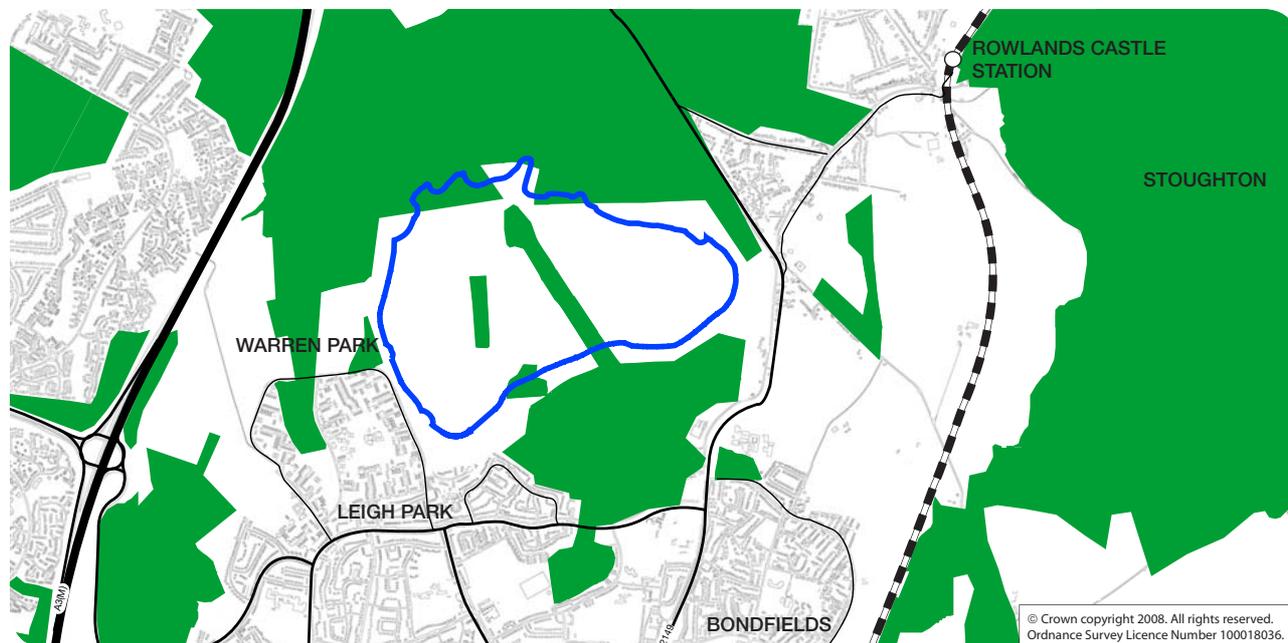


# Havant Thicket Winter Storage Reservoir

There is a growing need for more water in the area. One of the ways of meeting this need is by building a reservoir. The map below shows the site of the proposed reservoir as it is today.



## Ecology and Nature Conservation - What is on the Site Now?

The reservoir site makes up around 160 hectares of open grassland, woodland with hedgerows and ditches. In the central part of the site lies a band of trees named 'The Avenue', and is connected to Staunton Country Park to the south (see map). The Avenue is an area of designated ancient woodland and contains a small lake. The site is home to a variety of wildlife in the grassland and woodland. These habitat types are discussed below.

### Woodland and Hedgerows

Trees in the woodland areas include oak with hazel and hawthorn bushes underneath. Trees are the "lungs" of the planet and provide the atmosphere with oxygen whilst absorbing greenhouse gases. Trees and woodland areas also provide shelter and food for a variety of wildlife including plants, insects, birds and mammals. Hedgerows are often used by dormice, which build their nests in the branches and feed on hazel nuts. Hedgerows also form links between different habitats and help animals to move safely across the landscape.

Mammals found in the woodland areas on site have included several species of bat. Bats are nocturnal and generally live or "roost" wherever there is an enclosed sheltered space with constant temperature. Older dying or decaying trees with knots and cracks, and house roofs provide ideal roosts for bats to live and bring up their young. However, bats are very adaptable and can live in almost any enclosed, safe structure which would leave them undisturbed during the day.



Great-Spotted Woodpecker

© Dennis Bright



Areas of wildflower meadow can be created on the reservoir embankments, which would attract butterflies like the peacock

# Havant Thicket Winter Storage Reservoir



View of the existing site from Leigh Park

## What Nature Conservation Features Would You Put at The Reservoir Site?

(Remember, the idea is to conserve nature and provide habitat for wildlife, and perhaps something educational!)

- Wetland/Marshland habitat creation - a conservation wetland area would provide habitats and food particularly for breeding birds, and insects.
- Floating Platform or Island in the reservoir - where birds and other wildlife can rest and build their nests where they are safe from predators.
- Visitor Educational Centre - somewhere to see the reservoir from and learn about the wildlife in and around it? What would you put in the centre?
- Viewing Platform or hide - for wildlife e.g. bird watching across the reservoir or into the surrounding area.
- Educational activities - what about nature trails, walks, or bird hides.
- What else would you like to see either on the water or around the boundary?
- Bird boxes and bat boxes could be put on trees to provide a place for these animals to live.



Grass Snake

© Dennis Bright



Grey Heron

© Dennis Bright

## What Is on the Site Now?

### Grassland

There are over 10 different types of dry to damp grassland on site. Most types are wet grassland, as it can be damp or marshy over much of the site. Tall grasses support a variety of wildlife including birds, reptiles, insects (including butterflies) and mammals such as voles.

Reptiles found within the grassland area include adders, slow worms and grass snakes. Reptiles use the long undergrowth for camouflage and bask in the sunlight to warm up. During the cold winter they hibernate in piles of rocks or in tree roots.

Dormice are nocturnal and prefer to live in the shrub layer with plenty of undergrowth and at the woodland edges on this site. Dormice are vulnerable to attack from larger mammals on the ground and try to keep above ground and near the tree canopy when possible.

### Water

There was once a lake at the northern end of The Avenue, which over time has dried up and is now a small pond. It is too small to support a variety wildlife. The new reservoir however will have the potential to support different wildlife species.

### Endangered Species

Did you know that all mammals, birds and reptiles are protected by law and it is an offence to intentionally disturb, maim or kill any species? This means most animal species mentioned here need protection and conservation.

### Habitat Creation

Some woodland will need to be cleared to build the reservoir. Creating new habitat suitable for certain types of wildlife is one way to support nature conservation for the area. A large area of woodland used for timber production is situated directly north of the site and could be a place to provide new habitat.

Artificial reptile habitat can be recreated by building rock formations with an earth cover for them to hibernate in.

A large body of water such as the reservoir could be home to a variety of different species including fish and water-based birds such as ducks, swans and geese.

Mammals such as dormice and bats prefer woodland areas, which could be created in the timber woodland to the north.