

Case study: WRc makes the business case for peatland restoration

The Need

A major problem associated with water supply from upland areas is dissolved organic carbon (DOC) which discolours raw water supplies. This can be both difficult and expensive to remove at water treatment works. To combat rising colour trends, Severn Trent Water has been restoring degraded peatland in its Bamford catchment to address the root causes of colour production. As part of the PR19 business planning process, Severn Trent Water wished to evaluate options for continuing this programme of peatland restoration work in AMP7.



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The Solution

Working with the Moors for the Future Partnership, WRc assessed options for continued peatland restoration work in the Upper Derwent catchment. Using a novel six-stage model for predicting future recovery trajectories, the benefits for water quality, biodiversity, recreation, greenhouse gas emissions and downstream flood control were quantified using a combination of direct valuation and transfer value techniques. A decision support tool was developed to perform a cost benefit analysis and explore future risks and opportunities.

The Outcome

Severn Trent Water developed an AMP7 work programme that will deliver £2.5M of treatment cost savings and an additional £46M of environmental improvements. The business case was fast-tracked by Ofwat at PR19.



WRc worked collaboratively with our delivery partners to integrate the latest scientific and economic evidence and produce a compelling business case.

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