

Ofwat Consultation: Havant Thicket reservoir raw water proposal

Southern Water; the use of the Havant Thicket Reservoir for an Effluent Recycling Option.

This is a very concerning situation, and I am totally opposed to the proposal:

Southern Water justifiably has a very poor reputation, locally and nationally, and I do not trust this privatised company in any respect whatsoever. It has consistently and deliberately put profit above good practice. In order to do so, its representatives have obfuscated, producing misinformation and whitewash to side-line genuine local concerns about untreated discharges in Chichester & Langstone Harbours, and so thoroughly failed to protect people, the natural world and the interests of consumers from their poor practices.

Ofwat's role is to help customers, communities, and to protect and enhance wildlife, aims that Southern Water have notably failed in, and is most likely to continue to do so.

The proposal to deliberately introduce so-called 'raw' water into the spring and rain water originally proposed for the Reservoir is not acceptable.

Each iteration of the Reservoir proposal has manipulated the original intentions set out to the public until they are unrecognisable:

- Destruction of valuable ancient and mature woodland well-used by the local population for recreation, peace and tranquillity might have once been accepted until we learnt the water stored was not for Havant but elsewhere to the north.
- The compensatory vision of water sports and a wetland for wildlife might have been accepted until we learn the water will in fact be too deep and cold for any sort of sporting activity, and that the features for wildlife are too small to be viable.
- Now we learn water from Budds Farm of potentially, (and most likely) 15MI/day could be pumped into the reservoir.

In fact, page 9, row 5 of the document make it very clear the scheme is only cost effective at much higher capacity and volume of recycled effluent. This is repeated on Page 14

Southern Water are using their previously demonstrated skills at obfuscation and massaging to suggest this 'raw' water will be at only small volumes and therefore cause only minimum impact – i.e., that only small volumes of effluent will be involved.

This is absolute hearsay, and is not credible. As I stated above, Southern Water is not a principled or dependable company, and the reservoir is clearly merely a means to extricate them from failures to competently and responsibly manage waste water.

It is clearly a means for the company to exploit another means of profiteering from damage done to the environment that local communities depend on, and to further degradation of local water courses and coastal habitats.

It is disgraceful that there is no environmental assessment information or modelling available to support the Southern Water proposals.

Neither is there any mention of the potential risk to the environment in and around the reservoir, or associated streams or indeed to Langstone Harbour.

I urge that Ofwat takes very seriously the flaws it has itself identified in Southern Water's proposals:

- Poor assessment of drinking water quality and risks
- Poor environmental assessment work, particularly inadequate regarding potential in-combination and cumulative effects.
- Lack of evidence of water resource benefits, or that this is the best value option
- Weak assessment of operability and solution design.
- Inadequate stakeholder and customer engagement.
- Overall, confusions and contradictions throughout the submission.

I do not wish to drink recycled effluent, and do not trust Southern Water to look after my best interests as a consumer.

I am deeply unhappy about the environmental and biodiversity impacts of the proposals, and very concerned that the proposals are not acceptable in terms of financial cost, and that Southern Water is not making serious efforts to achieve net zero carbon in the face of climate change.

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