

Willowstick

DR ANDY HUGHES

Toddbrook Incident















Kenya, May 2018









Where ca we user Willowstick?

- Groundwater location
- Groundwater separation
- Environmental pollution
- Deep excavations
- Tunnel inflows
- Dam leakages /seepages
- Leaks from conduits



Leakage - Willowstick

Yes or No

Plan & Elevation

Leakage or Groundwater?

Intrusive of not?





Other options

Temperature probes

Other resistivity methods

GPR

Etc

I've not found them to be as effective

No holes

Immediate results

Down to 300m

Targetted remedial works



Uses of Willowstick

Reactive

 Sudden leaks etc Proactive

Have we any leaks?

Asset
Management

Part of PRA



Survey layout





Steps to get data results and two dimensional maps





A primary and secondary seepage path identified under the dam plan



Seepage path elevations







Plan view of Phase 1 flow paths



Model slice with seepage flow path





• the modern buzz phrase

• the bane of our lives?

• but has it a use in ensuring the safety of dams?



- Individual dam
- Everyone wants a number

- Portfolio Risk Assessment (PRA)
- Much more relevant



Portfolio Risk Assessment

Name of Dam	Internal Erosion	Slope Stability	Foundation Failure	Total Probability	Ranking
Dam 1	7.58E-04	2.80E-06	3.40E-06	7.64E-04	1
Dam 2	2.93E-05	4.25E-05	8.00E-07	8.36E-05	2
Dam 3	2.93E-05	4.25E-05	8.00E-07	8.36E-05	3
Dam 4	6.50E-05	5.90E-06	3.40E-06	7.82E-05	4
Dam 5	5.39E-05	2.80E-06	3.40E-06	6.40E-05	5





Two Choices

• Move by reducing probability?

• Move by moving people?









Island Barn





Known leak





Cross Section

Based on the above a diaphragm wall of around 100 m in length, 18 m deep and 0.6 m wide is likely to be sufficient to cut off the seepage identified in this area, as shown in Figure 6 and Figure 7.



Figure 7 No. 16 Cross Section, including proposed diaphragm wall



Survey





This showed 3 leaks





<u>Owner</u>

• Decided to do repairs

• Reduce level of probability



BEFORE WILLOWSTICK

Name of Dam	Internal Erosion	Slope Stability	Foundation Failure	Total Probability
Dam 1	7.58E-04	2.80E-06	3.40E-06	7.64E-04

AFTER WILLOWSTICK

Name of Dam	Internal Erosion	Slope Stability	Foundation Failure	Total Probability
Dam 1	2.12E-06	2.80E-06	3.40E-06	8.32E-06



Probability Reduction





Case Studies



Durlaßboden Dam - Austria





Project Location Map

Durlassboden - Austria



The 2015 Investigation (Survey 3) detected a seepage flow path in the north abutment, as shown in this longitudinal section beneath the crest





Location of the 2015 recommended target area and the 2017 grout curtain





Willowstick UK instrument at the toe of the dam





A path of increased electric current occurs just south of the new grout curtain




Ratio response maps of Surveys 2a and 2b, showing no signs of seepage



Investigation of Linlithgow Canal Cleakage Surveys Ltd - Willowstick UK Embankments, Scotland

Site Map (Courtesy of Scottish Canals)





West Canal Study Area Seepage Locations





East Canal Study Area Seepage Locations







Manifestation of leakage correlating to Seepage area Q



Cross sectional analysis of seepage paths Q, R and S with depth through the canal embankment





Gateshead Town Centre Proposal

Horizontal Dipole Cross-Section for Survey 1 (Example A) and Survey 2 (Example B)







Plan view of Surveys 1 and 2





Plan View of Survey 1





Plan View of Survey 2



Cowbridge







Summary of Investigation (plan view)





Seepage Areas A and B in comparison to Original Watercourses based on Pre-construction Contours





Seepage Areas A and B in comparison to Original Watercourses based on Preconstruction Contours





Summary of Results (longitudinal profile view looking upstream)





Risk Management & Mitigation

What keeps an Asset Manager up at night?

- Not knowing what I don't know! (The stuff I do know, I know how to handle).
- The fear of being in the news! Public relations nightmare.
- The fear of lawsuits and significant fines and penalties





Willowstick Solution to Risk Management

We help with sleeping better at night!

- Knowledge the good, bad, and ugly
- Vision 1000 feet/300 metres under
- the ground surface
- Decision-Making Ability targeted remediation efforts













Leakage Surveys Ltd - Willowstick UK

Cross section of survey layout











- It's a tool
- Part of the toolbox
- Only as good as the information from which it is derived
- Uncertainty

• Do the numbers mean anything?

• Rubbish in rubbish out?

• Are they comparable?

