



Portsmouth Water Limited  
Havant Thicket Reservoir  
Strategic Advisory Group

5 September 2022

# Havant Thicket Reservoir

## AGENDA



10:00	Welcome and introductions	Ingrid Strawson
10:05	Apologies / Minutes / Future meetings	Ingrid Strawson
10:15	Project update	Ruari Maybank
10:40	Q&A	Discussion
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# Havant Thicket Reservoir

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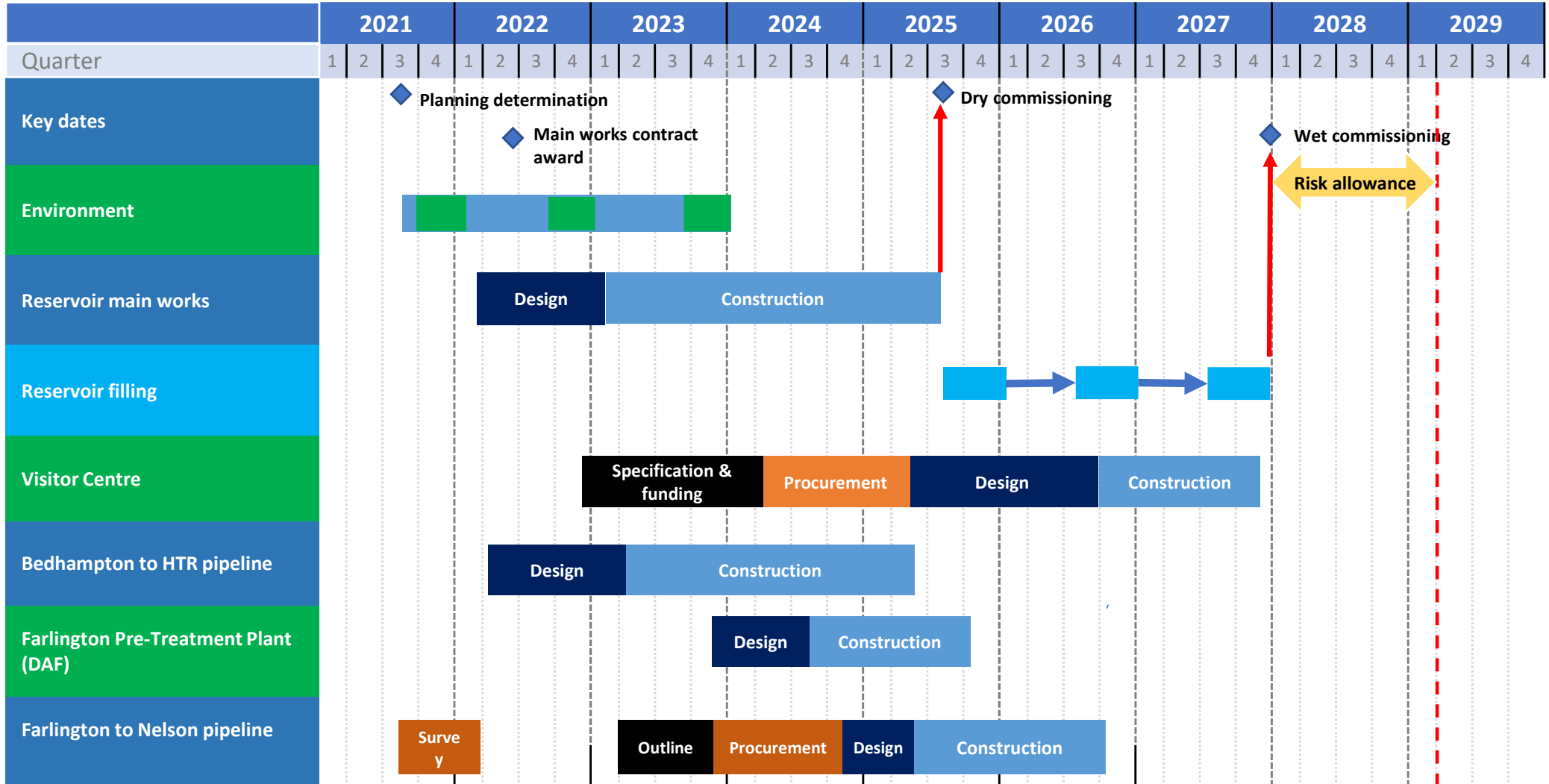
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# Havant Thicket Reservoir

