

Minutes from the Havant Thicket Reservoir Stakeholder Advisory Group

Meeting presentations / discussions	Actions
<p>Attendees from Portsmouth Water / Portsmouth Water contractors:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ruari Maybank, Havant Thicket Reservoir Project Director, Portsmouth Water. 2. Rupert Kruger, Head of Strategic Planning, Portsmouth Water. 3. Mark Jessup, Havant Thicket Reservoir Environment Manager, Portsmouth Water. 4. Jonathan Clark, Havant Thicket Reservoir Project Manager, Portsmouth Water. 5. Geraint Lloyd, Deputy Havant Thicket Reservoir Project Director, Future Water. 6. Lizzie Samms, Havant Thicket Reservoir Planning Lead, Future Water. 7. James Furze, Havant Thicket Reservoir Engagement Lead, Future Water. 8. Tom Foster, Civil Engineer, Ward & Burke. 9. Eleanor Shipton, Havant Thicket Reservoir Communications Lead, Portsmouth Water. 10. Amy Rushton, Havant Thicket Reservoir Communications Executive, Portsmouth Water. 11. Joel Hufford, Senior Consultant, Create 51 Communications. 12. Sara McGinley, Create 51 Communications. <p>Stakeholder attendees:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sally Adams, Havant Borough Council (Communications team). 2. Teresa Attlee, Horndean Parish Council. 3. Cllr Daniel Berwick, Havant Borough Council. 4. Dave Childs, Havant Thicket for Nature. 5. Pat Brooks, Havant Climate Alliance. 6. Ann Buckley, Havant Residents Associations. 7. Pip Doherty, Hampshire County Council (Staunton Country Park). 8. Anne Elkington, Independent Chair of Havant Thicket Reservoir Stakeholder Advisory Group. 9. Jim Farrell, Friends of Staunton Country Park. 10. Cllr Philippa Gray, Havant Borough Council. 11. Nik Knight, Hampshire Bat Recorder. 12. Steph Nienaltowski, Portsmouth Water Customer Scrutiny Panel. 13. Cllr Grainne Rason, Havant Borough Council. 14. Chris Stanley, Rowlands Castle Parish Council. 15. Marcus Stroud, Forestry England. 16. Jo Utting, East Hampshire District Council (Community Development team). 17. Sophie Vagg, British Horse Society. 18. Doug Yelland, Hampshire Ornithological Society. <p>Apologies received from:</p>	

1. Keith Betton, Hampshire Ornithological Society.
2. Cllr Jackie Branson, Hampshire County Council.
3. Natalia Byer, Community First.
4. Ella Capaldi, Park Community School.
5. Citizens Advice (Havant).
6. Sharon Darcy, Portsmouth Water Board.
7. Gary Davis, Community First.
8. Sue Fewings, Environment Agency.
9. Sarah Flamson, East Hampshire District Council.
10. Rion Hammerton, Horndean Protection Group.
11. Jo Heath, Hampshire County Council (Countryside Service).
12. Cllr James Hogan, East Hampshire District Council.
13. Catherine Jones, CC Water.
14. Cllr Michael Lind, Havant Borough Council.
15. Cllr Robert Mocatta, East Hampshire District Council.
16. Cllr Phil Munday, Havant Borough Council.
17. Howard Sanger, Portsmouth Water.
18. Dee Tupper, Friends of Hermitage Stream.
19. Sam Underwood, Southern Water.

Welcome & Introductions / Presentation from Student Ambassadors

With reservoir stakeholder group chair Anne Elkington unable to attend the meeting in person, Joel Hufford chaired the session and began by welcoming attendees before leading a round of introductions. Anne joined the session online on this occasion, to hear the various updates and contribute to discussions.

The introductions were followed by a short presentation from members of the Havant Thicket Reservoir Student Ambassadors group, to update attendees on the range of activities they've been involved in, along with other pupils from local schools, to learn about and input into the reservoir scheme.

The presentation was given by Ruby from Warren Park Primary School, Liam from Park Community Secondary School, and Lily from Havant Academy Secondary School, with further details set out in slides 3-17 of the accompanying presentation slide-pack.

Ruby, Liam and Lily received a warm round of applause from attendees after providing their update and Joel Hufford thanked them for taking the time to share their experiences and learning.

