

# Havant Thicket Winter Storage Reservoir



## Interim Report on Community and Stakeholder Involvement

October 2008



Portsmouth Water

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**Havant Thicket Winter  
Storage Reservoir**

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Community and  
Stakeholder Involvement

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**NOTE:**

This report is a draft and the content will be updated to reflect any additional public consultation prior to submitting the planning application.

This report takes into account the particular instructions and requirements of our client.

It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party

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## **Foreword by Technical Director Portsmouth Water**

Portsmouth Water has reached an important stage in planning for a winter storage reservoir at Havant Thicket. Our draft Water Resource Management Plan published in May 2008 confirms that a reservoir is likely to be required by 2020 to help meet the needs of our customers. The long process of developing a major new reservoir which began in 2004, means that we need to be designing and planning the detailed scheme now. This work is well underway and we are pleased with the progress that has been made so far.

Our vision for the reservoir proposal is to provide an integrated solution so that the facility will not only meet water supply needs but also provide benefits to the local area. The solution is expected to provide value for money to our customers, demonstrate best practice in design, deliver environmental and social benefits and, importantly, provide opportunities for partnerships with key stakeholders and the local community.

In Spring 2008, after several years of assessment, options appraisal, outline design and consultation with our key stakeholders, we undertook a pre-planning application public consultation. We adopted a public consultation strategy that sought to provide the local community, local organisations and other stakeholders with the opportunity to clarify their understanding of the need for the reservoir and to comment on our proposals.

Throughout March 2008 we held public exhibitions and a community workshop and undertook radio and television interviews, to ensure maximum publicity for our proposals and the consultation process. Presentations were made to local organisations and we carried out a programme of engagement with local schools to ensure that young people were involved in the consultation process.

The consultation encouraged the local community and stakeholders to raise issues and consider the options proposed in relation to the design, engineering and construction of the reservoir. It also put forward ideas and suggestions for access, the landscape, conservation, recreation, and educational aspects of the design. Our response to your suggestions and concerns, and how they are to be incorporated into our proposals are set out in the summary and conclusion section of this report.

We hope that by acting upon your suggestions and recommendations we can deliver a scheme which not only provides a long term water resource, but also delivers a lasting benefit to the communities we serve. The revised Outline Plan (Appendix F) illustrates the range of facilities that are proposed to be taken forward as a result of consideration of all the feedback. The main principle behind the solution being developed is the importance of retaining the natural rural environment of the site whilst providing a range of facilities for the local community.

I trust that you will find the report's findings and our response to your suggestions and concerns useful. I very much look forward to meeting many of you again during later stages of the project.

**Andy Neve**  
**Technical Director**



# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of this Report

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Portsmouth Water has reached an important stage in planning for the Havant Thicket Winter Storage Reservoir (HTWSR). Current studies suggest that a reservoir is likely to be needed by 2020 to help meet the water requirements of the local area. The long process of developing a major reservoir means that the detailed design and planning application work needs to start as soon as possible.

Portsmouth Water therefore considered that it was essential that early community engagement was achieved to ensure design aspects take account of community needs and enable maximum benefit for the local community.

The engagement of local people, organisations and other stakeholders in the decision making process has provided the opportunity to influence the proposals put forward by Portsmouth Water.

This report has been prepared to outline the consultation which has taken place, summarise the findings from the main stage of public consultation, analyse feedback and identify the most important emerging themes in relation to reservoir design, construction, landscape and recreational uses.

Findings presented in this report relating to the above issues will be taken into consideration as reservoir design proposals are advanced and the planning application developed. The report will be updated to reflect any additional feedback prior to submitting the planning application.

## 1.2 Structure of the Report

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The following section of this report describes the approach taken to the pre-application public consultation. It sets out the methods of engagement, such as public exhibitions, community workshops and the School Engagement Programme. It describes the extensive publicity that has been undertaken to ensure maximum public awareness of the consultation process and the information made available to the general public for their consideration in assessing our proposals.

Section 3 provides an analysis of the general public's response to the Spring 2008 public exhibition. Findings in this section are based on responses from the general public and exclude findings from the School Engagement Programme. The section provides an overview of feedback from respondents; an analysis of the various reservoir design concepts including important design issues relating to access, embankment location, pipeline routes and other technical requirements; an analysis of concerns relating to the impact of construction on topics such as wildlife, construction related traffic, rights of way, archaeology and employment. It also addresses issues and preferences relating to landscape, recreation and conservation proposals.

Section 4 analyses the findings from the School Engagement Programme, and draws on similar issues as the previous section. This section also seeks to compare and contrast general public findings with those of young people.

Section 5 draws together the findings from our community workshop event on 29 March 2008 and the design issues which were considered by attendees.

Section 6 presents feedback received from key stakeholders and statutory consultees.

To conclude, Section 7 summarises the report's findings, develops conclusions and sets out Portsmouth Water's response to suggestions and concerns raised during the consultation period. The 'Outline Plan', which will form the basis of the planning application and informs the Environmental Statement, is included in Appendix F.

Section 8 identifies the next steps to be taken in taking forward the proposals for Havant Thicket Winter Storage Reservoir.

## 2 Approach to the Havant Thicket Winter Storage Reservoir (HTWSR) Consultation

### 2.1 Introduction

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It was Portsmouth Water's aim to undertake a public consultation framework which would provide information to enable the local community, local organisations and other stakeholders to:

- Clarify their understanding of the need for additional water supply in the water company's area.
- Raise issues and consider options in relation to the design, engineering and construction of the reservoir based on current proposals.
- Put forward ideas and suggestions, and participate in developing proposals for landscape, conservation, recreation, education and access.

The approach to public consultation was in line with policy and best practice guidance, as set out in Portsmouth Water's Strategy for Community and Stakeholder Involvement, which is available for download on the website set up to keep the community informed about the proposals (<http://www.havantthicketreservoir.co.uk>).

That strategy was developed to inform the local authority and interested parties about our consultation strategy and opportunities for community involvement.

The preparation of the strategy has been influenced by government guidance, by the Statements of Community Involvement prepared by the two relevant local authorities, and by meetings with the local authorities.

### 2.2 Ongoing Consultation

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In addition to the means of consultation presented in the main body of this report, an extensive amount of consultation has been undertaken since 2004 to enable Portsmouth Water to present to the general public and key stakeholders its plans for a proposed reservoir at Havant Thicket.

In 2004 a Key Stakeholder Group comprising local community representatives including councillors, local authorities, wildlife organisations, the Environment Agency, the Consumer Council for Water, Staunton Country Park and the Forestry Commission was set up. This group of stakeholders has acted as a sounding board for proposals and has influenced the direction in which our proposals have moved.

Since the Group's establishment in 2004, it has formally convened on 9 occasions, to address a variety of issues integral to the reservoir scheme. The earlier meetings considered different reservoir layouts and resulted in a preferred reservoir layout being selected for public consultation. The Company recognise that the local communities value this rural area and its wildlife, with many residents using the open land as an important space for leisure.

Since 2005, the company has produced a series of newsletters to keep the public, interested parties and stakeholders informed about the reservoir proposals. Copies of the newsletters are available on the website.

Appendix A provides a summary of the ongoing public consultation since 2004, including the dates and key matters covered by the Key Stakeholder Group meetings and newsletters.



## 2.3 Consultation Materials

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The main phase of public consultation, which took place in March 2008 was based on a report entitled '**Water Resource Planning, Reservoir Design and Consultation Options: Consultation Report**', of which there were two volumes.

- **Volume 1** set out the background to the proposals, and described the need for a reservoir, alternative sites and water management options that have been considered, reservoir design concepts, the construction process, timescales and potential impacts, and the potential options for reservoir based activities.
- **Volume 2** provided detailed plans and drawings showing potential site layouts, access options, existing designations and the low, medium and high activity scenarios.

In addition to this report, numerous supporting documents were also available to the public, including:

- Strategy for Community and Stakeholder Involvement (SCSI) – see 2.1 above;
- leaflets containing exhibition details;
- feedback forms.

In addition to the material available in hard copy for visitors to the exhibitions, a detailed website was designed (<http://www.havanthicketreservoir.co.uk>) to provide an interactive resource where consultation material, including the feedback form, could be downloaded. During the month of April, a total of over 8,000 hits were recorded for this dedicated website, representing 229 unique visitors to the site during this period alone.

## 2.4 Means of Consultation

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### 2.4.1 Publicity (inc other websites)

In order to ensure maximum publicity and attract visitors to the public exhibition in Spring 2008, posters advertising the venues and dates were put up in shops and public buildings in the villages and towns of Horndean, Rowlands Castle, Leigh Park, Waterlooville and Havant. This included both Asda and Morrison superstores in Leigh Park and Horndean respectively.

In addition, approximately 17,000 letters were sent to residents of the surrounding area, informing them of the exhibition timetable (see Appendix B). The exhibition was publicised on the Portsmouth Water and HTWSR websites and by other local community and environmental groups to raise awareness of the consultation. On 21<sup>st</sup> April notices were also put up around the proposed site to advise that the deadline for responding to the consultation was to be extended to 2<sup>nd</sup> May. The poster also provided details of the dedicated HTWSR website to maximise engagement in the consultation process.

Public notices were subsequently placed at the site to notify residents and site users of key matters, including publication of newsletters.



### 2.4.2 Key Stakeholder Group

As noted in Section 2.2 above, there have been a total of nine meetings with the Key Stakeholder Group. The most recent of these meetings addressed the following issues:

**June 2007:** Update on ecological studies, appointment of Arup and proposed work, water demand management and a review of the membership of the Stakeholder Group.

**January 2008:** Update and discussion on proposed public consultation, pipeline options, access routes, embankment alignment, activity scenarios.

**May 2008:** Update on public consultation exercise, feedback received and how this would influence the scheme. Discussion on land and water based activities, car parking and viewpoints. Update on programme going forward.

A summary of the matters addressed at the Key Stakeholder Meetings, since 2004, can be found in Appendix A.

### 2.4.3 Presentations to Local Interest and Community Groups

To publicise the reservoir proposal more widely and allow local interest and community groups to engage in debate and discussion with Portsmouth Water, a number of presentations were given to interested groups throughout the year preceding the consultation period. The table below sets out which groups were involved in presentations or meetings before, during and after the Spring 2008 consultation period.

**Table 2.1 Presentations to Stakeholders**

Organisation	Date
Bosmere 100	10 <sup>th</sup> July 2007
East Hampshire District Council Community Forum (including councillors)	9 <sup>th</sup> January 2007
East Hampshire District Council (officers and members)	21 <sup>st</sup> May 2007 and 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2008*
Environment Agency	5 <sup>th</sup> November 2007 and 11 <sup>th</sup> June 2008
Friends of the Earth	3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2007
Gosport Borough Council (officers)	11 September 2007
Hampshire County Council (officers)	23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2007 and 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2008*
Hampshire Water Partnership Annual Conference	29 <sup>th</sup> March 2007
Havant and Bedhampton Community Board	20 <sup>th</sup> February 2008
Havant Borough Council	21 <sup>st</sup> May 2007 and 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2008*
Havant Conservation Forum	14 <sup>th</sup> October 2008
Horndean University of the Third Age	3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2008
Langstone Residents Association	21 <sup>st</sup> May 2008
Leigh Park Community Board	17 <sup>th</sup> September 2007
Portsmouth City Council (officers)	11 <sup>th</sup> February 2008
Portsmouth & SE Chamber of Commerce	9 <sup>th</sup> April 2008
Partnership for Urban South Hampshire	25 <sup>th</sup> September and 15 <sup>th</sup> October 2007

Organisation	Date
RSPB, South East Region	25 <sup>th</sup> October 2007
Warren Park Residents Panel	29 <sup>th</sup> May 2008

\* Indicates a meeting specifically to brief stakeholders on the Spring 2008 consultation process.

#### 2.4.4 Local and Regional Media Coverage

In addition to the above means of consultation and methods of publicity, opportunities were taken to engage with both local and regional media outlets in order to publicise and discuss the HTWSR proposals. These included radio, television and written press. The table below identifies Portsmouth Water's efforts to engage with local and regional media outlets.

**Figure 2.2 Media Coverage**

Television	Featured
BBC South Today	7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> March
Radio	Featured
BBC Radio Solent	7 <sup>th</sup> March
Express FM (Portsmouth Area)	7 <sup>th</sup> March
Angel Radio (Havant Area)	7 <sup>th</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup> March
Written Press	Featured
Portsmouth Evening News	Various dates
Park Life (Leigh Park)	Spring and Winter 2008 Editions
The Rate Payer (Waterlooville)	Spring and Summer 2008 Editions
Havant Borough Council Newsletter	Spring and Summer 2008 Editions
Partners Magazine (East Hants District Council)	Spring and Summer 2008 Editions
Utility Week article	Spring 2008

#### 2.4.5 Public Exhibitions

A formal public exhibition was held between 8<sup>th</sup> March and 18<sup>th</sup> March 2008 to present the main aspects of the reservoir proposals. Exhibitions were held across 3 venues; Leigh Park Community Centre, Horndean Technical College, and Rowlands Castle Parish Hall. The exhibitions were staffed at each venue by members of the project team, which among others, included engineers, planners, ecologists and environmental specialists and technical specialists from Portsmouth Water. In total, the public exhibition was attended by over 850 visitors, although this figure may include repeat visits by the same individual. The table below sets out the formal public exhibition venue dates and locations:

**Figure 2.3 Exhibition Timetable**

Venue	Date in 2008	Time open to public
Havant Borough Council Civic Offices*	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2008	N/A
Leigh Park Community Centre	Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	10am – 7pm
Leigh Park Community Centre	Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	10am – 7pm
Leigh Park Community Centre	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	10am – 9pm
Horndean Technical College	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	5:30pm – 9pm

Leigh Park Community Centre	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	10am – 9pm
Leigh Park Community Centre	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	10am – 9pm
Rowlands Castle Parish Hall	Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	10 am – 7pm
Rowlands Castle Parish Hall	Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	10 am – 7pm
Rowlands Castle Parish Hall	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	10am – 9pm
Rowlands Castle Parish Hall	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	10am – 9pm

\* Preview of exhibition for HBC and EHDC councillors and officers.

In addition to the presentation displays explaining the varying aspects and steps in the reservoir's inception and design, a short film was also played, showing what the reservoir might look like in the surrounding landscape. An interactive computer generated model was also available where attendees could navigate themselves around the proposed site.

In addition to the formal public exhibition discussed above, exhibition material was also presented for three days, between 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> at the Asda superstore in Leigh Park. Consultation documents and feedback forms were available for those visiting the store. The computer-generated film of the proposed reservoir was also displayed on a continuous loop and members of the Portsmouth Water technical team were on hand to answer questions. Findings from these contacts are reflected in the consideration of the main feedback forms and exhibition. It was interesting to note that the majority of shoppers at Asda, who stopped to ask questions, were already aware of the reservoir proposal, having seen the media coverage or received a letter.

The consultation was further publicised on sandwich boards located outside the Asda and Morrison superstore for five days during the consultation period. The exhibition displays were also located in the foyer of the Portsmouth Water Head Office in Havant throughout April 2008.

#### **2.4.6 Feedback Forms**

A feedback form (see Appendix C) was provided at the Spring 2008 public exhibition and on the HTWSR website. Feedback forms provide an effective method of receiving comments and suggestions from the public in relation to the proposed designs and scenarios. Forms could be returned at the exhibition or via Freepost. The deadline for the return of feedback forms was 18<sup>th</sup> April 2008, which was subsequently extended to 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2008 to provide maximum time for the public and school children to be engaged. In total 254 feedback forms were received in response to the public exhibition, of which 67 were received explicitly from young people.

#### **2.4.7 Community Workshop**

A community workshop consisting of local residents and local community groups was set up to explore in further detail the issues and preferences that had been expressed by members of the local community during the public exhibition. The community workshop was held at Leigh Park Community Centre on Saturday 29 March. Participants were selected from those individuals that showed an interest in taking their comments forward during the public exhibition stages of consultation, and local interest groups identified by Portsmouth Water as having an interest in developing the proposals.

The community workshop consisted of three main components:

- A presentation on the proposals by Portsmouth Water, followed by the opportunity for questions.
- Community workshop session on topics of landscape and ecology.

- Community workshop session on topics of recreation/education and access.

Feedback from the community workshop is presented in Section 5 of this report.

#### **2.4.8 School Engagement Programme**

As part of efforts to engage more young people, a number of schools were approached. Three primary schools, two secondary schools and Havant Youth Council took part in workshops which aimed to explore issues around water supply and demand as well as Portsmouth Water's proposals for Havant Thicket Reservoir. The following schools took part:

- Havant Youth Council – workshop 10 March 2008
- Warren Park Primary School – workshop on 13 March 2008
- Staunton Community Sports College – workshop on 13 March 2008
- Rowlands Castle St Johns CEC Primary School – workshop on 14 March 2008
- Riders Junior School – participated in competition
- Horndean Technology College – workshop on 23 April 2008

The consultation process also generated interest from other schools, and these were subsequently sent information about the reservoir proposals. This included provision of two briefing sheets to be used as an education aid, considering ecological and recreational opportunities associated with the reservoir proposal.

#### **2.4.9 Statutory Consultees and other Stakeholders**

Statutory consultees and other relevant organisations were sent copies of the consultation documents and invited to comment on this pre-application stage of public consultation and the proposals put forward. Statutory consultees and relevant stakeholders included the Consumer Council for Water, the Environment Agency, Ofwat, English Heritage, East Hampshire District Council, Hampshire Ornithological Society, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Havant Borough Council and Portsmouth City Council.

In addition, the consultation documents were sent to local councillors, MPs, community organisations, youth organisations, environmental groups and specialist interest groups who might have an interest in the future use of the site, including for example, schools, fishing, cycling and sailing and horse riding organisations.

A full list of statutory consultees and stakeholders who were invited to comment on the proposals is presented in Appendix D.

#### **2.4.10 Newsletter Publications**

Since 2005 Portsmouth Water have produced a newsletter at key stages in the development of the reservoir proposals, to keep interested parties, stakeholders and the public informed about the scheme. A summary of newsletters produced to date is set out in Appendix A. A copy of all newsletters is provided on the HTWSR website. Since summer 2008 a copy of all newsletters has been sent to residents and organisations that have expressed an interest in the scheme and have provided their contact details to the Company for the mailing list.

The following newsletters were produced in 2007/08:

- Spring 2007 Set out the history of the project, the involvement of the Stakeholder Group, discussed need, alternatives, development of the preferred scheme, timetable and details of how the local community would be involved.
- Summer 2008 Provided details of the Spring 2008 public consultation exercise, the outcome of that consultation, how Portsmouth Water had taken on board the feedback and the proposed way forward (including a new outline plan).

In addition the Portsmouth Water customer newsletter regularly contains updates on the reservoir project; this is distributed annually to all customers.

#### 2.4.11 Dedicated Website Provision



On 7 March 2008, Portsmouth Water launched a dedicated website to act as a point of information for the general public and stakeholders, where they can access background information, published reports and newsletters and news bulletins relating to reservoir proposals and progress to date. Prior to this information was available on the Portsmouth Water website

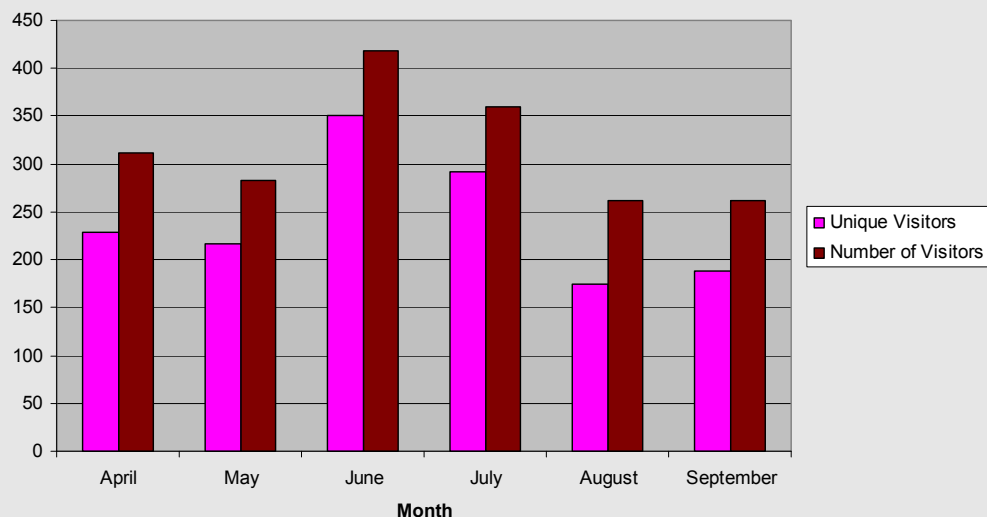
A copy of the consultation documents and feedback form was made available for download in March 2008.

The website also provides contact details so that the public can ask questions or give feedback direct to Portsmouth water.

The website can be accessed at: ([www.havantthicketreservoir.co.uk](http://www.havantthicketreservoir.co.uk)).

The website has generated a large amount of interest from the public, and this is evidenced by the number of visits the website has received since April 2008. Between April 2008 and September 2008 a total of 1895 people visited the dedicated website, with the number of unique visitors reaching a peak in June, totalling 351 visitors.

Figure 2.1 Website Activity: April 2008 to September 2008



Note: Activity on the website was not recorded until 8 April 2008.

### **3 Feedback Form Analysis – General Public**

The analysis of feedback from the public exhibition combines a quantitative analysis of numerical data and qualitative analysis of comments and suggestions received via the public exhibitions, feedback forms, community workshop and feedback from schools, plus correspondence from individuals and organisations. This section provides an analysis of feedback forms received from the general public who attended the public exhibitions and discusses general comments received.

Feedback received from exhibition attendees and those who provided formal responses via the feedback form demonstrated a high level of support for the reservoir proposals, and in the main, where concerns were expressed, people accepted that some impacts were an inevitable consequence of a project of this scale and nature. It was broadly recognised and acknowledged that, provided adequate mitigation measures could be implemented, the positive impacts (in terms of those to the public, the environment and the economy) would outweigh those that may be seen to be negative.

Such support was set within a backdrop of wide spread publicity for the public consultation and the proposals for the reservoir. In excess of 17,000 letters had been sent out to local residents alerting them of the consultation period, feedback forms were available at both exhibition venues and online on the dedicated Havant Thicket Winter Storage Reservoir website, and the deadline for receipt of feedback forms was extended to allow an increased number of responses.

Over the course of the 10 day exhibition period a few members of the public who had significant concerns were encouraged to record their contact details and concerns in our exhibition log book, so that they could be invited to participate in the community workshop. One person recorded an objection in this way. Three feedback forms received from the general public expressed an overriding objection to the provision of a reservoir at Havant Thicket. Of those who responded by letter or email, only one person indicated a strong objection to the reservoir proposal.

#### **3.1 Structure**

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Findings in Section 3 of this report are based on responses from the general public with emphasis on the feedback form responses and mention of exhibition responses only where they differ significantly. This section excludes findings from our school engagement programme, which can be found in Section 4.

Section 3.2 provides an overview of the profile of feedback form respondents and the geographical coverage of respondents.

Section 3.3 provides an analysis of comments on the various reservoir design aspects including important design issues relating to embankment location, access, pipeline routes and other technical requirements relating to reservoir operation and layout.

Section 3.4 provides an analysis of concerns relating to the impact of construction on topics such as wildlife, construction related traffic, rights of way, archaeology and employment.

Sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7 addresses the landscape and conservation proposals, and recreation and education, highlighting the varying levels of preference for elements within each of these proposals. This section also identifies the level of support for each of the three activity scenarios proposed.

To conclude, Section 3.8 provides a short summary of key findings from the analysis of feedback forms and comments received from the general public.