## Summary programme schedule





### **Mark Jeffery – Communications Executive**

- Joined Portsmouth Water in June
- Over 27 years of experience in communications and campaigning roles
- Led communications team at Watford Borough Council for 11 years



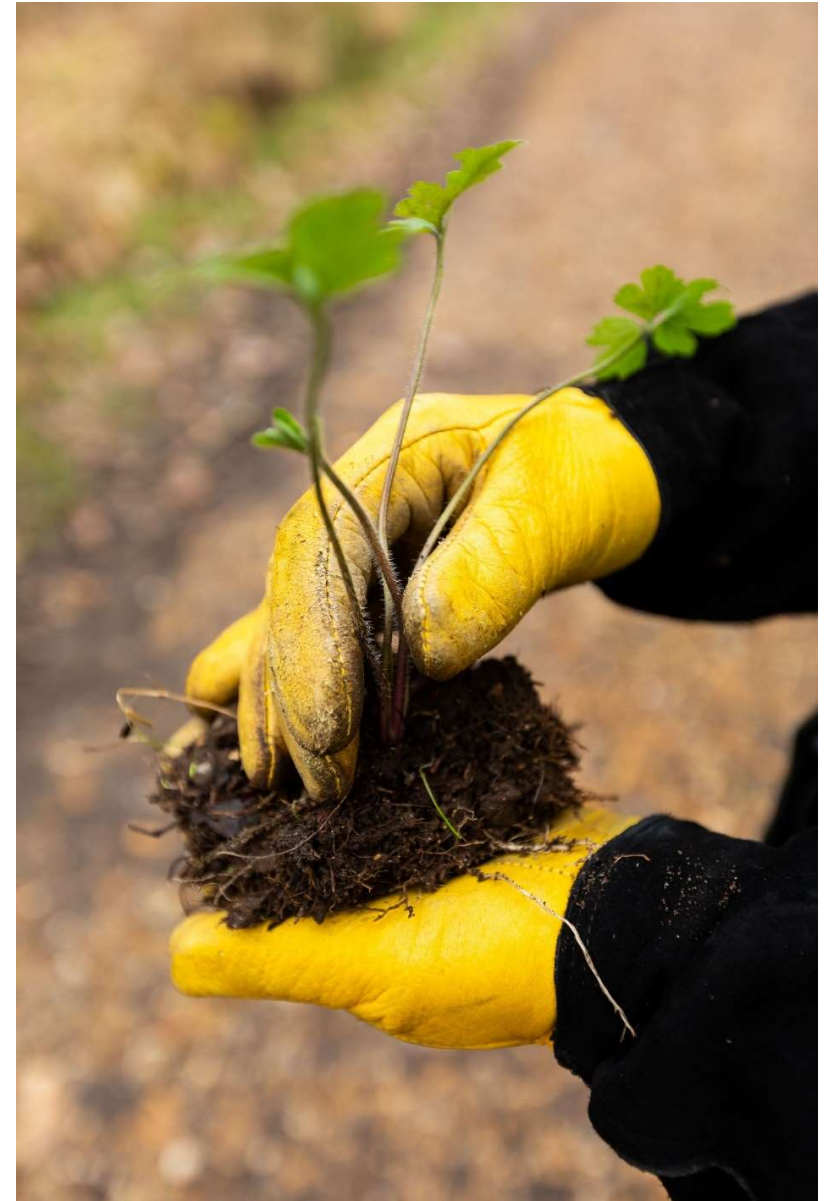
### **Andy Trott – Programme Planner**

- Started his career as a designer at Southern Water before moving into project and programme planning
- Has worked in a variety of industry sectors, including transport, defence, pharmaceuticals and nuclear
- Most of his career has been spent in the water industry.

