

# Managing land to provide better water (How to get Water companies to fund peatland restoration)

## SWW's Catchment Management programme

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# SWW –Regulated Business Model



- Pennon - UK Owned Parent company (also Virador)
- PLC, FTSE 250 Shareholders and high percentage of workforce ownership
- Public Health duties for Drinking and Wastewater (operating licence)
- Circular economy model - taking raw water from the environment and returning it
- Regulated by OFWAT, and Defra (EA, NE), DWP, CCW. **N.B. E&W only**
- Between them they set agenda for how SWW interacts with the natural environment
- SWW also required to fulfil CAR duties as set out in the Water Act and has responsibilities for delivering customer water use conservation
  
- Profit is made on regulated margins defined by Ofwat (less than 5% of bills)
- Additional profit is made by delivering business plans more efficiently and at lower than forecast costs
- Subject to Penalty and reward ODI's set by Ofwat

# Catchment Management Declaration

A step change in catchment management activity will be a demonstration of commitment to the ambition of the 25 Year Environment Plan by supporting water catchment-related activities that will facilitate a greater level of delivery.

This Declaration aims to bring sectors and organisations together to enable effective catchment management.

## Current signatories



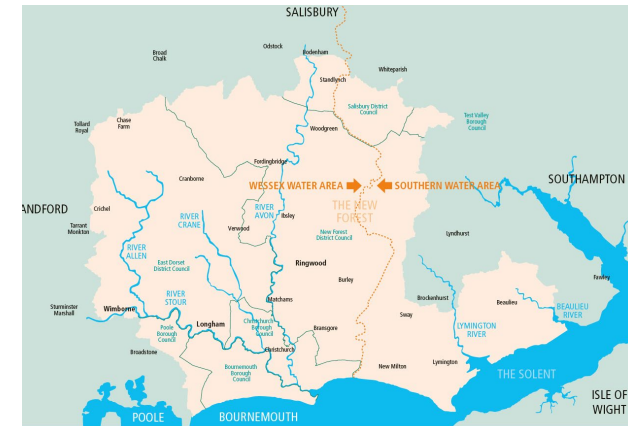
# Water is everyone's business



# REGION AND RESPONSIBILITIES



- 903,000 Household Customers
- 70,000 businesses
- Dispersed population
- Many tourists – pop. swells to 8m in summer
- Drinking water quality 99.98% to 99.99%
- A unique environment:
  - 35% of England's designated bathing waters*
  - 19% of England's designated shellfish waters*
  - National Parks, ANOBs, SACs, Biosphere Reserve /Pioneer, etc*



