

Portsmouth Water Limited
Havant Thicket Reservoir
Community Advisory Group

25 May 2022

Havant Thicket Reservoir

AGENDA



10:00	Welcome and introductions	Joel Hufford
10:05	Apologies / Minutes	Joel Hufford
10:15	Project update	Ruari Maybank
10:40	Q&A	Discussion
11:00	Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Resources Project	Southern Water
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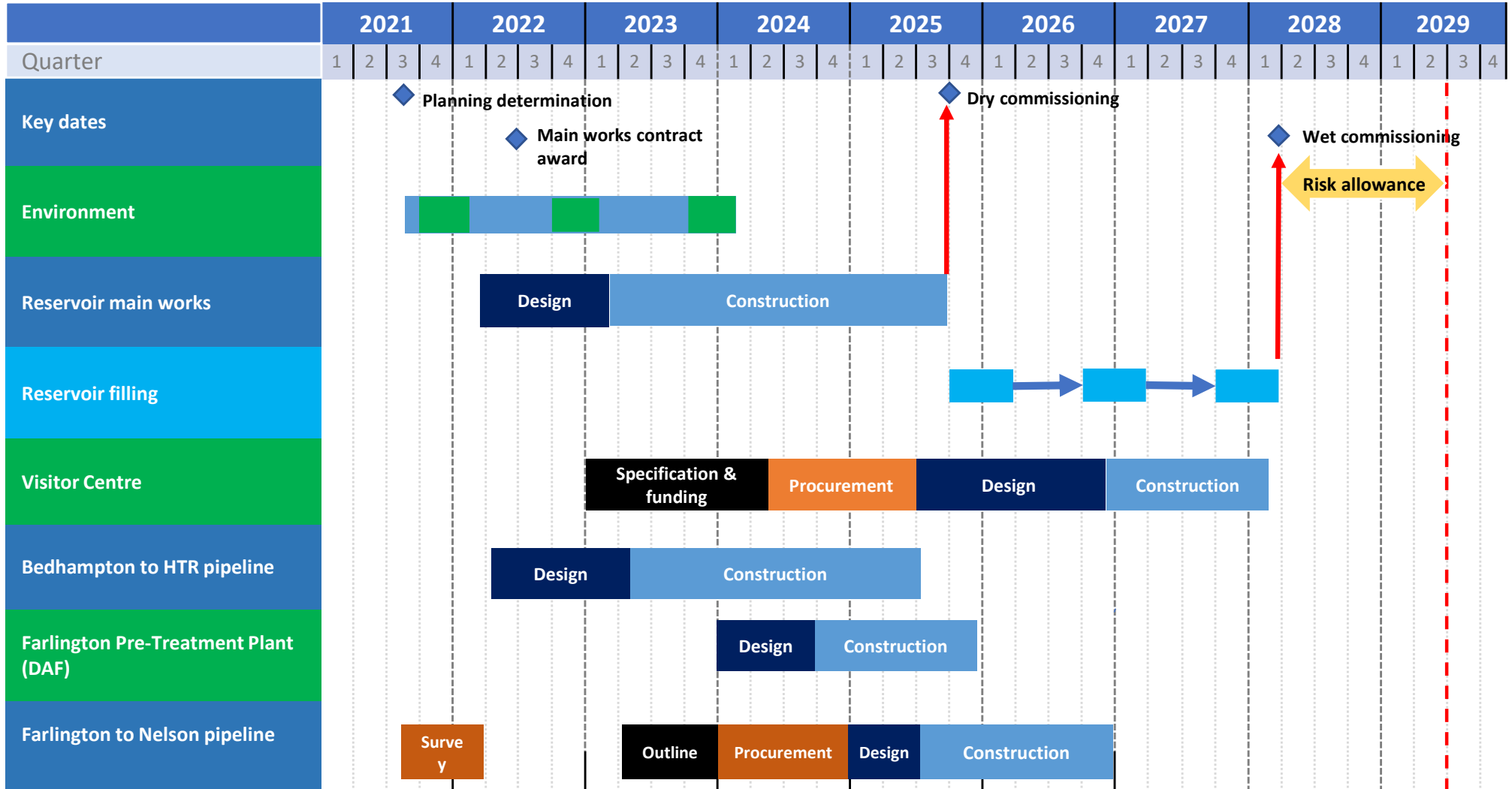
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Summary programme schedule





