

## Minutes from the Havant Thicket Reservoir Stakeholder Advisory Group

Meeting presentations / discussions	Actions
<p><b>Attendees from Portsmouth Water / Portsmouth Water contractors:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Anne Elkington, Independent Chair.</li> <li>2. Sharon Darcy, Non-Executive Director, Portsmouth Water.</li> <li>3. Ruari Maybank, Havant Thicket Reservoir Project Director, Portsmouth Water.</li> <li>4. Howard Sanger, Havant Thicket Reservoir Project Delivery Director, Portsmouth Water.</li> <li>5. Jonathan Clark, Havant Thicket Reservoir Visitor Centre Project Manager, Portsmouth Water.</li> <li>6. Mark Jessup, Havant Thicket Reservoir Environment Manager, Portsmouth Water.</li> <li>7. Terry Fuller, Havant Thicket Reservoir Project Director, Future Water.</li> <li>8. Sally Sommers, Head of Marketing &amp; Communications, Portsmouth Water.</li> <li>9. Eleanor Shipton, Havant Thicket Reservoir Communications Lead, Portsmouth Water.</li> <li>10. Joel Hufford, Senior Consultant, Create 51 Communications.</li> </ol> <p><b>Stakeholder attendees:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sally Adams, Havant Borough Council (Communications).</li> <li>2. Cllr Teresa Attlee, Horndean Parish Council.</li> <li>3. Jamie Biltcliffe, East Hampshire District Council (Regeneration &amp; Economy).</li> <li>4. Cllr Jackie Branson, Hampshire County Council.</li> <li>5. Natalia Byer, Community First.</li> <li>6. Dave Childs, Havant Thicket for Nature.</li> <li>7. Sue Fewings, Environment Agency.</li> <li>8. Ron Hammerton, Horndean Protection Group / U3A.</li> <li>9. Cllr James Hogan, East Hampshire District Council.</li> <li>10. Cllr Jason Horton, Havant Borough Council.</li> <li>11. Nik Knight, Hampshire Bat Recorder.</li> <li>12. Sue James, Havant Climate Alliance.</li> <li>13. Linda Jewell, British Horse Society.</li> <li>14. Catherine Jones, CC Water.</li> <li>15. Cllr Michael Lind, Havant Borough Council.</li> <li>16. Stef Nienaltowski, Portsmouth Water Customer Scrutiny Panel.</li> <li>17. Cllr Grainne Rason, Havant Borough Council.</li> <li>18. Cllr Chris Stanley, Rowlands Castle Parish Council.</li> <li>19. Dee Tupper, Friends of Hermitage Stream.</li> <li>20. Sam Underwood, Southern Water.</li> <li>21. Joanne Utting, East Hampshire District Council (Community Development).</li> </ol>	

22. Peter Westron, Ramblers Association.
23. Sophie Vagg, British Horse Society.
24. Doug Yelland, Hampshire Ornithological Society.

**Apologies received from:**

1. Keith Betton, Hampshire Ornithological Society.
2. Cllr Richard Brown, Havant Borough Council.
3. Ann Buckley, Havant Residents Associations.
4. Ella Capaldi, Park Community School.
5. Citizens Advice (Havant).
6. Joan Clark, Forestry England.
7. Jon Dyer-Slade, Hampshire County Council (Countryside Service).
8. Jim Farrell, Friends of Staunton Country Park.
9. Cllr Phillipa Gray, Havant Borough Council.
10. Cllr Marge Harvey, Hampshire County Council.
11. Jo Heath, Hampshire County Council (Countryside Service).
12. Cllr Robert Mocatta, East Hampshire District Council.
13. Cllr Phil Munday, Havant Borough Council.
14. Carole Samuda, Havant Borough Council (Community team).
15. Cllr Netty Shepherd, Havant Borough Council.
16. Marcus Stroud, Forestry England.

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Reservoir stakeholder group chair Anne Elkington welcomed attendees to the meeting and led a round of introductions.