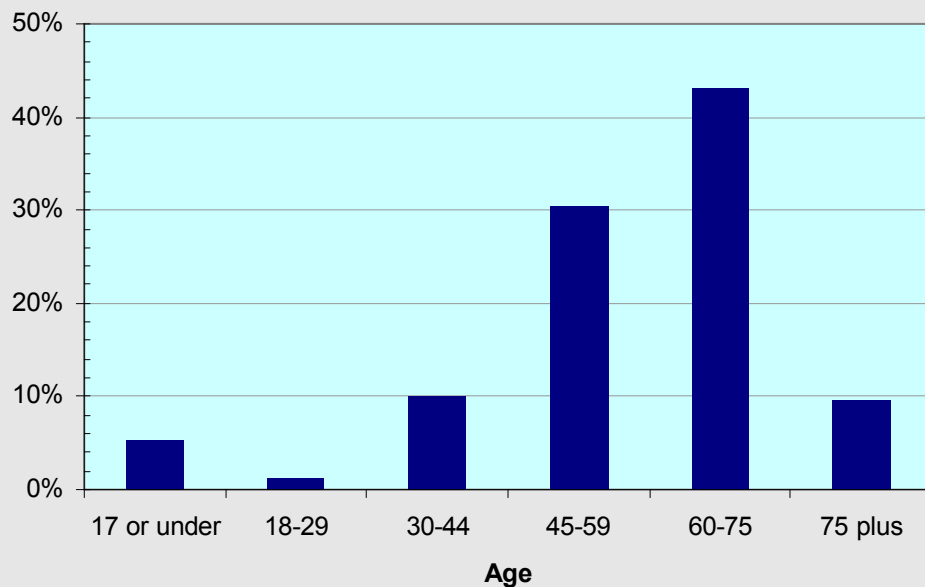
### 3.2 Profile of respondents

The findings from this section are based on feedback received from the general public. A total of 187 feedback forms were received in response to the public exhibition from members of the general public (a total of 254 feedback forms were received, including forms returned as a consequence of our School Engagement Programme).

The largest share of responses was from those aged 60-75. In terms of gender composition, 60% of respondents were male, with 40% female (based on those who chose to identify gender).

Figure 3.1 below sets out the age composition of respondents.

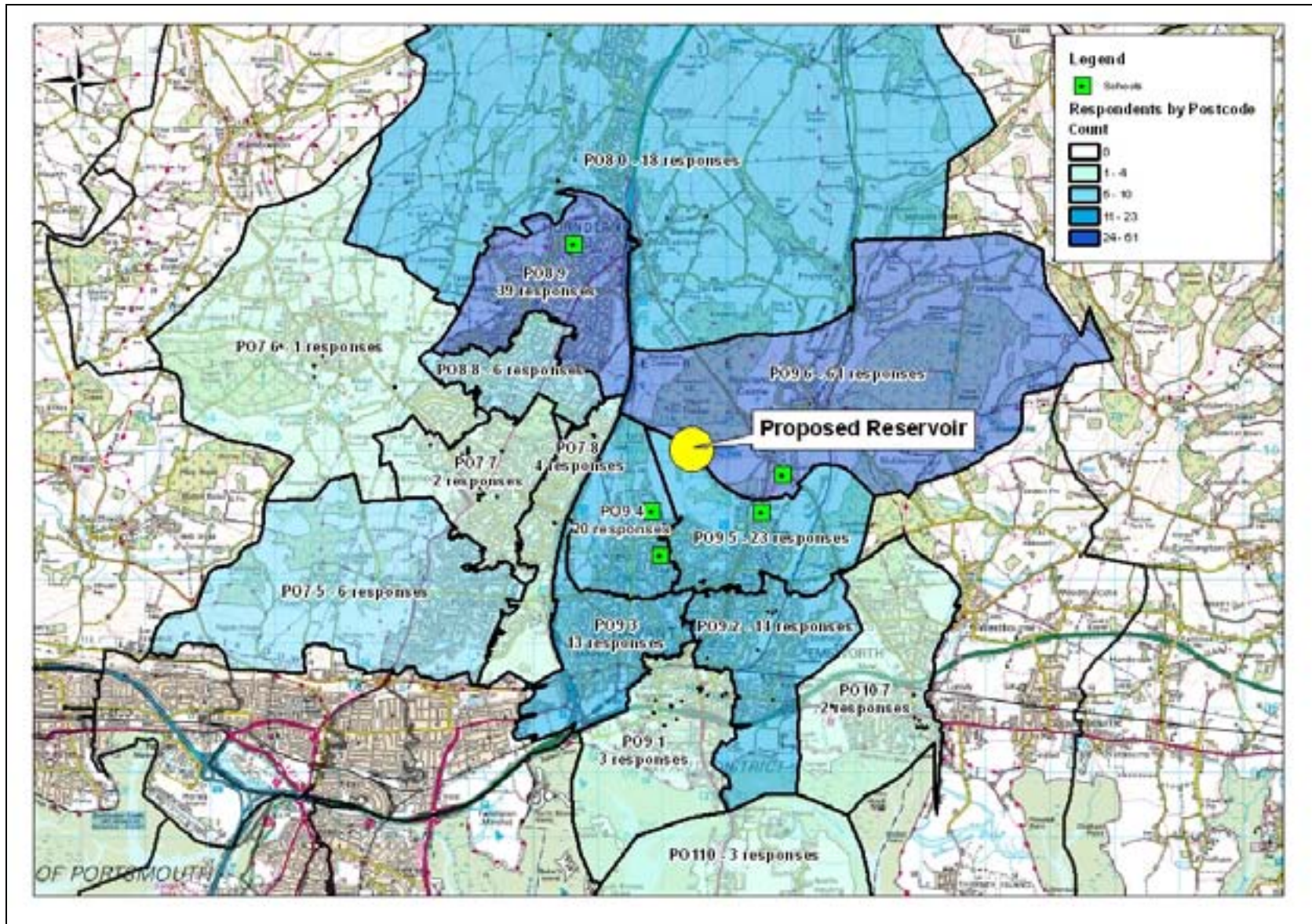
**Figure 3.1** Age composition of respondents (*General Public*)



Based on an analysis of post codes provided by feedback from respondents, it is evident that the exhibition was both attended by, and received feedback from respondents across a broad geography of locations, with a balance of respondents from the different local areas. The map below (Figure 3.2) illustrates the geographical spread of feedback from respondents, based on those respondents who provided post code data.



**Figure 3.2** Geographical Spread of Feedback Form Respondents (*General Public*)



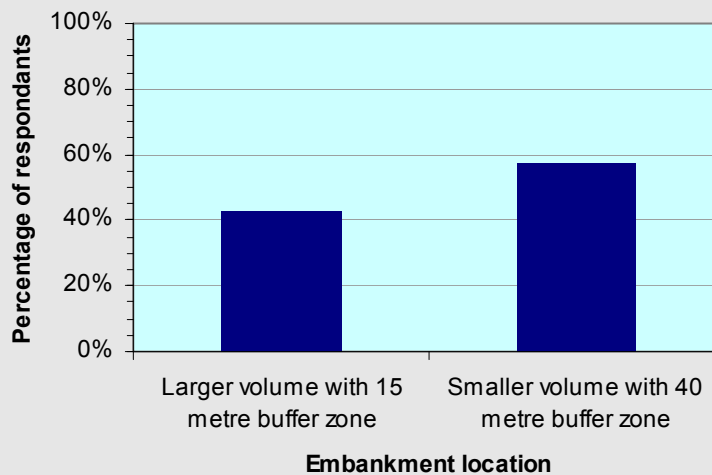
### 3.3 Reservoir Design

Respondents were asked to consider a number of options regarding the location of the southern embankment, access route and pipeline route. Full details of the options proposed are set out in the Spring 2008 consultation documents, which can be viewed or downloaded from the website ([havantthicketreservoir.co.uk](http://havantthicketreservoir.co.uk))

#### 3.3.1 Embankment Location

Respondents were asked to indicate which of the proposed locations for the reservoir embankments they thought most appropriate. Figure 3.3 below indicates that respondents were marginally in favour of embankment Option 2, which provides the reservoir with a smaller volume but with a wider 'buffer zone' of 40m to lessen the disturbance to wildlife on the margins of the Staunton Country Park woodland. If this option were pursued construction costs would increase by approximately £1 million.

Figure 3.3 Preferred location for the reservoir embankments (General Public)



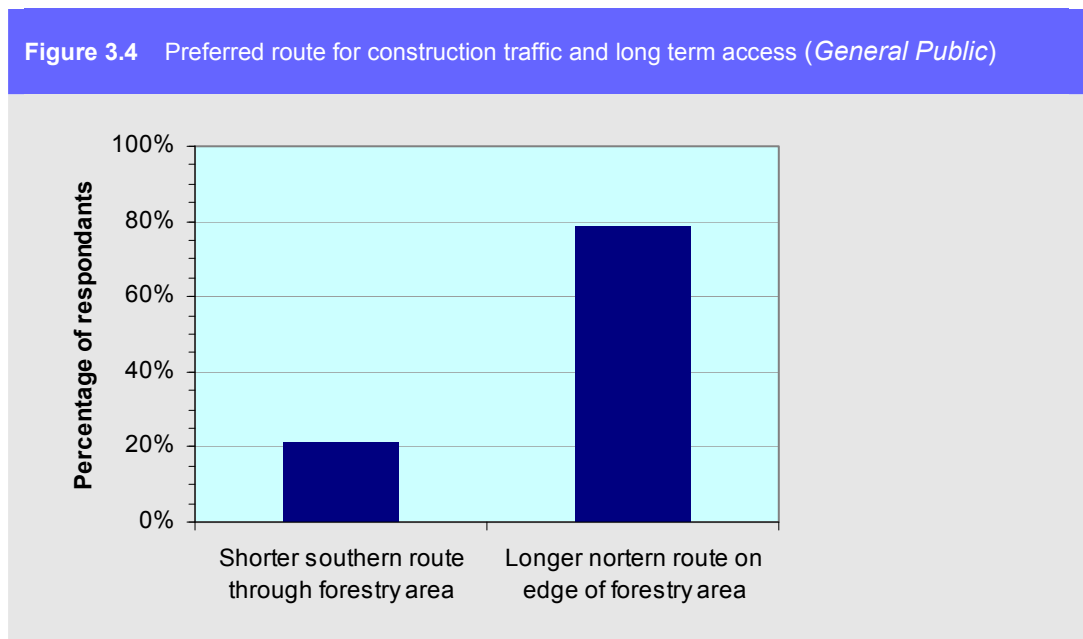
Arguments for and against each of the varying embankment locations were presented by respondents. Those in favour of the smaller volume reservoir identified a need to retain as much green space as possible, in order to lessen the impact of construction and recreation on wildlife and the woodland ecosystems. Those in favour of the larger volume reservoir suggested that in the future there may be a further need for greater storage capacity, and it therefore seemed sensible to accommodate this need now, rather than enlarging the reservoir in the future, thus eliminating future construction impacts.

It should be noted that due to technical and cost limitations, it would not be feasible to enlarge the reservoir once complete, as the extra volume generated, in what would be a 'second phase' of construction would not justify the additional costs. Moreover it would not be feasible to expand the reservoir in any other direction due to other physical, geological and technical site constraints.

#### 3.3.2 Access

In terms of vehicular access to the site (for both construction traffic and long-term access to the facilities of the reservoir), respondents were asked to state which of the two proposed access routes they thought were most appropriate. Figure 3.4 below identifies majority support for a longer route which largely follows an existing Forestry Commission access

track within the edge of the Havant Thicket woodland and provides access to the north-western side of the reservoir site.



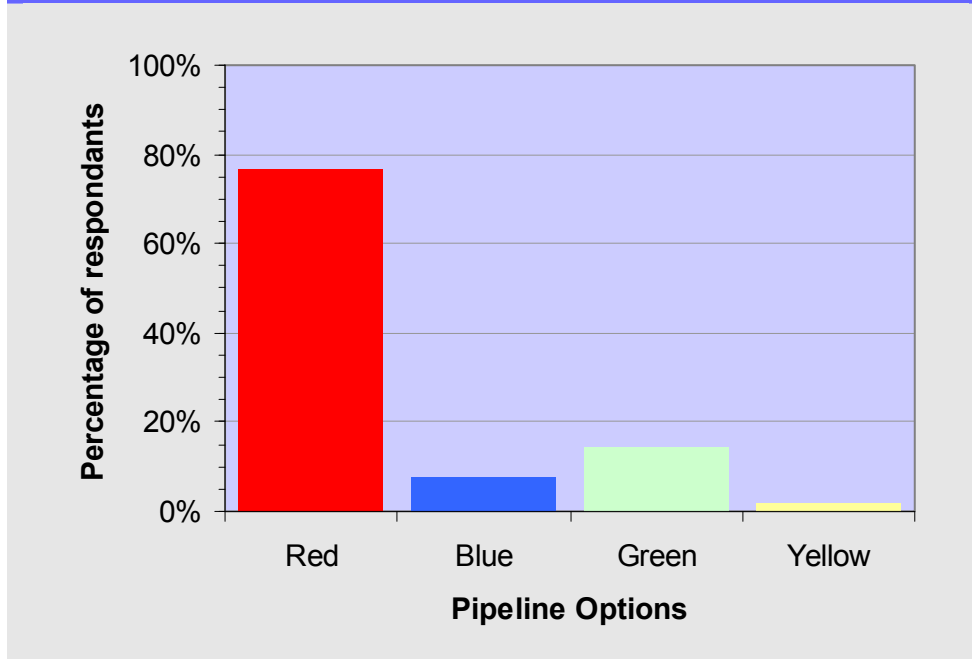
Those in favour of the longer northern route noted the importance of maintaining the existing forest and minimising disturbance to wildlife and recreational routes within the woodland. A significant number of respondents identified the need for the separation of cyclists, pedestrians and motor vehicles along this route to ensure the safety of users. There was also an argument that in minimising damage to the woodland, greater use could be made of that area for recreational activities and landscape conservation.

Those in favour of the shorter route argued that this route would cause the least environmental damage, less pollution and ensure parking was kept discreet. Other comments made by respondents on access / traffic issues are described in Section 3.3.4.

### **3.3.3 Pipeline Route**

In order to fill the reservoir, a pipeline route will be needed between Havant and Bedhampton Springs and the Havant Thicket Reservoir site. Four alternative pipeline routes were presented, each taking a slightly different route. Respondents were asked to identify which of the pipeline routes they most preferred. Majority support was gained for the 'Red Route', with the least amount of support given to the 'Yellow Route'. The proposed 'Red Route' where the pipeline would be laid alongside the Riders Lane / Hermitage Stream from Bedhampton to Corhampton Crescent and then laid alongside the Riders Lane Stream from Corhampton Crescent through Great Copse and crossing Middle Park Way between Bitterne Close and High Lawn Way.

**Figure 3.5** Preferred pipeline route to reservoir (*General Public*)



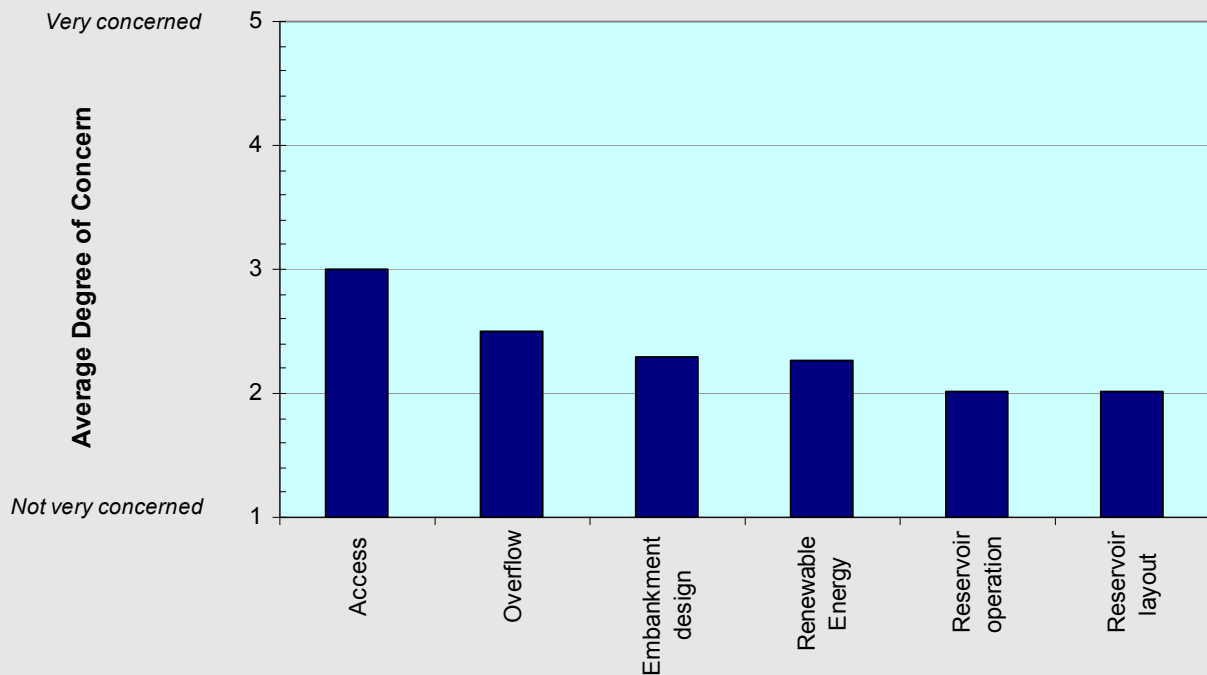
Those in favour of the 'Red Route' argued that this would create the least amount of disruption of the four possible routes, and suggested that it would be the quickest to construct and provide potential opportunities for cycle ways and pedestrian footpaths. It was also suggested that due to its proximity to the Riders Lane / Hermitage Stream that in the event of leakage, water from the pipes would naturally flow into the stream, and therefore lessen the impact on the built environment. Concern was raised, however, that this route would run through the Great Copse area and therefore the greatest effort should be taken to mitigate the impacts of the pipeline on the natural environment in this location. In terms of the 'Blue Route', 'Green Route' and 'Yellow Route' it was considered that these would create more disruption due to their disturbance of highways and pavements.

#### **3.3.4 Other Technical Requirements**

Respondents were asked to identify their degree of concern in relation to the main technical requirements of the reservoir, such as access arrangements, overflow and emergency drawdown proposals, embankment design, energy use, reservoir layout and operation. Based on feedback received, respondents were most concerned about access arrangements both during construction and during the reservoir's operation. Overflow and emergency drawdown was also identified as an area of concern. The least amount of concern was expressed in relation to reservoir layout and reservoir operation.

However, it should be noted that none of the issues generated a high level of general concern, since even the access issue, only registered an average of 3, indicating a moderate level of concern (on a scale of 1 to 5).

Figure 3.6 Average degree of concern on the main technical requirements (General Public)



In relation to access there was a general concern that existing transport networks could not adequately cope with likely visitor numbers. Access and traffic arrangements for the site are therefore a key issue and this is evidenced in the responses received.

The capacity of the Manor Lodge Road (B2149) was repeatedly identified as above carrying capacity with additional traffic seen to exacerbate existing problems. It was suggested that access from the north, rather than the south, should be encouraged to relieve pressure on local highways and settlements such as Bondfields.

In particular many respondents identified a concern that traffic levels along the B2419 were already too high, with some respondents suggesting that consideration should be given to an access / egress point direct from the A3 (M), to relieve pressure on towns and villages to the east and south of the proposed site.

In terms of overflow and emergency drawdown operations concerns were raised regarding potential flooding and the actual possibility of it happening. A need was expressed to ensure that the emergency drawdown facilities could manage future rainfall patterns associated with climate change and variations in rainfall.

Few comments were received in relation to reservoir operation and layout. A key theme from respondents, however, was the overriding need to balance recreation opportunities with reservoir safety and operation taking priority over recreational uses.

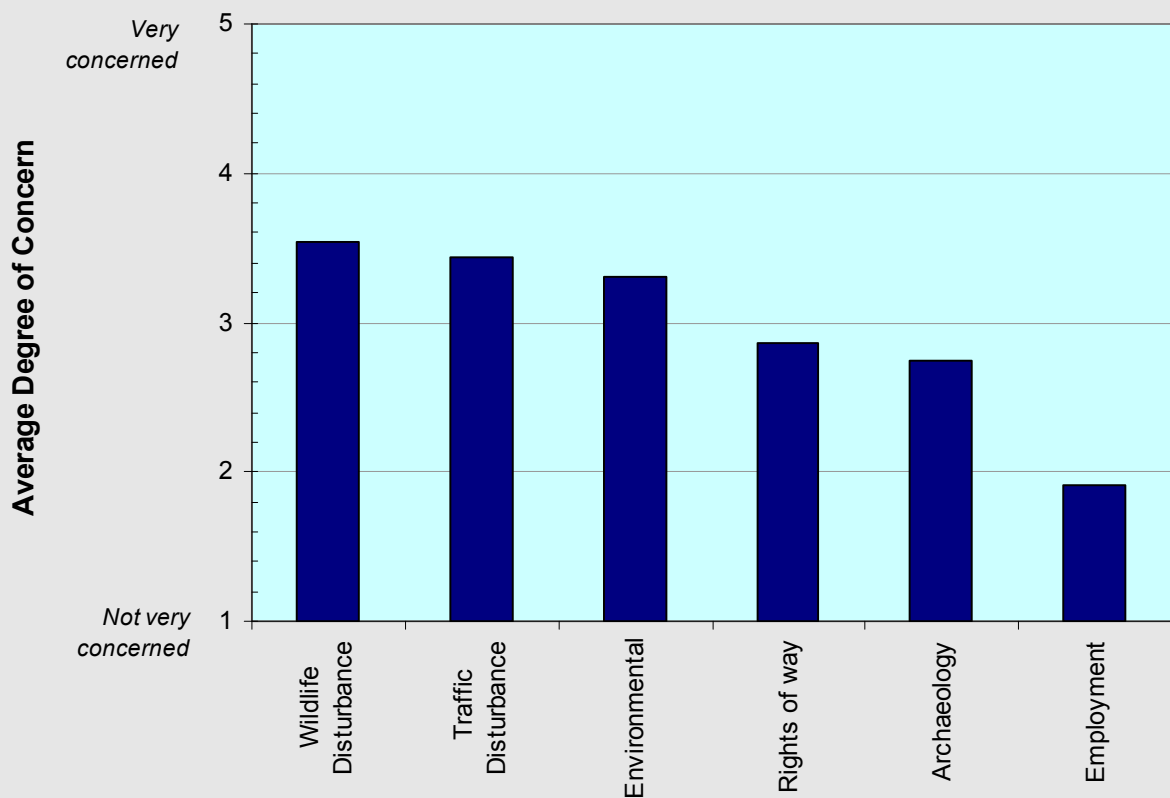
Respondents were supportive of the need for renewable energy. However, they were mixed in their view as to the most suitable form it should take. Beyond arguments for and against both wind and solar power, suggestions were made for the potential role of hydro-electricity. Although accepting that there is need for such a resource, no particular source of renewable energy was put forward with any notable weight or popular support.

### 3.4 Construction

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of concern in relation to a number of specific issues relating to the construction of the reservoir. These included construction traffic, employment, environmental impacts such as noise, dust and visual impact, rights of way issues, wildlife impacts and archaeology.

Respondents were most concerned with the impact of construction on wildlife and the impact of construction traffic both on the natural environment and the local transport (road) network. Least concern was expressed on issues of employment and archaeology. It should be noted however that, even though these issues were seen to be of greatest concern to the general public, none of the issues were seen as very concerning, with disturbance to wildlife still only registering on average as slightly above a moderate concern (level 3).

**Figure 3.7** Average degree of concern regarding the construction of the reservoir (General Public)



In terms of the impact on wildlife, a number of issues were raised. There was an overriding need identified to ensure wildlife and vulnerable species were suitably relocated prior to construction and that an adequate environmental management plan was put in place post construction to ensure the accommodation of wildlife. It was also suggested that further studies should be carried out to assess the true extent of the environmental impact.

Key environmental concerns raised included the impact of construction noise on both local residents and wildlife, and the impact of dust and mud on quality of life.

As previously highlighted access and traffic arrangements for the site were a key issue. The capacity of the Manor Lodge Road (B2149) was repeatedly identified as being above

carrying capacity with additional traffic seen to exacerbate existing problems. It was suggested that access from the north, rather than the south, should be encouraged to relieve pressure on local settlements and highways.

In terms of employment generated as a consequence of the reservoir construction and future recreational uses, there was an emphasis on the need to draw upon the local workforce and also local employers and suppliers. A number of respondents considered that preference should be given to local businesses. Given the scale and duration of the project, however, it was recognised that construction workers may need to be employed from the broader region, or even nationally. Concerns related to where construction workers would be housed, the pressure this may cause on local services and housing, and also the impact such a workforce may have on the social context.

General concerns relating to site safety and the need for a comprehensive site management strategy during the reservoir's construction was also expressed. In addition respondents requested that they be kept informed of construction progress and the future schedule for development.

