

Friends of Poynton Pool (FoPP)

Objections to Cheshire East Council's Spillway Improvements Planning Application

Civic Centre

December 2023

Agenda

- Introductions & background
- Objections and representations
 - Risk, Loss of amenity, Environmental impacts, Safety, Contrary to policy
 - Propose alternative options
- What comes next?
- Q&A

Friends of Poynton Pool Volunteers

A group of locals came together due to a shared appreciation of Poynton Park, its trees and its wildlife. Below are some of its members here to answer questions today:

- Mike Ellison – Chair and Tree Consultant
- Andrew Emerson - Environmental Specialist



Introduction

- **FoPP DOES NOT** object to Spillway Improvements and some tree maintenance at Poynton Pool.
- **FoPP DOES OBJECT** to the solution proposed by CEC.
 - Since publication of the Jacobs Reports, new evidence is available from follow up research by various specialists and subject matter experts.
 - This has enabled the FoPP Team to provide some alternative, more environmentally friendly solutions for CEC to review.



Background

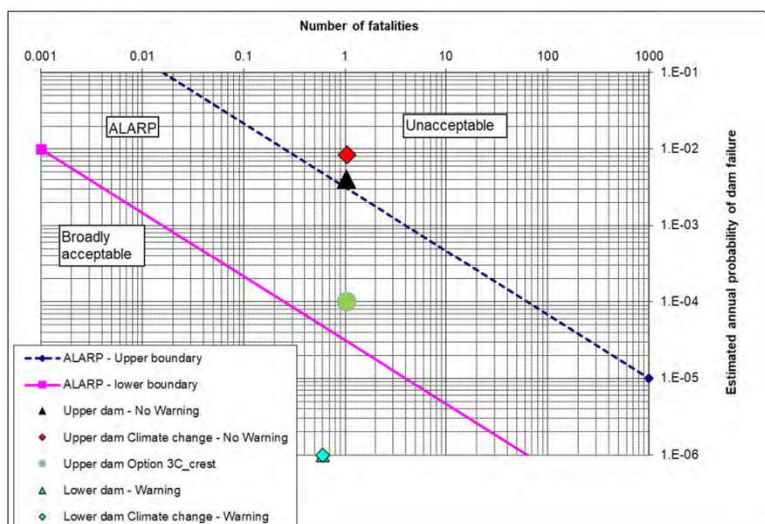
What Does Spillway Improvement Mean?

- The **'spillway'** is like the bath overflow
- The **'freeboard'** is the distance between the overflow and the top of the bath
- If more water flows in than can flow out of the spillway, the level will rise and there is a risk of it overflowing the edge
- The improvement is to level the crest and...



Jacobs Spillway Upgrade (June 2021)

Figure 4-3 FN Chart plot of societal risk



Poynton lake
Spillway Upgrade: Initial options report

BRJ10627 - J470-DOC-001 | 02
11 June 2021

Cheshire East Council

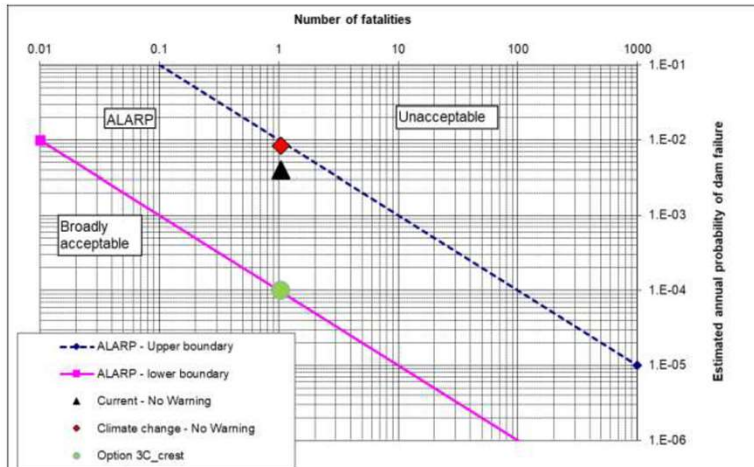
"This indicates the current risk lies within the unacceptable zone".

"Option 3C upper would reduce the risk into the ALARP zone; which is the range where individuals and society are willing to live with the risks..."