Jonathan Clark – Reservoir Project Manager

Jonathan has over 20 years of design and construction experience in client, contractor and consultant roles in the UK, Middle East and Pacific.



Caroline Parker – Environment Manager

Caroline is an internationally experienced environmentalist, who has worked within the public, private and voluntary sector.



Abigail Clements – Commercial Manager

Abigail has 25 years of experience in leading complex projects, from developing business cases, through procurement and contract negotiations to contract delivery and performance improvement.

Further recruitment

We are in the process of recruiting a Communications Executive who will be closely involved in the planning and running of these meetings.

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Environmental works

- **From 9th May to mid-May** – First phase of grass cutting work to encourage reptiles to relocate to new habitats we've created in Havant Thicket woodland.
- **From 16th to 27th May** – Aquatic macroinvertebrates (e.g. beetles) are being translocated from Middle Clearing to Southleigh Forest.
- All work is being closely supervised by ecologists.



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Northern Access Route

- Tree removal and ecological mitigation has been taking place.
- Further tree and stump removal is scheduled from **30th May to 8th June.**
- Two-way traffic lights will be in place while the work takes place.
- Atkins are finalising the design and this should be ready to share **at the start of June.**



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Site preparation works

- **From 23rd May** - Soil removal in preparation for archaeological survey work (in yellow on map).
- Construction of the trial embankment **starts in July**.
- A new compound has been installed off Swanmore Road.
- Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) for 2022 enabling works being finalised.



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Ecological works on site

- Ecologists have inspected hundreds of trees for bats.
- They are continuing to inspect the southern end of Middle Clearing, the northern section of The Avenue and some trees at the southern end of The Avenue.
- Bat features will be removed and placed in nearby woodland, creating alternative habitats.



- Volunteers, including members of the Environment Subgroup, are translocating bluebells from within The Avenue.
- In March, volunteers collected around 250 saplings and planted these in compostable pots.
- These are currently being looked after in the Phase One planting area.



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Sapling rescue



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Tripartite meetings

- Regular meetings with Hampshire County Council and Forestry England.
- These build on the Memorandum on Understanding signed by all three organisations.
- Key discussion points include:
 - Access for enabling and construction works on reservoir site.
 - Recreation strategy, including Visitor Centre.



