



# Havant Thicket Reservoir

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Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting

3 March 2026



# AGENDA

- 10:00** Welcome and introductions.
- 10:10** Apologies / Minutes / Actions.
- 10:20** Reservoir project update.
- 11:15** Q&A.
- 11:40** Stakeholder subgroups updates.
- 11:50** AOB / Meeting close.

## Review of actions (1 of 2)

- Link to responses on western reservoir embankment queries to be circulated to stakeholder group members. **COMPLETED**
- Link to sign up for 20 January 2026 reservoir pipelines briefing to be circulated to stakeholder group members. **COMPLETED**
- Links to new reservoir site visit videos to be circulated to stakeholder group members. **COMPLETED**
- Circulate report on findings from surveys of reservoir site visitors, including around water recycling, to stakeholder group members. **COMPLETED**
- Updated image of reservoir visitor centre to be shared with stakeholder group members. **COMPLETED**

## Review of actions (2 of 2)

- Overview of progress in delivering the reservoir scheme's environment plan (including compensation packages) to be provided at future main stakeholder meeting, along with a look ahead to environmental work planned for 2026. **IN PROGRESS**
- Idea of a short extension to the pathway leading from the public viewing area in the north-east corner of the reservoir site to be shared with reservoir project team. To avoid people having to cross a muddy area to the well-established public path running to / from this location. **IN PROGRESS**
- Formally ask Access subgroup members to join new merged Access & Recreation subgroup. **COMPLETED**

# 2026 – A look ahead for Havant Thicket Reservoir

## Reservoir site

- Second earthworks season.
- Start of work to build main reservoir embankment.

## Reservoir pipelines

- Start of main construction phase.
- Ongoing community engagement.

## Planning applications

- All remaining Reserved Matters applications to be submitted by mid-October 2026.
- Including Southern Access Road and Visitor Centre.



# MAIN RESERVOIR UPDATE

## Work planned in 2026

- Culvert Cut-Off Wall installation.
- Reservoir wetlands (Penstocks).
- Ground Improvement Zone (GIZ) works.
- Backfilling main reservoir culvert.
- Main reservoir embankment works (Swanmore Road side)



