

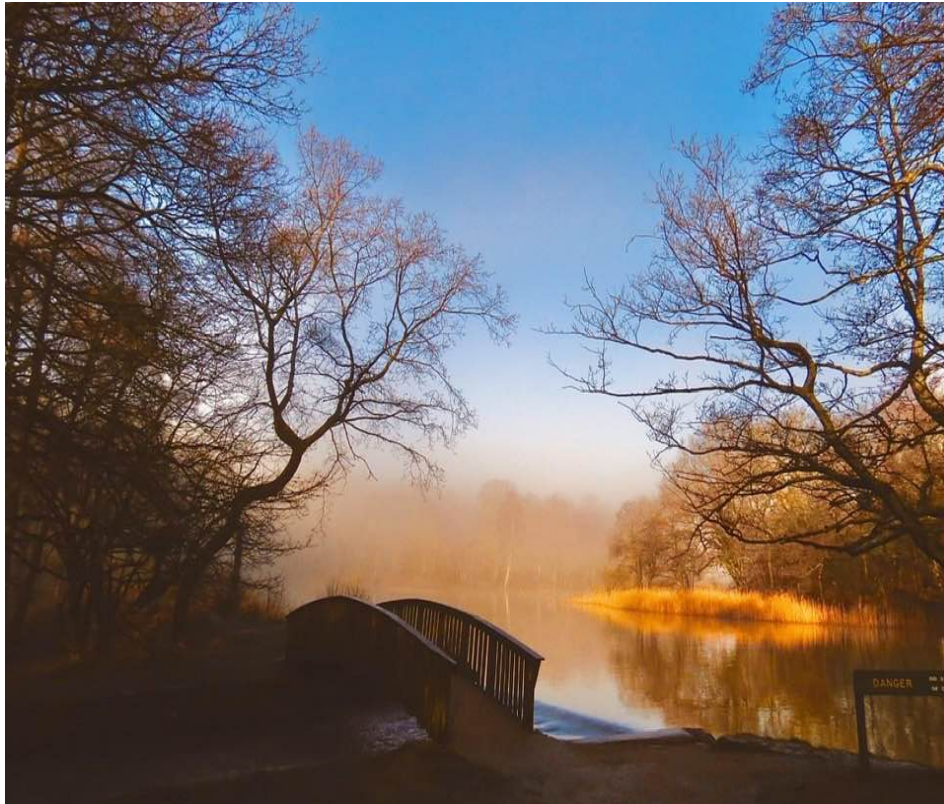
# CANNOP PONDS

UNDER THREAT



# A MISSION STATEMENT

Compiled by  
SAVE CANNOP PONDS TEAM  
[www.savecannopponds.com](http://www.savecannopponds.com)  
[cannopponds@outlook.com](mailto:cannopponds@outlook.com)



# Cannop Ponds

Heritage – Ecology – Culture

Set at the very heart of the historic **FOREST OF DEAN** , the two ponds form a centuries-old eco-system that supports abundant wildlife, tourism, local heritage, local culture and are the largest body of open water in the entire area. Local people and visitor, families, dog walkers, cyclists, birdwatchers, historians and photographers love the site. **They love it for what it is** and fear what it may become.



# THE THREAT

FORESTRY ENGLAND's "CANNOP PROJECT" aims to 'decommission' the ponds under the cover of the 1975 RESERVOIRS ACT. It will then "Re-Wild" the site removing much of the open water to create a network of small ponds and reed beds.

All of which would alter the site forever and destroy the existing 200 year old eco-system.

This plan was instigated without any prior public consultation and without the knowledge or consent of the local authorities. And the cost?