### **3.5 Landscape and Conservation**

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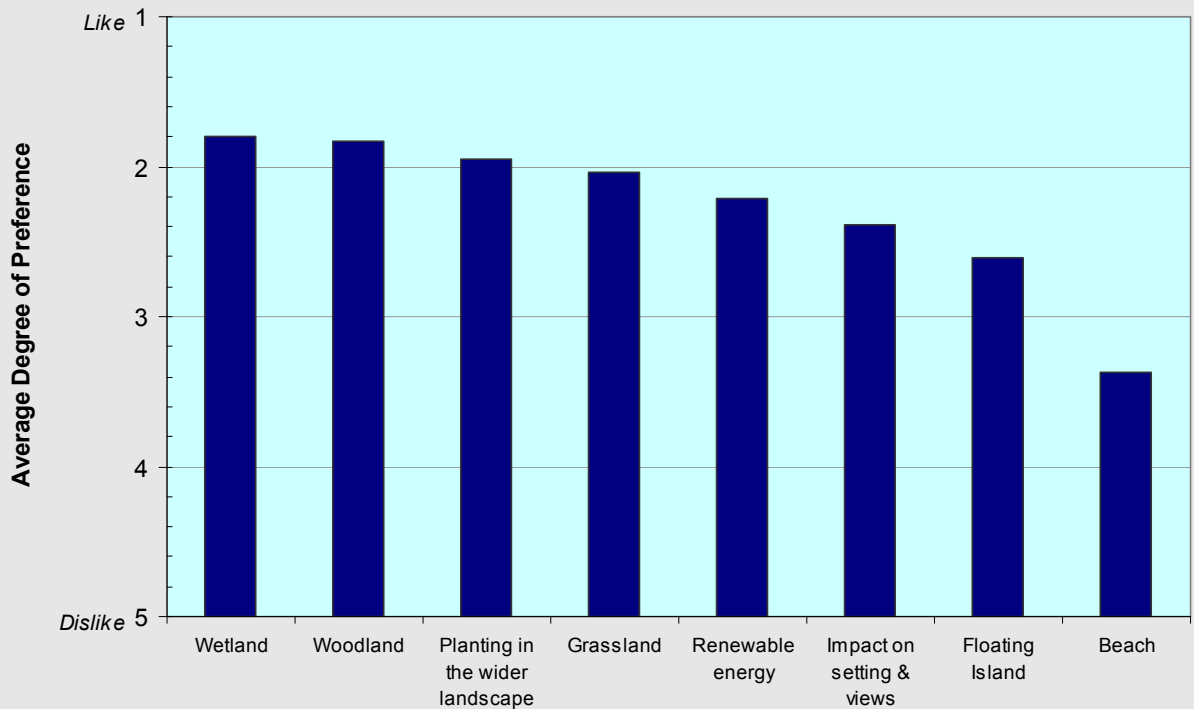
Respondents were asked to indicate which aspects of the initial proposals for landscape and conservation they particularly liked or disliked. Figure 3.8 below indicates the average score attributed to the options put forward for landscape and nature conservation; a score of one indicated that the respondent liked the proposals very much and a score of five indicated that they disliked the proposals very much.

Of the proposals for landscape, nature, and conservation, respondents most liked those in relation to the wetlands, woodlands and planting in the wider landscape. Least preferred of all the proposals was the floating island and especially the beach, suggesting a preference for a more natural environment in keeping with the existing rural nature of the site.

Respondents were enthusiastic about provision of wetland environments, woodland, grasslands and planting within the wider landscape. In particular respondents noted that they were looking forward to seeing more birds, bats and other species on and around the reservoir site. There was a general consensus that nature conservation areas should be kept separate from areas accessible to the public and recreational uses, to ensure minimal disturbance. A varied natural landscape was also seen as important.

In terms of the provision of a floating island or beach, the majority of respondents generally felt that these were inappropriate for a natural setting, and that due to Havant's proximity to the coast, a man-made beach would be both excessive and inappropriate. It was considered that not only did the need not exist for a beach, but its presence would generate unnecessary visitors, noise and litter, and disturbance to wildlife. A number of concerns were also expressed that the inclusion of a man-made beach would generate anti-social behaviour and become a point of contact for young people after dark, therefore requiring increased management.

Figure 3.8 Average degree of preference for aspects of landscape and habitat (General Public)



### 3.6 Recreation

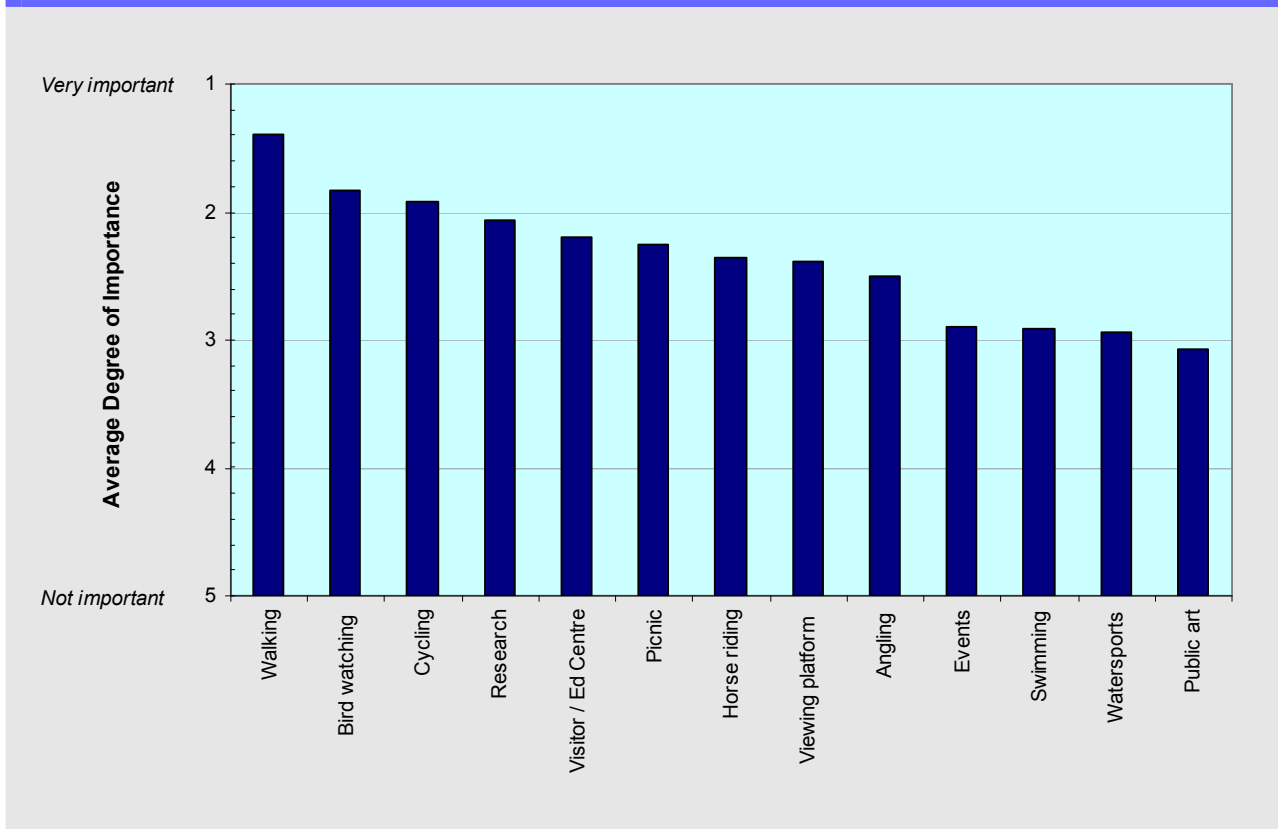
Respondents were also asked to indicate how important they thought proposed recreational activities were and at what scale they would like provision to be made. Figure 3.9 indicates the average level of importance placed on the 13 proposed activities presented at the public exhibition and in the consultation document, where a score of one indicated that the respondent thought an activity was very important and a score of five indicated that they thought an activity was not important.

Respondents identified walking, bird watching and cycling as the three most important recreational activities. The least amount of support was given to events, water sports, swimming and public art.

In terms of walking and cycling, a circular path along the perimeter of the reservoir was suggested, with respondents evenly balanced as to whether there was a need for separate paths for both cyclists and pedestrians to reduce potential conflicts or for a shared route. The need for all year round cycle and footpaths was identified, to ensure weather or seasons did not restrict access or use. The provision of bridleways was met with mixed opinion: those in favour identified a preference for paths to be kept separate from cyclists and dog walkers in particular; whilst those against horse ridings cited its impact on grasslands and the churning of footpaths when wet under foot. Discussions with local bridleway users indicated that, in their view, provided routes are wide enough, it should be possible for each group of users to be accommodated along one shared path.



**Figure 3.9** Average level of support for specific recreation and education activities (*General Public*)



The provision of water sports, angling and swimming facilities was met with mixed support. Those in favour suggested the need to ensure the local community benefited from the facilities and that canoes and paddle boats could be hired for leisure use for example. There was a strong emphasis against the use of motorised vehicles due to their impact on noise levels and water pollution. Concerns were also expressed that the provision of such activities would negatively impact on the tranquillity of the site and generate high visitor numbers which would have an impact on transport and the wider environment. Numerous water-based activities were suggested by the general public for inclusion under the umbrella of ‘watersports’, including sailing, scuba diving, canoeing and wind surfing.

On public art provision there was scepticism as to its role within the development and also to the potential value it would add. Concern was expressed that it would become a target for vandalism and an unnecessary cost.

### **3.7 Recreation Scenarios**

In terms of the scale of recreational activities, respondents were presented with three possible scenarios (low, medium and high), illustrating different potential scales of development and levels of recreation to use as a starting point for developing ideas:

**Low activity scenario:** Provide improved access to the area by walking, cycling and riding, with an emphasis on promoting a quiet environment for wildlife and informal recreation.

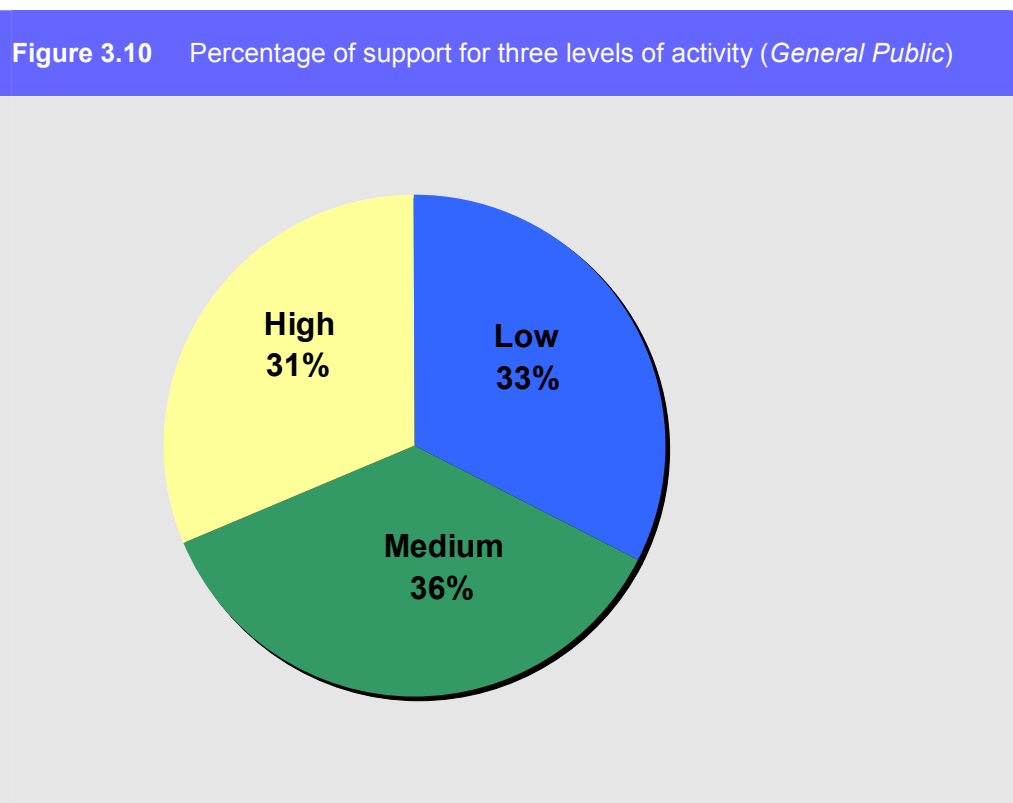
**Medium activity scenario:** Provide improved access to the site by walking, cycling and riding, with the emphasis on providing a quiet environment, whilst also providing some additional play, education and improved recreation facilities for angling and bird watching.

**High activity scenario:** Provide for larger numbers of visitors with facilities for a wide range of water sports including sailing and swimming, a larger visitor / education centre, opportunity for events, and for a research facility.

Respondents were asked which scenario they preferred. Responses were mixed, with a similar number giving preference to each of the activity based scenarios. Figure 3.10 shows this break down.

Those in favour of the low scenario wanted to see little change in terms of the environmental context, with proposals having the least impact and disturbance on wildlife favoured. It was also argued that the low activity scenario would have the least impact on the highway network and put least pressure on local services.

Those in favour of the medium activity scenario identified a need to provide the local community with recreational facilities and environmental benefits whilst balancing the effects of increased visitor numbers on the surrounding areas. It was felt that the high scenario provided too many conflicting activities and that provision should be made initially for a medium scale scenario, with opportunity for expansion of activities and services if and when the need arises. It was thought that the medium scenario provided a good balance between recreation and environmental conservation.



Those in favour of the high activity scenario argued that the existing settlements surrounding the reservoir site lacked recreational facilities and that the reservoir presented a positive opportunity to stimulate participation in leisure activities for the local community. In tandem to this support for the high activity scenario, there was an acknowledgement by both feedback form respondents and exhibition attendees that a careful balance and management of recreational activities will be needed, to ensure minimal impact on the local wildlife population.

### **3.8 Summary of Findings from General Public**

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- Feedback received from exhibition attendees and those who provided formal responses via the feedback form process demonstrated a high level of support for the reservoir proposals, and in the main, where concerns were expressed, people accepted that some impacts were an inevitable consequence of a project of this scale and nature.
- The exhibition was both attended by, and received feedback from respondents across a broad geography of locations, with many residing a considerable distance from the proposed reservoir site.
- Respondents were marginally in favour of embankment Option 2, which provides the reservoir with a smaller volume but with a wider 'buffer zone' of 40m to lessen the disturbance to wildlife on the margins of the Staunton Country Park woodland.
- In terms of vehicular access to the site, for both construction traffic and long-term access to the facilities of the reservoir, there was majority support for a longer route which skirts Havant Thicket and provides access to the north-western side of the site.
- Majority support was gained for the 'Red Pipeline Route'. The proposed 'Red Route' would be laid alongside the Riders Lane / Hermitage Stream from Bedhampton to Corhampton Crescent and then laid alongside the Riders Lane Stream from Corhampton Crescent. There was concern expressed, however, on the potential impact to Great Copse.
- Access and traffic arrangements for the site are a key issue and this is evidenced in the responses received.
- In terms of construction impacts, respondents were most concerned with the impact on wildlife and the impact of construction traffic both on the natural environment and the local road network.
- Of the proposals for landscape, nature and conservation, respondents most liked those in relation to the wetlands, woodland and planting in the wider landscape. Least preferred of all the proposals was the floating island and the man-made beach.
- Respondents identified walking, bird watching and cycling as the three most important recreational activities. The least amount of support was given to events, water sports, swimming and public art.
- In terms of the scale of recreational activities and environmental conservation, respondents providing feedback forms were evenly balanced in their support between the low, medium and high scenarios. Overall, it was clear from those attending the exhibitions that a low to medium activity scenario was favoured, with people wanting to select a variety of uses from the activities proposed.

## 4 Schools Consultation - Young Persons Feedback

Due to the timescale of the proposed reservoir it was considered of great importance that young people within the surrounding area be specifically targeted and included in the consultation for the Havant Thicket Winter Storage Reservoir proposal. Approaching young people through schools was considered to be one of the most effective ways of accessing large numbers of young people in an environment that encourages discussion and exploration of ideas. The Local Authorities were also supportive of this initiative as a way of reaching younger families in the local area.

Schools from the surrounding area were identified (the impact of the reservoir is likely to be felt most acutely by those young people residing closest to the reservoir) and were subsequently approached. Four primary schools and three secondary schools were approached to take part in a variety of consultation events. Havant Youth Council approached Portsmouth Water and requested that they be included in consultation events for young people. Five of the schools approached along with Havant Youth Council, took part in sessions designed to elicit debate and a response from young people.

Three of the five schools that took part in the consultation were primary. Warren Park and Rowlands Castle St John's schools (Year 5/9-10 year olds) attended a workshop session. Riders Junior School (Year 6/10-11 year olds) took part in a competition to design an illustrative plan for the proposed reservoir.

Geography students from years 10 and 11 (14-16 year olds) at Staunton Community Sports College (SCSC) and Horndean Technology College (HTC) and Havant Youth Council (HYC) (age 11-17) participated in workshops which focused on the issue of water supply and demand, and the potential role of the reservoir at Havant Thicket.

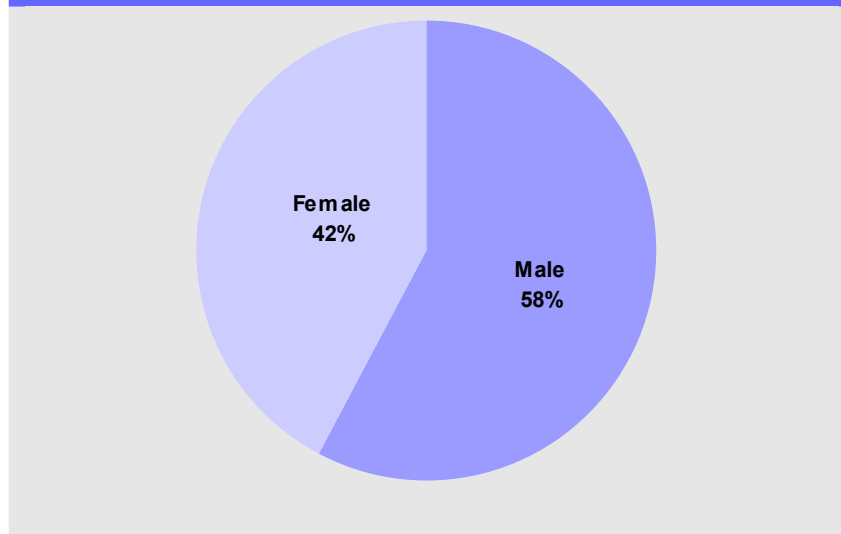
### 4.1 Profile of Respondents

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In total, 161 young people were engaged in the consultation events, 94 of which were from the three primary schools. A combined total of 34 young people attended the workshops from Rowlands Castle St John's CEC Primary School and Warren Park Primary School and approximately 60 young people from Riders Junior School took part in the master planning competition.

An amended feedback form was created for young people who were in attendance at the workshops and for the members of Havant Youth Council. The amended feedback form included question 2 and question 5 from the general public feedback form (see Appendix C). The graphs included in this section of the report only represent young people who have filled out an amended feedback form. All 67 respondents were in the 17 and under category, with over half of respondents being male.

**Figure 4.1** Gender composition of respondents (*Young People*)



## **4.2 Primary School Consultation**

This section examines the material received from the three primary schools that were engaged in the consultation process. Due to the differing nature of the material received the competition entries from Riders Junior School is reported separately from the material collated through the workshops with Warren Park Primary School and Rowlands Castle St John's CEC Primary School.

### **4.2.1 Competition Entries from Riders Junior School**

The young people at Riders Junior School were asked to create an illustrative plan for the proposed reservoir, focussing on either ecology and nature conservation or leisure activities. Approximately 60 young people created an illustrative plan of which 15 were short listed for consideration for the competition. Whilst all of the shortlisted plans provided innovative ideas for the reservoir, five of the entries were considered exceptional and were awarded prizes. The entries which were awarded first, second and third place, along with two commendations can be found in Appendix E.

The list below provides an example of some of the innovative ideas that were included in the plans for Havant Thicket Reservoir produced by the young people:

#### **Figure 4.1 Ideas presented by young people of Riders Junior School**

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| i. Camping area                              | x. Water Fountains in reservoir      |
| ii. Coral Reef                               | xi. Water Park with slides etc       |
| iii. Mini Farm/Urban Farm/Animal Care Centre | xii. Helicopter Rides                |
| iv. Underwater Tunnel/Aquarium               | xiii. Events – parties and discos    |
| v. Adventure Park/Obstacle Course            | xiv. Archery                         |
| vi. Equestrian Centre                        | xv. Quad Biking                      |
| vii. Pond Dipping Area                       | xvi. Fencing                         |
| viii. Designated Swimming Area               | xvii. Museum about local archaeology |
| ix. Hot Air Balloon Rides                    | xviii. Scuba Diving                  |

#### 4.2.2 Warren Park Primary and Rowlands Castle St John's CEC Primary Schools

Similar session outlines were followed for the workshops with Warren Park and Rowlands Castle St John's CEC Primary Schools. After an introduction to water supply issues and to the site proposed for Havant Thicket Winter Storage Reservoir the young people were asked what they would like to see at the reservoir before commenting on Portsmouth Water's proposals for the reservoir.

**Figure 4.2 Ideas for activities at the proposed reservoir**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| i. Urban Farm                          | xi. Nature walk and Art                              |
| ii. Jet skiing                         | xii. Horse riding                                    |
| iii. Beach and pier                    | xiii. Canopy Walk                                    |
| iv. Provision for fishing and crabbing | xiv. Forest Hotel                                    |
| v. Kayaking                            | xv. Paint ball/Lazer shooting                        |
| vi. Kite Surfing                       | xvi. Pedalos   |
| vii. Under water viewing platform      | xvii. Footpath around reservoir with disabled access |
| viii. Scuba Diving                     | xviii. Avenue of lights                              |
| ix. Diving board/slides                | xix. Rock climbing/rock wall                         |
| x. Adventure Playground with zip wire  |  |

The young people were then asked to comment on Portsmouth Water's proposals. For each scenario, they were asked to identify which elements of the scenarios they liked and why, and what about each scenario they would improve and why. Scores attributed to the same activity which were included in more than one scenario have been combined.

Activities from the scenarios which fared well include horse riding, bat house, boardwalk, reptile habitat, cycle hire, playground with water games, Go Ape and water sports all of which scored more than seven points. Go Ape in particular received a lot of interest and was claimed by many young people to be their favourite activity at the proposed reservoir.

Bird watching was the activity that most young people felt could be improved. Although justification was not provided in written form as to why bird watching was least favoured, during discussions with the young people many perceived bird watching to be a 'boring' activity. The proposal to include a skate park was also received badly: many of the young people felt that this facility was an activity which would attract teenagers whom they would find intimidating. There was a concern that a boardwalk would not necessarily be a suitable surface for wheelchair users. Potential noise generated from activities at the reservoir and the impact this would have the surrounding environment was also raised as a concern.

The young people were asked to vote for their preferred scenario. The combined results were:

**Low Scenario: 4 Medium Scenario: 1 High Scenario: 33**

#### 4.2.3 Letters from Rowlands Castle St John's CEC Primary School

Following the workshop held with Rowlands Castle St John's CEC Primary School, the School decided to hold an assembly about the merits of the proposed reservoir at Havant Thicket. After short presentations by the young people, 121 voted in favour of the reservoir, with 55 voting against the proposals (ie. 69% of young people at the school were in favour of the reservoir). Seventeen have since written to Portsmouth Water to express their views on the proposals for the reservoir.

Nine were in favour of the proposals for a reservoir at Havant Thicket:

- Creation of water habitat which will attract amphibian and water creatures and other animals to live on site.
- Proposals for bat house, nature reserves/conservation, reptile house and eco-lab
- Help get young people active – e.g. skate boarding, angling, kayaking etc

- The land will not be used for housing
- Increased tourism and jobs in Rowlands Castle.

Those in favour of the reservoir also requested improvements to Portsmouth Water's proposals:

- Need for adequate security to ensure that the site is not covered in graffiti.
- Provision of water sports that are suitable for all ages
- Would like to see animal sanctuary on site.
- Provision should be made for a coffee shop.

Eight were against the proposals for Havant Thicket Reservoir:

- Destruction of animal habitats / woodland and possibility of rare species being destroyed
- Increase in pollution as a result of tourists (increased use of cars)
- Need for additional water supply has not been sufficiently demonstrated.
- Increase in noise affecting local communities
- The proposed reservoir will ruin the surrounding views

### **4.3 Colleges and Havant Youth Council Consultation**

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The young people from Staunton Community Sports College (SCSC) and Horndean Technology College (HTC) and members of Havant Youth Council (HYC) participated in a number of activities during the workshops, use of the amended feedback form being only one. In order to allow comparison between the responses from the public and responses from young people, the young peoples' feedback form responses are analysed separately and summarised below.