• One of the tools

• Value – understand levels of uncertainty

• Levels of understanding

- Be careful
- Understand levels of uncertainty
- Willowstick can reduce level of uncertainty with regard to leakage
- Allocation of limited resources to other more needy dams
- Targeted remedial works

Feistritzbach Dam Austria

Brithdir Mawr Wales

Pak Kong Treatment Works

Study Objective:

Identify, map and model seepage flow paths infiltrating Pak Kong Treatment

Works

Gamma Lines (yellow)

- Total Line Length = 1,160 m
- Field Days = $\frac{1}{2}$

RAP Measurements (green dots)

- Total Measurements = 67
- Field Days = 1

Data Interpretation

- Data Reduction
- 3D Model
- Written Report

Willowstick Technologies, LLC - Introduction

Since 2004, Willowstick has specialized in identifying, mapping and modeling preferential groundwater flow paths and patterns and has completed nearly 400 major groundwater mapping projects worldwide. These projects range from applications in source development, mining, dams, environmental, geothermal and many other groundwater related applications. Willowstick utilizes three different and unique geophysical exploratory methods to provide unrivaled insight regarding groundwater flow paths and patterns. The three methods include:

- 1. Willowstick Method (an active electrical based technique),
- 2. Resonance Acoustic Profiling Method RAP (a passive seismic method),
- 3. Radiometric Scintillation Counter or Gamma Method (a passive method tuned for water sensitivity).

The Willowstick

Brazil – Groundwater Infiltration into Open Pit Mine

Two primary preferential flow B. **Anomalous Area** paths were identified as a due to Conductive result of Survey #1 Culture (buildings) Electrode lectric Curre Distribution Influence Measurement Point - Circuit Wire () Electrode Well used in Surve Rive - Canal Run Off Dam Did Raffinate Dams **Anomalous Area** Evaporation Paddoc due to leaking Canal + Fences Power Line 1 Meter Contour Lin

Africa – Contaminant Flow away from Surface Mine

Willowstick Method Overview

The application of the Willowstick method is fundamentally based on the principle that groundwater increases the conductivity of earthen materials through which it flows. As the "injected" signature electric current flows between strategically placed electrodes (located upgradient and downgradient of the study area), it concentrates in the more conductive zones (i.e., in areas of highest transport porosity) where groundwater preferentially flows through the subsurface. We then measure and model the magnetic fields generated from the subsurface electric current to identify preferential electric current flow paths and patterns. We compare the measured magnetic field data to the predicted magnetic field—based on a model of the subsurface conductivity environment and the given electrodes—for the survey setup to identify any variations from the background model and to resolve areas of anomalous electric current density. This information is used to interpret where preferential groundwater flows are located through the subsurface study area.
Resonance Acoustic Profiling (RAP) Method Overview

This system detects structural weakness in rocks and is apt at locating weak or fractured zones of high permeability with fair accuracy to depths as deep as 4,000 feet. The flexing of earth's crust due to interplanetary tidal forces creates continuous microseismic activity which is the source energy for this passive seismic method. Resonance from low-velocity zones, as indicated by the RAP signal at this site, are predominantly interpreted as weak, fractured rock or secondary porosity that can facilitate hydraulic conductivity.



Radiometric Gamma Scintillation Counter (Gamma) Method Overview

This system measures the aggregate gamma emissions from the subsurface rocks below the sensor. Most importantly, the signal dips in places where water accumulates enough to diminish the signal—especially vertically, such as in fracture/faulted zones—making it an excellent tool to use in conjunction with RAP to discriminate wet versus dry fracture zones. Because this system takes measurements in free space, much larger areas can be covered in shorter time, making it the "scouting" tool to generate prospect areas that can be further studied, qualified or ruled-out as the case may be.



Example #1 Proof of Concept Study

Prior to initiating a city-wide groundwater characterization study, the City desired to prove the Gamma and RAP techniques before moving forward with the overall investigation. As a result, a Gamma and RAP Proof-of-Concept survey was performed over the small piece of property with known subsurface characteristics before initiating a city-wide investigation.

The Figure to the right presents the Gamma results as part of the Proof-of-Concept study.

The gamma system measures the aggregate gamma emissions from subsurface rocks and soil. Most importantly, the signal drops where water occurs in permeable (fracture) zones in earth's crust (i.e., blue shaded areas), making it an excellent tool to use in conjunction with the RAP system (as will be shown) to locate highly permeable (fracture) zones *with* high water content.





Example Proof of Concept Study Continued...

After identifying an area that indicates the presence of groundwater, the RAP method was used to refine and pinpoint groundwater production zones. The RAP system detects structural weakness in rocks and is apt at locating weak or fractured zones of high permeability with fair accuracy to depths as deep as 1,200 m. The flexing of earth's crust due to interplanetary gravitational forces creates continuous micro-seismic activity which is the source energy for this passive seismic method. Resonance from lowvelocity zones, as indicated by the RAP signal are predominantly interpreted as weak, fractured rock or secondary porosity that can facilitate hydraulic conductivity.



Gamma Signal Filgh





willowstick



Gamma and RAP Results

3D Site Model

To show pertinent site features in relation to subsurface features and anomalous zones, 3D site models of the subsurface are created to serve as helpful tools in the interpretation and presentation of the results.

3D Site Model

This figure shows the results of a 450 foot deep production well that was drilled to intercept groundwater flow at depth as a result of a Willowstick investigation using the Willowstick, RAP and Gamma methods. The well produces 2800 gpm of artesian water.

Surface Influenced Spring Source

Gamma Map

RAP Iso-surface

Flow Path coming up from depth





Example #3 Seepage Flow Path Survevention = 32



Pak Kong Treatment Works



Pak Kong Treatment Works

Study Objective:

Identify, map and model seepage flow paths infiltrating Pak Kong Treatment

Works

Gamma Lines (yellow)

- Total Line Length = 1,160 m
- Field Days = $\frac{1}{2}$

RAP Measurements (green dots)

- Total Measurements = 67
- Field Days = 1

Data Interpretation

- Data Reduction
- 3D Model
- Written Report