***"More than £5,000,000"***\*

**Forest Of Dean Residents \*\***

**The District Council**

**Mark Harper MP & Verderers**

**DO NOT WANT THIS TO HAPPEN**

\*ARUP engineer in conversation with Dam Engineer Crawford Munro, March 3 2023

\*\* The petition to SAVE CANNOP PONDS reached **44,000** signatures by spring 2023





# ***WHAT IS AT STAKE ?***

**HERITAGE** - Cannop Ponds have existed at the heart of the Forest of Dean since 1820 the proposed work would **decimate the archeology.**

**ECOLOGY** - The site has been happily been 'rewilding' all on it's own since 1866 . There are a recorded **1197 species** within 1000m radius which rely on the ponds for their habitat. What happens when that **habitat is disturbed or destroyed?**

**CULTURE** – The ponds have been a popular recreational site for locals residents for many generations. Walking, picnics, bird watching, photography, angling and the appreciation of the natural world are part of local culture.

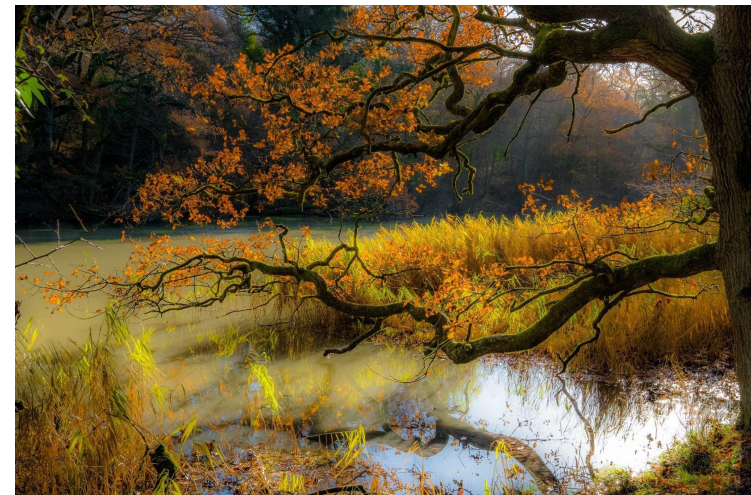
**Why is this being ignored?**

**TOURISM** – The level of work required by THE CANNOP PROJECT would take years to complete and decades to recover from. In the meantime the tourism of the area would suffer .

**No one wants to visit a building site!**



**Cannop Has Already “ReWilded” !**





# ***THE CANNOP DAMS***

## **THE OPTIONS**

### **REPAIR**

- Retain the ponds as they are
- Do what the **people want**
- Minimise disturbance of habitat
- Preserve & protect archeology
- Improve flood defence
- Secure the future of the open water
- Retain a huge 'Fire Extinguisher' for the area in time of wild-fires
- Waste no money in a financial crisis
- Prevent potential civil unrest & protest
- Defuse the current PR disaster that is engulfing FORESTRY ENGLAND

### **REMOVE**

- Destroy 200 years of history
- Destroy the existing eco-system
- Remove a large area of open water
- Remove the angling club
- Create a fake man-made 'wilderness'
- Risk increased flooding downstream
- Spend huge amounts of tax payers cash
- Risk destroying the tourist value
- Risk disturbing contaminated sediment
- Further alienate the local people against FORESTRY ENGLAND
- Risk civil unrest & protests