The previous main stakeholder group meeting was held on 3 June 2025 and the draft minutes for the session were circulated to group members and then published on the Havant Thicket Reservoir webpages Library section. See: <https://havant-thicket-reservoir.uk.engagementhq.com/19578/widgets/55562/documents/86245>

Joel confirmed with attendees that they were happy with the minutes as a record of the 3 June 2025 meeting.

Next came a review of the actions from the 3 June session, as follows:

South-west permissive path issue to be addressed via the Recreation stakeholder subgroup.

Joel Hufford confirmed that this matter would be progressed via the work of Recreation subgroup.

Concerns over safety around Black Poplar trees (planted in Havant Thicket woodland) to be discussed with Forestry England and update provided for stakeholders.

Mark Jessup (Portsmouth Water) and Marcus Stroud (Forestry England) provided an update on the Black Poplar saplings planted in Havant Thicket woodland as part of the reservoir scheme's environmental mitigation and compensation plan.

A group member had expressed concern about the risk of branches falling from the trees once they were more established in the years and decades ahead. This was based on an incident involving a mature Black Poplar tree elsewhere in the UK.

Marcus confirmed that the new trees have not been planted near to any footpaths or rights of way, with many located within fenced off areas to restrict deer access. He also stated that the risk of branches falling from the trees in the future is very low.

Joel Hufford then introduced Ruari Maybank, Havant Thicket Reservoir Project Director, who led the update on progress with the scheme.

Agenda Item 1: Havant Thicket Reservoir project update /

Please also see slides 18-31 in the accompanying presentation slide-pack.

Visit by Water Minister

We were delighted to welcome Water Minister, Emma Hardy MP, to Portsmouth Water in early July.

It was a real privilege to talk to the Minister about the delivery of Havant Thicket Reservoir, as well as take her to the reservoir site to show her the progress made to date and discuss next steps.

We had the opportunity to use our brand-new public viewing area at Memory Park for part of the visit.

The Minister described the reservoir project as a "major milestone in securing precious water resources for this country for generations to come."

Non-Havant Thicket Reservoir works on B2149

We wanted to touch upon the current ongoing works on the B2149 that are being carried out on behalf of Bloor Homes, and which are not part of the Havant Thicket Reservoir project.

At the moment the works involve two-way temporary traffic lights being in place just south of Horndean, with manual control to manage traffic flows.

Vehicles arriving at the reservoir site are continuing to access it via A3(M) and the B2149, in accordance with our approved Construction Traffic Management Plan.

Our main reservoir works contractor Future Water are in regular contact with Bloor Homes' contractor and Hampshire County Council Highways, to ensure our construction traffic on this section of the B2149 is well-controlled and there are no adverse impacts to local residential areas.

Engaging with you

An update for you on the upcoming phase of engagement with stakeholders on proposals for different aspects of the reservoir project.

We're finalising our plan for a briefing on the overall vision, strategy and plan for recreation at the reservoir site later in the year. We'll be in touch with an invite once we have all the arrangements in place. We're currently in discussions on recreation planning with key partners Hampshire County Council (Staunton Country Park) and Forestry England (Havant Thicket woodland), to help shape our proposals.

We also remain on track to present our updated draft reservoir visitor centre design to stakeholders in the autumn, with a Reserved Matters planning application to follow in 2026.

Plus, we will share our proposals for works to the culverts running under the Forestry England access road, just to the north of the reservoir site. This is to support effective management of the reservoir wetland, while keeping the access track protected and accessible.

Ruari then handed over to Geraint Lloyd and Lizzie Samms from Future Water, who provided an overview of the key news from activities at the reservoir site.

Works at reservoir site: Culvert construction

To date, 16 concrete base sections and 13 concrete arched sections of the 220-metre reservoir culvert have been completed. This is good progress made by the team, aided by the warm and dry weather there has been in recent weeks. The culvert will run under the main reservoir embankment, and will house the pipe that will be used to take water from the reservoir when needed.

Works at reservoir site: Ground Improvement Zone (GIZ) works

Ground Improvement Zone (GIZ) work is continuing to the west of the culvert area and at the east of the reservoir site within the main embankment footprint. This initial work is needed to provide a robust, solid base for the embankment structure.

A short video of drone footage taken at the reservoir site was shown to attendees, with Geraint talking people through the key highlights, including film of the above areas of work.