The previous main stakeholder group meeting was held on 5 March 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/84317>

Anne confirmed with attendees that they were happy with the minutes as a record of the 5 March 2025 meeting.

There was then a review of the actions from that session, as follows:

**Follow up on permissive path issue to be arranged (Future Water)**

It was agreed that further supporting / enhancing the permissive path in the south-west corner of the reservoir site (running from Memory Park woodland to the edge of Staunton Country Park) is a matter best taken forward via the reservoir scheme's Recreation stakeholder subgroup.

**Look at next steps for Water Recycling stakeholder subgroup (Anne Elkington)**

This is covered under the stakeholder subgroups section of the agenda later in the meeting.

**Discussion on proposed improving / widening of small footpath linking Bridleway 123 with the proposed Southern Access Route**

**ACTION (Joel Hufford): South-west permissive path issue to be addressed via the Recreation stakeholder subgroup.**

This issue was signposted to Ron Hammerton, chair of the Access stakeholder subgroup, to be looked at / discussed by the group as part of its forward work plan.

### **Reservoir site opening hours (Joel Hufford)**

Clarification on the expected opening hours for the reservoir site was requested at the interim reservoir stakeholder group call in April 2025.

To date, the context for activities at the reservoir site (once completed) has been around the site being open during daylight hours.

In terms of planning approval / conditions, nothing is specified for site opening times.

This particular issue will be confirmed via the following areas, which will all need to be aligned with each other:

- 1) **Reservoir site management plan.** This will be developed with input from stakeholders, with the finalised approved plan needing to be in place ahead of the reservoir opening to the public.
- 2) **Event management plan.** A planning condition is in place that an Event management plan for the reservoir site needs to be developed and approved, prior to the reservoir being open to the public. The plan will cover how events (over and above normal activities at the reservoir site) will be effectively and safely delivered, particularly in terms of traffic management.
- 3) **Reserved Matters planning application for the reservoir visitor centre.** As part of the development of the design for the reservoir visitor centre, an option for the centre to be open in the evening (such as for events or evening dining) is being considered. If taken forward, appropriate supporting measures (e.g. a lighting strategy) would need to be set out in the planning application, which would be subject to statutory consultation and approval by the local planning authority (in this instance Havant Borough Council). Having held two events (one in April and one in May 2025) to gather stakeholder feedback to help shape the visitor centre design, the almost final design will be presented to stakeholders in Autumn 2025, with a Reserved Matters planning application to be submitted in 2026.

Next, Anne invited Havant Thicket Reservoir Project Director Ruari Maybank and his team to provide a detailed update on progress with different aspects of the reservoir scheme and related issues.

## **Agenda Item 1: Havant Thicket Reservoir project update / Other key updates**

**Please also see slides 5-26 in the accompanying presentation slide-pack.**

### **Secretary of State for Environment visit**

As the first new UK reservoir in over 30 years, our reservoir is a major investment by the water industry, protecting rare chalk rivers by providing a new, sustainable source of water for our region.

Steve Reed, the Secretary of State came to visit the reservoir site in March, marking the start of the 'big build' phase of our project.

During his visit we discussed the need to deliver major new infrastructure in an efficient way, while noting the importance of engagement with local communities and stakeholders.

### **Havant Thicket Reservoir project leadership structure**

In our March update, we described some changes to our senior leadership team. These changes are necessary as our project moves into the 'big build phase'. We previously noted that Ian Burnell had joined us as Commercial Director.

We are now pleased to report that Howard Sanger has joined us as Project Delivery Director. He will be responsible for the integration and delivery of construction works associated with the reservoir, pipelines, pumping stations and treatment works.

Howard has worked in a variety of senior roles for major infrastructure construction companies, including Costain, McNicholas and Kier Group.

Ruari is continuing in his role as Project Director, with continued focus on programme management, our partnership with Southern Water, and our engagement with regulators and wider stakeholders.