#### **4.3.1 Water Supply Needs and Alternatives**

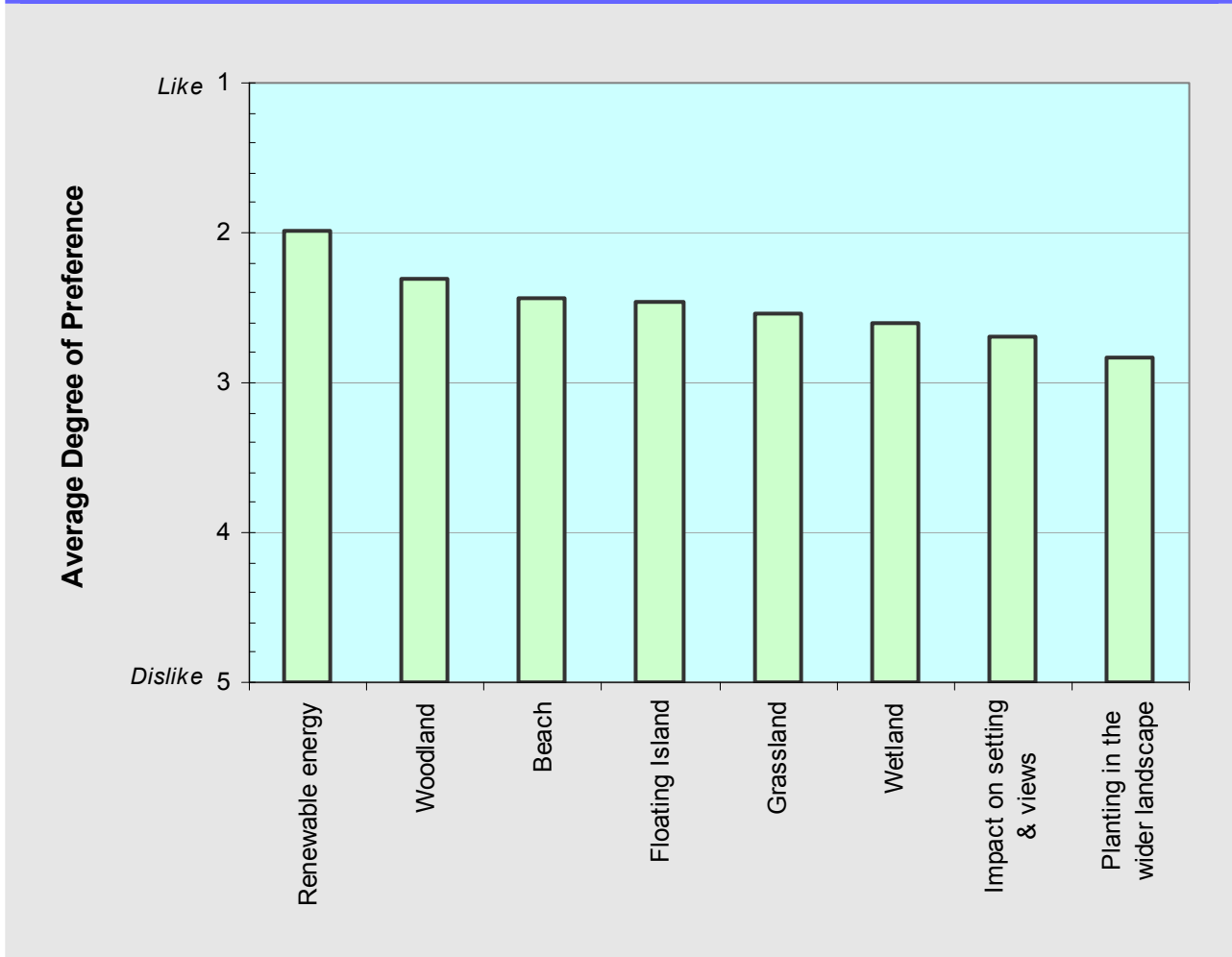
The question asked of respondents was slightly different to that of the general public feedback form (See Appendix C). The young people were asked: 'are the reasons for the reservoir clear? Do you have any queries about the need for the reservoir and the role of water demand reduction measures?'. A large proportion of respondents understood that Havant/Portsmouth Water's supply area is in a water stress area and agreed that the reservoir played an important part in securing water supply for the area in the future. A number of the young people responding, however, did not agree that the reasons for the reservoir were clear. Some believed that the proposal will come too late with the area having run out of water before the reservoir is constructed.

One query was received in relation to how often the water in the proposed reservoir would be needed within Portsmouth Water's catchment and how often Portsmouth Water would sell the water stored in the reservoir to other water providers. The respondent was concerned about the potential impact that regular draw-down could have on ecology within the water and potential adverse impacts for water based tourism on the site.

### 4.3.2 Landscape and Nature Conservation

Respondents were asked to score their preference for various aspects of landscape and habitats.

Figure 4.2 Average degree of preference for aspects of landscape and habitat (*Young People*)



Implementation of renewable energy scored most favourably. Using renewable energy on-site was considered by respondents to cost less and reduce waste, reduce global warming and therefore be better for the environment and future generations. Whilst it was acknowledged that renewable forms of energy provided a better way of generating energy, there was concern about visual impacts which may result from some forms of renewable energy.

Few responses were received to justify the score given to woodland and floating island. However, it was considered important by respondents to retain woodland areas: it is necessary to preserve habitats and the animals which reside there. The floating island was viewed as a possible tourist attraction.

Although the average score for degree of preference for the beach was positive there was a wide range of responses from young people. Many respondents did not agree that there should be a beach at Havant Thicket Reservoir. Reasons given against a beach included: the beach may result in overcrowding at the reservoir; there are many beaches in the vicinity of Havant e.g. Hayling Island which should not lose revenue through the development of a beach at Havant Thicket; the water would be cold and the reason for a



reservoir at Havant Thicket is ‘about providing water not getting a sun tan!’. Other respondents highlighted the need to make the beach vandal proof, whilst others suggested that different activities such as crazy golf would be preferable to a beach. A positive comment received however, was that a beach at Havant Thicket would allow easy access to such a facility and would have car parking close by.

Grassland areas were considered necessary by providing space for people to walk dogs and play. Provision of wetland habitats was also viewed positively. It was considered important by young people responding to make sure that if woodland was to be removed as part of the proposals for the reservoir then another habitat should replace it. The proposed wetland area could accommodate and encourage different types of ecology.

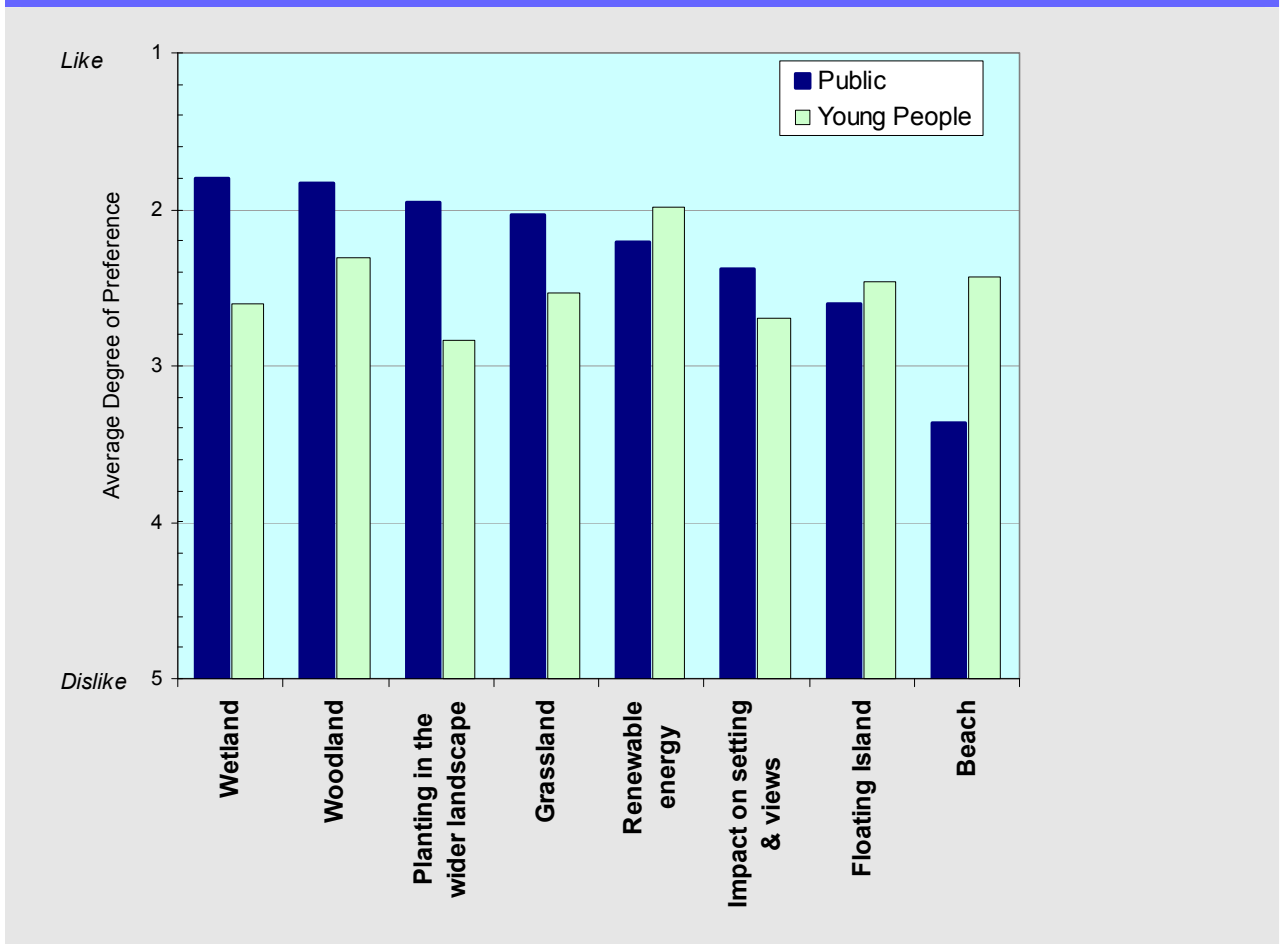
Comments were received in relation to impact on setting and views and planting in the wider landscape to explain or substantiate scores received from respondents.

Support was received from one respondent for a ‘water window’ which would allow visitors to view those organisms living in the reservoir. This reflects the support expressed by young people from primary schools for an underwater viewing platform.

**4.3.2.1 Comparison: General Public and Young Peoples views on Landscape and Nature Conservation**

The following graph shows those preferences expressed by members of general public and by the young people together.

**Figure 4.3** Average degree of preference for aspects of landscape and habitat (*General Public vs Young People*)



In general, there was support for the majority of the proposals from both the general public and young people (indicated by an average score of 3 or above). Of particular interest are those proposals where there is either clear divergence or convergence between the general public and young people.

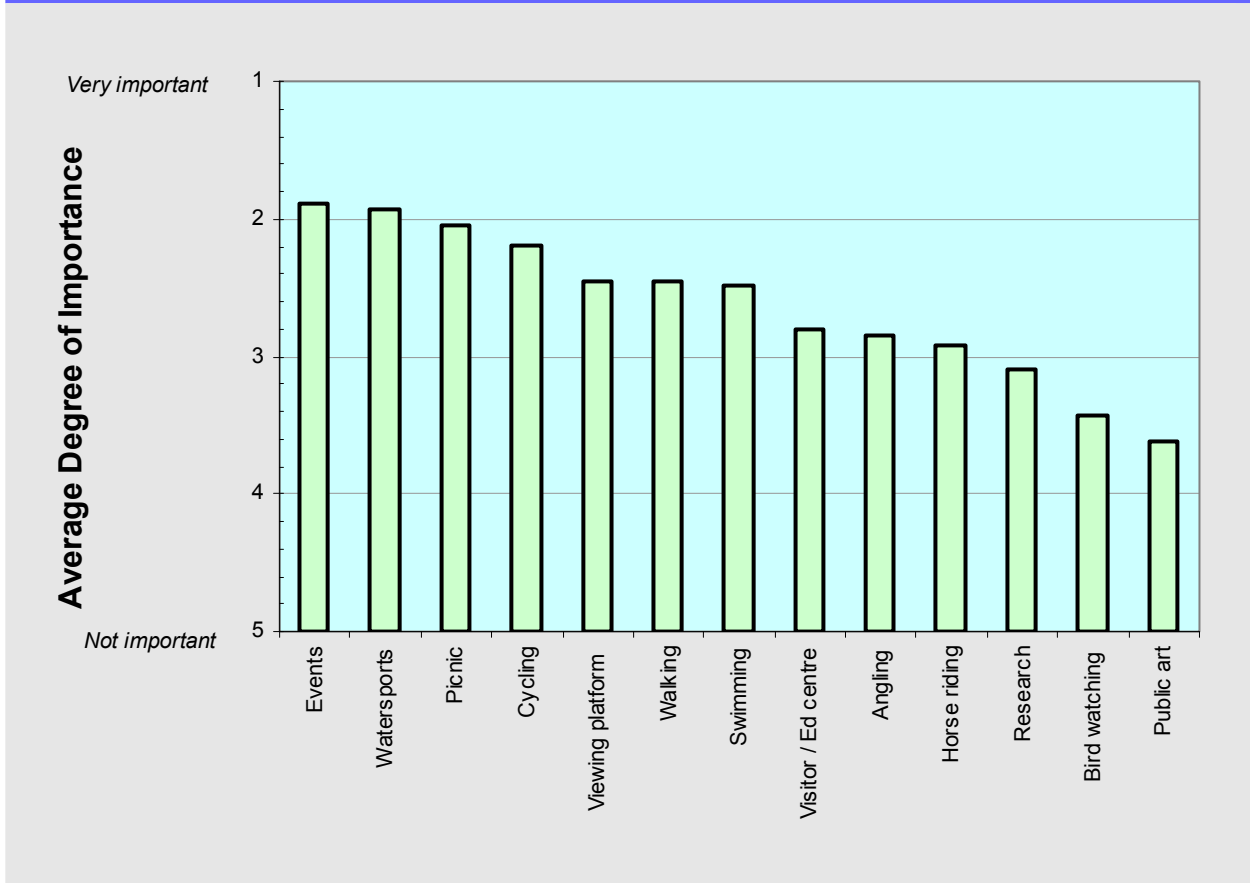
The floating island and renewable energy received similar levels of support from both types of respondents. Renewable energy however, received the highest level of support from the young people in comparison to the wetland area which received greatest support from the general public.

Levels of support for the beach varied most between the two groups of respondents with almost a point difference in levels of support. The proposed beach was favoured by the young people, whilst the general public were less supportive. In comparison, more natural measures to enhance the existing environment were given greater support by the general public.

### 4.3.3 Recreation and Education

Preferences of young people in relation to recreation and education are shown below. Events, water sports and provision of picnic tables/play areas received the highest average scores, with research centre, bird watching and public art having lowest support.

Figure 4.4 Average level of support for specific recreation and education activities (Young People)



Events scored the highest degree of preference. Young people commented that having events at Havant Thicket would attract people of all ages to the site and that it is easier to go and see a show if it is in the local area. There appeared to be a general desire to have venues in the local area so that festivals and local musicians could play in Havant.

Developing non-motorised water sports on-site was considered beneficial because it would bring tourism to the area and create jobs for local people. There was some discussion about the types of water sports that could be provided. A few young people showed a preference for motorised sports such as jet skiing. However, others discussed the types of non-motorised sport, with a preference for sailing over windsurfing being aired by some. Despite the average high score for water sports there was concern from a few of the young people that the development of water sports may ruin the view across the site and that the reservoir may therefore look ugly.

Providing picnic areas or playgrounds was considered a key feature for all audiences including families. Others mirrored this sentiment suggesting that it was good for the whole family, and would be fun for senior citizens and young children. Providing a place for people to eat was also considered to be worthwhile.

Ensuring provision for walkers and cyclists was considered important. Cycling is viewed as good exercise and a possible tourist attraction. This would be particularly so if cycle hire was made available on site. Walking was considered a family orientated / social activity which allowed one to appreciate the peace and quiet of the site.

Very few comments were received in relation to viewing platforms. Of those that did comment viewing platforms were considered positively as they would allow one to see parts of the site from a different view. However, others had reservations about the viewing platforms: indicating they should only be built as long as they are not too expensive,

Despite the average score for swimming suggesting overall preference for this activity, very mixed views were expressed. Whilst some respondents suggested that swimming would be good fun, others questioned how hygienic it would be to swim in the reservoir and also how access would be ensured for those with disabilities.

Despite the relatively low score afforded to the visitor/education centre the comments received in relation to this facility were fairly positive. The centre could help tourists to learn more about the area and should be used widely by schools, colleges and universities. Inclusion of a souvenir shop should also be considered.

Mixed comments were received about allowing horse riding at the reservoir site. Concerns were raised that horses would litter the area and destroy grassland and other terrain. However, a point was made that there are not many places where horse riding is possible, suggesting that the provision of stables / horse hire could enable a popular leisure activity.

The comments received in relation to angling did not substantiate the low average score that this activity received. Those who provided comments suggested that angling was a relaxing and peaceful sport.

Little comment was received in relation to a research facility. It was pointed out that to make this facility viable it would need to be widely used by schools, colleges and universities. If this facility was to be considered in the final design it may be worth looking into the need for such a facility in the local area. One respondent however suggested that a research centre would not attract young people onto the site.

Provision for bird watching was not received well by the young people who provided feedback. Bird watching was considered a niche activity which was boring and for local enthusiasts only. The lack of support for this activity was reflected by other comments such as 'good for the older generation'. However, a point was made that bird watching facilities should be widely used by local schools.

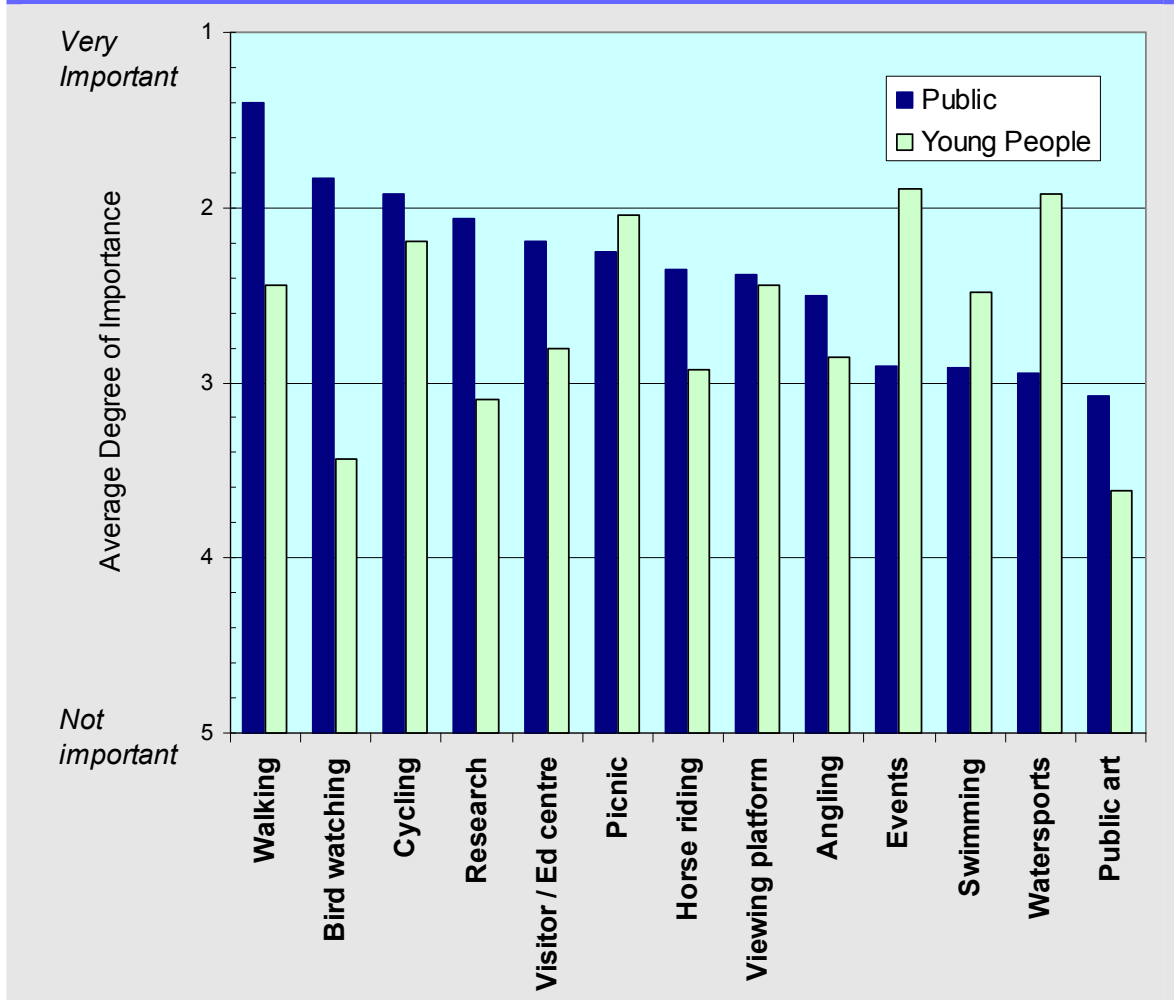
Only one comment was received about the provision of public art on the reservoir site. The provision of public art was considered irrelevant and would take up lots of space.

Provision of additional leisure activities was also requested. The activities included provision of Go Ape, a zip wire, tree houses, shop/café on site and crazy golf.

#### 4.3.3.1 Comparison: General Public and Young Peoples views on Recreation and Education

The following graph shows the preferences expressed by members of general public and by the young people together.

Figure 4.5 Average degree of importance for specific recreation and education activities (General Public vs Young People)



In comparison to the proposals put forward for landscape and habitats, there is much greater divergence between the responses of the general public and those of the young people. Less intrusive forms of recreation (e.g. walking, bird watch etc) received greater support from the general public, whilst these activities were less favoured by young people.

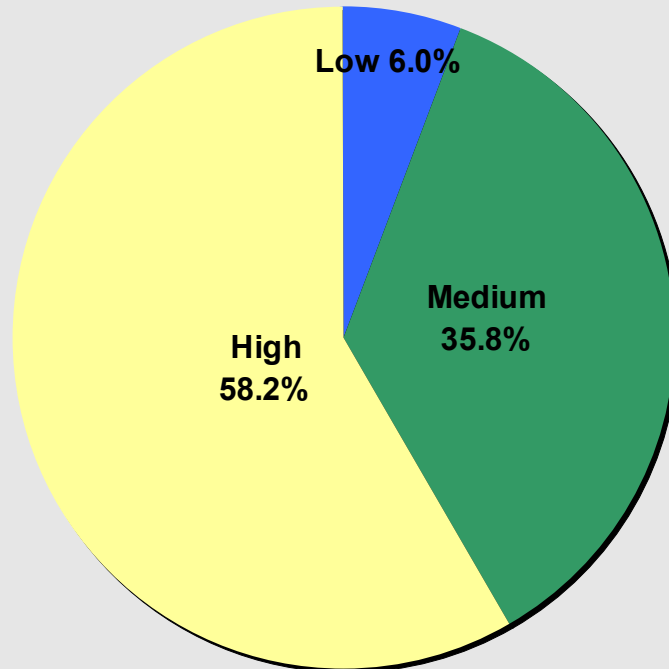
In comparison, responses from the young people provided greatest support for more active recreation activities including events, swimming and water sports. These activities received much less support from the general public.

There are a number of activities which received similar levels of support from both. The provision of picnic facilities and viewing platforms was supported by both groups; the installation of public art on the site received least support from both groups of respondents.

#### 4.3.4 Preferred Activity Scenario (Young People)

The young people were also asked to state which of the three scenarios put forward by Portsmouth Water was their preferred option. Over 50% preferred the high scenario, with less than 10% opting for the low level of activity scenario.

**Figure 4.6** Percentage of support for three levels of activity (*Young People*)



Of those who voted in favour of the low level activity scenario two considered that the final design should not be a compromise but should be either minimally developed or should be fully developed (as shown through the high activity scenario). The other three respondents who favoured the low activity scenario preferred just a low level of development.

