

**From:** [redacted] RAPID  
**Subject:** FW: Objection to Havant thicket reservoir raw water transfer/ effluent recycling project

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 12 April 2022 09:45  
**To:** RAPID <RAPID@ofwat.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Objection to Havant thicket reservoir raw water transfer/ effluent recycling project

I do not support the funding of option B4 the scheme to pump recycled water into Havant thicket. I do not support the funding of option D2 the construction of a 35 pipe from the Havant thicket to Otterbourne.

I ask you to close the proposals down now before any more money is spent investigating their viability. Instead focus funding on finding more sustainable solutions to our water supply.

These are my reasons :

Foremost is that SW do not have a clear idea of the environment impact these proposals will have. They have not done a robust enough appraisal. The by- product of recycling process will be discharged into the extremely sensitive Solent area that is already under pressure. Already there have been problems with all the raw sewage that is very regularly discharged into it. Do we really trust Southern water to do this right - they have not got a good track record!

Furthermore, there has not been an appropriate or sufficient consultation with the public. 203 people were involved, in Portsmouth water's survey out of 698 serviced population.

Most of Havant and Leigh Park think they r getting a reservoir that will bring environmental and community benefits. There will be a big furore when they realise that they are getting what amounts to an effluence holding bay!

This project is not in line with Southern waters commitment to be zero carbon by 2030.

We need a low carbon solution that has low energy costs - this is not the best value.

Pumping water and sewage in and out of the new proposed recycling plant approximately 35 km for 70years will be extremely expensive. Water is heavy and takes enormous amounts of expensive energy to move it. In these days of trying to reduce energy consumption is this sending out the right message for a water company to be choosing to embark on such an energy hungry project?

Treating the effluence uses the same chemical processes as desalination and this was rejected as it was not environmentally friendly enough and not in line with new guidelines.

Why is this now being proposed?

It will completely change the whole nature of the Havant thicket reservoir which was sold to us all as being fed and filled by the clean chalk fed spring water of Bedhampton. Having had planning permission passed they now seek to fill the reservoir with the partially recycled water pumped in from the new recycling plant.

It will totally scupper any plans that the ecologists had for creating a unique environment for wildlife and a pleasant recreational zone. The water will have algal blooms that will smell and drastically limit the amount of wildlife that can viably live in it.

It will also have an effect on downstream water as the poorer water quality will be discharged into the Solent via the streams below the reservoir.

Of course, we do need to address the water shortage in the south but many argue that effluent recycling or how Southern water are proposing it is not a sensible or environmentally friendly solution.

We need solutions that reduce our carbon footprint not increase it.

We do get enough rain in the south for our needs- we need to think of solutions to capture and store it where it is most needed. We do not necessarily need these heavy engineering solutions.

We need more storage facilities for river/ spring water which will reduce flood risk and create biodiversity.

But if they HAVE to go for effluence recycling then the sewage should be local sewage - not pumped in from miles away. Southampton sewage should be dealt with near Southampton!

Havant and Leigh Park have high levels of social deprivation. What message is it sending that our area is being chosen as a centre to pump in vast amounts of sewage to be treated. As these pipes are being laid it will involve traffic chaos and consequence pollution with miles of pipeline converging in the area.

Not only that but the wildlife haven that local people were promised in mitigation for the loss of part of the Staunton country park will now be a giant effluence holding bay.

Another issue which needs further public consultation is if we want to go down the route of recycled water becoming a major part of our water supply rather than our current chalk stream fed water supply. This is a major issue which needs discussion.

So, for these reasons I ask OFWAT to focus funding on more sustainable solutions to our future water supply.

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