### **Feedback from stakeholder groups survey**

Since our last meeting, we've had further responses to our annual survey of members of this main reservoir stakeholder group, and from members of our six stakeholder subgroups.

We're keen to get your feedback on how well the groups work, both in terms of what you like, and where we could do better.

The number of responses is now up to 22, with a slight improvement in the overall satisfaction scores for both the main reservoir group and the subgroups, as shown on the slide.

In terms of key themes from the feedback, these remain the same as we reported to you before. We've already used your feedback to make some changes.

A key change has been to engage with you at an earlier stage in the design process. For example, for the reservoir site's Southern Access Route and Visitor Centre.

This new approach has been received very positively, so we'll continue with this basis for our engagement with you on design development.

Some of you also requested more influence over decision making.

We've considered this carefully, and feel that the stakeholder group and subgroups remits as advisory bodies, as set out in the Terms of reference, are still appropriate.

We continue to recognise the importance of having clear and honest conversations with you about how your views and ideas have been considered in what we deliver and the reasons for this. However, we don't think it's appropriate for the stakeholder groups to have formal decision-making powers.

It's important to remember that the reservoir scheme is being overseen by a range of bodies with statutory and regulatory powers, such as Local Planning Authorities, Ofwat, the Environment Agency, Natural England and others.

We do, however, continue to welcome and value everyone's ongoing involvement with, and input into, the reservoir scheme, and we hope that you recognise the way in which your input is helping to inform and shape what we deliver.

### **Engaging with you**

This is one of our regular slides (Slide 9), providing an update on our work to engage with stakeholders on a variety of different proposals for the reservoir scheme.

We recently held a workshop on the developing designs for the reservoir visitor centre. A focus group was held as a follow-up to this in late May.

In early May, people also attended a meeting to share and discuss the proposed designs for the reservoir control house – the building where the systems for operating and controlling the reservoir will be accommodated.

As is standard practice, the materials from our engagement events are circulated to all our stakeholder group and subgroups members, so people who can't attend the workshops can view our proposals and raise questions and comments.

We would like to thank everyone who attended those sessions to provide feedback, and to those of you that sent in their views via email.

Our next phase of engagement will include reporting back to stakeholders on our updated draft designs for the reservoir site Southern Access Route and Control House.

Later in the summer, we also plan to hold an update briefing on the overall vision, strategy and plan for recreation at the reservoir site

In the autumn, we will also present our updated draft reservoir visitor centre design, with a Reserved Matters planning application for this set to be submitted in 2026.

We'll also have a meeting on the reservoir spillway design, which is a statutory requirement for all reservoirs, to release water from the reservoir in the highly unlikely event of an emergency situation.

#### **Future Water update**

Terry Fuller from Future Water provided an update on construction work at the reservoir site, and other related matters.

The recent dry and warm weather has helped the Future Water team to make good progress.

To date, 15 (out of 20) concrete base sections have been completed for the 220-metre culvert – the tunnel which will run under the main reservoir embankment, housing the pipework that will be used to take water from the reservoir when needed. Nine arched concrete sections (which sit on top of the base sections) are also in place.

Ground Improvement Zone (GIZ) work is continuing across the southern area of the site and will continue for the rest of this year's earthworks season. This work is necessary to provide a robust and stable base for the main reservoir embankment.

Terry then talked through other key news from the reservoir site, including the following:

#### **Community: 124 Easter eggs donated to two local community hubs by Future Water staff.**

After collecting over 120 Easter eggs on site at the Havant Thicket Reservoir offices, Future Water donated the eggs to Beacon Church in Havant and Park Community School to distribute to local families.

#### **Environment: Little Ringed Plover chicks successfully fledged.**

Using the same approach that was successful last year to protect them, three Little Ringed Plover chicks were able to hatch and fledge at the reservoir site. An image captured by a wildlife camera is shown on Slide 12.