Hampshire
County Council

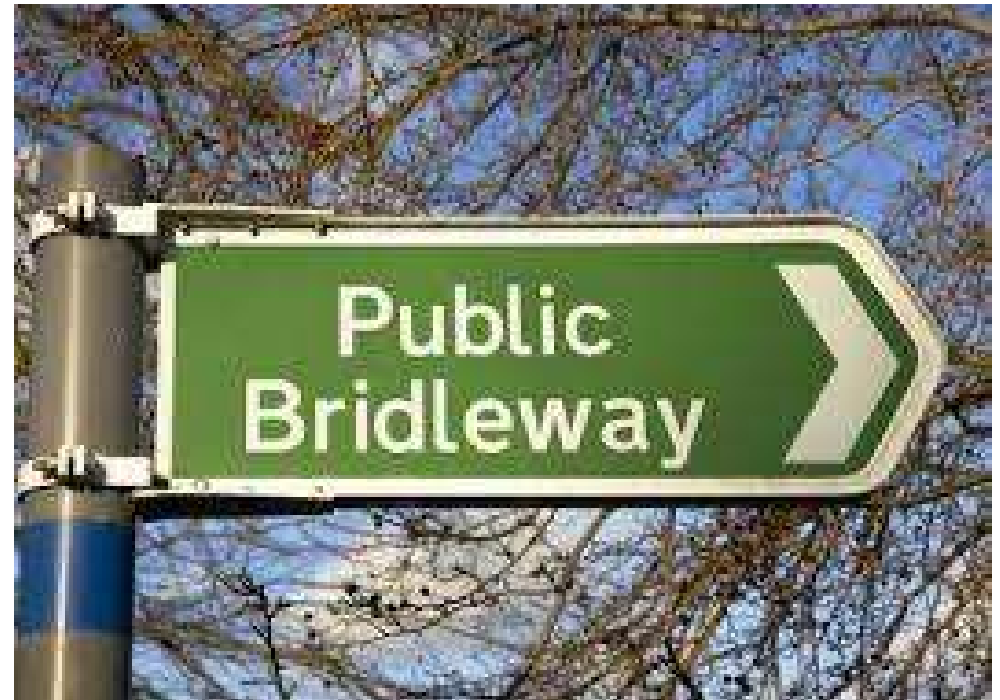


Forestry
England

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Bridleway diversion

- Bridleway 120 currently runs across the reservoir site (east to west).
- Bridleway temporary diversion planned for **February / March 2023**.
- Atkins carrying out the route surveys and design.
- Two possible routes being looked at – factoring in environment, public safety, project schedule.



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Land acquisition

- For the Northern Access Route and B2149 works, we have acquired land from Forestry England and East Hants District Council.
- Also purchasing a small parcel of land from a private landowner.
- In the next couple of months, we will enter into a long lease agreement with Portsmouth City Council for land for the Southern Access Route.



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80 hectares update

- Final specification is being drafted for the procurement.
- Two local landowners are still interested.
- Contract will be awarded at the end of the summer.
- Exploring options to translocate ancient woodland soils to the 80 hectare site.



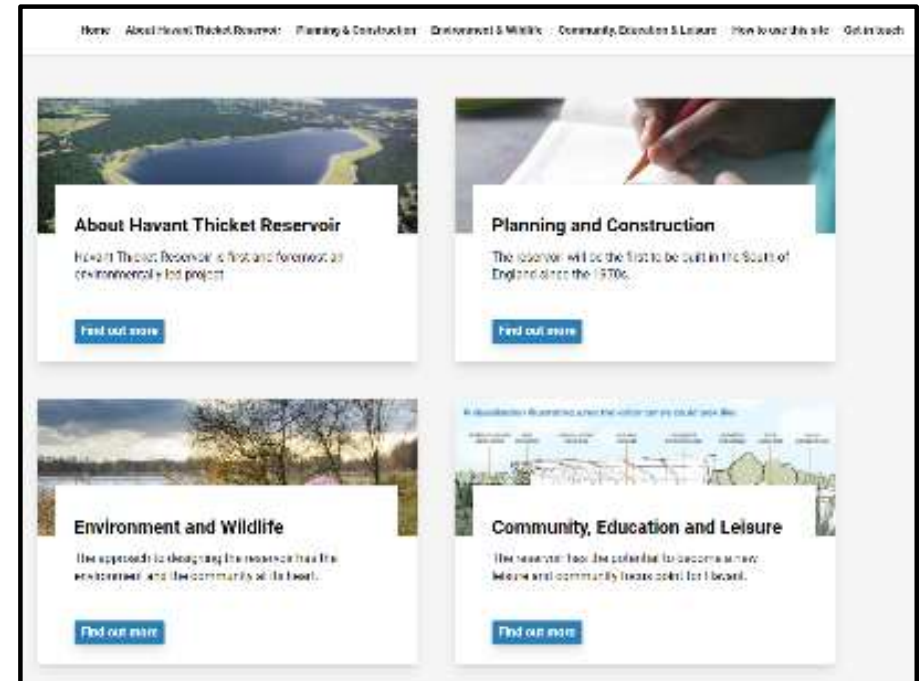
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New Havant Thicket Reservoir website

- We've created a new website for the project:

<https://havant-thicket-reservoir.uk.engagementhq.com/>

- Replaces reservoir project pages on main Portsmouth Water website
- Enables much greater interactivity and more regular information updates
- Scan the QR to take a look. Please let us know what you think.