Jacobs Spillway Upgrade (Sept. 2023)

Figure 4-3 FN Frequency-Consequence Chart plot of societal risk



Poynton Lake

Spillway Upgrade: Initial options report

BRJ10627 -J470-DOC-001 | 004

25 September 2023

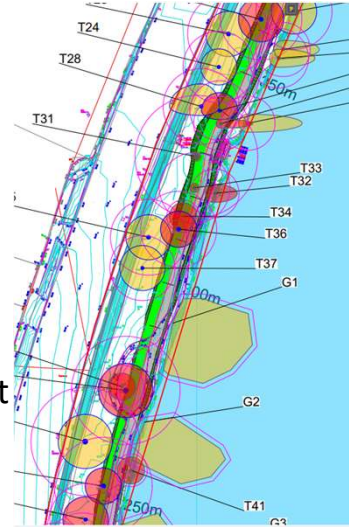
"This indicates that the risk for the upper dam currently lies in the upper part of the ALARP zone where works are justified when the cost is proportionate to the benefits in terms of reduced risk of death and property damage to those living downstream."

Impacts on Amenity

- Loss of high-value recreational space available to all and all its health benefits
- Loss of trees as an amenity asset has not been accounted for in the **Initial Options Report (2023)**. Valued at **£3m**
- The Jacobs AIA undervalues the trees, identifying only two as category A. Report commissioned by PTC identifies **34**
- DEFRA biodiversity net gain offsetting is an additional consideration where biodiversity is lost (**10% improvement**)

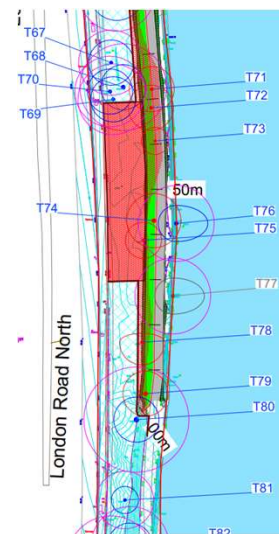
Trees

- The Jacobs Summary Options report states '*Removing 31 trees to enable construction of the work*' but the actual number to be removed as per their own tree report is **40** trees
- In addition, **35** individual trees are identified in their report as '*compromised – likely lost*', but it fails to state that **10** groups of large waterside trees will also be '*compromised – likely lost*'



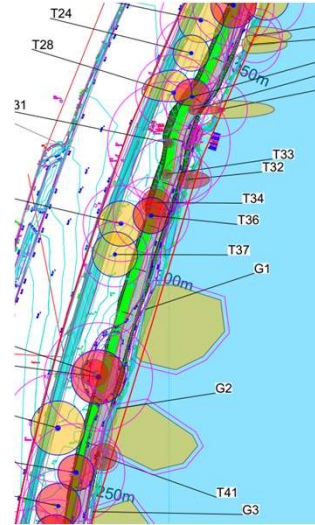
Trees

- Clearance of trees to form the two 40-metre-wide areas clear of trees will require the removal of many further trees that are not in the quoted numbers



Trees

- Other large trees that will be '*compromised – likely lost*' are not even identified in the submission
- Most of the retained trees cannot be protected from ground disturbance and root damage, and many will be damaged by topping and other severe pruning



Trees

- The planting of trees and shrubs in Woodford with no public access cannot mitigate the catastrophic damage to this highly valued community asset



Environmental

- In England many of our rarest and most threatened species are listed under Section 41 (S41) of the 2006 Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act
- The Poynton Pool woodland is a key wildlife corridor linking areas of woodland that are protected as Section 41 'habitats of principle importance'
- CEC has a legal duty to conserve biodiversity in the exercise of normal functions for section 41 species



Environmental

Environmental points to object on are:

- The desk study utilises a search **dated May 2022** and has not been updated despite further records being available
- The desk study is deficient in detailing the ecological impacts and mitigation measures
- Over 60 protected species are impacted by the works



Environmental – wider impacts

- Environmental impact on surrounding area is not accounted for
- The importance of the impacted woodland as a wildlife corridor linking habitats from Lyme Park to Happy Valley, Bramhall Park and beyond
- Originally excluded from the environmental screening in spring 2023, the car park is now shown as being in scope for the works, with no provision to protect the Section 41 woodland directly to the east



Environmental – wider impacts

- No reference to the impact on the northern reedbed; an important habitat for breeding birds
- Poynton Pool supports high numbers of bats. Reported survey does not state the numbers found, or impact on their insect food sources with the increased exposure of the foraging areas



Alternative options

Produced by a Civil and Structural Designer

- Meandering crest on screw piles
- Gabions and trench
- Sheet piles and stone or brick faced wall



