

# PRESS RELEASE



**DATE: 17th January 2006**

## **PORTSMOUTH WATER WELCOMES POLICE ACTION TO DEAL WITH NUISANCE MOTORCYCLISTS AT HAVANT THICKET**

Portsmouth Water welcomes the recent actions taken by Havant Police to restrain the trespassers at its Havant Thicket site. The motorcyclists have caused considerable disturbance to residents in Swanmore Road and Well Meadow in Leigh Park, Havant.

Early in 2005 the Company received complaints from local residents regarding unauthorised use of part of the Staunton Country Park which is the site of the Havant Thicket Winter Storage Reservoir planned for 2020. During the last three months of the year the Company has invested over £50,000 in new fencing to set out the Company's boundary in advance of its use for grazing purposes by the County Park animals.

That fencing has already been damaged in recent weeks by unauthorised trespassers and yet again the local residents have been disturbed.

Area Supply Superintendent, John Polkinghorne, says "These trespassers have no right of access to our land and we have put a lot of money and effort into improving the site boundaries in recent months. Once again the local residents have been upset by the disturbance and we are very pleased that Havant Police have taken this action.

We would call upon local community groups to support us in maintaining the peaceful nature of the Country Park."

For further information please contact Andy Neve, Technical Director, Tel.No. 023 9249 9888.

### **Notes to Editors**

Portsmouth Water is one of the oldest water companies in the country, having been incorporated in 1857.

### **OUR WATER SOURCES**

Our water, of high quality, is derived from the chalk of the South Downs and is abstracted from wells, boreholes, springs and the River Itchen.

The Springs at Havant and Bedhampton are thought to be the largest group of springs used for public supplies in Europe.

### **STATISTICS**

We serve 286,000 homes and businesses in an area covering 868 square kilometres (335 square miles) from the River Meon in Hampshire to the River Arun in West Sussex.

Every day we supply around 180 million litres (40 million gallons) of water to a population of over 680,000 people at the lowest cost in England and Wales.

### **OUR DISTRIBUTION NETWORK**

Water is supplied to our customers through a network of over 3,200 kilometres (1,990 miles) of underground water mains and more than 280,000 individual service connections, all of which are continuously maintained by our distribution staff.

### **HAVANT THICKET WINTER STORAGE RESERVOIR**

The land at Havant Thicket has been owned by the Company for over 40 years with the long-term intention of building a large reservoir to store surplus water during the winter from Havant and Bedhampton Springs. The Company has already set up a Stakeholder Group to consult local Groups with the intention of submitting a Planning Application in 2010.