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Water for Life – Hampshire update (May 2022)

- RAPID published their final recommendations last week – Joel kindly circulated links.

Upcoming consultations:

- July 2022: To engage on water recycling and transfer solution and potential pipeline corridors.
- Early 2023: To engage on more detailed design, alongside preliminary environmental work.
- Interface works – proposal to install a pipe as part of embankment construction to prevent the need to dismantle embankment should the water recycling and transfer plans be approved.
- Water recycling working group: Keen to set this up but mindful that many of the unanswered questions are waiting for the Environmental Impact Assessments to give us answers.
- These assessments will conclude when the Development Consent Order (DCO) is submitted in late 2023. Initial assessments will be presented at the next consultation in early 2023.

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Stakeholder Subgroups and Chairs



- **Access** - Ron Hammerton, Horndean Protection Group
- **Local Economy** - Andrew Biltcliffe, Havant Borough Council (Regeneration)
- **Environment** - John Goodspeed, Hants Ornithological Society
- **Recreation** - Cllr Jackie Branson, Hampshire County Council
- **Education** - Chris Anders and Ella Capaldi, Park Community School
- **Pipeline** - Dee Tupper, Friends of Hermitage Stream.

Membership of the Access subgroup:

- Mike Ashton - Cycling UK
- Ron Hammerton, Horndean Protection Group (Chair)
- Linda Jewell - British Horse Society
- Gareth Russell-Hughes, HTR Project Manager
- Chris Stanley - Rowlands Castle Parish Council
- Tracey Viney - Havant & Hayling Island Wildlife Group (link from Environment subgroup)
- Peter Westron - Ramblers Association.

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Stakeholder subgroups update - Access

- Initial 1 to 1 meeting with Gareth Russell-Hughes (HTR project contact) took place on 4 May.
- This was for an outline review of all the known Access Points and a proposal for nomenclature (naming system) on an outline map.
- The results of this discussion were then emailed to the Access sub-group members on 16 May with a request for comments. (Two replies received to date).
- A summary of Access Points (and associated external routes) which are likely to be funded at least in part by Portsmouth Water has also been circulated. This assumes some contributions from the local authorities.

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Stakeholder subgroups update - Access

- The most important issues identified to date are:
 - The Northern Access Route (for vehicles), including security.
 - A separate Northern Access Route for cycling and walking, including security.
 - The lack of information about Whicher's Gate (south eastern end of reservoir).

Membership of the Education subgroup:

- Rebecca Bolton, Staunton Country Park
- Aaron Butson, Havant and Southdown College
- Ella Capaldi / Chris Anders, Park Community School (Chairs)
- Hannah Haynes, Solent LEP and Havant Borough Council
- Jo Pead, Trosnant Infant School
- Eleanor Shipton, HTR Project Communications & Engagement Lead
- Angela Spinks, Future Water (enabling contractor for reservoir scheme)
- Jo Tester, Warren Park Primary School.

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Stakeholder subgroups update - Education



- *Group established and meeting once per half term: Representative from Warren Park Primary School, Trosnant Primary School, Park Community School, Havant and Southdowns College, Staunton Country Park, Havant LEP, Mackley and Co, Portsmouth Water*

Detailed discussion about potential educational opportunities from Reception, to A-Level.