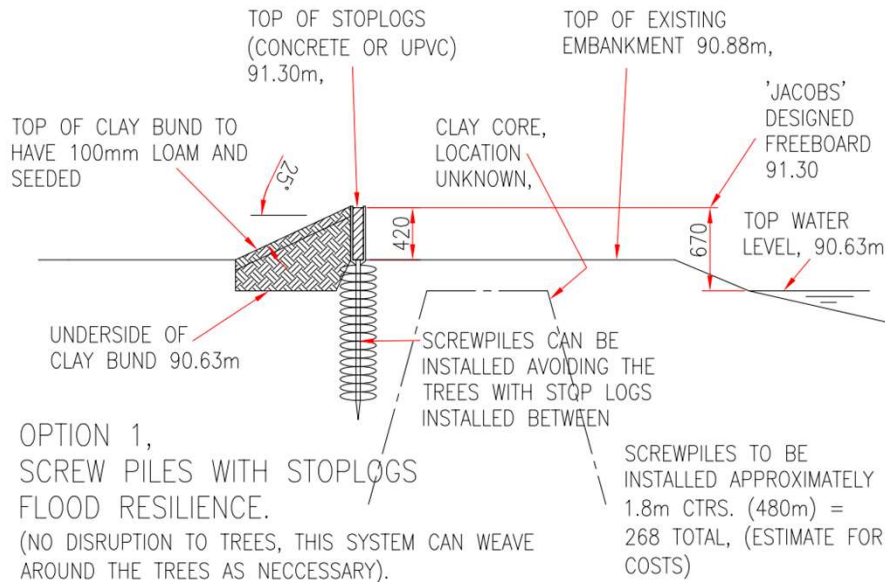
Alternative options

- Jacobs **Initial** Options Report **Options 2** and **3b**
 - **Option 2** – Increased pipe capacity (*'the usual engineering approach'*)
 - **Option 3b** – additional pipe to allow for climate change

These options could be implemented with minimal impact on trees

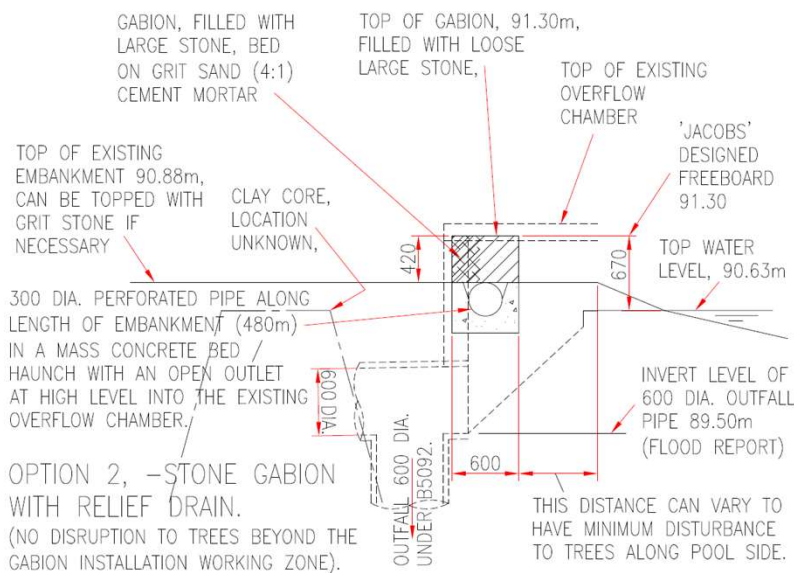


Alternative options



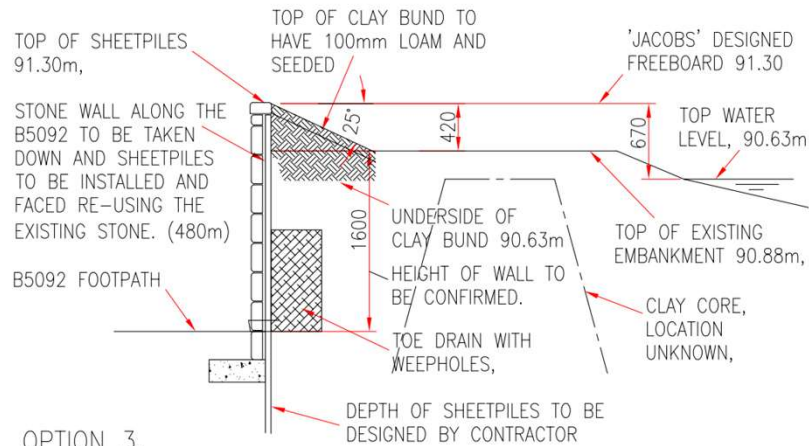
OPTION 1,
SCREW PILES WITH STOPLOGS
FLOOD RESILIENCE.
 (NO DISRUPTION TO TREES, THIS SYSTEM CAN WEAVE AROUND THE TREES AS NECESSARY).

Alternative options



OPTION 2, -STONE GABION
WITH RELIEF DRAIN.
 (NO DISRUPTION TO TREES BEYOND THE GABION INSTALLATION WORKING ZONE).

Alternative options



OPTION 3,
SHEET PILES WITH STONEWALL FACING
FLOOD RESILIENCE.
(NO DISRUPTION TO TREES BEYOND THE INSTALLATION
WORKING ZONE).