**Education: Young Ambassadors group visits to take on STEM (Science Technology Engineering & Maths) bridge building activity.**

A group of Havant Thicket Reservoir Young Ambassadors (made up of pupils from local primary and secondary schools) visited site to take on the challenge of working as group to build a 14-metre cable stay bridge, which they were able to cross once they had finished it.

Finally, Terry talked attendees through the latest on preparations for two Reserved Matters planning applications for important aspects of the reservoir scheme.

**Reservoir site Southern Access Road (Phase 4 Reserved Matters)**

- Stakeholder preference for single lane design has been noted and we are continuing to design and explore the feasibility of this option.
- Discussions with statutory consultees are ongoing.
- A design update will be provided to stakeholders, prior to the submission of this application.

**Reservoir Control House (Phase 5 Reserved Matters)**

- Stakeholder comments, photographs and details sent in are much appreciated.
- Designers are looking to incorporate suggestions, focusing on a brick / flint cladding mix, as discussed at the recent stakeholder workshop.
- Updated visualisations will be sent out to stakeholders shortly for review.

**Temporary public viewing areas**

Ruari Maybank from Portsmouth Water resumed his update.

As part of our commitment to maintain public access at the reservoir site, including during construction, we are providing two temporary viewings areas for the public – one in the south-west corner of the site at Memory Park, near Warren Park. The other is in the north-east corner of the site, just south of the Forestry England car park for Havant Thicket woodland.

These will allow people to see progress in building the reservoir at first hand.

After sharing our draft design for the viewing areas with stakeholders a few months ago, we have used the feedback we received to finalise our design.

We're pleased to say that we have been able to accommodate most of the suggestions we received from stakeholders. We will send round a full breakdown of what people told us and how we have taken that into account by circulating an updated design.

The south-west viewing area at Memory Park is now being built, and is pictured on slide 15 part way through construction, with the CGI design image on the left hand side.

Construction of the north-east viewing area will follow soon, once we have the required permit to carry out work on the ditch near to the viewing area.

**Reservoir pipelines**

We're really pleased to say that our proposals for two new pipelines to serve Havant Thicket Reservoir were approved by Havant Borough Council's Planning committee last month.

This is a key milestone in delivering the overall reservoir project and the benefits it will provide.

We would like to thank the council officers we have liaised with for the application, and, of course, we're very grateful to the planning committee members for their careful consideration and approval of our proposed plan.

We have worked hard, together with our pipelines contractor Ward & Burke, to develop a detailed pipelines design, that considered public feedback from the consultations we held.

This design is an improvement on the previously approved pipeline scheme. Much of the pipelines route will now be tunnelled, avoiding the need to dig up roads and public areas. This will minimise disruption to local communities and the environment while the pipeline route is being constructed.

As we prepare to start constructing the pipelines later this year, we remain committed to engaging closely with, stakeholders, residents and businesses in Havant, to make sure everyone understands 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 holding a stakeholder briefing later in the summer or early autumn to walk people through our construction plan step by step. Our pipelines team are working on updating the construction timeline for the scheme, following planning approval, with work expected to start in the later part of the year.

It is important to note that the approved reservoir pipelines planning application provides permission for the pipes to transport spring water to and from Havant Thicket Reservoir.

In the future, the pipelines could also be used by Southern Water, if it receives planning permission for its water recycling scheme, known as the Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project. This would involve supplementing Havant Thicket Reservoir with purified recycled water, enabling the reservoir to supply more water.

Installing two pipelines will not give Southern Water permission to add recycled water to Havant Thicket Reservoir. Southern Water will still need to secure separate approval for its water recycling proposals. However, it would avoid the additional disruption and costs involved in building a further pipeline to carry recycled water to the reservoir.

#### **Environment update**

Mark Jessup, Environment Manager for the Havant Thicket Reservoir project, provided a round-up of environmental developments over recent months, which is summarised below. Further detail is available in the presentations and minutes from Reservoir Environment Stakeholder Subgroup meetings. These can be provided on request.

#### **Volunteer tree planting in Havant Thicket woodland**

Mark began by thanking all the volunteers who took part in the tree planting day (planting Black Poplar saplings) in early March 2025 at Havant Thicket woodland.