# MAIN RESERVOIR UPDATE

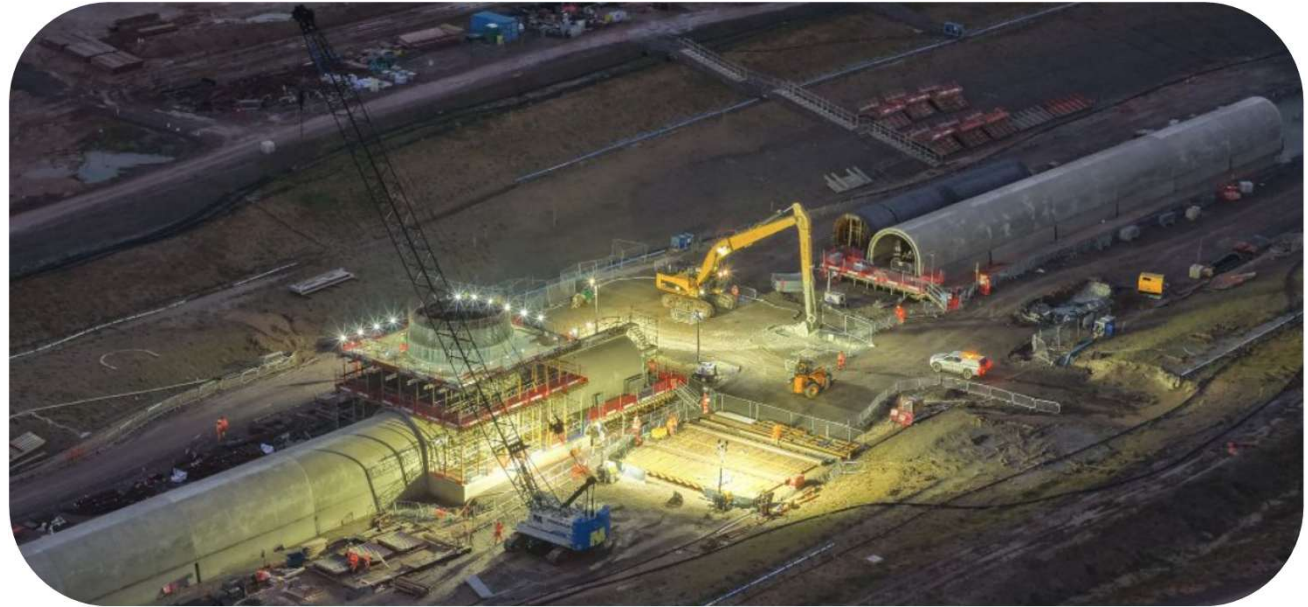
## Installation of Cut-Off Wall



- **Cut-Off Wall required below main reservoir embankment**, to prevent water seeping under it.
- **Most of wall constructed using bentonite clay** combined with cement.
- **Under reservoir culvert, 20 tonne, 13 x 9 metre re-enforced steel wall** required to provide additional strength / stability.

# MAIN RESERVOIR UPDATE

## Cut-Off Wall – Night works



- **Noise monitoring was carried out during night-time works to install the cut-off wall** at the reservoir culvert structure on 12-13 January 2026.
- Noise readings at the site boundary were fairly consistent at 39 dBA, with periods when no noise detected. **The site was confirmed to be well under the 45 dBA noise threshold level.**

# MAIN RESERVOIR UPDATE

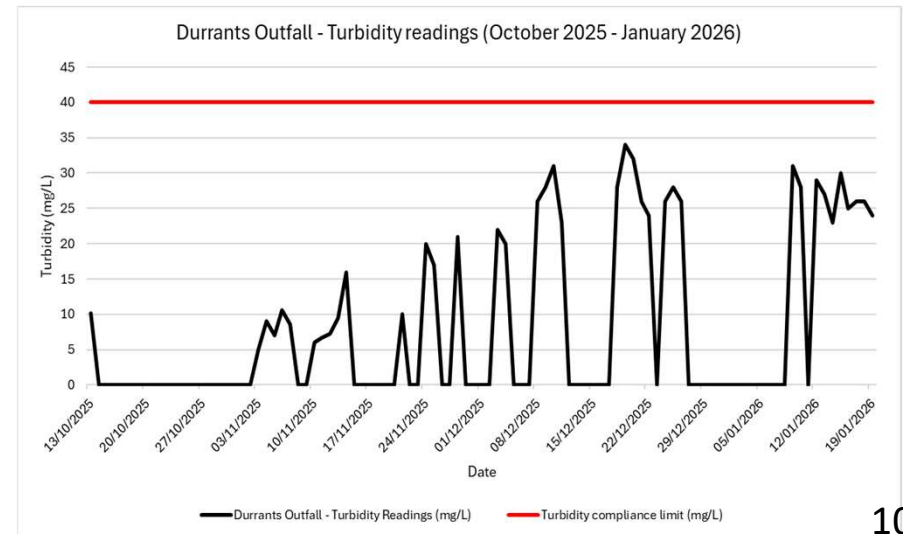
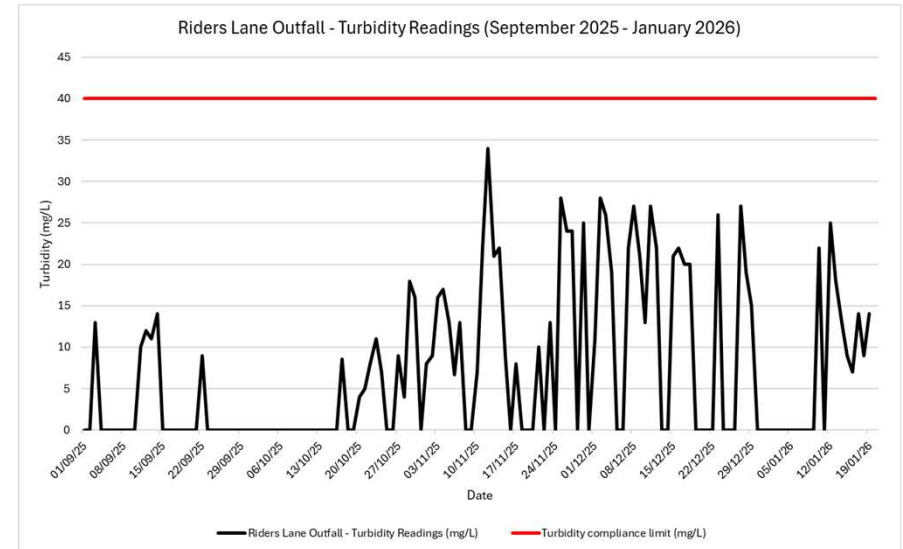
## Installation of Cut-Off Wall film