Those in favour of the medium activity scenario saw this providing a good balance between nature and activity, so that the reservoir will not be too busy but will not be a wasted opportunity. That way there would be things to do, but the site would also be tranquil. The range of activities proposed in the medium scenario was considered optimal providing a range of activities which would be suitable for all ages. As previously mentioned many young people were opposed to the inclusion of a beach at the reservoir. However, others felt that some of the activities included in the high scenario could also be included in the medium scenario, an example of which could be the artificial beach.

Feedback received about the high activity scenario was in many ways similar to that for the medium scenario. Respondents felt that the high scenario provided the potential for more exciting activities that young people would enjoy whilst also providing something for everyone. If the high scenario were to be implemented it was considered that the development would bring money and tourism to the local community and may also provide the opportunity for jobs for local people. A number of young people, however, thought that the high scenario was too developed and that a couple of activities should be taken out of this scenario: one respondent specified that the beach should be omitted.

#### **4.3.5 Proposed Changes to Activity Scenarios**

A number of comments were made regarding improvements to young peoples' preferred scenarios. These responses can be found in the tables below.

Of particular interest regarding the low scenario is the idea of including renewable energy on-site. It was suggested it would be useful to explore the viability of selling renewable energy to the national grid.

**Figure 4.3 Proposed changes to Low Scenario**

Issue (low scenario respondents)	Proposed Change	Reason for Change
Size	Reservoir could be made smaller	More land based activities could be provided on-site if this was the case.
Renewable Energy	Include wind turbines, solar energy	Replace energy used for building the reservoir.
Animal Houses	Inclusion of animal houses	Good for visitors to watch

For the medium scenario the changes covered inclusion of a small café or similar outlet at the visitor centre. Provision of a rock climbing wall could also be considered when developing the final design for the site.

**Figure 4.4 Proposed changes to Medium Scenarios**

Issue (medium scenario respondents)	Proposed Change	Reason for Change
Cafes/Coffee Shops/Restaurants	Should be included	Need places to eat either during or after activities. Provides an opportunity to socialise.
Rock Climbing	Add to medium scenario	Activity is not available anywhere in the area.
Safety	Need for safety fence around reservoir	Make sure that no-one falls into the reservoir.
Parking Spaces	Need for new parking spaces	

A number of innovative ideas were put forward by young people favouring the high development scenario, such as a floating stage and tree top trail.

**Figure 4.5 Proposed changes to High Scenario**

Issue (high scenario respondents)	Proposed Change	Reason for Change
Cafes/Coffee Shops/Restaurants	Should be included	Need places to eat either during or after activities. Provides an opportunity to socialise.
Skate Park	Should not be included	They are provided elsewhere (e.g. Warren Park).
Floating Stage	Should be included	Something different and unusual.

Too many activities proposed on-site	Have fewer activities or only open some of them on certain days.	
Parking Spaces	Need for new parking spaces	
Tree top trail	Inclusion of Tree top trail	Can walk around trees and also bird watch

#### **4.3.6 Additional Comments from Young People**

In addition to the responses to specific questions within the feedback form completed by young people a number of other comments were made. It was considered important that local people are employed at the site whether this is during construction or once the reservoir and associated activities are operational. Including sports provision on site was considered beneficial with resources being utilised to help develop young people through sport.

Other respondents queried the seasonal appropriateness of the activities commenting that the activities provided had a summer slant and questioned to what degree they were appropriate during the winter e.g. beach and swimming.

For the high scenario, concern was also raised about how visitors would travel to the site. A few respondents suggested that a Park and Ride system could be used on the major thoroughfares to the site.

Some young people commented that they chose the high scenario because the revenue generated from having activities at the reservoir would help pay for the construction and operational costs of reservoir.

#### **4.4 Summary of Findings**

- In general there was support from the young people from primary schools for the proposals put forward by Portsmouth Water. Support was greatest for the most active recreation activities including Go Ape and water sports. Those young people who opposed the reservoir were concerned about the environmental implications of the development on the existing flora and fauna.
- The majority of young people from secondary schools understood and agreed with the rationale for the reservoir; Havant is located in a water stress area and therefore the reservoir provides a necessary facility to ensure future water supply.
- Renewable energy and woodland received the highest levels of support from young people from secondary schools among the landscape and habitat proposals. Least support was received for planting in the wider landscape.
- Of the recreation and education activities proposed the provision of events and water sports on site received greatest support whilst the installation of public art was supported least. Support was also provided for additional recreation activities on-site including Go Ape, crazy golf and shop/café.
- Support from young people from both primary and secondary schools was greatest for the high activity scenario. Little support was received from primary schools for both medium and low scenarios. In comparison, there was some support from secondary school for the medium scenario.

## 5 Community Workshop

### 5.1 Introduction

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#### 5.1.1 Purpose of community workshop

The purpose of the community workshop was to explore in further detail the issues and preferences that had been expressed by members of the local community during the public exhibition. The community workshop was held at Leigh Park Community Centre on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March.

#### 5.1.2 Community workshop attendance

It was intended from the outset that community workshop attendees should reflect the communities bordering the reservoir site in terms of their location of residence, age group and interests. Particular attention was paid to attracting local residents to attend rather than the representatives of national and/or statutory organisations, although representatives from these organisations would not have been precluded if they had expressed an interest in participating. The reason for this was to focus on the views of local people, as the national and statutory organisations have and will continue to be engaged through other forums. A list of potential attendees was drawn up through a combination of the following methods:

- The original mailshot to local residents and organisations invited people to contact Portsmouth Water if they were interested in attending the community workshop (See Appendix B).
- Exhibition attendees were invited to express an interest in attending the community workshop.
- East Hants District Council and Havant Borough Council provided lists of community organisations and interest groups, who were contacted to augment the response from the letters and exhibition attendees.
- Identification of specific interest groups whom it was considered would make valuable contributions to the discussion.

In the lead up to the community workshop, approximately 70 people were contacted in writing and by telephone inviting them to attend. This was undertaken on a selective basis to ensure a range of different community groups were represented as referred to above. The small number of local people who had at this time expressed any objection or more serious concerns at the exhibition were made aware of the planned community workshop and asked if they would like to attend.

Representatives of Staunton Country Park, the Forestry Commission and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust were also expressly invited, given their particular interest in the recreational and habitat linkages between the reservoir site and adjoining land.

Thirty people attended the community workshop. Table 5.1 shows the number of participants from different towns and villages:

**Table 5.1: Participants from different towns and villages**

Town / village	No. of attendees	Percentage of total attendees
Havant, Leigh Park	10	33%
Rowlands Castle	8	27%
Waterlooville, Horndean	4	13%
Other	8	27%



The following organisations were represented at the community workshop:

- Bosmere 100 Society
- Forestry Commission
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
- Hampshire and West Sussex Bridleways Group
- Havant Conservation Forum
- Havant Youth Sail Training Scheme
- Horizon Angling Group
- Leigh Park Community Board
- Little Leigh Farm Equestrian Centre
- Ramblers' Association Southeast Hants Group
- Red Hill and Rowlands Castle Action Group
- Staunton Country Park

Sixteen of the attendees were local residents who had no affiliation with specific organisations or groups.

### **5.1.3 Community workshop format**

The community workshop ran from 10.00am until 3.30pm and consisted of three main components:

- A presentation on the proposals by Portsmouth Water, followed by the opportunity for questions.
- Community workshop session 1 (Group A discussion on topics of landscape and ecology. Group B discussion on topics of recreation/education and access).
- Community workshop session 2 (Group B discussion on topics of landscape and ecology. Group A discussion on topics of recreation/education and access).

All the participants attended the presentation by Portsmouth Water. For the purpose of the two community workshop discussions, the attendees were split into groups of 15 people (Groups A & B) each with a mix of home locations and interests. The two community workshop sessions gave the opportunity for each group to participate in discussions on the topics of landscape and ecology, and recreation / education and access. Each community workshop session was facilitated by staff from Arup.

## **5.2 Presentation and questions**

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The presentation by Portsmouth Water followed a structured approach, covering the following topics:

1. Reservoir safety
2. Alternative sites
3. Pipeline route
4. Construction
5. Management of the site

The following comments were made by the community workshop attendees on each of the above issues:

### *Reservoir Safety*

- It was suggested that Portsmouth Water should investigate if the reservoir could potentially impact upon the current flood problem in the Whichers Gate area of

Rowland's Castle. It was noted that the B2149 is above the upper water level of the reservoir, so the reservoir would not cause any flood risk to Rowland's Castle.

- There was a concern that areas of Leigh Park will be more vulnerable to flooding, however the point was made that the embankment will protect the residents at the western end.
- The Environment Agency is the Competent Authority for ensuring that Portsmouth Water comply with the requirements of the Reservoirs Act 1995.
- Portsmouth Water has to employ an independent Construction Engineer to supervise the design, construction and operation of the reservoir, and to regularly inspect the structure throughout its lifetime. The Construction Engineer may make recommendations to ensure the safety of the reservoir during its lifetime.
- The point was made that if there were concerns as to the safety / stability of the embankment (as at Ulley Reservoir, near Rotherham, in 2007), water levels could be lowered relatively quickly via the spillway channel, the inlet/outlet pipeline that could discharge the water direct to the Harbour at Bedhampton and via a compensation flow outlet to the stream at the foot of the embankment.
- An assurance was given that the reservoir would be constructed to cope with high rainfall events. The natural catchment is small and an overflow is proposed via a spillway structure to an existing stream, which would only be used in an extreme event (e.g. a 1:200 year storm).

#### *Alternative Sites*

- A discussion took place over alternative sites, as it was suggested that the steeper natural valley shape of the area in Southleigh Forest might be a better site. It was explained that the alternative sites that have been examined in previous studies will not fulfil all the needs of Portsmouth Water, especially the Southleigh Forest site, which is now a landfill facility. The Southleigh Farm site could be considered, but the impact on the landscape will be more than on the Havant Thicket site as embankments would be required all the way round the reservoir. This would be visually very intrusive. The site would also provide less opportunity for conservation mitigation and recreation.
- A question was raised on why the reservoir was not built earlier, to which the answer was that the need has not been sufficient until now.
- It was also noted that there will be no outside funding and that Portsmouth Water customers will be paying for the reservoir through water charges.

#### *Pipeline Route*

- The Riders Lane / Hermitage Stream option was noted as being favoured, which could also potentially allow the opportunity of restoring part of the stream to an improved ecological state. Some concerns were expressed about the impact on the Hermitage Stream if this route is used. Portsmouth Water confirmed that there should be no long term impact as the pipes would be laid underground to the side of the stream. It was acknowledged that there would be short term impacts on the habitat, but every effort would be made to minimise these.
- There was concern as to the protection Great Copse would get if the pipeline goes all the way alongside the stream through the woodland. Assurance was given as to the protection of this area (surveys will be done if this proves to be the preferred route) and the company confirmed that the possibility of skirting the Copse had not been

ignored. Participants sought guarantees that if the pipeline route does go through Great Copse, trees would be replaced like for like.

- People were also concerned about the disruption construction of the pipeline will cause. Portsmouth Water confirmed that the pipeline would be constructed in short lengths of approximately 400 metres to minimise disruption. Assurances were given that there would be proactive communication as to the level and time of disruption to residents and businesses well in advance of any works starting.
- The type of pipeline was briefly discussed and Portsmouth Water confirmed that the two pipelines will run side by side. The type of pipe material will depend on the technology available at the time. There was also a question on whether the pipeline can be made reversible in order for only one pipeline to be laid instead of two – this was noted as technically possible. However, two pipelines will allow for more versatility in future.
- An assurance was given that the noise levels of a new pumping station will not be more than is currently the case at Havant and Bedhampton.

#### *Construction Phase*

- Concern was raised about the noise levels during construction and consultees wanted to know what mitigation measures will be put in place to overcome / manage this. It was noted that tree screens are not always adequate, but that they do assist to some extent. Stockpiles of soil can also be provided in sensitive areas. It was noted that most of the excavation will take place in the centre of the site furthest from residents. Construction will only be done at specific times during the week, which will limit most noise to normal working hours. Both councils will stipulate conditions for noise control and monitoring.
- Other issues raised were the management of dust, which would contribute to air pollution. Water bowsers will be used on the haul roads to minimise dust generated from the site.
- Security was also noted as potentially being a problem. Construction equipment would be moved to one secure location during the evening and it is likely that security personnel would be employed to provide 24 hour cover.
- Proposed construction was advised as follows: Construct central core of the embankment with best clay, using poorer quality material on side slopes. Construction could take three years. The intention would be to bring plant and materials to site via A3(M) junction 2, then via B2149.

#### *Operational Phase*

- The primary function of the reservoir is as a water resource. A valve house will be required at the foot of the embankment.
- Regular monitoring will be necessary, with vehicle access to certain, if not all, parts of the site.
- It is anticipated that the water level will (in the early years) remain at top water level in most years.

#### *Management of site*

There will be a need for Portsmouth Water staff to regularly visit the site for operational inspections and maintenance. The management of the recreational aspects of the site could potentially be undertaken jointly by the Forestry Commission and Staunton Country Park. The longer term management will depend on the activity levels on the site.

### **5.3 Summary of discussion points – landscape and ecology**

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People from both groups clearly valued the site as an accessible natural area which is very open and not over run with people. There was good support for the reservoir proposal and the creation of a new wetland habitat. However, there were also concerns about the loss of The Avenue, trees and other wildlife, with a strong view that:

- a) extensive mitigation will be needed to minimise the impacts, and
- b) opportunities must be taken to maximise the benefit of the new habitat for wildlife, for example, by planting new trees to replace those lost as well as planting wildflower grass seed mix on the embankments.

The main points raised are summarised below.

#### *Ecology*

- It was identified by participants that there would be ecological impacts both on site and potentially at Langstone Harbour, but that the reservoir would also attract new/different species.
- Area is good for bats and nightjars, so need to get the balance right between mitigation and creation of new habitats.
- There were a number of questions surrounding ecological mitigation and the creation of new habitat. Confirmation was provided that landscape and ecological mitigation work would start early and it was suggested that local people could be involved. Starting the preliminary work well in advance of the main construction phase would allow time for the phased removal of The Avenue etc.
- The need to manage and control the fish population and animal species such as mink was identified.

#### *Woodland*

- The value of existing woodland was acknowledged and the benefits of new planting were discussed. These included habitat creation, screening against construction noise, carbon dioxide sequestration and the softening of views towards the embankment. Workshop Group A were strongly in favour of planting more trees to replace those lost and to provide improved screening. They suggested there should be no net loss of trees.
- It was clarified that although it may be desirable to plant trees on the embankment for landscape reasons, it will not be possible to do this as the structural integrity of the embankment could be compromised. The alternative option of potentially planting native shrubs on the embankment was supported.
- Questions were raised with regard to the soil. If areas of soil are rich in plants, could this be removed and transferred to new planting areas. For example, woodland soil transferred to new planted areas on the adjacent Forestry Commission land.
- A potential need to keep some areas free from planting was recognised. For instance, tree planting in the open space to the south west of the site would prevent that area being used for events.

#### *Wetland creation*

- Good support by both groups for a wetland and area for nature, due to the attraction of new wildlife to the site.

- A question was raised regarding how long a wetland would take to establish. A Wildlife Trust representative indicated, based on experience elsewhere, that it only takes a few years.
- Questions were raised about provision of a structure to ensure the wetland does not drain when the reservoir drained down.
- The consensus was that the wetland should go in the north near Rowlands Castle, as it was felt that this area was likely to be less disturbed.
- Opportunity to stock with fish, but recognising fishing would need to be controlled.

#### *Landscape*

- Group A were concerned about the visual impact of the southern embankment. There was concern that a continuous bank of grass would look monotonous, so thought needed to be given to how this could be broken up by more mixed planting with shrubs and wildflower planting.
- A question was raised about whether the embankments could be engineered to allow planting of trees. For example, by providing deeper soil. Strong feeling that planting around the perimeter should be completed at an early stage to allow trees to mature to provide screening both during and after construction.
- Group A were also concerned that Option 3 (High Activity Scenario) would over sanitise the site, resulting in the loss of the open environment. They did not want a theme park; they wanted to keep the site looking natural.
- A question was raised about whether people using the embankment would be able to view into the gardens of adjacent properties. If so, they felt this would be an issue.

#### *Grassland and meadow*

- It was suggested that a mix of woodland and grassland would make the landscape more interesting. Both groups thought that the grassland should be seeded with wild flowers.
- Group B in particular were keen to retain grassland areas to keep the landscape open, improve views and provide more habitat for reptiles and meadow areas.

#### *Parking*

- General concerns about increased traffic especially at weekends.
- When locating parking areas, it was considered important to ensure that quiet areas are retained.
- Some concerns raised that the more parking you provide, the more people will visit. Whereas if you limit parking, this naturally restricts the number of visitors which was felt to be better. Examples given were Kingley Vale and Old Winchester Hill.

#### *Island*

- The idea of incorporating a floating island, possibly with vegetation on it which could be used by nesting birds, was supported by both groups.

#### *Viewing platforms*

- There was some support for a viewing platform to act as a point of focus to walk to. The preference was for less obtrusive designs that were not too modernistic.
- Support for a section of boardwalk. Potential use for pond dipping.
- Some queried why you need a viewing platform if you have a circular route with views across the reservoir.

### *Paths*

- Circular routes around the reservoir with paths at both the crest and toe of the embankment were supported. It was agreed that a circular route would be desirable for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. There was general support for a multi user route on the crest of the embankment although it was recognised that there could be conflicts. Some felt strongly that options for segregation should be investigated, but others that the visual impact of any segregation fences should also be considered. There was a debate about whether it was sensible to allow horses on to the path at the top of the embankment.
- It was considered that there is enough space for walkers, cyclists and horse riders to use the site; although it was also suggested that if more activities are allowed and the paths become busier, the chance of conflicts arising also increases. The design needed to consider conflicts and potential for providing segregation.
- In Group B concern was expressed that currently horse riders using routes to the north of the site are charged by the Forestry Commission, whereas the bridleway across the middle of the reservoir site is free. This route will be closed / flooded and thus the new diverted public bridleway must be free.
- Opportunities to improve access to the site from the north should be investigated.
- In terms of the surfacing of paths, it was suggested that tarmac should not be used, although it was felt that the surface needed to be level and accessible to wheelchair and pushchair users. Robust surfaces should be provided at the start of routes, becoming more natural further into the site.
- There was support for the provision of seats / rest areas around the circular route.

### *Reservoir draw down, pipelines and wave protection*

- Participants were interested to know how the reservoir would look when drawn down during periods of drought.
- A number of different types of material were suggested for the wave protection on the inner face of the embankment. These included rip-rap, concrete, open stone asphalt or gravel bound in polyurethane. General view was that it should look as natural as possible to minimise the visual impact.
- It was confirmed that the pipelines will be buried below the bottom of the reservoir embankment.

### *Site Management*

- Questions were raised about whether improvements and mitigation would include enhancing the habitats on adjacent land. It was confirmed that this was being investigated, but any improvements would need to be with the agreement of adjacent landowners.
- Questions were raised about future site management. Both groups emphasised the need to work with adjacent land owners to maximise the ecological benefits that could be achieved over a wider area. Thus the development of the scheme should be considered in its wider context, not just as the Portsmouth Water land in isolation, but instead as the joint management of the sites as a whole (including Forestry Commission and Staunton Country Park land).
- Strong view that site management would be needed to control site use and prevent abuse of the site, vandalism etc.

### *Renewable energy*

- There was overall enthusiasm for the incorporation of renewable energy sources in the scheme, although the discussion raised a number of questions such as how much energy could be produced and what would the power be used for? Suggestions in relation to the latter query included pumping water and providing energy for the visitor centre, lighting and signage.
- It was considered that wind power might be used, but that proposals for turbines could be emotive. Noted that turbines would need to be above tree height. Suggestion made that a more ambitious scheme should be considered to supply all of the energy needs of the project, including pumping water from the Springs to Havant Thicket, even if this meant using an alternate site or even to supply surplus power to the community (national grid). However, there were some people who felt strongly that wind power was not a viable option and should not be pursued.
- Utilising woodchips as wood fuel from managed woodland areas was considered a good option by both groups.
- A few people in Group A expressed a concern that on site energy generation was drifting towards urbanisation of the site.
- Hydroelectric power was identified as an energy source that might be realised later in the lifetime of the scheme if the pipeline were in regular use.
- Some participants pointed out the educational opportunity provided by having some form of environmentally friendly energy generation facility at the site, even if it was not fully effective at supplying the site energy needs.

### *Location of southern embankment*

- The consensus in Group A was that there should be a wider gap between the base of the embankment and the woodland. The extra cost of the reservoir was justified if it resulted in more environmental protection and benefits. It was important to preserve as much of the habitat as possible.
- Whereas in Group B there was a view expressed that if the extra million pounds could be spent on more wildlife mitigation then the provision of a smaller strip along the woodland edge might be acceptable. Others expressed the view that there was value in saving some of the existing grassland, especially on the woodland edge, but you needed to look at what was there to assess its value.

## **5.4 Summary of discussion points – recreation/education and access**

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These community workshop sessions started with a discussion about the likes and dislikes of the site in its current form:

### *Likes*

- The site provides an excellent resource for horse riders, who are currently charged to use the Forestry Commission woodland to the north. The bridleway running across the site from west to east is free.
- The beauty of the area relates to its openness (no built structures) and the opportunity it provides for quiet recreation away from noisy traffic.
- Wildlife living on the site and surrounding countryside is an important asset for the area.
- Staunton Country Park is of great value, in particular the education facilities it provides.

### *Dislikes*

- There are currently no water based activities.
- There is a lack of facilities for children and young people. The reservoir provides an opportunity to create new facilities for young people such as mountain bike tracks.
- Additional educational facilities are needed.
- Concerns around anti-social behaviour were raised.
- Cycling and horse riding along the B2149 is considered to be dangerous.

### *Recommendations*

These initial discussions around likes and dislikes resulted in some suggestions being put forward:

- It would be beneficial to put young people's facilities in place early to distract unwanted attention from the construction works.
- The construction works in themselves will provide an educational opportunity for organised visits. There should be a viewing platform for this purpose such as was provided at the Eden Project.
- There may be benefit in providing separate routes for horse riders, cyclists and ramblers, as there is currently conflict between these groups.
- General support for a multi user circular route around the reservoir provided it was wide enough to minimise conflict.
- The development presents the opportunity for the safety of Manor Lodge Road and Durrants Road to be improved for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

### *Activity scenarios*

In terms of the overall level of activity at the site, the two community workshop groups had slightly differing ideas of what would be appropriate.

Group A were in favour of retaining lower to medium activity levels and taking a 'pick n mix' approach to the recreation facilities set out in the Consultation Report. There was agreement in the group that a lower/medium level should be planned at the beginning, with additional facilities only considered when early activity levels had been monitored.

Group B acknowledged that the low activity scenario presented in the Consultation Report would best retain the existing sense of wilderness and openness associated with the site, but suggested that this would also represent a missed opportunity in terms of the provision of recreational facilities. Group B therefore concluded that the medium scenario would be preferred, although some in the group favoured inclusion of some of the activities from the high scenario.

The points below draw on the discussion from both groups in relation to the different recreational facilities presented in the Consultation Report.

### *Birdwatching hides*

- The provision of bird watching hides was supported.

### *Angling*

- Provision of facilities for angling was supported as there are few facilities locally and it is popular with young people, although a number of management issues were identified. These include the need for rod licenses and management to prevent illegal stocking, which could have an adverse effect on the ecology of the reservoir.



- Wildlife Trust stressed the need to be careful about what fish are stocked, potential benefits for wildlife, but also potential conflicts.

#### *Visitor Centre*

- Group B were supportive of the idea of a visitor centre with a café. Group A were more cautious, suggesting that buildings of this nature could detract from the openness of the site, although the group acknowledged that the revenue generated by a café could be beneficial for funding the management of the site.
- Toilets should be provided, but any building should be sympathetically designed to blend in with the landscape.
- Reuse of timber from existing trees could be considered for site buildings. This would lock up carbon and would be good for education.

#### *Education*

- It was suggested by some that the co-location of the visitor centre and education facility is not necessarily a good idea, due to the disturbance that large groups of children can cause.
- The site provides a good opportunity to inspire and engage young people.
- A question was raised about whether a new facility would conflict with the existing education facilities at Staunton Country Park since they will have the same school catchment area.
- In terms of education facilities, Group A was advised that Staunton Country Park has limited classroom facilities and tends to focus on visits for very young children. The provision of additional education facilities, such as a classroom next to the wetlands, is supported.
- Group A suggested that the “outdoor classroom” presented the biggest opportunity. It was noted that the reservoir could be accessed from the existing facility at Staunton Country Park.
- Education, such as information boards, should be available for adults and general visitors as well as organised school groups.