# Havant Thicket Reservoir

## Key environmental milestones

- Approval by local planning authorities of:
  - Detailed Biodiversity Mitigation & Compensation Strategy
  - Landscape Ecological Management Plan (LEMP)
- Key requirement under Section 106 agreement, prior to main reservoir construction work starting in 2023
- Very grateful to Environment Subgroup members and others for their important input on both documents.



# Havant Thicket Reservoir

## Ecological works on site

- Reptile translocation work carried out in The Avenue and elsewhere from 25th July 2022
- Translocation of aquatic macroinvertebrates (e.g. beetles) from Middle Clearing to Southleigh Forest completed in late May 2022
- All work is closely supervised by ecologists.



- Important investigations ahead of main construction work
- Supervised by archaeologists
- Topsoil removed in several areas on south-west of reservoir site
- Number of flint artefacts found from Stone Age
- Final report due in the autumn.



# Havant Thicket Reservoir

## Trial embankment

- Good progress in building trial reservoir embankment in south-west corner of site - work started in late July
- Structure is 8 metres high, 140 metres long and 70 metres wide
- Important step to further test natural materials on site that we will use to construct the full-size embankment
- Will also help inform detailed engineering design.



- Forestry England car park closed from mid-July to mid-August
- For safety reasons while adjacent track upgraded to provide access for preparatory work on the reservoir site
- Car park surface improved during closure
- Very grateful for everyone's understanding and patience.



# Havant Thicket Reservoir

## The Avenue

- Footpath along The Avenue closed from 25th July 2022 and won't reopen.
- To allow environmental work – translocation of reptiles
- Tree removal to follow, as part of site clearance
- Fully appreciate sensitivity of this phase of work
- Committed to maintaining public access to other areas of site during construction.



- Reptile fencing & mats used to safely collect and relocate 180+ reptiles to new habitats nearby – in Havant Thicket woodland
- Species include slow-worms, lizards, grass snakes and even an Adder!