# MAIN RESERVOIR UPDATE

## Winter 2025/26 Water monitoring

- Throughout the winter period to date, water flows from the reservoir site have remained within the specified turbidity limits at both the Riders Lane Stream and Durrants Stream outfalls.
- Daily outfall monitoring is undertaken, alongside daily downstream watercourse monitoring of Riders Stream and Durrants Stream. This is carried out by the Future Water Environment team to ensure ongoing compliance and protection of the environment.



# MAIN RESERVOIR UPDATE

## Winter 2025/26 Water monitoring

- **To recognise the dedication of our Water Management team during this exceptionally wet period**, we have provided each team member with a voucher as a thank-you for their continued hard work.
- **Their ongoing efforts play a crucial role in preventing silt and other materials from entering nearby streams**, helping us protect the local environment and maintain high standards on site.



# MAIN RESERVOIR UPDATE

## Environment Agency visit to site

- **On 21 January 2026, a representative from the Environment Agency (EA) attended site** to review overall environmental compliance, with a specific focus on water management.
- **The visit was very positive. The EA colleague commented on how impressive the site looks** and noted the significant improvements made since previous issues with silt.
- **A further visit with the EA team is anticipated to take place in April this year.**



Environment  
Agency

# MAIN RESERVOIR UPDATE

## Ecology preparation for 2026



- **Prior to the 2026 earthworks season commencing in the spring, precautionary measures must be put in place** to ensure that no wildlife comes onto site, especially nesting birds.
- **Vegetation management: Grass strimming and vegetation removal, prior to works.** The site teams are ready for this work to commence.
- **Mitigation measures: Predatory bird perches, bamboo canes with reflector tape** and placing bird scarers around site.
- **Our main priority is to keep wildlife safe, whilst ensuring that the work commences as planned, with no disruption.**

# MAIN RESERVOIR UPDATE

## White Stag



### Wildlife update!

**There have been sightings of a rare white stag** around the reservoir site.

**This highlights that wildlife continues to flourish around the site** and that nature still finds its way, even during the construction stages of the project.

**The Environment team have been keeping a close eye on the deer, ensuring that it is safe and remains healthy.** We have no concerns about its welfare, or its ability to leave the site, if it chooses to do so.