Consultation

- The public consultation in October 2022 was nothing more than Cheshire East/Jacobs presenting the scheme they plan to implement
- FoPP has spoken at an Economy and Growth Committee meeting and all concerns, questions and proposed alternatives were dismissed

Consultation

- Three of our members spoke at a full Council meeting and our concerns were dismissed
- We had a meeting with Cheshire Highways and Jacobs, where our concerns were brushed aside and there was no meaningful discussion, but the errors we identified in the Jacobs reports resulted in revised reports being issued in September 2023
- A meeting with Jacobs, CEC, EA, PTC, and FoPP to review the report of Professor David Ball resulted in an ‘*embarrassing*’ exchange

Where to Object

- Cheshire East Council Planning **online** – Ref. 23/4152M
- By **email** – quoting the Planning ref. 23/4152M
- By **post** – quoting the Planning ref. 23/4152M
- By **post** but dropping off at Civic Hall

NB: Information can be found on leaflets posted through doors this week, Facebook and Preserve Poynton Pool Website: poyntonpool.org

Possible next steps the Council may take

- Approve the application and implement the works
- Defer the application and consider other options
- Refuse the application
- Bring forward the next Section 10 inspection

Next steps for the community

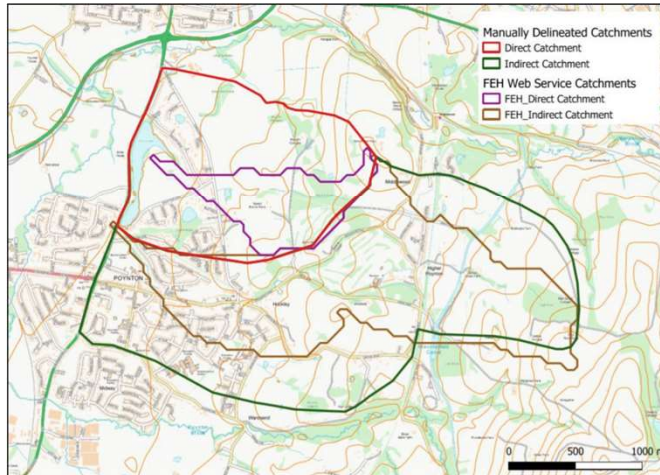
- Submit objections and representations
- Request that the application be deferred so that other options can be openly discussed
- Request that HM Treasury guidance on risk management be applied to a rigorous cost benefit analysis
- Continue to request that the solution be proportionate to the actual (low) risk

Questions

Poynton Flood Study Report



Figure 4-3: Poynton Lake Reservoir Manually Delineated and FEH Catchment Boundaries



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16

Risk (Jacobs Spillway Report 2022)

Table 4-4 Screening estimate of risk to life (wet day)

Source	Scenario	Time averaged population at risk	Likely loss of life		Source comment
			No warning	with warning	
Flood maps on internet (2009 spec)	River flooding				Table 4.1
Environment Agency 2016 dambreak	Dry day	184	0.12		
	Wet day	2246	1.97		
	Incremental wet day	1306	1.04		
Jacobs rapid dambreak (Note 2)	Incremental damage in wet day failure (T1000 flooding downstream) (see Note 4)				
B1	Breach down to A road	75	0.13	0.09	
B2	Breach from A road to lowest downstream ground level	207	0.54	0.31	As above but add

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY 2016

The potential consequences of a **complete** (upper and lower) dam failure is stated as 1-2 deaths

JACOBS RAPID DAMBREAK 2019

- Jacobs own more detailed modelling of risk indicates the figure is more like 0.70 lives at risk (upper and lower dam failure)
- Jacobs' conclusion is that this risk is **acceptable because they estimated that this risk has a less than a 1 in a million chance of occurring**

Risk (Spillway Option Report Nov. 2023 version)

Table 4.4 Screening estimate of risk to life (wet day)

Source	Scenario	Number of houses at risk (Note 1)	Maximum/ Time averaged population at risk	Likely loss of life		Property damage EM	Source comment
				No warning	with warning		
Environment Agency 2016 dambreak	Dry day		274/ 184	0.12		6	
	Wet day		3538/ 2246	1.97		79	
	Incremental wet day		2031/ 1306	1.04		45	

- **Jacobs has removed its own more detailed modelling of risk from the latest Flood Study and planning application**

REASONS FOR THE DIFFERENCES IN MODELLING

- Jacobs' modelling used a far more appropriate 1 in a thousand years rainfall event (T1000)
- The EA NFM screening fails to allow for the physical reduction of flood surge's heights and their longer durations downstream.
- **Jacobs has almost doubled the catchment area from that recorded on the official National Database for Poynton Pool**

