



WEST PATH IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

In September 2014 Portsmouth Water funded and managed a path improvement project on the west side of the Company land holding at Havant Thicket. In recent years the path which runs north from Swanmore Road towards the Forestry Commission land at Havant Thicket had regularly flooded in the winter, in the vicinity of the bridleway intersection, such that it was only accessible with wellington boots. Concerns were expressed through the Staunton Country Park Access Group that this was deterring walkers and cyclists from using the path in the winter.

The path improvement work included excavation to clean out three existing ditches, construction of one new ditch and the installation of new pipes to improve surface water drainage. Stone was then imported to raise the level of the path at the bridleway intersection and the path resurfaced. In addition, a 70m section of path to the north which was badly rutted was repaired and resurfaced with path gravel. The work will help to ensure that walkers and cyclists can use the path and circular route around our land holding throughout the year.



FINAL WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN PUBLISHED

In August 2014 Portsmouth Water published its Final Water Resources Management Plan. While the reservoir is not included in the current plan, it remains a feasible option for the future. The Company Plan is under regular review and a number of factors could change which would trigger the need for the reservoir. As a result the timescale for the reservoir remains uncertain, but the reservoir option could be brought forward at any time.

Portsmouth Water will continue to work with the Water Resources in the South East Group (which comprises the Environment Agency and all water companies in the SE) to promote the benefits of the Havant Thicket Reservoir as a potential new regional water resource and green infrastructure site. The Company believe that the reservoir remains a key part of a potential solution to water resource demand issues in the south east, especially as the water used to fill the reservoir would be supplied from an existing sustainable source (Havant and Bedhampton Springs), which already complies with the Habitat Regulation requirements. The reservoir is also seen by the Company as an important future resource for addressing resilience issues in the short to medium term.

For more information on the Water Resources Management Plan 2014 visit www.portsmouthwater.co.uk

PIPELINE ROUTE SECURED

On the 23 July 2014 Havant Borough Council formerly adopted their Allocation Plan, following confirmation that the plan was found to be sound by an independent Government Inspector.

The Plan includes policy AL6 which relates to securing the Havant Thicket Reservoir pipeline route through Bedhampton and Leigh Park. The policy states that; "Planning permission will be granted for development proposals that help deliver the Havant Thicket Reservoir pipeline as shown on the Policies Map. Development proposals will not be permitted in the pipeline route buffer zone, where it could prevent the future delivery of the pipeline". This is great news as it secures the pipeline route which is fundamental to the future delivery of the reservoir. Any planning application which could impinge upon the pipeline route will now be referred to Portsmouth Water for comment.

The pipeline route, shown on the Policies Map, was identified by Portsmouth Water in consultation with Havant Borough Council, Portsmouth City Council and Hampshire County Council. The company has sought to ensure that where practicable the proposed route will run through open space alongside the Hermitage Stream and Riders Lane Stream. Every effort has been made to avoid the main roads through Bedhampton and Leigh Park, as well as private gardens and allotments. Only short sections of the trench will be excavated at any one time to help minimise local disruption.

Further information on the pipeline route, including a map, and answers to frequently asked questions can be found on our website at; www.havanthicketreservoir, select 'options', then 'pipeline'.

CORSICAN PINE PLANTATION

In March 2013, following increased reports of anti-social behaviour in the Corsican Pine plantation on the north side of our land holding at Havant Thicket, the Company worked in partnership with the Forestry Commission to complete some woodland management work. The objective was to thin out lines of trees within the plantation to make the wood safer and let more light on to the forest floor, which would in turn encourage vegetation especially brambles to cover the ground.

A felling licence was obtained to extract the timber and the brash wood was left on the ground to make future public access more difficult, and to encourage brambles to grow up over it to make the woodland progressively less accessible. It was hoped that this would help to discourage the anti-social behaviour, making the wood a less attractive place to camp, play and hang out.

Eighteen months on the result has been quite impressive. Most of the forest floor is now covered in vegetation, with brambles up to 1m high in places. Many of the previous pathways through the wood have grown over and the whole area is much less accessible and better for wildlife. A further benefit from the project has been that the income generated from the timber sale has been put to good use locally by the Company.

- To fund a contractor for HCC to enable the dam at the Upper Lake (within The Avenue) to be repaired urgently. The dam had completely collapsed in 2013 draining the pond.
- To pay for the west path repair and improvement work to allow the circular route around our site to be used throughout the year.

