

KINGS POND

INFORMATION FROM ARCHIVES & *Comments*

Outlet Weir/Sluice.

Built in 1991 by the National Rivers Authority (NRA), one of the forerunners of the Environment Agency (EA). There are some hand-drawn sketches of the arrangement – a sluice gate which could be used to drain the level of the pond, but which is kept permanently shut; alongside a weir for measuring flow.

The outflow, which is monitored by the EA, is over the weir which is set at 99.35m. From the weir chamber the water runs in two large pipes to the channels around Waterside Court. The invert level (bottom of pipe) is 98.35 where these pipes leave the chamber.

Comment : This implies that the fall in level from the bed of the river where it flows in to the pond to the outflow invert at Waterside Court is quite modest – much less than 1m.

Previous Survey

The NRA surveyed the pond in 1994. The depths were up to 2m at the N end reducing to around 0.5m or 0.7 m around the island at the S end.

Dredging & Revetments

Following the survey, a working party was formed, apparently led by the Town Clerk, with input from local organisations and individuals such as Dr June Chatfield. Dredging Research Limited of Godalming (no longer active) were appointed to advise and to manage the specification, tendering and contract process.

Land & Water Services of Guildford were appointed as the contractor. The contract was for the removal of 9,400m³ of silt to be deposited on islands and on the land below Ashdell Road and for revetments around islands and the banks of the pond. The objective was to dredge to leave depths of 1.75m at the N end, 1.25m in the central section and 1.0m each side of the island at the S end. The contract value was £99,805.

The work was carried out in late 1996. The dredging and revetment work to banks took over 3 months. The dredged material deposited on the islands and the adjacent land took 9 months to dry out and the final topsoiling etc was not completed until late in 1997.

At that time the work needed planning approval, NRA approval, Waste Management Licencing, Compliance with the CDM Regulations (*this is management of Health & Safety*).

Comment: Over 25 years later there are now more approval and compliance issues particularly relating to environmental impact.

Remedial work to collapsed revetments was carried out in 2005.

Silt & Sampling

Prior to the 1996 dredging, 5 samples were taken and sent for analysis. The results were considered to be OK except for relatively high levels of lead and zinc. The level of lead was acceptable for use for recreational areas but not agricultural; the level of zinc required the surface level to be mixed with other soil.

Comment: The high levels of metal may have been the result of historic activity upstream and new samples may show different results. However, there will more hydrocarbons and other pollutants from traffic and population increases. The results support the assumption to date that the silt is not suitable for beneficial use elsewhere and may have to be dealt with as contaminated waste if removed from site.

Comment on Programme

In 1996 the work was timed for September/October/November to avoid the bird-nesting season and when water flow is usually lower. By the same logic, any work that ATC plans and commissions now will have to be done in late 2024.