Everyone's efforts are much appreciated in supporting the ongoing environmental work being delivered via Forestry England as part of the reservoir project's environmental mitigation and compensation plan.

#### **Forestry England update (on improvement works in Havant Thicket woodland, supported by the funding from the Havant Thicket Reservoir scheme)**



With Marcus Stroud from Forestry England sending his apologies for the meeting, the following updates on environmental work taking place in Havant Thicket woodland were shared:

- Ring barking complete on c23 non-native Turkey Oaks to provide accelerated deadwood habitat (example pictured on Slide 18).
- Remaining Black Poplar from volunteer morning planted in larger deer-fenced native tree enclosure.
- Damaged leaky dams in Reach 2 (within the woodland) repaired following damage caused by rodents.
- Upcoming Landscape Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) works: Willow hedge management, bracken control, strapping of logs to trees and pond maintenance (adjacent to main reservoir site compound).
- 22 escaped sheep and lambs located returned to neighbouring farm.

#### **European Protected Species (EPS) Monitoring / Ecology Surveys**

Below is a summary of the ongoing programme of work to monitor wildlife at the reservoir site and across surrounding areas.

A recent visit by colleagues from regulator Natural England has taken place, with the Natural England team happy with the work being carried out and the plans / arrangements in place for this to continue in the months and years ahead.

#### **Main Reservoir Site Surrounds**

- Bat box checks, with all boxes found to be in place.
- Hazel Dormouse surveys.
- Bat surveys: Static, Transects & Trapping.
- Breeding bird surveys.
- Nightjar surveys.
- Reptile surveys.
- Invertebrates surveys.
- UK Habitat surveys.
- Greater Crested Newt (GCN) eDNA surveys.

#### **Landscape Aftercare & Maintenance Contract (for advanced planting / translocated tree areas)**

Work is continuing to care for and maintain the 6,000 trees planted in the south-west and south-east corners of the reservoir site (to create new wildlife corridors), as well as the several hundred trees translocated at the reservoir site.

Mark set out the below list of activities that have been delivered, or are planned for the rest of the year.

#### **Programme of work is ongoing - Work in recent months includes:**

- Planting of replacement trees in the Regency planting areas.
- Pond maintenance (Gipsies Plain).
- Maintenance and repositioning of tree guards.



- Commencement of summer works (Watering / Strimming).

**Future work programme will include:**

- Continuation of summer works (Watering, strimming, mowing, Ragwort pulling).

**Water Framework Directive works to improve rivers / ponds on-site and off-site of the reservoir, to mitigate reservoir impacts on 3.8km of watercourses.**

With 3.8km of stream sections at the reservoir site having been removed as part of the reservoir construction, a wide-ranging package of improvements works on local watercourses is taking place by way of compensation.

Further details on progress at the different reaches (locations) is provided below:

**Reach 18 (Bell's Copse woodland)**

- Planning opinion letter drafted for submission to Havant Borough Council.
- Baseline Aquatic Monitoring commenced.
- Consenting and associated investigations phase has commenced, plus meeting with Lead Local Flood Authority.

**Reach 23 (Queen's Inclosure)**

- Baseline Aquatic Monitoring commenced.
- Consenting and associated investigations phase has commenced, with meeting with Lead Local Flood Authority.
- Ground investigations due to start imminently.
- 2025 Treatment of Parrots Feather invasive plant due to commence in June 2025.

**Reach 15 (Waterlooville Golf Course) and Reaches 26 – 30 (Lower Hermitage Stream)**

- Outline design report - Complete
- Ongoing engagement with key stakeholders / landowners.
- Procurement underway for Design and Build Contractors for the next phase.