Updates beyond construction

Skills Bootcamp - 16 people from Havant and East Hampshire area spent two weeks on site working on construction skills, gaining Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) cards and gaining a qualification for operating either a roller vehicle or forward-tipping dumper.

Early careers employment is also ongoing within the reservoir construction team, including the follow people:

- Henry, Graduate Engineer (*started late June 2025*).
- Edward, Year-in-Industry placement from Portsmouth University (*started late June 2025*).
- Matt, former T-level placement student from Havant & South Downs College returns to start his Construction Site Management Apprenticeship in August 2025.

Reservoir site planning updates

Southern Access Road

- Application due to be submitted to Havant Borough Council later this year.

- We will update stakeholders before submission, giving people the chance to comment and ask questions on our final design.
- The single lane road option is being carefully considered following stakeholder feedback.

Reservoir Control House

- Stakeholder group members will receive a pack of drawings with the updated designs in the next two weeks.
- We look forward to hearing people's thoughts on this and would welcome questions / comments before we submit our application in August 2025.

Reservoir site viewing areas

Ruari Mayank resumed his update, saying he was happy to report that the temporary public viewing area at Memory Park, in the south-west corner of the reservoir site, is now fully completed.

As shown in the pictures on slide 26 from the presentation pack, information boards and a litter bin have been installed, with benches to follow soon after a delay in them arriving from our supplier. The area allows people to see construction of the reservoir progressing at first hand.

Please do visit the viewing area and let us know what you think.

In terms of the second temporary viewing area in the north-east corner of the site, just south of the Forestry England car park, we're awaiting consent from the Environment Agency to carry out work on what appears to be a drainage ditch, but is in fact a watercourse. Once this permission is in place, we can then start to build the viewing area.

Reservoir pipelines

A brief update for you now on the new pipelines we need to install to serve Havant Thicket Reservoir.

Our pipelines planning application was approved by Havant Borough Council's Planning in mid-May.

Since then, our team have been liaising with the council on confirming the planning conditions for the work we need to carry out, and updating our construction plan and timeline accordingly. Our goal remains to start work on building the pipelines later this year.

Once we have completed work on revising our plan, we will invite stakeholders to attend a briefing, where we can talk you through the plan step by step. We will also be establishing a dedicated reservoir pipelines stakeholder subgroup to help guide and support our work and provide local input.

More broadly, we have developed a comprehensive Community Liaison Plan to ensure that communities clearly understand when we will be carrying our work in their area and what measures will be in place to ensure there's as little disruption or inconvenience as possible. This will include writing to residents and businesses, advertising locally and holding public drop-in sessions.

Ruari asked Mark Jessup, Havant Thicket Reservoir Environment Manager, to give a round up of updates from his area of responsibility. These are summarised below.

Environment team update

- 8 July 2025 – Really positive site visit with Environment Subgroup members to look at translocated trees (as pictured on slide 28 of the presentation pack).
- There will be a further opportunity for stakeholders to volunteer time to help plant translocated macrophytes (plants that live in / near water) in September / October 2025. An invite will be sent out once arrangements are confirmed.
- Ecology Surveys are ongoing – looking at bats, dormice and macroinvertebrates.
- Aftercare works (for new trees planted / translocated) ongoing over the summer. These include watering, strimming and mowing.
- Invasive non-native plant Parrots Feather treated in the Queens Inclosure.
- Landscape Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) works continuing in Havant Thicket woodland.

Mark also said that four Little Ringed Plovers were spotted at reservoir site six weeks ago. We were aware of two building a nest. This was placed under our protection and the eggs recently hatched. We're checking our wildlife camera footage to confirm the chicks were all OK. Two weeks ago, one of our workers also discovered a further chick from a nest we weren't aware of. Having two nests in such close proximity is almost unique. The Plovers will freely roam the reservoir site and will leave of their own accord in a few weeks' to migrate back south.

Site visits & Community engagement

Finally, Eleanor Shipton, Havant Thicket Reservoir Communications & Engagement Lead, updated attendees on recent visits by a variety of stakeholders to the reservoir site, as well as other community engagement activity. This

Visits

- 10 June 2025 – Emsworth 41 (pictured top right on slide 30 of the presentation pack).
- 17 June 2025 – Environment Agency.
- 24 June 2025 – Final Straw Foundation.
- 25 June 2025 – Costain.
- 8 July 2025 – MOSL / OFWAT.