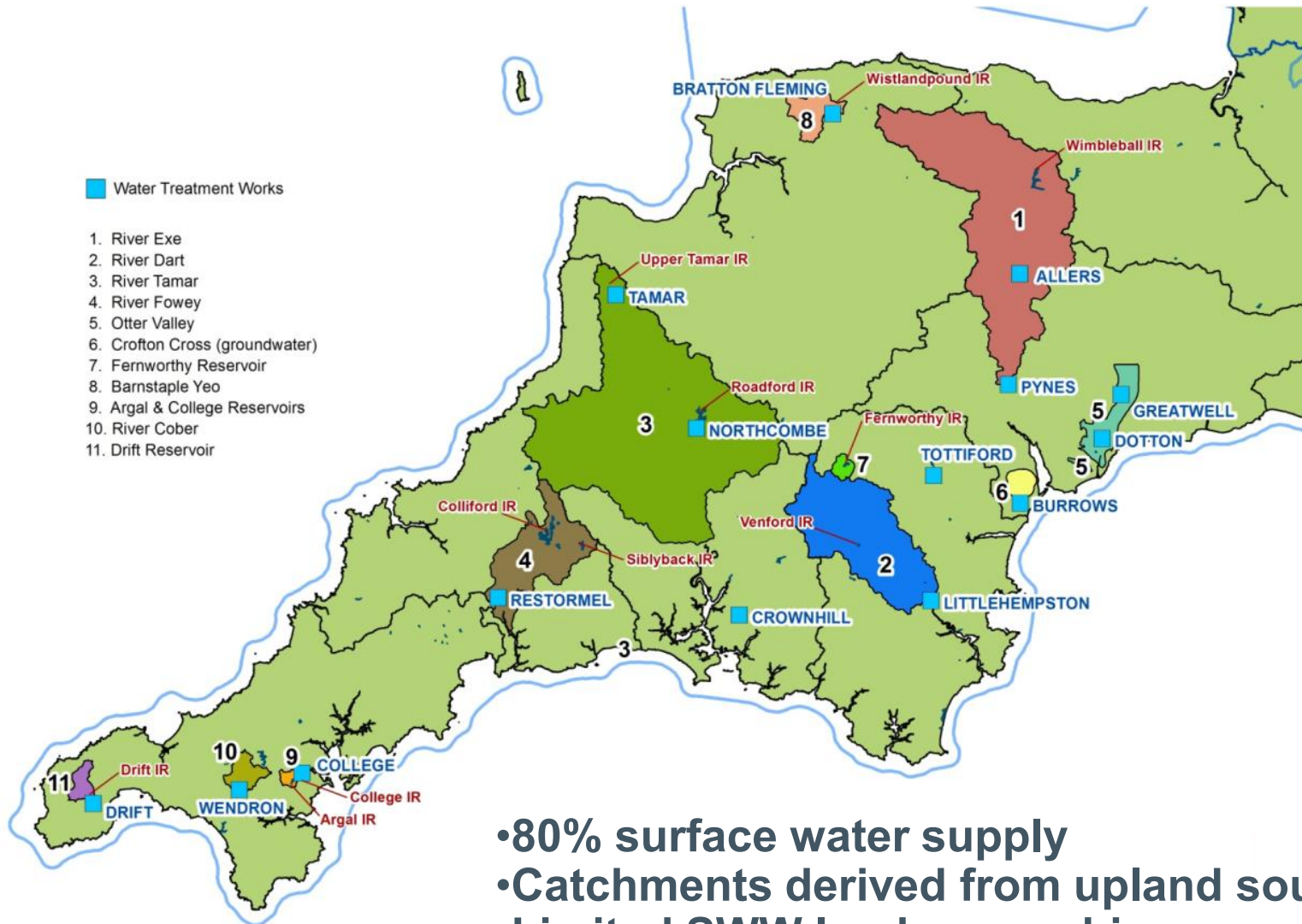
Bournemouth Supply area



# Major Drinking Water Supply Catchments



South West Water



Water Treatment Works

1. River Exe
2. River Dart
3. River Tamar
4. River Fowey
5. Otter Valley
6. Crofton Cross (groundwater)
7. Fernworthy Reservoir
8. Barnstaple Yeo
9. Argal & College Reservoirs
10. River Cober
11. Drift Reservoir

- 80% surface water supply
- Catchments derived from upland sources
- Limited SWW land ownership

# Catchment Issues



# Catchment Management solutions

## Traditional model

- asset-focused
- construction intensive
- high energy, resource costs
- high in carbon
- expensive

## Catchment management

- holistic approach
- multiple benefits
- low cost
- pooled resources
- sustainable
- protects natural capital
- supported by regulator



# Upstream Thinking

Flagship environmental project  
£9m (2010-15) £10m (2015-20)



Partnership delivery



2 strands of work:

- moorland restoration
- agricultural improvements



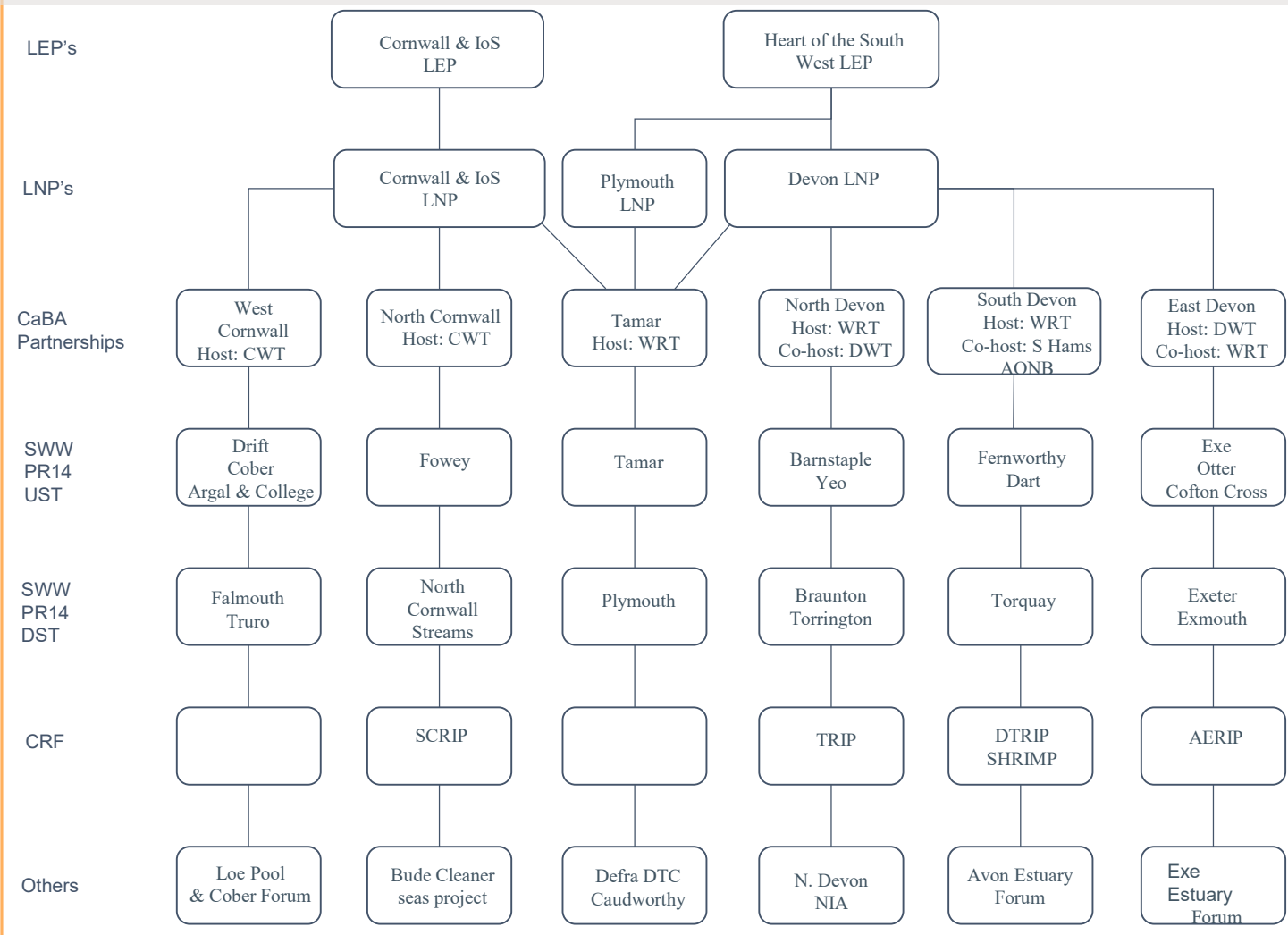
Focus on water  
quality

Improving natural water  
quality and water storage in  
the landscape





# Partnership working – the South West landscape



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE



# **SWW BENEFITS FROM PARTNERSHIP DELIVERY OF CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT**



Match funding from sources SWW cannot access

Extra delivery by the partners in areas that SWW is less able to fund such as biodiversity

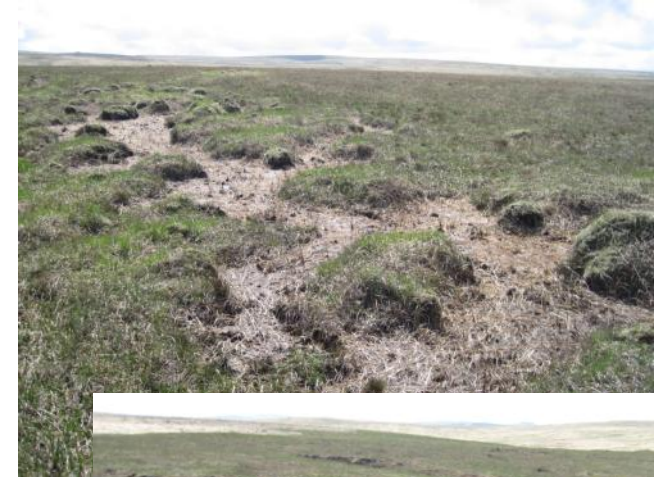
Use of a 3<sup>rd</sup> party for delivery brings greater success - the honest broker approach