**Reservoir site visits / Community talks**

Next, Eleanor Shipton from the Havant Thicket Reservoir Communications & Engagement team gave a round-up of recent visits hosted at the reservoir site, as well as other engagement work with communities. Recent activities include the following:

**Visits**

- 11 March – University of Portsmouth
- 2 May – Lower Thames Crossing team
- 7 May – HTR Young Ambassadors.
- 8 May – Havant Climate Alliance.
- 28 May – HTR site public drop-in events.
- 29 May – BBC News visit / filming.

**Community engagement**

- 31 May – HTR visitor centre stand at Meridian Shopping Centre, Havant.

Eleanor added that the team were pleased to welcome Professor Jim Hall FREng, President of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), to site on 22 May 2025.

Professor Hall, a leading expert on climate and water resources, saw first-hand how the scheme is being delivered with the environment and the community at its heart.

The day also featured a panel session, chaired by Zoe Hutchison, Technical Director, Mott MacDonald & ICE South Branch Chair, exploring how the UK can adapt to increasing water challenges. Innovation, environmental protection and bringing customers on the journey, were just some of the topics discussed by Professor Hall, Bob Taylor (Portsmouth Water CEO) and Jim Barker (Portsmouth Water Head of Water Resources). Also attending were Mark Wintringham (Southern Water), Geoff Darch (Anglian Water) and Meyrick Gough (Water Resources South East).

Given the project's significance as the first major new UK reservoir in over 30 years, we'll be working closely with the ICE over the coming months to develop blogs and case studies to share our learnings.

### **Hampshire Water Transfer & Water Recycling Project (HWTWRP)**

Sam Underwood from Southern Water, provided a short update for the Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project (HWTWRP).

The main highlights included:

- Southern Water has held three public consultations on the project – Summer 2022, Summer 2024 and Spring 2025.
- All consultation feedback is being considered equally and used to help finalise the scheme design.
- Southern Water published a summary of feedback from its Summer 2024 consultation on its website [www.hampshirewtwrp.co.uk](http://www.hampshirewtwrp.co.uk)
- A Consultation Report will be submitted as part of Southern water's Development Consent Order application for the project.
- The report will explain how Southern Water has consulted and how it has considered feedback received.

### **Question & Answer section**

**Q: Black poplars (as mentioned for the volunteer tree planting day in Havant Thicket woodland) are notorious for shedding branches. A child was once killed by a branch falling. Where will these be planted, to protect the public?**

A: They won't be planted in locations near footpaths, and will be carefully monitored and maintained by Forestry England. We will discuss your concerns with the Forestry England team looking after Havant Thicket woodland and will report back to you.

**Q: Can you tell us about the key outputs from the visit to the reservoir site by colleagues from the Institution for Civil Engineers?**

A: The main themes were around continuing to work together, including at a regional level. This is to both further raise awareness about water scarcity and the need for new solutions to be delivered to provide resilient water supplies and support the environment, plus the importance of making sure we have enough people with the right skills, such as engineers, to design and build important new infrastructure.

**ACTION (Mark Jessup):**  
Concerns over safety around Black Poplar trees to be discussed with Forestry England and update