**#SAVECANNOPPONDS**

**[www.savecannopponds.com](http://www.savecannopponds.com)**



THE CLAIMS*	THE FACTS
<p data-bbox="405 261 860 352">“The dams are knackered” “the dams ...are not safe”</p> <p data-bbox="595 379 674 395">-----</p> <p data-bbox="215 421 1055 667">“If either dam wall was to breach, that is if the embankment were to fail and the entirety of the reservoir water body released... it would have potentially catastrophic impact....would result in <b>devastating</b> flooding“</p> <p data-bbox="607 692 663 708">----</p> <p data-bbox="159 734 1106 979">“it is our obligation to act to question whether proceeding with extensive corrective works to the reservoirs dam and surrounding infrastructure remains the most appropriate and responsible course of action”</p> <p data-bbox="607 1005 663 1021">----</p> <p data-bbox="181 1046 1088 1190">“...neither of the spillways are able to contain a 1 in 150-year flood event...both dams are likely to breach in an extreme rainfall even”</p> <p data-bbox="607 1270 663 1286">----</p> <p data-bbox="192 1311 1077 1398">“Cost will not be the main driving factor behind any decision “</p>	<p data-bbox="1151 261 2058 352">“The dam is in good condition” ** “Forestry England have made the reservoir safe” ***</p> <p data-bbox="1559 379 1637 395">-----</p> <p data-bbox="1151 421 2058 612">Cannop Lower is declared a “Category C breach risk”. To quote the definition “Category C : where a breach would pose <b>negligible risk</b> to life and cause <b>limited damage</b>” ****</p> <p data-bbox="1581 692 1637 708">----</p> <p data-bbox="1133 734 2074 979">The only legal obligation Forestry England have is to carry out the remedial work required by the Environment Agency under the Reservoirs Act 1975** It has failed to do this yet it talks of being “appropriate and responsible”</p> <p data-bbox="1581 1005 1637 1021">----</p> <p data-bbox="1155 1046 2051 1238">(of the lower dam) “outflows in a 150 year flood are confined to the spillway channel” and (of the the upper dam) “outflows entering the spillway...remain confined to the spillway “ *****</p> <p data-bbox="1581 1270 1637 1286">----</p> <p data-bbox="1167 1311 2040 1398">“removing the long-term risks <b>and costs</b> associated with maintaining a registered reservoir” *</p>



“The requirement for maintaining the artificial structures in place at the reservoir will be an ongoing and potentially resource-intensive issue”

----

“OUR SHARED FOREST sets out an agreed, understood and supported direction “

----

“The key point is that doing nothing is not an option as at some point the **dams will fail**, and that is not an eventuality that can be allowed to occur.”

----

“By reinstating a natural watercourse in a wetland landscape, we will be working with nature to improve biodiversity “

Yet they plan “ a series of raised walkways, paths and wooden bridges. “ \*

Which is both 'artificial' and 'potentially resource-intensive' in itself. A clear contradiction

----

OUR SHARED FOREST says “ we are not proposing to remove these lakes”

----

“I do not consider that the seismic risks are sufficient to pose a significant risk to the dam”

----

Yet on page 28 of THE NEXT CHAPTER it admits of the rewilding plan “*It is **not possible** to determine whether ...(this)... will deliver the range of anticipated ecological benefits*” and adds of the ponds as they are now “*Nor can we be sure that the ponds aren't... (already) ...**performing an essential role...***” \*

\*Made publicly and in the media by Forestry England s deputy surveyor and in “The Next Chapter” document 2022

\*\* Official reports made under Section 10 of the Reservoirs Act 1975 in 2021

\*\*\* Tony Deakin , Head of Reservoir Safety, Environment agency, in a letter 3.11.22

\*\*\*\* Gov.uk website relating to the 1975 Reservoirs Act

\*\*\*\*\* Flood report by BINNIES January 2022



# IN OPPOSITION TO THE PLAN

## THE SAVE CANNOP PONDS TEAM



Mark Lewis, Kartherine Williams, Shaun Bick, Simon Lewis with civil engineer Phil Roberts (centre)

## THE FOREST VERDERERS



The body charged with overseeing the Sovereign's interests in the Forest – one of the oldest legal entities in the world founded at the time of the Norman Conquest

## FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Members of the council and Save Cannop Ponds Team in #savecannopponds t-shirts

## MARK HARPER MP



The current Minister for Transport meeting with the Team, has publically declared his support for retaining the ponds

# THE PETITION

## SAVE-CANNOP-PONDS

[www.change.org/p/save-cannop-ponds](http://www.change.org/p/save-cannop-ponds)

Set up in 7 July 2022

As of June 28 2023 it has

**45,000 signatures**

FOREST of DEAN Population 85,000



# WE WILL NEVER SURRENDER!