# Havant Thicket Reservoir

## Tree removal work



# Havant Thicket Reservoir

## Parrots Feather – Treatment and removal

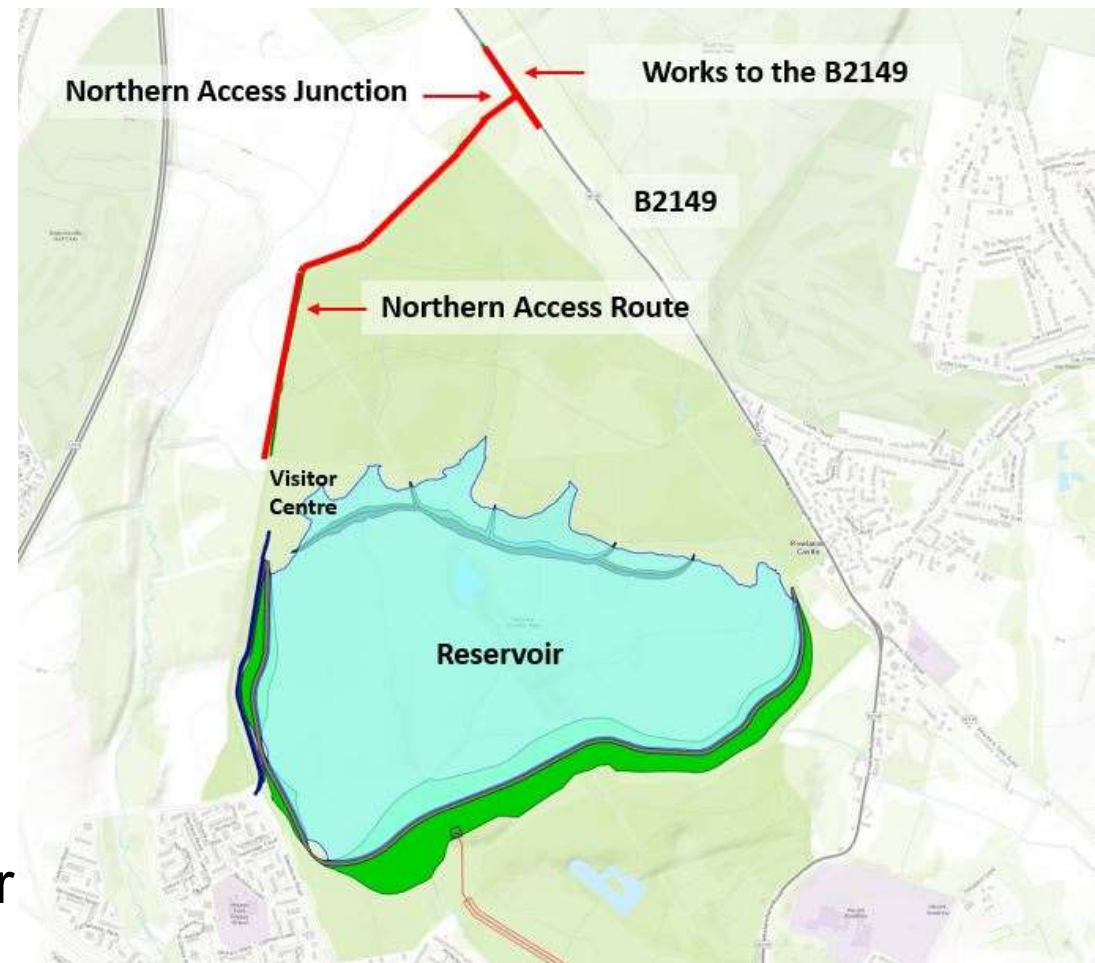
- Work taking place to treat / remove Parrots Feather from pond in Havant Thicket woodland
- Parrots Feather is an Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)
- Impedes growth and survival of native plants and wildlife
- Part of the environmental plan (carried out by Forestry England) to prevent spread of Parrots Feather in and around the reservoir site.



# Havant Thicket Reservoir

## B2149 improvement works

- Temporary two-way traffic lights in place from 22nd August 2022 on B2149
- One half of carriageway closed initially to enable upgrade work to be carried out safely as part of reservoir Northern Access Route construction
- Resurfacing and reprofiling of B2149 to follow junction work, with full road closure in October
- All work completed by 30th October 2022
- More updates to follow.