<p><b>Q: The permissive path in the south-west of the reservoir site. Lots of local people still use it. What's the best way to take forward a discussion on ensuring it remains in place and is improved?</b></p> <p>A: This would be via the Recreation subgroup. It's important to note that the route passes through Portsmouth Water land and land that belongs to Staunton Country Park next door.</p> <p><b>Q: Can you tell us more about the reservoir spillway design?</b></p> <p>A: This feature is part of the outline reservoir design that was approved in 2021. It's something that is standard for any reservoir, to effectively manage the very unlikely event that water needs to be released from the reservoir in a controlled way in an emergency.</p> <p><b>Q: The recently approved planning application for the two reservoir pipelines includes a condition that the pipes can only be used to transport spring water. How could the water recycling scheme proceed, with the reservoir inlet pipe being used to carry recycled water, with this condition in place?</b></p> <p>A: A separate consent is required for the reservoir pipelines to be used for the water recycling scheme, with this consent being part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) planning application for the water recycling scheme, which will ultimately be determined by the Government. Under the DCO process, there needs to be engagement with a range of stakeholders, including local councils (Local Planning Authorities), such as Havant Borough Council, to ensure their views are considered.</p> <p><b>Q: There's also a condition for the reservoir pipelines approval that has changed the specified daily working hours for construction, so that they're shorter than before. How are you dealing that?</b></p> <p>A: Our reservoir pipelines team are looking at all the planning conditions in detail, in conjunction with Havant Borough Council (as the Local Planning Authority), and are updating the forward construction timeline for the pipelines. Once this work is completed, we will be hosting a stakeholder briefing to walk people through the pipelines construction plan and schedule step by step.</p> <p><b><u>Agenda Item 2: Subgroup updates</u></b></p> <p>The chairs of the reservoir stakeholder subgroups attending the meeting provided updates on the work by their respective groups. These are as follows:</p> <p><b><u>Environment – Liz Brown (Independent Chair)</u></b></p> <p>Liz sent her apologies for the meeting, but provided an update that was shared by Joel Hufford on her behalf.</p> <p>The group last met on 22 May 2025, with attendees including Anne Elkington (Independent Chair of the reservoir stakeholder group) and representatives from Havant Climate Alliance, Havant Thicket for Nature and the Hampshire Bat Group.</p> <p>The meeting included updates (see summary in environment section of meeting above) from the Portsmouth Water reservoir project Environment and Planning teams, as well as colleagues from Future Water and Ward &amp; Burke.</p> <p>Future group meetings are set to take place around every two months, with a site visit in July to look at translocation planting areas and the next formal meeting in early September.</p>	<p>provided for stakeholders.</p>
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### **Recreation – Cllr Jackie Branson (Hampshire County Council)**

Jackie felt that the recent briefing session and focus groups on the draft reservoir visitor centre design went very well and were appreciated by stakeholders. She is looking forward to the briefing in the autumn on the almost final centre design, factoring in all the feedback and ideas that people have provided, and feels assured that the design team are carefully considering people's views in their work.

The next area of focus is a further stakeholder briefing over the summer on the recreation vision, strategy and plan for the reservoir site.

### **Reservoir pipelines – Dee Tupper (Friends of Hermitage Stream)**

Now that the reservoir pipelines planning application has been approved, Dee is looking forward to stakeholders being briefed on the updated construction plan and timeline.

Following this, the pipelines subgroup can be formally convened, meeting at regular intervals as work progresses.

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

Anne reiterated the discussions there had been with group members on the group potentially disbanding, on the basis that it had fulfilled its original purpose and future engagement on the water recycling scheme should be via Southern Water.

Anne will be contacting group members via email to formally agree this, or consider alternative approaches people may suggest.

### **Access – Ron Hammerton (Horndean Protection Group)**

Ron raised a number of points which are covered in the Q&A section below.

### **Education – Ella Capaldi (Park Community School)**

No update on this occasion.

## **Further Q&A**

**Q: There are local concerns about the impact of planned roadworks on the B2149 related to the new Bloor Homes development south of Horndean. Initial works caused real traffic problems, plus the works will be happening at a time when there will be up to 100 HGVs travelling to / from the reservoir site to support construction work. Is this something you have raised with Hampshire County Council, as the local highways authority?**

A: We have an agreed construction traffic management plan in place for the reservoir site, and will continue to liaise with the highways authority and others to ensure any impact on local roads is kept to a minimum.

**Q: Will Portsmouth Water be able to support improving connectivity for cyclists on western side of the reservoir site, where work is required to upgrade routes coming from the Waterlooville area?**

A: We're keen to support good connectivity to and from the reservoir site as far as possible, something that is covered by local council plans, and will continue to liaise with Hampshire County Council and others on this. Our Section 106 planning agreement for the reservoir scheme (and the funding attached to it) does not cover upgrades to the wider public access network, but it will provide a range of access improvements for the reservoir site, including on the western boundary.

