

# Havant Thicket Winter Storage Reservoir



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## DELAY TO THE RESERVOIR PLANNING APPLICATION

The planning application for a new winter storage reservoir at Havant Thicket has been delayed by revisions to the Company Water Resources Management Plan. The latest update to our Draft Plan suggests that development of the reservoir is not likely to commence until 2025 with completion expected by 2035. The company remains confident that the provision of a reservoir at Havant Thicket provides a robust, sustainable and cost effective part of the solution to meeting the increasing demands on our water supply in the medium to long-term.

A significant amount of work has already been completed in preparation for the planning application;

- An extensive public consultation process was completed in 2008 and used to inform the Outline Plan for the reservoir. A copy of the plan is available on the website along with a report on the consultation.
- The Environmental Impact Assessment scoping was completed and published on the website. Meetings have taken place with the Local Planning Authorities and the Environment Agency to agree what information will be required to support the planning application.
- Five years of ecological survey work has been completed on site and work is ongoing to finalise the survey reports. A comprehensive vegetation survey has also been undertaken.
- Traffic surveys were completed on all major routes around the site in 2009, including queue length surveys for the peak evening period at the roundabouts in Rowlands Castle and Horndean, east of the A3(M).
- The baseline archaeology report is at an advanced stage.
- Water sampling from local streams has been ongoing for two years and water quality modelling has commenced. The reservoir will store excess winter water from the natural springs at Havant & Bedhampton which currently flows out into the sea. This freshwater is naturally filtered by the chalk and is of very good quality. Initial indications from the modelling are that the reservoir will actually help to improve the quality of the water in the Riders Lane & Hermitage Streams.

Further work to model the potential impact of traffic flows cannot be completed until the timescales for completion of the reservoir are more certain. This also applies to most of the remaining Environmental Impact Assessment work. Given the current uncertainty on timescales it would not be sensible to progress the impact assessment work. As a result the objective is to draw the existing preparatory work to a sensible holding position and not commence any new work for the time being.



We anticipate that our Updated Draft Plan will be published without any major changes within the next 12 months. We are committed to a major review of the key assumptions for our next Draft Plan due in 2014. It is possible that climate change, the need for licence reductions at the River Itchen, and the impact of the Water Framework Directive may well have an influence upon that Plan and possibly the timing of the need for the reservoir but this is unlikely to be confirmed until 2015.

*Picture: One of several overflow weirs at the Havant & Bedhampton Springs. Surplus water flowing from these springs in the winter will be used to fill the proposed reservoir, whilst ensuring sufficient flow is also maintained to Langstone Harbour.*

## INTERPRETATION PANELS AROUND THE RESERVOIR SITE

In 2009 six interpretation panels were erected at key access points around the perimeter of the reservoir site. The signs were updated in 2010. In addition, a more detailed display about the reservoir proposal is available in the Coach House at Staunton Country Park.

The interpretation panels include background information about our plans for the reservoir, along with an aerial photograph to show the outline of where the reservoir will be located. The aerial photo has been orientated so that visitors can see where the reservoir boundary will be in relation to where they are standing, with a helpful "You are here" arrow included.

Look out for the panels on the footpaths as you enter the site from the Staunton Country Park, or from the Forestry Commission car park off Manor Lodge Road in Rowlands Castle.



## EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP EXTENDED

Portsmouth Water has extended its education partnership with Staunton Country Park for a further 3 years. Both organisations are committed to deliver a variety of fun and interesting activities to spread the word that everyone can do something to save water now and save the environment for tomorrow. The partnership aims to promote water efficiency and to deliver a curriculum linked "Water is Life" programme to schools which incorporates the water cycle, water supply and treatment, as well as water conservation.

In addition to supporting an education officer post the new funding from Portsmouth Water of up to £89,000 will help to deliver new projects at the park including;

- A water themed toddler trail around the farm
- Creation of a water zone

Susan Lamb a teacher at Front Lawn Junior School said; "The water assemblies as part of the Water is Life programme were fantastic as they enabled us to work in new and more varied ways with the staff of Staunton. It was great to see the water experiment stations as some of these involved equipment that schools may not have and working in the real life context of Staunton made the experience more meaningful for the children. I think it was essential learning because knowing all this information can help us all save water."

The Education Team at Staunton and the Company have also been working together with local teachers to encourage and help them to utilise the plans for a new reservoir as an education case study.

It is hoped that everyone will play their part in reducing water use in the home and at work, to help protect the environment. Water saving tips are available on the Company website.

## DRAFT WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN (WRMP) 2009

Portsmouth Water is required by law to publish a WRMP every five years to demonstrate how the Company will meet customers supply needs over the following 25 years. In 2004 the Company plan identified a future deficit in supplies and proposed a twin track approach to meet supply needs through demand management measures together with resource developments which included a proposal to store excess winter water from the Havant & Bedhampton Springs in a new reservoir at Havant Thicket.

New legislation required that the draft WRMP 2009 was subject to public consultation and approval by the Secretary of State (SoS) for the Environment Food & Rural Affairs. In 2009 The SoS initially announced that there would need to be a Public Hearing, then later a Public Inquiry to consider the Company's Draft Plan. Following work with the Environment Agency and other consultees the Company published an updated draft WRMP on 30 July 2010. The updated plan incorporates a compulsory metering programme from 2015 to 2030, and proposes development of the reservoir between 2025 and 2035. In August 2010 The Department of Environment Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) advised that the planned Public Inquiry had been cancelled in favour of a further round of public consultation to consider the updated Draft Plan. This took place between 3 September and 26 November 2010.

Defra received a total of 16 representations to the public consultation and the Company is currently considering those responses, before making any final modifications considered necessary to the draft plan. While some respondents propose the adoption of higher risk assumptions, others believe that the uncertainties in long-term planning mean that a twin track approach should be favoured which includes the reservoir, as this would guarantee a secure supply of water for the long-term. The Company must submit any revisions to the draft WRMP by April 2011. The Secretary of State will then decide whether to approve or amend the plan.

For more information on the draft WRMP visit [www.portsmouthwater.co.uk](http://www.portsmouthwater.co.uk) to find the link on our home page.



## UPDATED RESERVOIR WEBSITE

The Havant Thicket Winter Storage Reservoir website has been revamped to provide a more user friendly environment in which to view information about the reservoir. You can access the current Outline Plan and a helicopter fly-through simulation of the reservoir from the new look home page, visit the picture gallery, or open and print an aerial photograph of the site. There are also links to pages giving you water saving tips. You can check out the news page at [www.havantthicketreservoir.co.uk](http://www.havantthicketreservoir.co.uk) for updates on the reservoir proposal.

Email: [havantthicket@portsmouthwater.co.uk](mailto:havantthicket@portsmouthwater.co.uk)

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