Community engagement

- 29 June – Waterlooville Summer Fete (pictured bottom right on the slide).
- 5 July – Bedhampton Show.

Question & Answer section

Joel Hufford then invited attendees to put forward any questions or comments they had. These are listed below, with a summary of responses provided by members of the reservoir project team.

Q: I feel there's an opportunity, with support from volunteers, to improve the areas where trees have been translocated to, which are outside the designated construction area for the reservoir. For example, bracken management could be done here, and flowers could be encouraged to grow to create meadow areas. The eastern area for translocated trees also contains translocated woodland soil and is diverse with plants. The Corsican Pine area (further west) isn't like this,

- The Havant Thicket Reservoir Student Ambassadors have completed three engagement sessions at the reservoir site, including a workshop on the visitor centre design.
- Dates for all the Student Ambassador sessions for 2025/26 have been agreed, along with draft dates for subgroup meetings for over the year ahead. This is to maximise attendance on each occasion.
- Employment: Ward and Burke's recruitment campaign will now get underway in February 2026.
- Potential apprentices have been encouraged to apply and this has been shared with local secondary schools.
- The subgroup's next meeting will be focused on environmental issues, and will be held at Warren Park Primary School near the reservoir site, with a walk via Memory Park around the reservoir site construction compound.
- In September, subgroup members are providing an update presentation to Havant secondary school headteachers.

Environment – Liz Brown (Independent Chair)

Following the reservoir project environment update earlier in the meeting, there were no further updates from the environment subgroup.

However, Anne Elkington highlighted the work on translocating trees from the reservoir site as a really positive example of stakeholder engagement and how stakeholders can make a positive contribution to shaping the work of the reservoir project.

Recreation – Cllr Jackie Branson (Hampshire County Council)

We're very grateful to everyone who has provided feedback via engagement events or separately to help shape our design for the reservoir's visitor centre and associated facilities. We're on track to be able to brief stakeholders (via a dedicated meeting) on the updated and almost final proposed design in the autumn, ahead of a Reserved Matters planning application being submitted in 2026.

We're also making arrangements for an engagement session focused on the vision, strategy and plan for recreation at the reservoir site. It looks like this will now take place in the autumn also.

Reservoir pipelines – Dee Tupper (Friends of Hermitage Stream)

The reservoir pipelines team have had further discussions with Dee about planning for the pipelines stakeholder subgroup. This will be formally convened after the initial briefing for stakeholders in the autumn on the updated pipelines construction plan.

Water Recycling – Anne Elkington (Independent Chair of Havant Thicket Reservoir Stakeholder Group)

After initial discussions at the last main stakeholder group meeting in early June, followed by further conversations via email, Anne advised that the consensus is to formally stop the subgroup.

It's appreciated that water recycling remains an important topic for stakeholders, with updates on the Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project to continue to be provided to reservoir stakeholder group members. Sam Underwood from Southern Water will continue to regularly attend group meetings and provide information to be shared.

The option to reconvene the subgroup remains open, as needed.

Agenda Item 3: Further Q&A / Any other business (AOB)

Q: I'm involved in working with BAE Systems around getting more girls involved in STEM (Science Technology Engineering & Maths). Is Park Community School involved with the BAE team already?

A: Yes, we're involved, but not via the contact you mentioned, so any further links we can establish would be very welcome.

There were no further questions or matters raised under AOB, so Joel Hufford thanked everyone for taking part in the meeting and closed the session.

The group will have a main meeting from 10am to 12pm on 9 September 2025, with an Outlook / MS Teams invite for this to be sent out.

PLEASE SEE SUMMARY OF ACTIONS FROM MEETING BELOW

Meeting actions

<u>Action</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Date to be completed</u>
Meeting to be arranged to discuss work to improve tree translocation areas.	Mark Jessup.	Before next Environment Stakeholder Subgroup meeting on 2 September 2025.
List of local events being attended by Havant Thicket Reservoir team to be sent to stakeholders.	Eleanor Shipton	By 31 July 2025.
To put Park Community School team in touch with BAE in Portsmouth on STEM engagement.	Stef Nienaltowski	By 9 September 2025 reservoir project Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting.

ACTION (Stef Nienaltowski):
To put Park Community School team in touch with BAE in Portsmouth on STEM engagement.