# MAIN RESERVOIR UPDATE

## King's Trust Visit

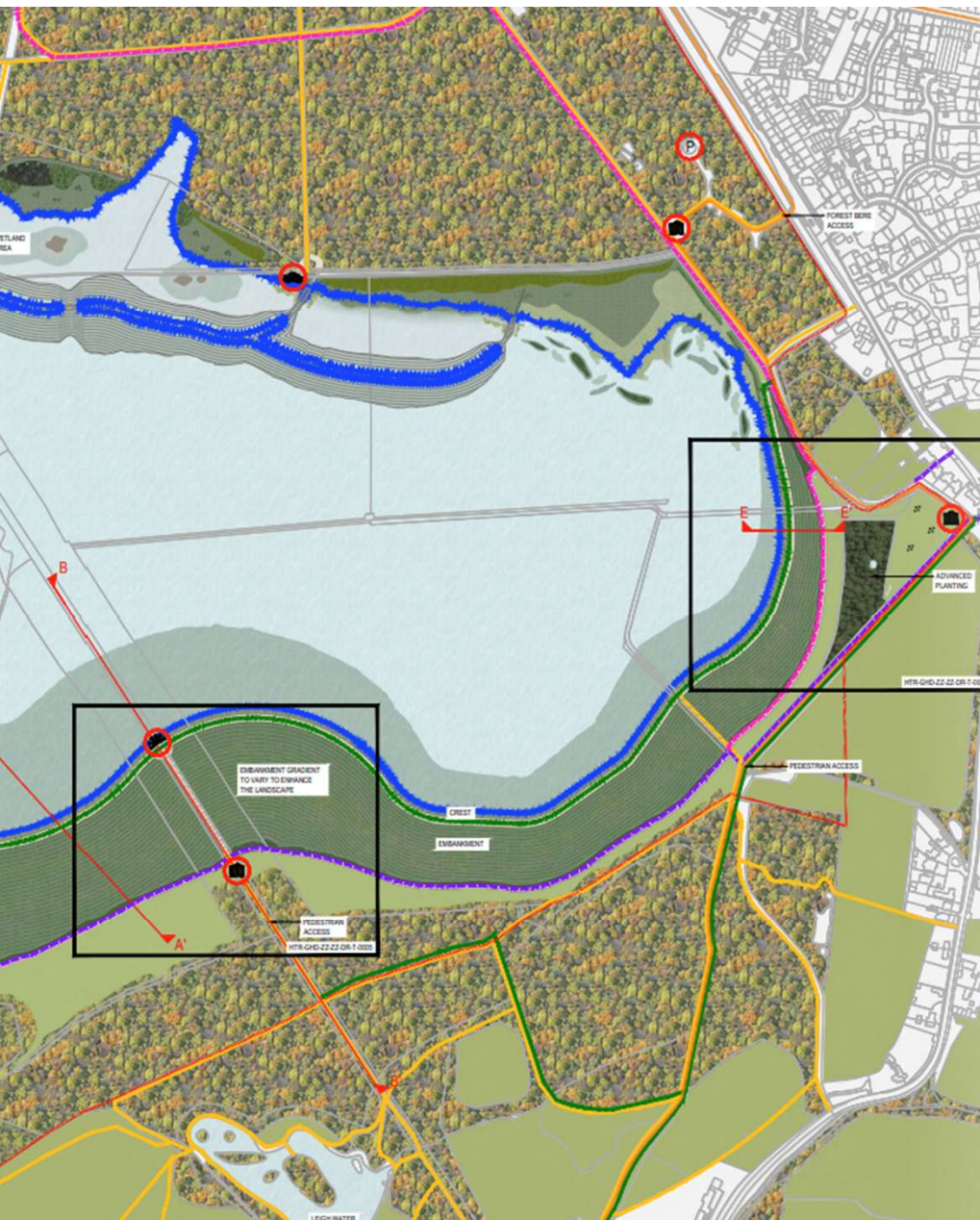
We've been working in partnership with Hampshire Police and The King's Trust to help unemployed young people gain their CSCS card, a key requirement for working on construction sites.

As part of the programme, participants:

- **Heard from members of our project team** about careers across the industry.
- **Took part in a guided tour** of the reservoir site
- **Had the opportunity to get up close with plant** and equipment.
- **Even helped to create concrete test cubes.**

**This collaboration has been a great success**, and we look forward to building on this partnership in the future.





# Reservoir site planning update

## Reserved Matters applications during 2026

- **Phase 4** – Southern Access Road (March 2026).
- **Phase 5** – Control House (*Submitted December 2025*).
- **Phase 6** – Forestry England track and culverts (March 2026).
- **Phase 7** – Discharge Spillway and Pipe (June / July 2026).
- **Phase 8** – Remaining areas of landscaping (June / July 2026).
- **Phase 9** – Visitor Centre (July 2026 for design related conditions only).

# Updates since our last meeting

- Permission granted for **limited night-time working to complete the cut off wall** works.
- **Valve tower public safety condition** has been approved.
- **Western embankment Non-Material Amendments** (NMAs) have been approved.
- **Reservoir Control House Reserved Matters application** is progressing (image of proposed design on right).



# Upcoming phases

A stakeholder workshop for Phases 6, 7 & 8 will be taking place on 18 March 2026.