# Havant Thicket Reservoir

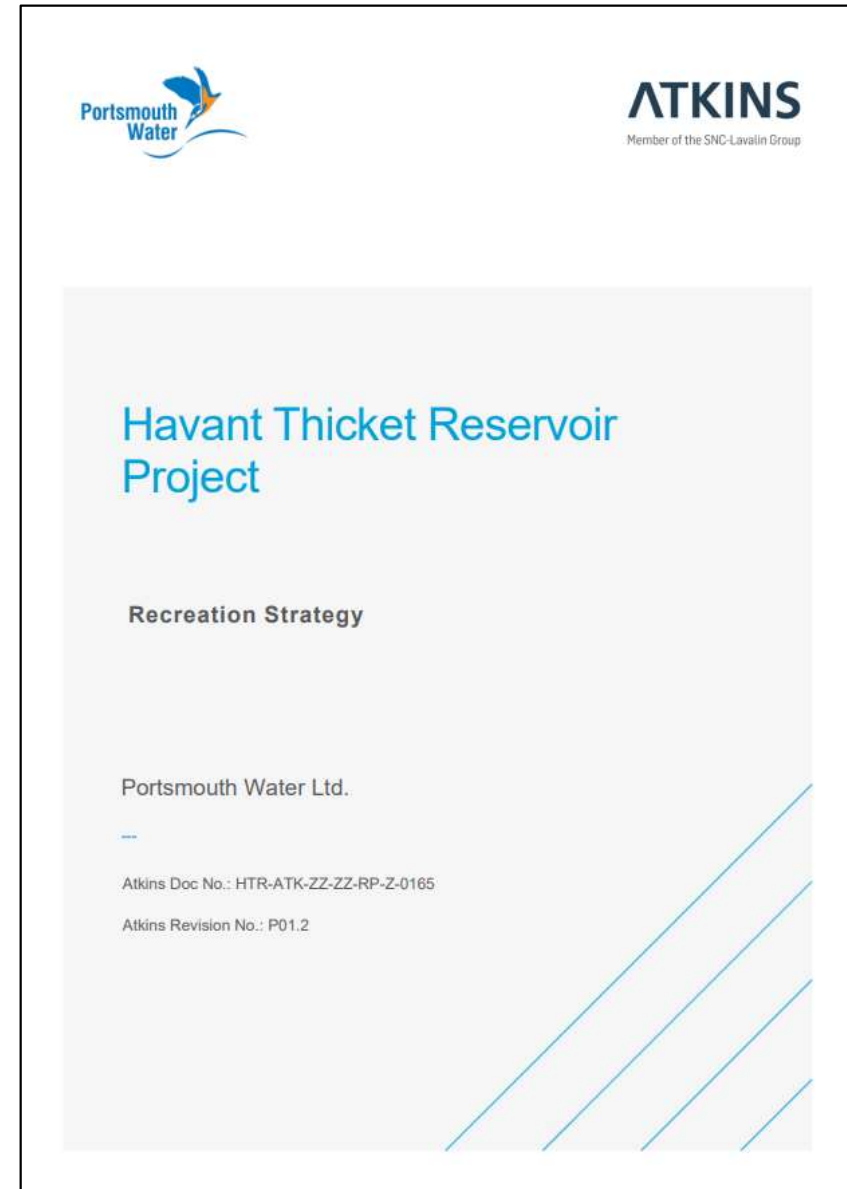
## Looking ahead

- Working with Southern Water to ensure the already approved reservoir scheme and, should it progress, the Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project (HWTWRP) can both be delivered safely and with minimal disruption
- Not pre-empting consultation / approval process for HWTWRP
- Aim is to avoid additional work on reservoir embankment after it's been built.



# Havant Thicket Reservoir Recreation strategy

- Strategy sets out aims for recreation on reservoir site during construction and operation – document will evolve over time
- Very grateful for stakeholder feedback including 20th June 2022 workshop and 5th July follow-up Q&A session
- Updated strategy will be published and shared in late September along with a “You said, we did” report.



# Havant Thicket Reservoir

## Reducing nitrates pollution of the Solent

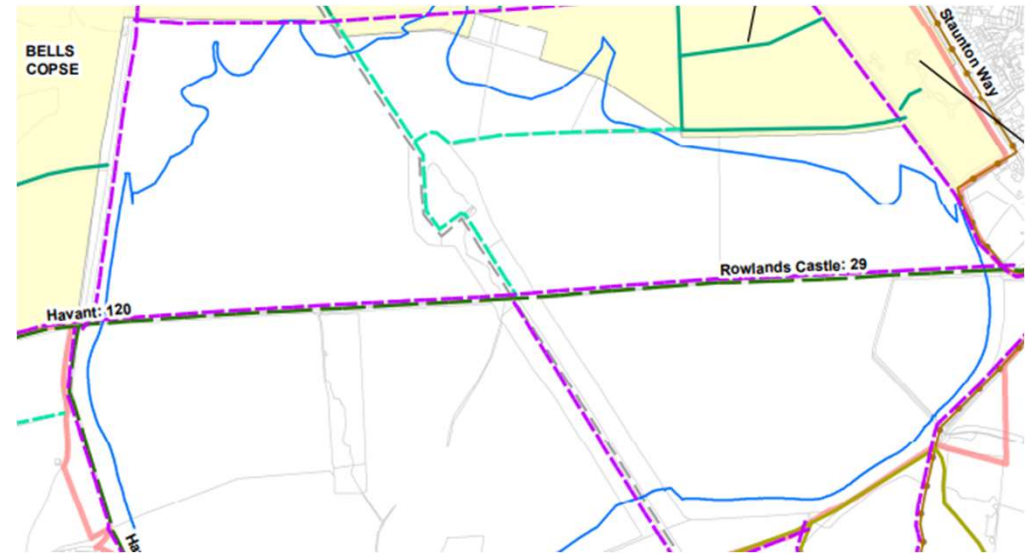
- Langstone Harbour and wider Solent adversely impacted by nitrates pollution – e.g. from farming and spring water flows
- Affecting ecology of area – e.g. algal blooms in water
- Initial study completed on how Havant Thicket Reservoir could reduce nitrates getting into the Solent
- Operation of reservoir = 2,588kg of nitrates saved per year
- Land use change (from grazing) = 428kg of nitrates per hectare saved per year
- Further work needed on this issue to refine the above figures.