#### *Sailing*

- The provision of some dinghy sailing facilities for young people was generally supported, as there is a lack of freshwater facilities suitable for training young people in the area. However, a number of important management issues were raised.
- It may be necessary to put a limit on the number of boats allowed on the reservoir at any one time to avoid conflicts with other users, such as anglers.
- Any sailing facilities provided should be affordable for local people and accessible to the disabled.
- It was suggested by Group A that the sailing facility could be provided much later on, although the need for a pontoon down to the low water level was identified by another participant, which would have to be constructed prior to filling of the reservoir.
- It was confirmed that a rescue boat would be exempt from the general ban on motorised watercraft.
- Suggestion that water based activities and facilities could be introduced on a phased basis over time, so that any impacts can be monitored.

### *Kayaks and canoeing*

- Kayaking and canoeing were supported by both groups as low impact water activities, particularly if managed by local schools.

### *Model boats*

- Representatives from a model boat club would be keen to put on organised displays at the reservoir. The boats are electric powered so would not cause any pollution issues.

### *Beach*

- The proposal of a beach proved to be more controversial. Proximity of the site to the coast raised questions about whether this facility was actually needed. There was much discussion in both groups. Some could see the benefits of having a beach provided it had a natural appearance, others raised concerns about health and safety issues.
- There were fears that a beach could become very busy. Group A suggested a beach for paddling but indicated that there should not be facilities at the beach such as deck chair hire.
- Safety concerns were raised including blue green algae and the potential need for buoys, lifebelts and lifeguards. Questions were asked about the slope below water level and potential problems with the distance to water during periods of draw down.
- Need to keep dogs away from the beach.
- Another safety issue raised was ice in the winter months over deep water.

### *Events*

- Group B concluded that events could be established later on, while Group A were concerned about the traffic and noise levels that would be generated.
- Noted that there was already an events venue at Staunton Country Park, thus questioning why a second venue was needed.

### *Parking and vehicular access*

- In terms of the visitor catchment of the reservoir, participants suggested that visitors would come from as far as Guildford.
- Preferences in relation to parking were for car parks to be located close to the main road, to ensure that disturbance from traffic remains at the periphery of the site. Where vehicular access to the reservoir is required, the northern route was preferred, as this would avoid bringing traffic through the centre of the forest area.
- Strong view from both groups that access routes would need to be carefully designed to keep motorcycles out.
- Participants advised that Rowland's Castle, Manor Lodge Road / Durrants Road have traffic problems and that the development of the reservoir may or may not affect traffic. The need to consider increased traffic at weekends and traffic management measures was identified.

## **5.5 Overarching principles from community workshop**

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During the course of the discussions, the following points were reiterated on a number of occasions:

- The opportunity the development presents to link the wider footpath, cycleway and bridleway networks together (particularly in the context of Countryside Access Plans and the establishment of the South Downs National Park).

- There is a need for an overarching management strategy for Staunton Country Park, the reservoir site and the Forestry Commission land at Havant Thicket in relation to recreation and habitat conservation and creation. The three land holdings should be viewed as complementary elements of a single attraction.
- Careful planning of facilities is needed to avoid future conflicts and to maximise benefits. Additional facilities could be provided over time rather than right from the outset.
- The open, wild nature of the site needs to be retained.

## 6 Consultees Feedback

A number of responses have been received from statutory and non-statutory consultees. The following issues have been raised:

### 6.1 Natural and Historic Environment

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Five letters have been received covering these topics.

#### 6.1.1 English Heritage (1.5.08)

Concern that not enough thought has been given to the historic environment including the possible impacts on the Grade II \* registered historic park and garden at Leigh Park, and listed buildings.

The assessment of the options in the consultation was questioned particularly in relation to exclusion of an option retaining The Avenue, and to rejection of Southleigh Farm when relative environmental impacts have not been reported.

English Heritage suggested that a meeting would be helpful. Subsequently a site meeting took place on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2008 to discuss matters of concern to English Heritage and what needed to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Assessment.

#### 6.1.2 Natural England (25.4.08)

Reiteration of concerns in earlier letter (18.6.07).

PW should include an objective to provide an overall net gain in biodiversity; and should consider local and national Biodiversity Action Plan species as well as legally protected species (ie bats, reptiles, dormice and breeding birds).

Aspects of ecological design should be incorporated including retention of wildlife corridors and linear features, native planting, wildlife ponds, nest boxes, bat boxes (see Biodiversity by Design; and contact HCC Ecologists).

#### 6.1.3 Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (9.4.08)

Important to see the whole site in relation to wildlife, not just some segregated areas with recreation predominating elsewhere.

The need to strike a balance between opportunities for local community recreation and wildlife would suggest a preference for the Low Activity Scenario.

Preference would be given to the stream route for the pipeline if semi natural habitat can be restored.

The Trust requested a meeting to allow further discussion which should include a representative from the Staunton Country Park. This subsequently took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2008.

#### 6.1.4 Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (17.4.08)

Second letter from Trust concentrating on planning issues.

Need for an appropriate assessment to cover potential impacts on Langstone Harbour (and nightjars nesting in open ground).

Need to compensate for loss of habitats designated as Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation (SINC), possibly off site. There are particular concerns for the bat population and reptile species both during construction and in the long term.

The Trust expect that ecological considerations will influence the scale of the reservoir, access arrangements through Havant Thicket, the pipeline route, and scale of provision for recreation (eg. dinghy storage).

Long term management and funding are also important issues in guaranteeing ecological mitigation.

#### **6.1.5 RSPB (17.4.08)**

Importance of the Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP) in setting the need for the reservoir indicates that the consultation has been premature.

RSPB considers that the reservoir may not be able to function if it has to work without adverse effect on the Langstone Harbour Special Protection Area. Therefore, there is a need for an appropriate assessment. RSPB would like to be kept informed in relation to this issue.

An appropriate assessment is being undertaken and will be discussed with the Environment Agency, Natural England and the RSPB.

### **6.2 Access and Transportation**

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Three letters have been received covering these topics.

#### **6.2.1 Highways Agency (2.5.08)**

HA is concerned that the Strategic Road Network in the local area (including the A3(M) junctions 2 and 3, and A27 junction with A3023) is already under relatively high levels of stress throughout the day, and is particularly congested at peak times.

HA would like to see consideration of: scale, layout, parking and access arrangements; managing down of the demand for long distance trips; increased access by sustainable transport modes; and use of traffic management and appropriate parking policies near the site.

Traffic impacts of site construction should be included in the Transport Assessment (TA).

#### **6.2.2 Portsmouth & South East Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry (18.4.08)**

They consider that the reservoir could be of benefit to the area.

Important that there should be a transport assessment because of concern about traffic levels; there should be provision for cyclists.

Consideration should be given to accessing the site via the Dunsbury Hill development.

#### **6.2.3 Hants & West Sussex Borders Bridleway Group (27. 3.08)**

Concerns are: safe entrances; equitable charging regime for use of area (riders on Forestry Commission Land are currently charged); safe horsebox / trailer parking; shared use of more routes currently dominated by walkers.

Current Horndean access to Havant Thicket from B2149 is very dangerous: Group would like entry through Borrows field (opposite Pyle Lane) to be explored.

### **6.3 Other Responses**

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#### **6.3.1 Environment Agency (4.4.08)**

No formal comment at this stage.

Environmental costs and benefits need to be seen in the context of the Water Resource Management Plan.

Comments from the Environment Agency Area Officers will be most relevant for the EIA scoping report.

A meeting took place with the Environment Agency to discuss the EIA. An ongoing dialogue will take place with each of the Environment Agency specialisms to ensure that the outputs from the EIA is robust.

### **6.3.2 Havant Borough Council (10.4.08)**

The Council recognises the need for reservoir, and encourages development of recreation uses.

Consideration by the Development Consultation Forum would be best arranged when PW has been able to consider any amendments to the scheme following the consultation.

Concern about the visual impact of the reservoir when drawn down during an average summer when recreational use would normally be expected to be high: mitigation and minimisation of impacts need to be considered further in discussion with the Council.

## 7 Summary and Conclusions

### 7.1 Consultation Process

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Since 2004 Portsmouth Water has been working with a Key Stakeholder Group comprising local community representatives including councillors, local authorities, wildlife organisations, the Environment Agency, the Consumer Council for Water, Staunton Country Park and the Forestry Commission. This resulted in a preferred reservoir layout being selected for public consultation, which aimed to maximise the volume of water which could be stored, while minimising the impact on the local woodland to the north and south.

#### 7.1.1 Publicity

- Over 17,000 letters were sent to addresses in the vicinity of the site inviting residents to attend the exhibition held at Leigh Park Community Centre, Horndean Technical College and Rowlands Castle Parish Hall between 8 and 18 March.
- Letters were sent to national bodies and local organisations, and a report on the proposals was made available both in hard copy and on the website.
- Publicity was also provided through interviews with the press, radio and local television, notices on site, and stands at local supermarkets.
- A special effort was made to involve local schools (five of whom responded) and the Havant Youth Council.

#### 7.1.2 Feedback

- Over 850 people attended the exhibition, and the Havant Thicket website received over 200 unique visitors in April 2008 alone.
- Over 250 feedback forms were received, more than 60 of them from young people as a result of the school visits. There was a balance in numbers of responses between the different local communities
- In addition there were 10 letters / emails from organisations.
- A community workshop was held on Saturday 29 March at Leigh Park Community Centre attended by 30 individuals, with a balance between people from different communities and varying interests, to discuss the options and issues being raised in greater depth.

### 7.2 The Case for the Reservoir

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The main impression from the discussions at the exhibition, from the feedback forms, the letters / emails and the community workshop was that the majority of people were aware of the scheme and did not have a fundamental objection to the development of a reservoir in this location.

The main issues raised by those who expressed any concerns about the case for the development were as follows. The text in italics (as elsewhere in this summary) presents the response from Portsmouth Water.

- Most respondents accepted the need for a reservoir, but a few people suggested the case had not been made clearly enough, and that means of reducing demand and alternative provision to meet any future shortfall could be pursued instead.

*With population growth, the increasing number of single person households and the growth in use of new appliances (washing machines, dishwashers, power showers) overall demand for water is rising. This, in conjunction with the need to supply new housing, means there is now a clear need for the reservoir to be provided by 2020.*

Portsmouth Water has submitted a draft Water Resources Management Plan to the Secretary of State setting out the water resource needs for the future and how these will be met using a twin track approach. This will include demand management, further leakage control and more effective use of water. The plan sets out the detailed evidence that a reservoir of the scale proposed is needed by 2020. The Company anticipate that this will be confirmed by the Secretary of State. A full copy of the draft Water Resources Management Plan is available at [www.portsmouthwater.co.uk](http://www.portsmouthwater.co.uk).

- The issue of alternative sites was raised at the community workshop, with a question asked as to whether the site at Southleigh Farm was a viable option.

Over the past 40 years Portsmouth Water has looked at many potential sites and options for different reservoir layouts. The outcome of these studies has confirmed that the Company land at Havant Thicket provides the most robust, sustainable and cost effective location for the reservoir, with the best opportunities for provision of environmental and community benefits. There was much less opportunity for environmental mitigation and recreational provision in association with the Southleigh Farm option because of the need to completely enclose the reservoir within steep, visually intrusive, embankments to impound the water and this created a smaller water area.

- The cost of the reservoir and its funding was raised as a question at the community workshop and by some of the young people.

An independent survey of Portsmouth Water customers was undertaken in 2007. This indicated that people value security and reliability of supply and would not want to see the level of service they currently receive decline in the future. Customers have indicated that they support the development of a winter storage reservoir at Havant Thicket and are willing to see bills rise to maintain the current level of service, especially in relation to maintaining a reliable and continuous supply of water. It is estimated that the cost of the reservoir will raise bills by between £3 and £7 per household per annum (at today's prices), with the first small increase from 2009.

### **7.3 Scenarios**

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Three levels of activity were described in the consultation report and exhibition, together with three early-stage Scenario Plans illustrating the possible layouts of the site and locations for specific facilities. Respondents were given the opportunity to express a preference for one of the scenarios, but also to consider how they would like their preference to be improved. The same opportunities were provided to the young people and those attending the community workshop.

#### **7.3.1 Low level of Activity**

In the general feedback forms there was no clear preference for any of the scenarios. Those preferring this lower scale of activity cited the importance of maintaining the natural environment, and concern about the pressure on local roads and services of larger numbers of visitors.

There was least support for the Low Level of Activity from the young people.

At the community workshop, one out of the two groups expressed a preference for this scenario, but with something above the minimum by adding a few of the features from the Medium Level of Activity (eg a small visitor centre to provide toilets).

#### **7.3.2 Medium Level of Activity**

In the general feedback forms there was no clear preference, but those who supported this scenario mentioned that it offered a balance between providing local recreational facilities while still protecting the environment.



Young people gave some support to this level of activity citing that the reservoir must not be too busy, but should also not be a wasted opportunity. Some mentioned that the addition of a few of the facilities from the High Level of Activity might be appropriate (eg café related to the visitor centre).

At the community workshop the second group favoured this scale of activity as the starting point, with the addition of some facilities from the High Level of Activity (eg supervised sailing for young people).

### **7.3.3 High Level of Activity**

In the general feedback forms this was the least favoured scenario, but those who supported this scenario mentioned the importance of provision of facilities for the local community.

Young people gave the highest level of support to this scenario, stating reasons that included the provision of a range of activities for local people and the attraction of visitors bringing money and jobs to the area. Some of the young people suggested that particular activities should be excluded (e.g. the skate park).

At the community workshop neither group favoured this as the starting point for the reservoir design.

### **7.3.4 Conclusions on Scenarios**

The responses on the feedback forms were divided fairly equally between the different scenarios. Overall it was clear from those attending the exhibitions and the community workshop that a low to medium activity scenario was favoured, with different people wanting to select a variety of uses from the activities proposed. On the whole young people favoured a higher level of activity.

This very helpful feedback has been used by Portsmouth Water to develop the reservoir proposal and in particular to revise the Outline Plan. The aim of this section of the feedback forms, and of this part of the workshop discussion however, was not to get a vote on which level of activity was preferred, but to clarify the thinking behind the preferences so that these could be taken into account in developing the Outline Plan for the scheme.

*The revised Outline Plan illustrates the range of facilities that are proposed to be taken forward as a result of the consideration of all the feedback (see sections below). The main principle behind the solution developed is the importance of retaining a natural rural environment while providing a range of facilities for the local community.*

## **7.4 Main elements of reservoir design**

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### **7.4.1 Embankment**

The reservoir will be approximately 1 mile (1.6km) from east to west and 0.5 miles (0.8km) from north to south. There was a slight preference expressed in the feedback forms for the location of the southern embankment to be further from the woodland to protect the habitat along the fringe of the existing woodland. However, others were keen to ensure that the opportunity was taken to create the maximum water volume possible.

*We propose to position the embankment far enough away from the woodland to prevent damage and ensure the embankment is not in the shadow of the trees. This will create a sunny south facing slope for wild flowers and reptiles. A distance somewhere between the two options of 15 and 40 metres is expected to be shown on the final plans.*

There was some concern expressed at the exhibition and at the community workshop that the embankment might not be able to cope with severe weather conditions and could either overflow or become unstable endangering local residents.

*The reservoir will be filled in the winter under controlled conditions with surplus water from the Havant and Bedhampton Springs, as there is very little rain water available from the natural catchment to the north. As a compensation measure a water flow will be maintained from the reservoir to the existing Riders Lane Stream to the south. There will also be a carefully designed spillway to the existing stream to enable any storm water to be dealt with safely. Initial studies indicate that the reservoir will in fact reduce the risk of flooding downstream during storm events. In the case of an extreme event the new pipelines, used to fill the reservoir, can be utilised as an additional safety feature to drain water more quickly from the reservoir back to Langstone Harbour.*

A concern was raised during the consultation by some people about reservoir safety.

*It is a requirement of the Reservoirs Act 1975 that the design of the reservoir is supervised by an independent engineer called the 'Construction Engineer', who is selected from a panel of engineers approved by the government. The Construction Engineer has already been appointed to approve the design of the reservoir embankments and associated structures, and he will also inspect the works during construction if planning permission is granted. Filling of the reservoir cannot be undertaken until the Construction Engineer has issued a certificate. Monitoring devices will be installed in the reservoir banks, and the embankments will be inspected by an independent engineer at regular intervals, as prescribed by the requirements of the Reservoir Act, which is regulated by the Environment Agency. This will include regular inspection and testing of the spillway and other draw down facilities.*

#### **7.4.2 Access and parking**

Local residents were very concerned about the potential impacts the reservoir proposal might have on traffic levels in Leigh Park and Rowlands Castle. A clear majority of respondents (79%) were in favour of the longer northern access route into the site from the B2149 Horndean to Havant road. This is the route closest to junction 2 on the A3(M) and avoids the need for traffic to pass through Leigh Park and Rowlands Castle.

*Given the strong level of support for this route we have included the northern access route on the revised Outline Plan. Selecting this route also limits the potential impact the access might have on the ecology of Havant Thicket and on walking, cycling and horse riding routes within the woodland.*

Some people attending the exhibition and workshop indicated that a more direct access route from the A3(M) would be preferable and should be investigated, or that a bypass route for the B2149 should be considered.

*Alternative routes have previously been considered, including a direct route from Junction 3 of the A3 (M). These routes will be reviewed again by our consultants in conjunction with the ongoing work to undertake an environmental impact assessment for all aspects of the scheme.*

There was support at the community workshop for parking areas to be limited to the edge of the site (except for disabled access), and concerns that there should be no overspill parking on local roads for instance in Leigh Park. Concerns were raised about the management of the current car park on the Forestry Commission land adjacent to Manor Lodge Road, at Rowlands Castle.

*It is clear from the feedback received that any parking areas provided must be well managed and controlled. The amount of parking needed will be determined by the Transport Assessment which is ongoing. It is anticipated that some parking areas would be provided at the periphery of the site, with some parking also at the visitor centre. The parking locations have not yet been fixed. The areas shown on the Outline Plan are for illustration only and will be subject to further discussion with the planning authorities and our Key Stakeholder Group once the traffic studies and Environmental Impact Assessment are complete.*

### **7.4.3 Pipeline route**

There was a clear preference (77%) from the public expressed in the feedback forms for the pipeline to be constructed along the red route that followed alongside the Riders Lane / Hermitage Stream, since it would limit disruption locally, and provide potential opportunities for improvement to the ecology of the stream. This alignment was tentatively supported by the Wildlife Trust. There were some concerns expressed about the potential impact construction would have on the area of woodland known as the Great Copse.

*Given the strong preference expressed by the public Portsmouth Water propose to develop the pipeline route alongside the Riders Lane / Hermitage stream. The exact pipeline route will be investigated further to try to identify an alignment which can avoid the Great Copse woodland, in order to help minimise any adverse environmental impacts.*

### **7.4.4 Renewable Energy**

Respondents were supportive of the need for renewable energy to be used. This was particularly important to the young people in their feedback forms with mention made of off-setting the total carbon footprint of the construction, as well as operation of the reservoir. None of the alternative sources were particularly favoured, though the potential visual impact of turbines was noted by some young people and some attendees at the community workshop.

*A study of alternative sources of renewable energy is proposed to cover water and wind turbines, wood fuel, solar power, and use of ground heat pumps. Factors to be considered during the assessment will include likely effectiveness and local environmental impacts.*

## **7.5 Construction**

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### **7.5.1 Habitat relocation**

Impacts on wildlife were the greatest concern in the feedback forms and were also mentioned in letters and emails. It was considered vital to provide alternative habitat for species such as dormice, reptiles, bats and nightjars well before construction commences.

*To address this we propose that habitat creation and species relocation would take place in the two years before the main construction phases begin. Environmental survey work is ongoing but it is anticipated that most relocation should be possible locally, by working with the Forestry Commission and Staunton Country Park to enhance the wildlife value of adjacent habitats.*

*Both the Forestry Commission and Staunton Country Park have indicated a willingness to work with Portsmouth Water to achieve this. Reintroduction on to the reservoir site will be possible in the longer term post construction. For example, reptiles can be relocated on to the new south facing embankment. The woodland edges of the reservoir will provide an ideal foraging area for bats.*

### **7.5.2 Construction traffic, noise and dust**

General access issues are described in 7.4.2 above, but the potential impact of lorry movements during construction was raised as a concern during the consultation process.

*Most of the material needed for construction of the reservoir is to be excavated from the good natural clay below the site itself, minimising the need for lorry movements on to the site. It is proposed that a Construction Management Plan be agreed with the relevant local authorities. This would require that all construction traffic will be directed to enter the site from junction 2 of the A3(M), to ensure that lorry movements do not take place through local residential areas.*

Noise and dust were also identified as important in the feedback forms and were discussed at the community workshop.

*The councils will stipulate conditions for noise and dust control, and hours of working. It may be possible to use stockpiles of soil as noise bunds to protect nearby housing where appropriate, and haul roads would be damped down to minimise dust generation. The main excavation will take place within the centre of the site. It is envisaged that there could also be some tree planting on the edge of the site in the years prior to construction to assist with screening.*

### **7.5.3 Other issues**

The loss of existing access routes during construction was of concern, and suggestions were made at the community workshop and in letters / emails about replacement routes and opportunities for viewing the construction activity (particularly for young people).

*Relocation of footpaths, cycleway and bridleway is proposed to be to the north of the site away from the embankment construction, and consideration will be given to provision of a view point during construction.*

There was some concern that not enough attention had been given to the archaeology of the site.

*Further investigation is taking place as a part of the Environmental Impact Assessment work to ensure anything of archaeological interest is identified and addressed in an appropriate way.*

On the subject of employment generation the emphasis was on local benefits but also the potential impact of the construction workforce.

*It is expected that specialised skills and services will need to be brought in. The site compound and any on site accommodation is likely to be located to the north west of the site close to the proposed new access route.*

## **7.6 Landscape and habitats**

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Methods of enhancing the natural landscape were considered particularly important in the general responses, while young people were also interested in the provision for renewable energy (see 7.4.4 above) and the beach (see section 7.7.3 below).

### **7.6.1 Wetland**

There was considerable support for the wetland from the general public and young people, including at the community workshop, since this together with the main water body, would attract new species to the area.

The general concern was that the wetland area should be protected from visitor pressure and from the effects of lowering the water level.

*Following concerns expressed during the consultation about the visual and environmental impacts of low water levels when the reservoir is drawn down, a retaining bund has been included in the revised design. We propose that this is of variable height in order to create a series of islands that provide suitable habitat for breeding birds (see Outline Plan). This bund will ensure that the water level in the wetland area can be retained even when the level in the reservoir has to be dropped to meet water supply needs.*

*We plan to make provision for a large wetland area along the north edge of the reservoir, to ensure there is a net increase in biodiversity in the longer term. The design of the wetland has been changed from the consultation draft to remove the boardwalk from the main wetland area, in order to minimise the potential for disturbance of wildlife.*

### **7.6.2 Woodland**

There was concern about the loss of woodland including The Avenue, and a desire expressed particularly by some at the community workshop, for replacement of at least the

equivalent in new planting for habitat creation, screening of construction, carbon dioxide sequestration, and softening of views towards the embankment.

*It will not be possible to plant trees on the embankment itself, as the tree roots could affect the safety of the reservoir, but other planting to soften the profile is possible (see 7.6.3 below). It will be possible to provide strategic new woodland planting in some areas on the edge of the site; this will also help with screening. Only native species would be planted.*

### **7.6.3 Grassland and other habitat**

There was less emphasis on grassland in the feedback forms, but the opportunities for creating wildflower meadows on the embankments were discussed at the community workshop. The importance of seeing the whole site as an integrated ecological system, with an overall gain in biodiversity was stressed in letters / emails.

*It is envisaged that the embankments will be seeded with wild flowers to create new meadow areas. This will create a very good reptile habitat. The wider landscaping will include new woodland and hedgerow planting to create an integrated ecological system. Only native species would be used. When planning the new planting, opportunities will be investigated to ensure the new habitats around the reservoir link into the wider area to create wildlife corridors.*

### **7.6.4 Impact on setting and views**

There was some concern expressed about the views towards the embankments if the slopes were just mown grass (see response in 7.6.3 above), but also of the effect of the drawdown during drought on the visual quality of the inner slope.

*It is proposed that a full study will be carried out on the alternative facing material for the inner embankment slope to take into account its effectiveness as a protection material, availability, sustainability of provision and visual quality. No decision has yet been made on the material to be used. This information will be available for consideration when the planning application is made.*

There was also concern about views into the site particularly from residential property (see response in 7.6.2 above), and of views from the embankment toward private gardens.