**Q: The recent Bloor Homes application for further housing south of Horndean would be something that would support better access for pedestrians and cyclists to the reservoir site.**

A: We monitor local planning applications closely and remain committed to work with local councils and others to ensure there is as good connectivity to / from the reservoir site as possible.

**Q: My area of interest is primarily public footpaths. Which subgroup do I need to be involved with for this?**

A: Access within the reservoir site is covered by the Recreation group. The Access group is focused on how people get to and from the reservoir site on foot, bike or riding a horse.

### **Agenda Item 3: Any other business (AOB)**

#### **Wetland design**

**Comment: After our request for a further meeting on the reservoir wetland design was recently rejected, we would like to express our disappointment at this, and not being able to get fuller answers around our concerns about the inclusion of raised earth mounds.**

A: The approved reservoir wetland design, which goes over and above the outline design which received planning permission in 2021, was subject to a detailed engagement and consultation process. Our planning application included a 'You said, we did' feedback report, setting out how people's comments had been addressed and there were no objections to our proposals from statutory environmental consultees and the council ecologist. A further briefing was also arranged for stakeholders in January 2025, following approval, to further explain the wetland design and discuss the benefits for wildlife of the raised landforms (mounds). We are sorry to hear that some people didn't feel that session fully answered their questions, but we did respond to comments and queries as fully as we could, setting out the basis for our approach clearly. After we received a letter from some stakeholders asking for a further meeting on the wetland and setting out certain priority questions, we did reflect carefully on this request and provided a written response to the priority questions. However, we did not feel it was appropriate to have another briefing, given the extensive engagement and discussion on the wetland to date. We don't believe that a further workshop would provide any further benefit to stakeholders, and our team needs to focus on delivering the reservoir project. It's important to note that as part of the detailed design for the wetland, we are considering lowering the height of the raised landforms and will keep stakeholders updated on this. We're also happy to answer questions in writing.

**Comment: I understand the amount of work that goes into stakeholder engagement sessions, such as for the wetland, and it's really positive to hear that, as a minimum, we might be able to reduce the height of the mounds. I understand we have to move on, the wetland design has been approved, but it's really appreciated that it remains on the table for discussion.**

**Q: Portsmouth Water is creating a new wildlife corridor on the eastern side of the reservoir site. However, one part is very narrow and this could be potentially further impacted by a housing planning application (for a single house) on Manor Lodge Road. Is Portsmouth Water looking at options to bolster the wildlife corridor?**

A: The wildlife corridor has not got any narrower from the original reservoir site design that was approved in 2021. The corridor is part of a much wider package of measures to support local wildlife through the reservoir scheme, including creating or restoring over 200 hectares of woodland and woodland pasture on and around the reservoir site.

We do take a keen interest in local housing planning applications and respond as needed. Previously, we did express an interest in taking over stewardship of the site you mention, but without any agreement being reached.

**Comment: Via the Environment subgroup, we've been asking for the hedgerow to be bolstered, potentially using traditional techniques. This remains something we're keen to see happen.**

Stakeholder group chair Anne Elkington thanked everyone for attending, and advised that the presentation slides from the meeting and, subsequently, the draft minutes would be circulated following the session.

The next group meeting will be further main group meeting (before the summer holiday period) on 16 July 2025. An Outlook / MS Teams invite for this is being sent out to stakeholder group members.

The meeting then closed.

**PLEASE SEE SUMMARY OF ACTIONS FROM MEETING BELOW**

### **Meeting actions**

<b><u>Action</u></b>	<b><u>Owner</u></b>	<b><u>Date to be completed</u></b>
<b>South-west permissive path issue to be addressed via the Recreation stakeholder subgroup.</b>	<b>Joel Hufford</b>	<b>By 9 September 2025 stakeholder group meeting</b>
<b>Concerns over safety around Black Poplar trees to be discussed with Forestry England and update provided for stakeholders.</b>	<b>Mark Jessup</b>	<b>By 16 July 2025 stakeholder group meeting</b>