# Havant Thicket Reservoir

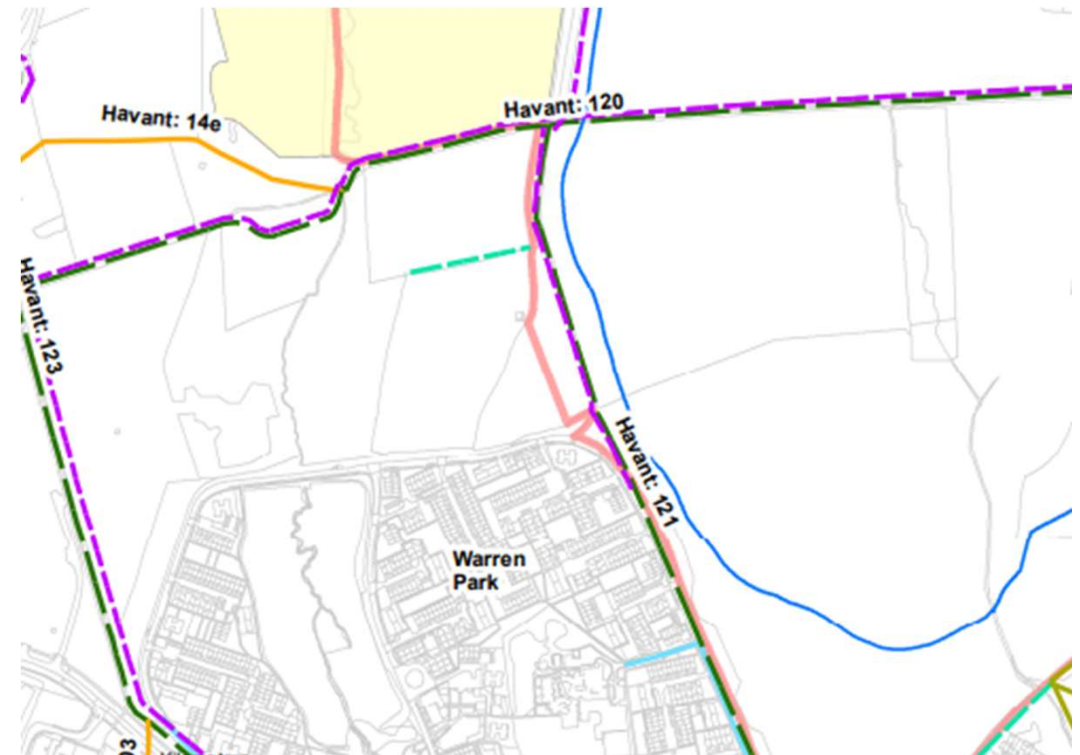
## Bridleway – Havant 120 / Rowlands Castle 29

- Currently runs east / west across the reservoir site
- Temporary bridleway diversion to the north of reservoir to be provided
- Design is progressing in consultation with Hampshire County Council and Forestry England
- Works should start by autumn
- Permanent diversion will be along the bottom edge of reservoir embankment.