*It is expected that views to private gardens will be obscured by distance from the embankment top, strategic planting and potentially by use of landscaped soil bunds.*

The need to consider the context of the wider historic environment was noted, with particular mention of the historic park and garden.

*There will be a further study to ensure that the new landscape is integrated with the historic landscape, for instance by the consideration of a viewpoint and by the sensitive treatment of the landscape and design of structures (see also sections 7.7.4 and 7.7.7 below).*

## **7.7 Recreation and Education**

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The quieter forms of activity were particularly favoured in the general responses, while the young people favoured the more active pursuits.

### **7.7.1 Walking, cycling and horse-riding**

There was significant support from the public for the extension of walking and cycling routes, linked to a circular route around the reservoir, especially one on the top of the embankment. There was also support for similar facilities for horse-riding, though with some concern that the routes should be kept separated.

*We propose to work with the adjacent landowners to provide a circular footpath approximately 3 miles (5km) long around the reservoir, with a slightly longer circular cycle route (see outline map). An application will be made to Hampshire County Council to divert the existing public bridleway which currently crosses the site to the north. In addition we*

*hope to be able to provide a permissive horse riding route to the south, creating a circular route for horse riders. These additional walking and riding routes would provide a valuable additional facility for local people. Access points and path surfacing would need to be designed to provide easy access routes for the disabled and elderly, while excluding motorcycles.*

Support was also given to the importance of recreational route linkages to the wider area, both from residential areas into the site and from the strategic recreational opportunities in the vicinity, and to the possibility of cycle hire.

*Meetings with other stakeholders will take place to investigate how improved public access links into the wider area for walking, cycling and horse riding might be achieved. Cycle hire is already provided at the Country Park, but there may be opportunities for extra temporary provision on the reservoir site at times of peak demand. A separate building is not proposed.*

### **7.7.2 Bird watching and angling**

Bird watching was particularly supported in the general public feedback, but there was concern that disturbance to wildlife should be kept to a minimum.

*It is proposed that bird watching and interpretation facilities will be provided. Hides in the wetland will be approached via specific feeder paths to minimise the potential for disturbance (see Outline Plan). Use of screens with different viewing heights will also be explored.*

Angling including for the disabled, was also supported, with positive comments in the general public feedback and from young people. There was, however, concern at the community workshop about the potential impacts of fish stocking on the quality of the water.

*It is envisaged that fishing platforms would be provided on the embankment, with a minimum of two locations close to parking areas at the western and eastern end of the reservoir for disabled anglers (see Outline Plan). There may be controlled stocking of specific fish species with the help of the Environment Agency. A permit system for fishing is likely to be used, as an extension to the existing system at the Country Park. This will provide a good recreational resource for local people.*

### **7.7.3 Picnic, play areas and beach**

There was general support for picnic and play areas (including pond dipping suggested by young people). However there was a mixed response to swimming facilities related to the beach. Young people were more in favour, with some suggesting additional facilities such as diving boards and slides. However, even among the young people there were those with concerns about the safety of using the reservoir, and the need for facilities in the context of sea bathing being available nearby. In addition concerns were also expressed about the high cost and difficulties associated with maintaining and replacing sand on an artificial beach. At the community workshop the possibility of large numbers of visitors especially at peak times was also mentioned as a concern in relation to the beach with related problems of access and parking.

*The idea of a beach put forward in the consultation is not to be progressed as there was no strong public support for this. Instead Portsmouth Water proposes to provide an amenity grassland area for picnic and play to the northwest part of the reservoir, close to the main access route into the reservoir site. A pond dipping area will also be provided close by (see Outline Plan).*

### **7.7.4 Visitor / education centre and research**

Provision of a visitor/education centre was considered important, particularly in the general public responses. Positive comments from young people included the extent to which visitors would be attracted to the site (with positive impacts on local employment), and the use that could be made of education facilities by schools. Discussion in the community

workshop was divided between those who wanted a major facility with shop and café, and those who preferred a more modest information centre with toilets.

*It is currently envisaged that the visitor/ education centre would be located in the northwest of site, providing toilets, a small cafe, some storage and a multi-purpose room which can be used as a class room. Schools would have access to the whole site, including the wetland and bird hides for educational purposes.*

*The brief for the design of any building or structures required will include the need to ensure that they are in keeping with the rural landscape. Designers would be encouraged to consider the extent to which timber or other material removed from the site during construction could be re-used. In addition, the layout of the building would need to be designed to facilitate future extension, in order to accommodate any future changes in the needs of the local community.*

Although there was some support for the site to be a centre for fieldwork, there was no support for provision of a separate building.

*As a result there are no plans to include a separate building for research on the site.*

#### **7.7.5 Other land based recreation/activity**

An events arena was strongly supported by the young people as providing an outlet for local music and other groups; a floating stage was also suggested. However there was much less support from the general public with concerns about noise, visitor numbers and parking. The skate park was opposed by some of the young people, since there is already provision in Warren Park.

*The outdoor events venue area will not be pursued due to concerns about the potential impact of noise and disturbance on nearby residents, and because there is already a facility available at the Country Park.*

*A skate park is also already available close by in Warren Park, so there is not considered to be a need for a further facility on the reservoir site.*

There were a large number of suggestions for additional facilities from the young people. These included a woodland adventure trail, canopy walk, go ape and zip wire. Other suggestions would take larger land areas than are available within the site: rock climbing, archery, fencing, air ballooning, animal care centre, camping or other on site accommodation. An urban farm was another idea, but this is already provided at the Country Park.

*Provision of a woodland adventure trail, primarily in the woodland to the north, is being investigated to encourage young people into the countryside. This could link to the existing trail now available in the Country Park.*

A final group of suggested activities would create noise intrusion and safety concerns. These included paint balling, lazer shooting, helicopter rides and quad biking.

*These more active pursuits are not considered to be in keeping with the rural nature of the site and will not be pursued.*

#### **7.7.6 Other water based recreation/activity**

There was major support for the provision of water sports from the young people, though with less support from the general public. Almost all respondents agreed that motorised sports (such as jet skiing) should be excluded. Specific proposals came mostly from the young people and discussion at the community workshop:

- kayaking, canoeing and rowing boats were widely supported as being a water based use which could take place while having minimum adverse impacts on the environment, apart from concerns related to storage issues;
- model boats (electric or sailing only) were also supported, with the potential need to provide a designated separate area for their use to avoid conflicts;
- club sailing and rowing were more contentious, with concerns about lack of access for local people, and the availability of club sailing facilities elsewhere close by;
- windsurfing and kite surfing were also more contentious, with concerns about safety and about conflicts with other users and the wildlife using the wetland;
- under water activity was only mentioned by a few people (sub aqua diving; underwater viewing platform possibly associated with a 'coral reef').

It was suggested in the community workshop that it might be preferable to start with a lower level of provision focusing on low impact uses (for example canoeing) which can be more easily managed, and to consider other activities (such as sailing) at a later stage.

*It is proposed that activities to be supported in the first instance would be for low impact uses such as model boats (electric/wind powered) kayaking, canoeing. These would take place in the west of the site. It is envisaged that management and supervision of water based activities would be undertaken in conjunction with local schools, the Country Park and/or other local organisations. The extent to which facilities would be needed to support such uses are under investigation. However, a slipway will be provided at the construction stage to ensure flexibility for the future (see Outline Plan).*

*We have endeavoured to propose activities that will not conflict with one another. Activities requiring powered engines such as jet skiing or water skiing are not proposed. The only exception might be for a safety boat to support a low impact activity. This will remove the need to store any significant volume of fuel and help protect the quality of the water from hydrocarbon leaks or spills.*

The work with of the Riders Junior School during the consultation phase in Spring 2008 included a competition to show what activities and facilities the young people preferred. A significant number of the young people showed an island in their design with access via a bridge.

*We have included on the revised Outline Plan an island accessed via a bridge. This will be located in the northwest corner of the reservoir. This would enable the public to walk on to the island to sit and enjoy the view, or have a picnic.*

### **7.7.7 Viewing platforms and public art**

Viewing platforms were given a moderately high level of support by the general public and young people. There was some concern that they could be subject to vandalism, and queries as to the need given that views will be available along the embankment. There were suggestions that more traditional designs might be appropriate, particularly in the context of the historic park.

*One major view point feature is proposed on the southern embankment where it joins The Avenue, linking through from the historic park/ garden (see Outline Plan). The design brief will cover issues of historic context to ensure the feature is of an appropriate design. In addition, in order to provide a local amenity for Leigh Park residents, a view point will be developed on the western bank of the reservoir (see Outline Plan). Portsmouth Water is discussing with other stakeholders how the local community (including young people) might be involved in the design.*

Both the general public and young people rated public art as the least important of the aspects listed in the consultation. There were, however, some suggestions for enhancement



of the reservoir from the young people including a fountain in the centre, and an avenue of lights across the water. Both would, however, involve high energy use and potentially conflict with conservation objectives and other activities on the water.

*The use of art will be explored with other stakeholders. It is envisaged that art will be integrated into the design of the reservoir and its accompanying features rather than as stand alone objects in the landscape (for example with respect to the design of the view points).*

There were concerns raised especially in the community workshop on the future management of the site, particularly in the context of the possibility of vandalism. Issues such as the number of rangers on site, and the extent of fencing and lighting were raised

*The Forestry Commission, Staunton Country Park and Portsmouth Water have all indicated that they are interested in developing some form of site management partnership for the three land holdings. Each organisation has committed to working with the Company to develop an integrated scheme and there will be continued close working with both organisations as the proposals are refined over the coming year.*

## **7.8 Consultation Response – Key Conclusions**

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The public response to the proposal for a reservoir at the exhibitions was generally very supportive, with the majority of people indicating that they viewed it as a potential benefit for the local area. The key concerns raised during the consultation were:

- The loss of existing habitat and potential impact on wildlife
- Potential for increased traffic in residential areas.
- The need for adequate parking provision for visitors.
- Whether there would be any risk from flooding.

As at 31 August 2008 only five specific objections to the proposal had been received by Portsmouth Water from a member of the general public.

It was clear from the consultation exercise that those attending the exhibitions, community workshop and who completed the feedback form attached great value to the area proposed for the reservoir. They were keen to ensure that:

- The rural character of the area is maintained.
- Public access to the site is maintained and improved, with opportunities investigated to provide links into the wider area.
- Damage to wildlife is minimised and mitigated.
- A wetland area is provided to increase biodiversity.
- Recreational facilities for the local community are provided, such as walking, cycling, horse riding, angling and bird watching. Many indicated that it was important not to waste the opportunity that the planned reservoir provides.
- The route selected for access to the reservoir (and for the pipeline route) is chosen to minimise the potential impacts on the local community, as traffic management issues were a key concern.
- Construction impacts be minimised.

Overall it was clear from those attending the exhibitions and the community workshop that a low to medium activity scenario was favoured, with different people wanting to select a variety of uses from the activities proposed. On the whole young people favoured a higher level of activity.

This very helpful feedback has been used by Portsmouth Water to develop the reservoir proposal and in particular to revise the outline plan. A copy of the Outline Plan is included in Appendix F.

In summary our proposal for the way forward is to:

- Utilise the northern access route into the site from, the B2149 Horndean to Havant Road, avoiding all residential areas.
- Construct the pipeline alongside the Riders Lane / Hermitage Stream (the red route).
- Provide car parking at a number of locations.
- Provide mitigation for wildlife currently using the site, including bats and reptiles.
- Create a wetland to help increase biodiversity and provide hides for bird watching, with nature interpretation.
- Plant wildflower meadows on the embankments.
- Provide circular routes for walking, cycling and horse riding.
- Provide picnic and play areas.
- Provide a visitor / education centre.
- Make provision for angling (including disabled angling)
- Provide a slipway and investigate facilities needed for provision of supervised watersports run in conjunction with local schools, the Country Park and / or other local organisations.
- Continue to investigate opportunities for alternative energy provision.

## 8 Next Steps

### 8.1 Proposed way forward

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The new *Outline Plan* illustrates the range of facilities that are proposed to be taken forward, for further discussion with the planning authorities, community representatives and other stakeholders, as a result of the consideration of all the feedback. The main principle behind the solution developed is the importance of retaining a natural rural environment, while providing a range of facilities for the local community.

The set of proposals could be extended further at a later date if there were a strong demand from the local community, but only following monitoring of the impacts of the already developed uses, and in response to changing local objectives. Any such changes would need to be the subject of a further planning application.

#### 8.1.1 Areas of work

There are several areas where further work is needed to address the issues raised in the consultation and ensure the environmental impacts are fully considered. The following work is being undertaken in 2008/09 for incorporation with the planning application:

- **Further ecological studies:** relating to the species present on the reservoir site and on adjacent land, the provision of replacement habitats and the ecology of the Riders Lane / Hermitage Streams.
- **Transport assessment:** undertaking noise and traffic surveys, assessing the potential impacts of the scheme on the local road network and designing the access routes; Work to estimate visitor numbers and determine parking needs; meetings with other stakeholders to investigate how improved public access links into the wider area for walking, cycling and horse riding might be achieved.
- **Renewable Energy:** exploring options for renewable energy use at the site.
- **Landscape:** undertaking a design study to cover the relationship to the historic environment, the visual impact of draw down of the reservoir, illustrative outline design of structures and consideration of views into and out of the site.
- **Management:** clarifying the nature of the usage of the proposed facilities and their longer term management.

#### 8.1.2 Involvement of local community and stakeholders

Technical stakeholders (e.g. Local Authorities, English Heritage, Environment Agency, Natural England, Highways Authority) will be involved in the relevant studies. The Interim Report on Community and Stakeholder Involvement will be made available on the website, and all those individuals and organisations involved in this stage of consultation will receive a newsletter summarising the consultation response.

Stakeholders will be consulted on how Portsmouth Water can best involve the local community in the design of the Leigh Park view point facility. The Forestry Commission and Staunton Country Park will continue to be consulted on how the new recreational facilities can be developed and managed effectively.

In this context it is appropriate to reconsider the original Strategy for Community and Stakeholder Involvement (March 2008). The actions that will be appropriate up to submission of the planning application will be discussed with the local planning authorities. It is currently envisaged that a revised document will be prepared and placed on the website in Autumn 2008.

Appendix A

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**Ongoing Consultation  
2004 - 2008**

## Ongoing Consultation 2004 – 2009

### A1.1 Key Stakeholder Group

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In addition to the means of consultation presented in the main body of this report, an extensive body of consultation has been undertaken since 2004 to enable Portsmouth Water to present to the general public and key stakeholders its plans for a proposed reservoir at Havant Thicket.

In 2004 a Key Stakeholder Group comprising local community representatives including councillors, local authorities, wildlife organisations, the Consumer Council for Water, Staunton Country Park and the Forestry Commission was set up. This group of stakeholders has acted as a sounding board for proposals and has influenced the direction in which our proposals have moved.

Since the Group's establishment in 2004, it has formally convened on 9 occasions, to address a variety of issues integral to the reservoir scheme. The earlier meetings resulted in a preferred reservoir layout being selected for public consultation, which aimed to maximise the volume of water which could be stored, while minimising the impact on the local woodland to the north and south.

This section sets out the issues discussed at these meetings since 2004.

**December 2004:** Presentations on need for scheme and outline proposals.

**June 2005:** Résumé of proposals, forthcoming water resources and engineering study, proposed baseline ecological survey.

**September 2005:** Structured, facilitated workshop for Key Stakeholder Group members on selection of options to balance future demand with supply.

**January 2006:** Visit to Testwood Lakes for Group to see a prime example of an operational water asset that also provides visitor, recreational, ecological and educational facilities. Presentations were made on resources/engineering study progress, ecological survey progress and Rutland Water habitat provision.

**June 2006:** Presentations on resources / engineering study progress and reservoir layout options. Followed by circulation of information on five potential site access routes and four pipeline routes for consideration / feedback as to the preferred routes.

**January 2007:** Presentations on results of soil survey and impact on options, results of baseline ecological survey and next steps.

**June 2007:** Update on ecological studies, appointment of Arup as consultants and proposed work, water demand management and a review of the membership of the Stakeholder Group.

**January 2008:** Update and discussion on proposed public consultation, pipeline options, access routes, embankment alignment, activity scenarios.

**May 2008:** Update on public consultation exercise, feedback received and how this would influence the scheme. Discussion on land and water based activities, car parking and viewpoints. Update on programme going forward.

Current membership of the Key Stakeholder Group comprises:

- Portsmouth Water (chair)
- Environment Agency (Supra-Region and Area)
- Hampshire County Council (officer and elected member)
- Staunton Country Park (which bounds the site)

- East Hampshire District Council (officers and elected member)
- Havant Borough Council (officer and elected member)
- Rowlands Castle Parish Council (elected member)
- Forestry Commission (owner of adjacent land)
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
- Consumer Council for Water
- Hampshire Ornithological Society
- Leigh Park Community Board

## **A1.2 Newsletter Publications**

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Since 2005 Portsmouth Water have produced a newsletter at key stages of the development of the reservoir proposal, to keep interested parties, stakeholders and the public informed about the scheme. A copy of all newsletters is provided on the Havant Thicket website.

The following newsletters have been produced to date:

**Spring 2005:** Stakeholder briefing regarding proposed initial engineering studies.

**Winter 2005:** Update on Stakeholder Group Meeting, findings of the ecological surveys and water resources / engineering studies.

**Spring 2007:** Set out history of the project, the involvement of the Stakeholder Group, the need for a reservoir and possible alternatives, development of the preferred scheme, timetable and details of how the local community would be involved.

**Summer 2008:** Provided details of the Spring 2008 public consultation exercise, the outcome of that consultation, how Portsmouth Water had taken on board the feedback, and the proposed way forward (including a new Outline Plan).

Appendix B

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**Exhibition Publicity  
Letter**

Venue	Date in 2008	Time open to public
Leigh Park Community Centre Dunsbury Way, Leigh Park, Havant, Hants. PO9 5BG	Saturday 8 March	10am - 7pm
	Sunday 9 March	10am - 7pm
	Monday 10 March	10am - 9pm
Barton Hall Horndean Technology College Barton Cross, Horndean Hampshire. PO8 9PQ	Wednesday 12 March	5.30pm - 9pm
Leigh Park Community Centre	Thursday 13 March	10am - 9pm
Leigh Park Community Centre	Friday 14 March	10am - 9pm
Rowlands Castle Parish Hall 11 Links Lane, Rowlands Castle Hants. PO9 6AD	Saturday 15 March	10 am - 7pm
	Sunday 16 March	10 am - 7pm
	Monday 17 March	10am - 9pm
	Tuesday 18 March	10am - 9pm



**Registered Office:**

Portsmouth Water Ltd  
PO Box 8  
West Street  
Havant  
Hampshire PO9 1LG

Tel: 023 9249 9888

Fax: 023 9245 3632

Web: [www.portsmouthwater.co.uk](http://www.portsmouthwater.co.uk)

Dear Customer,

**HAVANT THICKET WINTER STORAGE RESERVOIR: IMPORTANT CONSULTATION**

We are currently developing proposals for the winter storage reservoir at Havant Thicket.

Many local people will have known for some time that there might be a need for a reservoir. Back in 2004 we set up a Stakeholder Group of interested parties (East Hants DC, Havant BC, Forestry Commission, etc.) to help ensure that all relevant issues are identified and addressed at each stage of the scheme. Recent studies have confirmed that the reservoir will be required by 2020. We must make a planning application for development next year if we are to have it available by 2020.

We want you to be involved as we develop proposals over the next year and into the future.

**An exhibition will be held in March 2008 where we will describe:**

- the growing need for water, the ways in which we can help reduce demand, and the alternative means of supplying water to the local area;
- our initial proposals for the reservoir, how it would work and be constructed; and
- a range of possible designs for the reservoir and the wider area to show how it could be developed to provide for wildlife habitats, a landscape setting, and a range of recreational and educational activities.

A consultation report will be available at the exhibition, on the Portsmouth Water website ([www.portsmouthwater.co.uk](http://www.portsmouthwater.co.uk)), and at libraries and council offices.

The table above shows the location and times for the exhibition. The exhibition will be staffed at all times to enable us to answer your questions, and discuss suggestions. There will be a feedback form available so that you can express your concerns, identify priorities and suggest improvements. The deadline for return of the form is 18 April 2008.

We are also holding a one day workshop on Saturday 29th March at the Leigh Park Community Centre. This will give a chance to bring together a range of local people to discuss in more detail the ideas generated at the exhibition.

If you would like to be involved in the workshop, please let us know as soon as possible: contact us via email [headoffice@portsmouthwater.co.uk](mailto:headoffice@portsmouthwater.co.uk) or phone Debbie Lindsay at Arup on 02380 715000. Let us know your main area of interest, any organisation to which you belong, age and contact details. We will be liaising with the Local Authorities to ensure the workshop is attended by people of an appropriate mix of ages, locations of residence and interests. We will contact you in early March to confirm attendance.

We hope that you will be interested in taking part in developing the proposals so that we can construct a reservoir that will not only meet water supply needs but also provide wider benefits to the local area.

Yours faithfully,

Andy Neve  
Technical Director



# CONTEXT MAP

HAVANT THICKET WINTER STORAGE RESERVOIR



## LANDSCAPE

- IMPORTANT NATURAL AREAS
- PROPOSED HAVANT THICKET WINTER STORAGE RESERVOIR

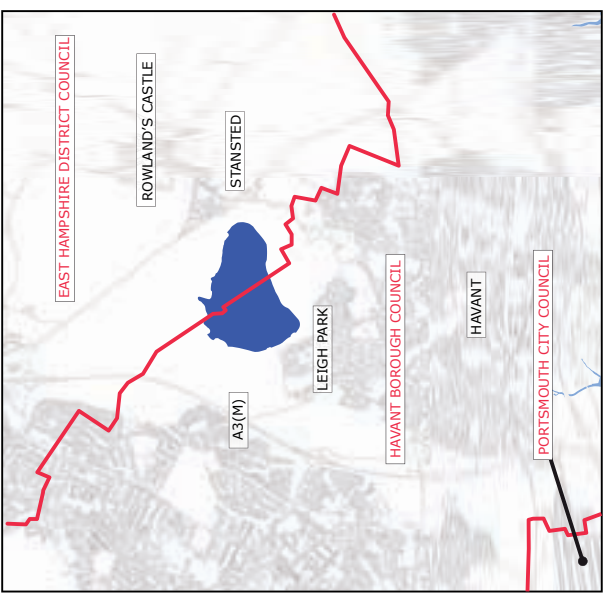
## EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE

- MAIN ROADS
- SECONDARY ROADS
- RAILWAY
- TRAIN STATION

## PROPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE

- VEHICLE ACCESS ROUTE OPTION 1
- VEHICLE ACCESS ROUTE OPTION 2
- PIPELINE ROUTE OPTION 1
- PIPELINE ROUTE OPTION 2
- PIPELINE ROUTE OPTION 3
- PIPELINE ROUTE OPTION 4

## ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES (NOT TO SCALE)



Appendix C

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**General Public  
Feedback Form and  
Young Persons  
Feedback Form**

# Havant Thicket Winter Storage Reservoir



## Outline for Feedback Form

### 1. Introduction

Question 1: What consultation material have you been able to consider? (please tick all that apply)

Exhibition	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consultation Report	<input type="checkbox"/>
Website (Portsmouth Water)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please state eg parish magazine)	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 2. Water Supply Needs and Alternatives

Reference to section 2 of report and exhibition

Question 2: Are there any issues related to need and alternatives on which you would like more information?

Issue	Comments

### 3. Reservoir Design Concepts

Reference to section 3 of report and exhibition

Question 3.1: Which of the locations for the reservoir embankments do you think would be the most appropriate?

Embankment Location	Preference (please tick)	Comments
Larger volume with minimal buffer zone to woodland		
Smaller volume with greater buffer zone to woodland		

Question 3.2: Which of the two access routes do you think would be most appropriate (for construction traffic and for long-term access to the facilities of the reservoir)?

Main Access Route	Preference (please tick)	Comments
1. Shorter route through forestry area		
2. Longer route on edge of forestry area		

Question 3.3: Do you have a preference among the pipeline options?

Pipeline Routes	Preference (please tick)	Comments
Red (along stream)		
Blue (partly along stream)		
Green (road route through shopping and residential areas)		
Yellow (longer road route through shopping and residential areas)		

Question 3.4: Do you have any concerns on the main technical requirements of the reservoir design? (Scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is not concerned and 5 is very concerned). Please use the comments box if you want to explain your concerns.

