

David Bubear

The construction of the dam.

The building of the dam must have been a major feat, and I understand a lot of the material was local?

Yes, Meldon Quarry supplied the stone, the access was through the railway viaduct [which was] strengthened so the lorries could bring the stones over from there; the sand originally came up from Lee Mill, and the concrete and cement came from South Wales. and we were getting about three to five mil drift on the dam, the whole dam would move three mil in one direction, shall we say north easterly, and then it would slowly come back and drift three mil in the opposite direction and then come back, and this is just the hills moving either side of it.

So the dam moves, how does that work?

Each monolith is a section and as a section or a part of a section would go in, bitumen is put on the sides of all the concrete and then rubber gaskets put down, and each section is called a monolith and they will allow a certain amount of movement, not a great movement, but in other words we've put the cracks already in the dam.