# Havant Thicket Reservoir Bridleways – Havant 121

- Runs west, from western edge of reservoir site
- Need to provide a permanent diversion where it crosses proposed southern access route
- Working with British Horse Society, Ramblers Association and Hampshire County Council Public Rights of Way team.



# Havant Thicket Reservoir

## Land acquisition

- Purchase completed from private landowner of small parcel of land for Northern Access Route
- Ecological work as part of Northern Access Route shown in image
- Entering into long lease agreement with Portsmouth City Council for land for the Southern Access Route



# Havant Thicket Reservoir

## 80-hectare woodland site

- Part of overall project commitment to restore or create over 200 hectares of woodland / woodland pasture
- Contract to be awarded by autumn
- Next step is to finalise delivery plan
- Exploring options to translocate ancient woodland soils to the chosen 80-hectare site.



# Havant Thicket Reservoir

## Southleigh Forest

- Bringing Southleigh Forest into sustainable forest management
- Again, part of overall 200-hectare woodland creation / restoration commitment by reservoir project
- As part of this, a planning application is being submitted for track repairs that are needed to the existing track leading to Woodberry Lane
- Woodland Management Plan will be signed off by the Forestry Commission in September.



# Havant Thicket Reservoir

## Advanced planting aftercare

- Aftercare plan now finalised and being used to help appoint a contractor to manage areas where 6,000 new trees have been planted on the reservoir site
- Environment Subgroup members have kindly carried out ragwort weed removal
- During the recent hot / dry period, trees were watered
- Saplings rescued from woodland on the reservoir site will be mature enough to plant during next year's planting season.



# Havant Thicket Reservoir

## Site visits

- Programme of stakeholder visits to site in Summer 2022
- Tours completed for:
  - Leader & CEO of Havant Borough Council
  - Members of Rowlands Castle Parish Council
  - Teachers from Park Community School
  - Staff from Portsmouth City Council
- Tours for Staunton Country Park team and others to follow
- Contact Joel Hufford to arrange a visit.



# Havant Thicket Reservoir

## Site visits

- Welcomed six local schools to the reservoir site earlier in summer
- Very important for us to engage with pupils and teachers
- Education subgroup leading on educational opportunities
- Contact Eleanor Shipton for more information.



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## Stakeholder Subgroups and Chairs

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- **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.



# Education Group May 2022

- *Group established and meeting once per half term: Representative from Warren Park primary, Trosnant primary, Park Community School, Havant and Southdowns College, Staunton Country Park, Havant LEP, Future Water JV and 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.

# Education Group September 2022 update



1. Broad timeline established mapping suggested educational activities for different year groups - Eleanor Shipton
  2. Later this month, Havant schools' curriculum groups to receive input from Eleanor about the reservoir to enable them to plan into curriculums as appropriate
  3. Careers - talks, visits and potential videos to be used in schools
  4. Student blog to be established
  5. Subject leaders from Park Community School piloted a site tour with Joel Hufford and Eleanor to enable planning into school curriculum at Park. This will be used as a pilot for other schools
  6. Adult education opportunities to be explored further this month
- The group is meeting again this month to finalise the plans above.

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# Public consultation 2022

During the six-week consultation period (July 5 – August 16):

- 9,169 people visited the consultation web pages
- 878 people visited one of six drop-in sessions
- 69 people attended one of our public webinars
- 570 consultation responses were received

Next public consultation expected to be held in summer 2023.



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## Issues & Action Log – Assessing priority

Likelihood	High (3)	Medium (3)	High (6)	High (9)
	Medium (2)	Low (2)	Medium (4)	High (6)
	Low (1)	Low (1)	Low (2)	Medium (3)
		Low (1)	Medium (2)	High (3)
		Impact		

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