their respective aqueduct exits, ~~/~~measuring ponds, water towers, shafts and structures connected with keeping local water flows separate from the Loch Katrine water.

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) considers the reservoir masonry to be the most architecturally distinguished parts of the reservoir stating: *‘these elements, through their architecture announce the success and accomplishment of the scheme as a whole’* (Email communication to East Dunbartonshire Council dated 29th Oct 2018). HES shares the Council’s concerns that the lack of maintenance of these fine masonry structures may cause potential damage and ultimately affect their ability to function properly. HES was also supportive of the removal of vegetation from the revetments of the dam banks to restore the structures to their original engineered design and craftsmanship as well as safety.

In the past, this armouring was regularly maintained and the masonry joints kept clear of all manner of vegetation growth. However, since construction of the new treatment plant this work was abandoned and no maintenance was carried out to the reservoir masonry structures allowing both herbaceous and woody growth, including trees, to take hold unchecked.

More recently Scottish Water removed vegetation from the aqueduct exits (measuring ponds) and as part of Scottish Water’s Refresh Strategy, cleared a section on the south dam bank of Mugdock Reservoir. While this work was completed by specialist contractors there is no system in place to undertake their removal on a systematic basis and herbaceous vegetation has appeared once again within one growing season.

Conclusions:

FoMR is of the view that SW should continue to progress with a programme of work to remove all plant growth from the stone masonry of the Milngavie Reservoirs and to have a detailed schedule of maintenance in place to address regrowth of vegetation in a timely manner.

FoMR supports actions raised by HES in regard to works to be carried out to reservoir masonry including the following:

1. Aqueduct exits/measuring ponds
 - The removal of plant growth from the ashlar masonry to prevent any distortion and possibly damage its ability to function well.
 - Treatment of vegetation growth to take cognisance of current legislation relating to use of chemicals near water.
 - To undertake re-pointing of the ashlar if required by experienced stone masons.
 - To have a maintenance programme in place to ensure regrowth is addressed at a much earlier stage
 - All works to be carried out by specialists experienced in high quality conservation work.

2. Revetments of the dam walls
 - The removal of vegetation from all dam walls on a systematic basis.
 - Treatment of vegetation growth to take cognisance of current legislation relating to use of chemicals near water.
 - To undertake re-pointing of the stonework if required by experienced stone masons
 - To have a maintenance programme in place to ensure regrowth is addressed at a much earlier stage.
 - All works to be carried out by specialists experienced in high quality conservation work.

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