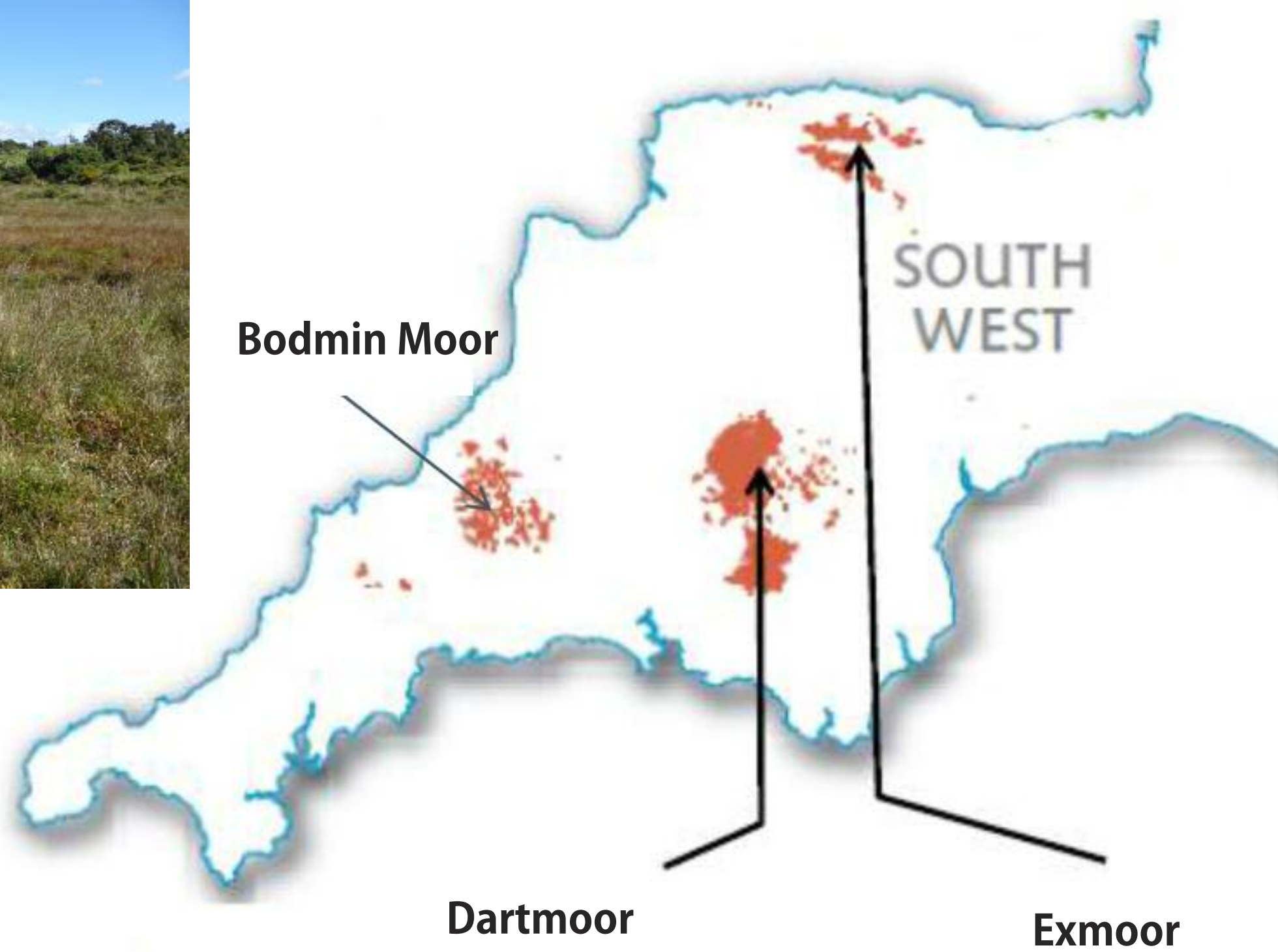




# South West Peatland Partnership

Morag Angus - South West Water

This peatland restoration project is focused on the moorlands of Bodmin, Dartmoor and Exmoor. These peatlands of south-west England are very important for water, carbon storage, biodiversity, cultural history, recreation and farming. They are recognized by the IUCN Peatland Programme's Commission of Inquiry as being the most vulnerable in the UK to the impacts of climate change, due to their southerly position. They may be the first to stop accumulating peat, as climates warm and rainfall patterns change. These peatlands are therefore at 'high risk', need to be prioritised nationally and restored for the benefit of all and future generations.



These wetland habitats are complex ecosystems that support diverse and unique ecology of national and international importance. Over centuries, human interventions have and still are impacting upon the overall quality and distribution of wetland mire habitats and upland moors. The demise of such wetlands across extensive swathes of the moors has resulted in changes in the moorland ecology, including the loss of iconic species such as Sphagnum mosses, dunlin, golden plover, curlew and many others.

1680 hectares of peatland restoration is to be carried out under this proposal. The sites have been chosen for the extent and significance of their damaged condition.

The project is reliant on a partnership of multitude organisations that includes government agencies, non-governmental organisations, landowners and farmers.



Within the partnership are representatives from the Forest of Dartmoor Commoners Association, farmers and landowners