Builds partnership support from stakeholders

Customer support and reputational benefits

**Other models of Water company catchment management are available**

# Upstream Thinking: on the moors

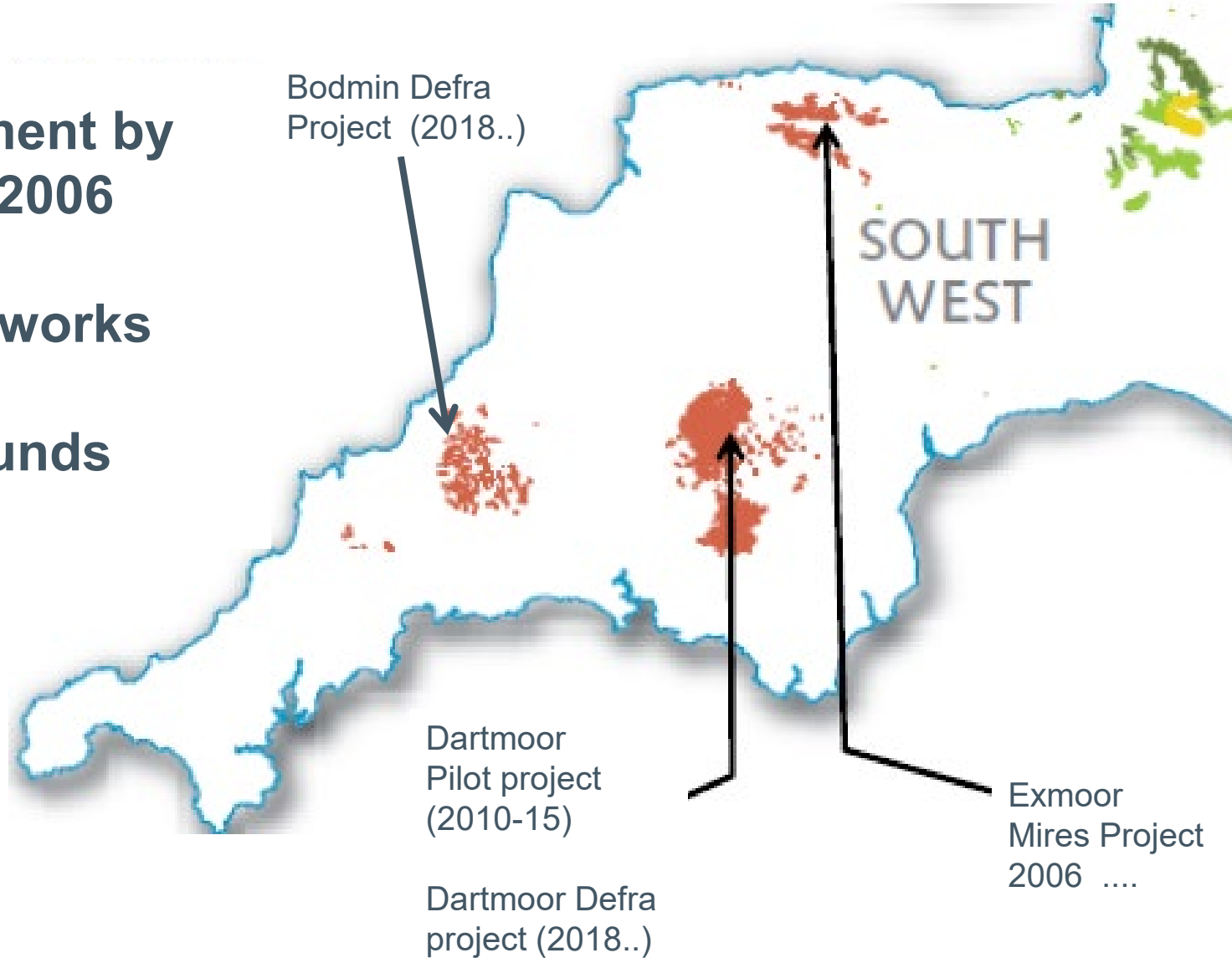


# SW Peatland Projects

**£5m investment by  
SWW since 2006**

**+NE capital works**

**£2m Defra funds**



- OfWAT Business plan review and price setting process for water companies
- For period 2020-25 (AMP7)
- Draft plans with Ofwat (Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>)

## **New directions for Water companies from OFWAT and Defra (NE/EA)**

- Resilience outcomes
- Support for catchment management approaches where these are of value for customers
- Natural Capital approaches and 25year Environment plan outcomes,
- market driven approaches,
- new reward and penalty ODI's including catchment management .
- WINEP

# Opportunities for Peatland restoration:



## Water companies will look to invest in integrated solutions for assets and risks

### Catchment management schemes which deliver slow clean raw water - targeted to deliver additional outcomes:

- flood risk reduction, (NFM)
- reduction of catchment flow sources in to urban areas
- reduction of CSO discharge risks
- catchment nutrient loading reduction
- reduced nutrient and sediment loading into bathing waters
- carbon storage
- catchment base flows
- regulatory biodiversity outcomes (habitat, species and WFD).
- ALL ABOUT INCREASING RESILIANCE