

## **The Safety of Small British Reservoirs**

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**SYNOPSIS.** This paper discusses the risk posed by small, non-statutory reservoirs in Great Britain and the benefits that arise from carrying out simple risk assessments of such reservoirs. By drawing on two major studies carried out on behalf of the Environment Agency involving visits to, and assessment of, approximately 400 non-statutory reservoirs in England and Wales, the paper aims to describe and discuss:

- Appropriate methods of qualitative risk assessment for large portfolios of reservoirs;
- The risk posed to life and property by non-statutory reservoirs relative to statutory reservoirs;
- The use of reservoir condition assessments to improve flood risk management; and
- The implications for possible amendments to reservoir safety legislation in Great Britain.