This will cover:

- **Forestry England track and culverts (6).**
- **Discharge Spillway and Pipe (7).**
- **Remaining areas of landscaping (8).**

If there are any topics or questions you want us to cover, please email [havantthicket@portsmouthwater.co.uk](mailto:havantthicket@portsmouthwater.co.uk)



# Reservoir pipelines



- **Stakeholder briefing held on 20 January 2025** to present / discuss **updated construction plan.**
- **Pipelines stakeholder subgroup to meet for first time** in Spring 2026.
- **Main pipelines construction phase** expected to start Summer 2026.
- Ongoing work to **discharge pre-commencement planning conditions.**
- **Tunnelling Access Shaft W1 at Bedhampton**— Enabling works now expected to begin in May 2026, with construction following through to the summer.
- **Update letters / leaflet to be distributed to local properties for Shaft W1.**

# Landscape aftercare maintenance contract



## Work since the last meeting:

### Autumn/winter works

- Work included hedgerow / scrub management, repositioning tree guards etc.
- Continued monitoring of fire damage in Memory Park.
- Scrub clearance and hedgerow planted along the bridleway just west of Gipsies Plain

### Former bridleway

- Permission provided by planning authorities for planting in the gap between advanced planting plots (section of the former bridleway, now diverted).
- Contractor Greenscape cleared mainly bramble scrub (under ECoW Supervision) and planted this area in December 2025.



## Landscape aftercare maintenance contract

**As a requirement of the S278 planning agreement, a section of approx. 280 metres of hedgerow needs to be provided from the northern entrance to the reservoir site, alongside the B2149.**

This work was completed successfully before Christmas, including deer fencing.

Greenscape will continue to monitor this new planting, with watering and aftercare as needed.



# Southleigh Forest / South Holt Farm

## Southleigh Forest:

- **Ecology surveys**
- **Tree safety survey works** complete.
- **Ditch improvement works** in Spring 2026.
- **Winter works:** Postponed due to wet ground conditions.
- **Fencing on Emsworth Common Road** to be replaced.

## South Holt Farm:

- No update.



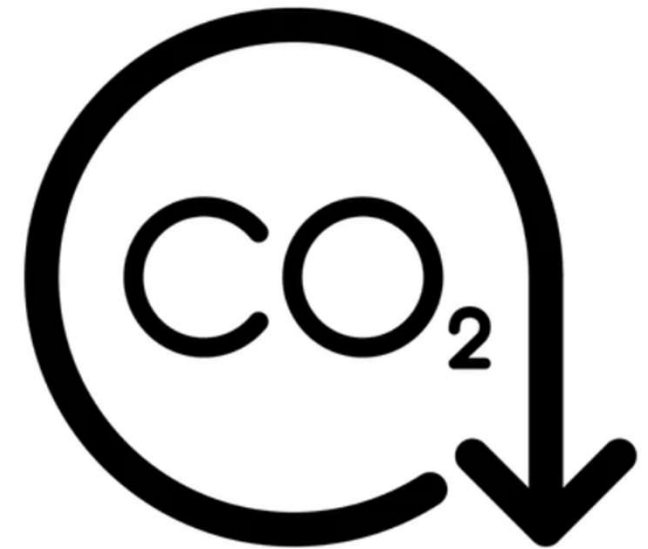
# Forestry England update

- **Autumn / Winter works 25/26 nearing completion.**
- **Young Oak respacing / Birch thinning now completed.** Some Birch brash to form part of new and extended dead hedges.
- **Road and ride mowing completed** (Approx. 3km of zone 1 ride management along main Cat A forest road sections). 4km of zone 2 ride management is upcoming.
- **Third Birch rack / glade in NW section of Havant Thicket woodland completed** (see image on right). Broadleaf planting to be completed before end of March 2026.
- **Lengthen dead hedging around multiple pond complex near main gate to prevent recent and regular dog access.** Approx 100m. Birch from thinning Oak site to be used for this.
- **Corsican pine extraction** starting in Bells Copse today.



