

Havant Thicket Winter Storage Reservoir



Newsletter Issue 6 September 2011

FINAL WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN PUBLISHED

The Secretary of State has given permission to Portsmouth Water to publish its Final Water Resources Management Plan subject to;

- Incorporating all previous changes made to the draft plan.
- The Company including a commitment to work with the Environment Agency and other stakeholders in conducting a further review of the key assumptions which will be needed in time for the next Water Resources Management Plan (draft scheduled for 2014).

The final plan was published on 2 September 2011 and sets out the key elements which will ensure that the Company is able to continue to maintain supplies to customers for the next 25 years.

- A compulsory metering programme utilising automatic meter reading (AMR) technology over a 15 year period from 2015-2030.
- A programme of leakage savings delivering a 3Ml/d leakage reduction between 2015 and 2020.
- The construction of a Washwater Recovery Plant at Farlington Water Treatment Works in 2017/18.
- The development of Havant Thicket Winter Storage Reservoir (HTWSR) filled by surplus yield from the Company's Havant and Bedhampton Springs between 2025 and 2035

The Company has invited a number of stakeholders to join a group to promote better understanding and communication during the preparation of the next plan. It is the intention to publish minutes of the group meetings and a newsletter giving an update on the progress of the plan on the Company website.

More information, including a copy of the final plan, or a copy of a summary document, can be found by visiting www.portsmouthwater.co.uk to find the link on our home page.

WELL MEADOW BOUNDARY

For many years there has been a problem with fly tipping along the south west boundary of the Company land holding at Havant Thicket.

In 2010/11 the Company worked in partnership with Staunton Rangers, the Probation Service, Havant Borough Council, Leigh Park Community Board, the local Housing Association and residents to address a number of issues.

- More than 25 tonnes of fly tipped rubbish was removed.
- The boundary fence was replaced by the Housing Association.
- New kissing gates were provided to improve the permissive access on to the Company land, while making it harder to fly tip rubbish.

The support and help of all of the organisations and individuals involved was very much appreciated by the Company.



New kissing gate & boundary fence

UPDATE FROM HTWSR PROJECT MANAGER

The final published version of the Company Water Resources Management Plan indicated that delivery of the reservoir is currently proposed between 2025 and 2035. As a result the Company will not be submitting a planning application for the reservoir in the short term. Instead the existing preparatory work which had commenced is being brought to a sensible holding position. Work in the past 12 months is summarised below.

Water Quality: The water quality model was updated to utilise all of the stream water quality monitoring data collected by the Company between 2008 and 2010. The modelling was completed by an independent specialist consultant and considered the effects on water quality of mixing flows from the three small Havant Thicket water courses, with chalk groundwater from the Havant and Bedhampton Springs, using a blending model to assess the impact. The final outputs from the modelling indicate that;

- The reservoir is not likely to have any significant adverse impact on water quality in the Hermitage Stream catchment, and that it is more likely to provide benefits to water quality. It will not result in any deterioration or changes that will reduce the quality of the water as classified by the Water Framework Directive. In fact, a modest increase in the biodiversity in the downstream channels is anticipated following construction of the reservoir.
- There will be a low risk of algal blooms occurring as the reservoir water is predicted to have a low nutrient content.
- The large body of water will provide a buffering effect, helping to smooth out peaks in iron and manganese concentrations which currently arise from the three small streams at Havant Thicket.
- Biological Oxygen Demand, phosphate, ammonium, suspended solids and most metal concentrations, including magnesium, will be reduced downstream once the reservoir is in place.
- The nitrogen load entering the harbour from the Hermitage Stream will be reduced.



Riders Lane Stream, Leigh Park

Green Infrastructure: The development of Havant Thicket Winter Storage Reservoir will maximise the use of the Company's Havant and Bedhampton Springs source, whilst providing significant environmental and Green Infrastructure benefits for the Community. The Company has worked with the Forestry Commission, Staunton Country Park and local authorities to submit a joint proposal to the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) to bring forward some of the access and biodiversity aspects of the reservoir proposal. The scheme was submitted in April 2011 and we understand that the HTWSR Project is one of the 15 strategic projects in the PUSH Green Infrastructure Implementation Plan, supported by the PUSH Sustainability and Community Infrastructure Panel. However, the scheme can only proceed if external funding can be provided from the planned new Community Infrastructure Levy, or through existing Section 106 funding arrangements, and if issues related to planning can be resolved.

Ecological Surveys: Five years of ecological survey work was completed on site between 2005 and 2010. The Company has provided feedback on the draft reports to the ecological consultants (ECOSA) who undertook the survey work. ECOSA are now finalising the reports.



Pipeline: Meetings have taken place with Havant Borough Council (HBC) regarding inclusion of the proposed route for the HTWSR pipeline in the HBC Draft Allocation Plan, to ensure that the route is secured for the future.

Discussion has also taken place with all of the main landowners along the route, including Hampshire County Council and Portsmouth City Council, to ensure any potential issues with the route are identified at an early stage.

Following feedback from the 2008 public consultation, a route has been selected to avoid major roads, while also minimising the impact on the environment. The route being discussed is that presented to the HTWSR Stakeholder Group at a meeting in February 2010.

It is envisaged that before the HBC Draft Allocation Plan is published in 2012 that the Company would;

- Invite local councilors to a site meeting to walk the route and discuss any issues arising.
- Publish a plan showing the location of the proposed pipeline route on the HTWSR website, along with supporting information and a response to frequently asked questions.

If you have any questions regarding the HTWSR Project, or the information provided, please email: havantthicket@portsmouthwater.co.uk

If you do not have access to the internet you can telephone: 023 9249 9888.

KEEPING THE PUBLIC INFORMED

In March 2011 the revamped Havant Thicket Winter Storage Reservoir website went live, providing a more user friendly environment in which to view information about the reservoir.

You can now access the current Outline Plan of the reservoir and a helicopter fly-through simulation from the new look home page.

www.havantthicketreservoir.co.uk