Key points

- Opportunities and career placements / shadowing.
- Specialist sessions by experts in schools / colleges or on site.
- Teacher training sessions.
- Curriculum development opportunities for specific subjects.
- Regular site visits with student and staff ambassadors from schools who then lead work in own schools.
- Student voice / ambassador groups to be established representing cross section of ages to mirror discussion in the education group, feedback to own schools / colleges.

Actions

1. Site visit with teacher and 3 students for schools across Leigh Park and HSDC.
2. Broad timeline established mapping suggested educational activities for different year groups.
3. School curriculum groups meeting at Park in June to hear from Eleanor Shipton and discuss links to existing curriculum.

Membership of the Environment subgroup:

- Dave Childs, Stop the Chop group
- Marcus Stroud /Jane Smith, Forestry England
- John Goodspeed, Hants Ornithological Society (Chair)
- Nick Heasman, South Downs National Park
- Sue James, Havant Climate Alliance
- Nik Knight, Hampshire Bat Group
- Caroline Parker, HTR Project Environment Lead
- Shelley Saunders - Havant Green Party
- Tim Speller, Staunton Country Park
- Chris Stanley, Rowlands Castle Parish Council
- Tracey Viney, Havant & Hayling Island Wildlife Group.

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Stakeholder subgroups update - Environment

- The Environment group has met on site twice with Gareth Russell-Hughes and Caroline Parker and visited and discussed areas of concern to members of the group.
- The group has significant anxieties over the following:
 - Loss of habitat, mainly trees, for bats and the provision of suitable mitigation.
 - Adapting suitable wet areas as mitigation for the ponds that will be lost on the reservoir site.
 - Although it will be covered now by a separate subgroup, the Southern Water proposals for wastewater recycling worry us. We need to be convinced that the proposal will not lead to algae blooms in the reservoir and that water levels in the planned wetland area of the reservoir will not be affected.
 - We remain anxious that the mainly excellent provisions of the Landscape Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) are communicated to and implemented by contractors.

Membership of the Recreation subgroup:

- Mike Ashton, Cycling UK
- Rebecca Bolton, Staunton Country Park
- Maddison Borlase-Bune, Havant Borough Council (Community Sport and Leisure)
- Cllr Jackie Branson, Hampshire County Council (Chair)
- Jonathan Clark, HTR Reservoir Project Manager
- Jim Farrell, Friends of Staunton Country Park
- Lottie Gibson, Staunton Country Park.

Membership of the Recreation subgroup:

- Simon Hasted, Havant Borough Council (Community Sport and Leisure)
- Joel Hufford, HTR Project Communications & Engagement
- Sue Montila, British Horse Society
- Cllr Ian Moore, Rowlands Castle Parish Council
- Steve Mottershead, Portsmouth & District Angling Society
- Susan Parish, Park Community School
- Tim Speller, Staunton Country Park
- Tracey Viney, Havant & Hayling Island Wildlife Group (link from Env. subgroup)
- Peter Westron, Ramblers Association.

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Stakeholder subgroups update - Recreation

- Initial meeting held on 27 April at Park Community School.
- 20 June 2022 draft Recreation strategy workshop.

Areas of interest

- Ensuring good links for visitors between the reservoir site and Staunton Country Park next door.
- Further developing the proposal for the reservoir to be a site for fishing / angling.
- Routes for walkers / cyclists on the reservoir site and ensuring good connectivity for walkers, in particular, between the site and the wider local area.
- Getting the best value for the community from the reservoir site, including maximising use by cyclists and walkers – such as the 70,000 people living in the nearby PO7 and PO8 postcode areas.

Areas of interest

- Maximising number of young people using the site and engaging with them about the reservoir scheme.
- Potential for further community-based businesses to provide services on the reservoir site (e.g. visitor centre café).
- Clarifying what recreational activities could be available on the reservoir site (e.g. Community-based water sports?) and resulting potential to support / encourage local people to be active.
- Using available data on local health (such as from Havant Borough Council) to inform discussions on recreation.

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