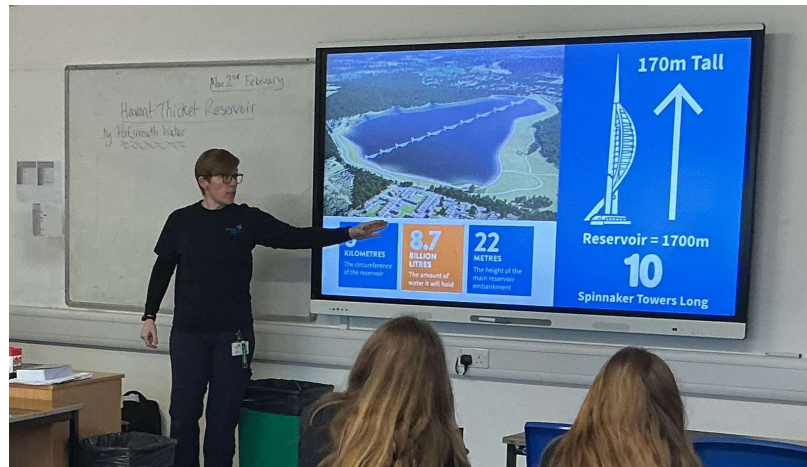
# Carbon management plan update

- **Integrated Carbon Management Plan (ICMP) is now in place** for the reservoir project.
- **Our contractors are currently preparing their own Carbon Management Plans** to align with the ICMP.
- **Data collection for Carbon Data Collection Tool has been established** and will now be used by our contractors for quarterly carbon reporting.
- **Comparison against the baseline reservoir project forecast will be undertaken quarterly** to track progress and emissions.
- **Data from contractors has currently been received from start of main works phase** and is being collated.



# Site visits and Community engagement

- **13 January 2026: Bosmere School** – Joint visit with Future Water. Focus on Water Cycle & Clay Reservoirs.
- **January 2026: Welcomed colleagues** from Portsmouth Water and Southern Water.
- **2 February 2026: Day at Swanmore College** talking to GCSE Geography students about the reservoir project.
- **24 February 2026: Engagement with Staunton Country Park Men's Shed** group.



# Site visits and Community engagement

## Coming up...

- Developing our new Visitors Room at the reservoir site.
- A full calendar of community events planned for 2026. In the next few months:
  - **Strong Women, Bright Futures** conference.
  - **Reservoir Student Ambassadors** session.
  - **A busy season of spring / summer community fairs.**
  - **Speaking to local community groups** including;
    - Havant Stroke Group.
    - Petersfield Probus Club.
    - East Hampshire Heart Group.
    - Chichester Round Table.



# Stakeholder feedback survey results – Main group

- **Overall satisfaction up slightly** from last survey (8.26 before).
- **People most like being able to stay up to date, learn more** and raise questions / comments.
- Areas to consider include:
  - **Being clearer** on reasons for decisions.
  - **Yearly calendar of events /** engagement opportunities.
  - **Making HTR video footage available** to stakeholders.



# Stakeholder feedback survey results – Subgroups

- Overall satisfaction up from last survey (7.05 before).
- People most like being able to explore topic in depth and opportunities to learn about / shape design proposals.
- Areas to consider include:
  - Suggestion for new subgroup, focused on ‘creative representation
  - Even earlier inputs on design proposals.



# Stakeholder group meeting dates for 2026

- Tues 21 April 2026: Interim call.
- **Weds 10 June 2026: Main meeting.**
- Weds 15 July 2026: Interim call.
- **Tues 8 September 2026: Main meeting.**
- Tues 20 October 2026: Interim call.
- **Weds 2 December 2026: Main meeting.**

# Stakeholder Subgroups

Subgroup	Chair / Vice Chair	Portsmouth Water lead
<b>Education &amp; Local economy</b>	<b>Ella Capaldi</b> (Park Community School) / <b>Jo Tester</b> (Warren Park School)	<b>Eleanor Shipton</b> (Reservoir Communications Lead)
<b>Environment</b>	<b>Anne Elkington</b> (Reservoir Stakeholder Advisory Group) Vice-Chair TBC	<b>Mark Jessup</b> (Reservoir Environment Manager)
<b>Access &amp; Recreation</b>	<b>Cllr Jackie Branson</b> (Hampshire County Council) / <b>Jim Farrell</b> (Friends of Staunton Country Park)	<b>Joel Hufford</b> (Reservoir Communications Team)
<b>Reservoir pipelines</b>	<b>Dee Tupper</b> (Friends of Hermitage Stream) Vice-Chair TBC	<b>Joel Hufford</b> (Reservoir Communications Team)