Requirements	Degree of Concern (please circle)	Comments
Reservoir operation	1    2    3    4    5	
Reservoir layout	1    2    3    4    5	
Embankment design	1    2    3    4    5	
Overflow and emergency emptying	1    2    3    4    5	
Access	1    2    3    4    5	
Energy use	1    2    3    4    5	
Other (please explain)	1    2    3    4    5	

## 4. Construction

Reference to section 4 of report and exhibition

Question 4.1: Do you have any concerns regarding the construction of the reservoir? (Scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is not concerned and 5 is very concerned). Please use the comments box if you want to explain your concerns.

Aspect of Construction	Degree of Concern (please circle)	Comments
Traffic	1 2 3 4 5	
Employment	1 2 3 4 5	
Environmental (noise, dust, visual impact)	1 2 3 4 5	
Rights of way	1 2 3 4 5	
Wildlife	1 2 3 4 5	
Archaeology	1 2 3 4 5	
Other (please explain)	1 2 3 4 5	

## 5. Scenarios: Landscape, conservation and recreation

Reference to section 5 of report and exhibition

Question 5.1: Which aspects of the initial proposals for landscape and nature conservation do you particularly like or dislike? (Scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is like very much and 5 is dislike very much)

Landscape & Habitats	Degree of Preference (please circle)	Comments
Wetland Habitat	1 2 3 4 5	
Beach	1 2 3 4 5	
Floating Island	1 2 3 4 5	
Woodland Habitats	1 2 3 4 5	
Grassland	1 2 3 4 5	
Renewable Energy	1 2 3 4 5	
Planting in the wider landscape	1 2 3 4 5	
Impact on setting and local views	1 2 3 4 5	
Other (please explain)	1 2 3 4 5	

Question 5.2: Which of the following activities do you consider most important (Scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is very important and 5 is not important).

Recreation & Education	Degree of Importance (please circle)	Comments
Walking	1 2 3 4 5	
Cycling	1 2 3 4 5	
Horse riding	1 2 3 4 5	
Swimming	1 2 3 4 5	
Watersports (sailing, windsurfing)	1 2 3 4 5	
Angling	1 2 3 4 5	
Bird watching/hides	1 2 3 4 5	
Public art	1 2 3 4 5	
Viewing platforms	1 2 3 4 5	
Picnic/play areas	1 2 3 4 5	
Visitor/education centre	1 2 3 4 5	
Research	1 2 3 4 5	
Events	1 2 3 4 5	
Other	1 2 3 4 5	



Question 5.3: Which of the three levels of activity do you prefer overall?

Scenario	Preference (please tick)	Comments
Low		
Medium		
High		

Question 5.4: What improvements would you suggest to your preferred level of activity? Looking back at your answers to Questions 5.1 and 5.2, please select up to 6 aspects from those lists and let us know how you would like these treated (e.g. larger or smaller scale; different location)

	Issue	Suggested Change	Reasons for your change
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

Question 5.5: Please use the space below to comment on any issues you would like to raise that are not covered in earlier questions.

Issue	Comments

## 6. Next steps

All those who have responded will be sent a report on the feedback received and the response from Portsmouth Water.

Question 6.1: Please give your contact details if you would like to receive a copy of the Report on Consultation. Even if you do not, please let us have your postcode to help us analyse the feedback:

Name	
Address	
Postcode	
Telephone Number	
Email	
Preferred method of contact	

Question 6.2: Please let us know in which capacity you are responding (please tick all that apply):

Local Residents	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Business	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative of organisation (please state)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please state)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question 6.3: Information on gender and age will also help us with the analysis of the forms (please tick):

Male	Female	17 or under	18-29	30-44	45-59	60-74	75 plus
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Thank you for taking the time to fill in this form.

Please return freepost to:

Freepost RRTS-ECSJ-KHUU  
 Portsmouth Water  
 c/o Arup, 2nd Floor Brunswick House  
 8-13 Brunswick Place  
 Southampton SO15 2AP

If you have printed the feedback form from the website, please use the full Freepost address on the envelope.

**Question 2.3:** Which of the three levels of activity do you prefer overall?

Scenario	Preference (please tick)	Comments
Low		
Medium		
High		

**Question 2.4:** Would you change anything in your preferred level of activity? Please give reasons for your suggestions. You may want to suggest changes to the activities listed in question 2.1 and 2.2. (e.g. larger or smaller scale; different location)

	Issue	Suggested Change	Reasons for your change
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

### 3. Next steps

Thank you for filling out this form. Your teacher will be sent a report on the feedback received and the response from Portsmouth Water.

**Question 3.1:** To help us analyse our feedback please could you let us know your age, postcode and gender (please tick)

Male	Female	17 or under	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	Postcode

# Havant Thicket Winter Storage Reservoir



## Schools Feedback Form

### 1. Water Supply Needs and Alternatives

**Question 2:** Are the reasons for the reservoir clear? Do you have any queries about the need for the reservoir and the role of water demand reduction measures?

Issue	Comments

## 2. Scenarios: Landscape, conservation and recreation

**Question 2.1:** Which aspects of the proposals for landscape and nature conservation do you like or dislike? (Scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is like very much and 5 is dislike very much)

Landscape & Habitats	Degree of Preference (please circle)	Comments
Wetland Habitat	1 2 3 4 5	
Beach	1 2 3 4 5	
Floating Island	1 2 3 4 5	
Woodland Habitats	1 2 3 4 5	
Grassland	1 2 3 4 5	
Renewable Energy	1 2 3 4 5	
Planting in the wider landscape	1 2 3 4 5	
Impact on setting and local views	1 2 3 4 5	
Other (please explain)	1 2 3 4 5	

**Question 2.2:** Which of the following activities do you consider most important (Scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is very important and 5 is not important).

Recreation & Education	Degree of Importance (please circle)	Comments
Walking	1 2 3 4 5	
Cycling	1 2 3 4 5	
Horse riding	1 2 3 4 5	
Swimming	1 2 3 4 5	
Watersports (sailing, windsurfing)	1 2 3 4 5	
Angling	1 2 3 4 5	
Bird watching/hides	1 2 3 4 5	
Public art	1 2 3 4 5	
Viewing platforms	1 2 3 4 5	
Picnic/play areas	1 2 3 4 5	
Visitor/education centre	1 2 3 4 5	
Research	1 2 3 4 5	
Events	1 2 3 4 5	
Other	1 2 3 4 5	

Appendix D  
**Statutory Consultees  
and Stakeholders**

## Statutory Consultees and Relevant Stakeholders

The organisations listed below were invited to comment on the HTWSR proposals.

Bosmere 100 Society	Kings Court Primary School in Catherington (Horndean)
CBI South East	Langstone Harbour Board
Chichester Harbour Conservancy	Langstone Residents Association
Clanfield Junior School	Langstone Village Association
Consumer Council for Water (formerly Water Voice)	Leigh Park Business Assn.
Consumer Council for Water Southern	Leigh Park Community Board
Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)	Leigh Park Community Centre
Cyclists' Touring Club – Portsmouth (CTC)	Leigh Park Community Group
Cyclists' Touring Club - National Office	Leigh Park Task Force
Department for Communities and Local Government	Leigh Park Task Force Consultative Forum
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Little Leigh Farm Equestrian Centre
East Hampshire District Council	MP for Bognor Regis & Littlehampton
East Hants District Council	MP for Chichester
Ecological Survey & Assessment Ltd	MP for East Hampshire
Emsworth Residents Assoc.	MP for Eastleigh
English Heritage	MP for Fareham
Environment Agency	MP for Gosport
Forestry Commission	MP for Havant
Friends of the Earth	MP for Portsmouth North
Front Lawn Junior School	MP for Portsmouth South
Girlguiding London and South-East England (LASER)	MP for Winchester
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	Natural England
Hampshire & West Sussex Bridleways Group	Neighbourhood Watch
Hampshire Bat Group	North East Hayling Residents Association
Hampshire County Council	North Havant Res. Assn.
Hampshire Economic Partnership	North Hazelton Res. Assn.
Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society	Northney Res. Assn.
Hampshire Mammal Group	Purbeck and Districts Residents Association (PADRA)
Hampshire Ornithological Society	Rowlands Castle Parish Plan Steering Group
Havant Borough Council (BC)	Park Community School
Havant BC - Equalities and Access Officer	Petersgate Infant School (Clanfield)
Havant Borough Visitor Information Centre	Portsmouth City Council
Havant College	Prospect School
Havant Conservation Forum	Purbrook & Widley Residents Association
Havant District Residents Liaison Group	Ramblers' Association
Havant Police Station	Ramblers' Association SE Hants Group
Havant Tourism Forum Facilitator	Ramsdale Environmental Group
Havant Youth Council	Red Hill and Rowlands Castle Action Group
Havant Youth Sail Training Scheme	Riders Junior School
Highbury College	RK Dia Youth Club
Highways Agency	Rowlands Castle Youth Club
Horizon Angling Group	Rowlands Castle Parish Council
Horndean - Causeway Farm (Drum Housing)	Rowlands Castle St John's CEC Primary School
Horndean C of E Junior School	Rowlands Castle Youth Club
Horndean Parish Council	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Horndean Technology College	Royal Yachting Association (RYA)

South East of England Development Agency (SEEDA)
South East of England Regional Assembly (SEERA)
Sharps Copse Primary and Nursery School
Southern Tourist Board
Sport England
Stamshaw Lake Angling Club
Staunton Country Park
Staunton Park Community School
Sustrans
The Herpetological Conservation Trust
The Original Place
University of Portsmouth
Wade Court Residents Assn.
Warblington & Denvilles Residents Assn.
Warren Park Primary School
Warren Park Residents Panel
Warren Park Ward
Water Voice Southern
Waterlooville and District Residents Assn.
West Bedhampton Res. Assn.
Youth Hostel Association

Appendix E

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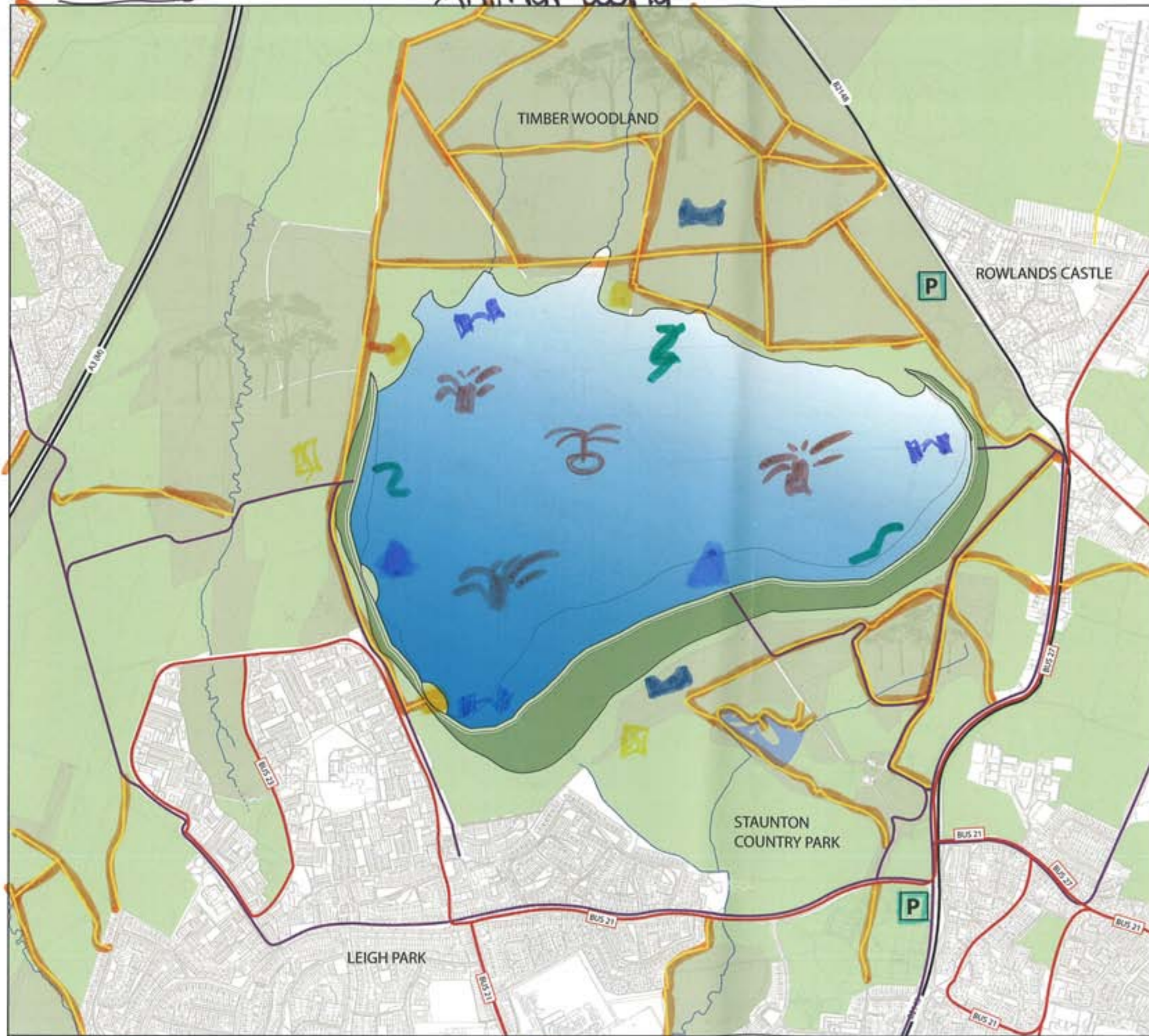
**School Competition  
Winners Proposals**

**We would like to thank all those students and teachers from Riders Junior School who were involved in the organisation and production of the Havant Thicket Illustrative Plans.**



Jack molly

# Animal world



HAVANT THICKET WINTER STORAGE RESERVOIR

## MASTER PLAN

-  = Skate park with fencing.
-  = A under ground basement with large window you look at of and you can see under water.
-  = Water fountains to attract visitors and make the reservoir more beautiful.
-  = Toilets for visitors.
-  = Foot paths.
-  = Car park
-  = bridge that is glass so when you walk across it you can see beautiful animals beneath your feet.
-  = camp site for adults and children.
-  = Museum all about ancient bones and fossils and animals.
-  = Swimming pool with pirate island and snake slides.
-  = water slides.
-  = scooby diving lessons for all ages.
-  = Island in the center of the reservoir.

INFRASTRUCTURE		LANDSCAPE	
	MAIN ROADS		WOODLAND
	BUS ROUTES		GRASSLAND
	EXISTING CYCLE ROUTES AND BRIDLEWAYS		EMBANKMENT
	EXISTING FOOTPATHS		BROOKS
	EXISTING CAR PARK		LAKE
			PROPOSED WATER RESERVOIR



HAVANT THICKET WINTER STORAGE RESERVOIR  
**MASTER PLAN**

- = bridge so you can walk over to the island.
  - = This is an island where you can fish and have lots of fun and play hide and seek.
  - = A foot path so you can walk and see the good view.
  - = A first aid room and it provides all the help you need.
  - = A summer camp for girls.
  - = A summer camp for boys.
  - = cage so the children can have food.
- Activities
- = you can fish there.
  - = A horse track
  - = A horse stable where children can groom horses.
  - = An obstacle course for fitness.
  - = This is where the row boats will be if you want to row. You can row all around.
  - = A wildlife area. In this area you can see lizards, spiders, insects and much more.
  - = A nature area where you can grow plants and sit if you are annoyed.
  - = This is a night watch area
  - = A shop where you can buy southerners.

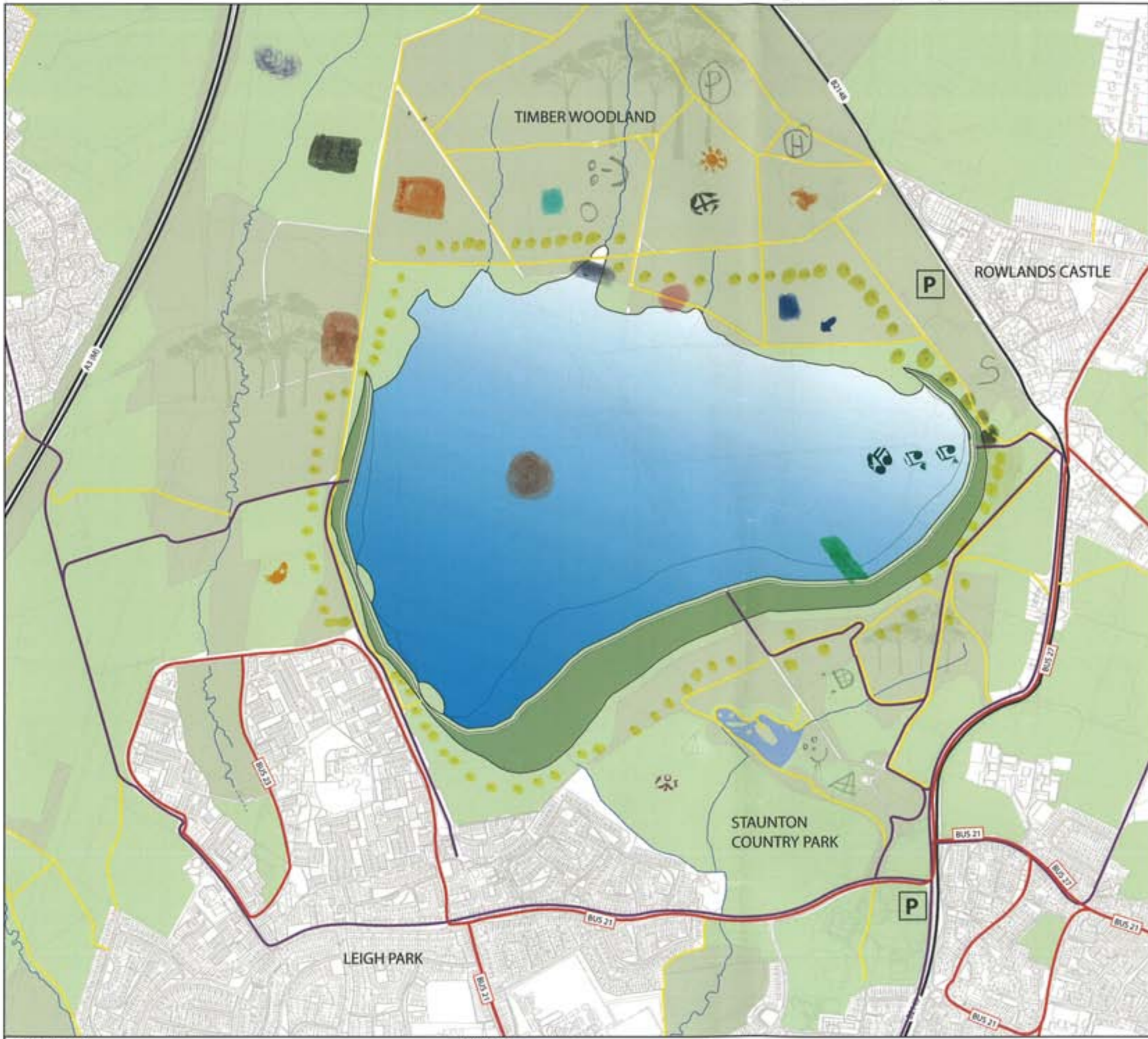
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	MAIN ROADS	EXISTING FOOTPATHS	<b>LANDSCAPE</b>	WOODLAND	BROOKS
	BUS ROUTES	EXISTING CAR PARK		GRASSLAND	LAKE
	EXISTING CYCLE ROUTES AND BRIDLEWAYS			ENVIRONMENT	FROZED WATER RESERVOIR

# MASTER PLAN



- - Island
- - - Bridge
- - Fishing area
- - path
- - - bike path
- Car park
- - rowing club - for members to join who's hobby is rowing
- - rowing area & parking
- - horse riding club - is a club that a fun hobby
- - horse riding area
- - camp site - for the children to have great fun
- - - scrambling - try it to be a die deal
- - Swimming area
- - Activity centre - for some sun and games
- - boat ride - is a graceful ride
- + - first aid
- Toilet
- - restaurant - for a meal
- bird watching area
- Adventure Park - for an adventure and risky fun

<b>INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	<span style="color: black;">—</span> MAIN ROADS	<span style="color: yellow;">- -</span> EXISTING FOOTPATHS	<b>LANDSCAPE</b>	<span style="color: lightgreen;">■</span> WOODLAND	<span style="color: blue;">—</span> BROOKS
	<span style="color: red;">—</span> BUS ROUTES	<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">P</span> EXISTING CAR PARK		<span style="color: green;">■</span> GRASSLAND	<span style="color: darkblue;">■</span> LAKE
	<span style="color: purple;">—</span> EXISTING CYCLE ROUTES AND BROLEWAYS			<span style="color: darkgreen;">■</span> EMBANKMENT	<span style="color: lightblue;">■</span> PROPOSED WATER RESERVOIR



HAVANT THICKET WINTER STORAGE RESERVOIR

MASTER PLAN

- glass tube.
- Playzone
- shops.
- animal watching
- breeding programs
- bird island
- Cycle path
- horse riding
- Swimming
- bridge
- adventure park
- Hot air balloons
- Skate Park
- Rowing
- mini beasts
- arts and crafts
- gift shop
- quiet area
- Love area
- Picnic area
- movies
- Making an animal
- face painting
- running area
- helicopter rides
- parties and discos

<b>INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	— MAIN ROADS	— EXISTING FOOTPATHS	<b>LANDSCAPE</b>	— BROOKS
— BUS ROUTES	— EXISTING CYCLE ROUTES AND BRIDLEWAYS	<b>P</b> EXISTING CAR PARK	■ WOODLAND	■ LAKE
			■ GRASSLAND	■ PROPOSED WATER RESERVOIR
			■ EMBANKMENT	

HAVANT THICKET WINTER STORAGE RESERVOIR

MASTER PLAN



- = wood land.
- = Bridge.
- = wild life center
- = car park
- = green land.
- = Island
- = farm
- = club
- = water fountain
- = water park and skull Island and slide.
- = camp site
- = footpaths
- = Aquarium

<b>INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	MAIN ROADS	EXISTING FOOTPATHS	<b>LANDSCAPE</b>	WOODLAND	BROOKS
	BUS ROUTES	EXISTING CAR PARK		GRASSLAND	LAKE
	EXISTING CYCLE ROUTES AND BRIDLEWAYS			EMBANKMENT	PROPOSED WATER RESERVOIR

Appendix F

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**Outline Plan**

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# HAVANT THICKET WINTER STORAGE RESERVOIR OUTLINE PLAN AUGUST 2008

## EXISTING

- |  |                        |  |                       |
|--|------------------------|--|-----------------------|
|  | Existing Viewing Point |  | Watercourse           |
|  | Existing Car Park      |  | Existing Path / Track |
|  | Existing Cycle Hire    |  | Existing Bridleway    |
|  | Existing Woodland      |  | Existing Cyclepath    |
|  | Existing Grassland     |  | Bus Routes            |
|  |                        |  | Staunton Way          |

## PROPOSED

- |  |                       |  |                                    |
|--|-----------------------|--|------------------------------------|
|  | Marshland             |  | Access road (along existing track) |
|  | Reedbed               |  | Proposed Footpath                  |
|  | New Woodland Planting |  | Proposed Bridleway                 |
|  | Wildflower Meadow     |  | Proposed Cyclepath                 |
|  |                       |  | Reservoir Control House            |

## ACTIVITIES

- |  |                            |  |                                   |
|--|----------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
|  | Childrens Playground       |  | Information Nature Interpretation |
|  | Possible Car Park Location |  | Visitor / Education Centre        |
|  | Slipway                    |  | Woodland Adventure Trail          |
|  | Water Sports               |  | Boardwalk                         |
|  | Bird Watching              |  | Angling                           |
|  | Picnic Area                |  | Viewing Point                     |
|  | Feature Stairway           |  |                                   |

## ENERGY

- |  |                             |  |                  |
|--|-----------------------------|--|------------------|
|  | Energy Recovery Water Power |  | Renewable Energy |
|--|-----------------------------|--|------------------|

## NATURE CONSERVATION

- |  |                        |  |                            |
|--|------------------------|--|----------------------------|
|  | Bat Habitat Mitigation |  | Dormice Habitat Mitigation |
|  | Wetland Habitat        |  | Reptile Habitat Mitigation |

**NOTE:** This plan is for illustrative purposes only. All information shown is subject to further consultation and modification with the Planning Authorities and other stakeholders.

