

Media release

EMBARGOED UNTIL 16.00 on 11.09.2018

## Water companies team up with national park to invest in moorland restoration and improve water quality

Severn Trent has seen water quality improvements in the Derwent Valley area, thanks to their £1.2 million investment into the Moors for the Future Partnership.

Malcolm Horne, Head of Environment for Severn Trent, explains reservoirs in this area previously suffered from discoloured water due to environmental degradation. This would then need processing through the Severn Trent treatment works, a costly solution for bill payers.

“Instead, we’re tackling the problem at the source which is a cost-effective solution for our customers. Bare peat is being restored and discolouration is already at much lower levels as a result.”

Malcolm notes that, “there is added value for our customers too. Tree planting, new habitats and biodiversity bring wildlife to the area. Our visitor centre in the Derwent Valley sees over half a million visitors per year and we’ve enhanced their environment and the landscape as well as improved water quality.”

David Chapman, Chair of the Moors for the Future Partnership and Deputy Chair of the Peak District National Park Authority, adds that the Partnership has carried out restoration work to over 30 sq. km of the most degraded upland landscape in Europe.

“70% of all our drinking water comes from these types of landscapes, more carbon is locked up in the peat soils of the UK than all the woodland in the UK and France put together, so it’s important to restore a degraded upland catchment. We’re working hard to bring these amazing facets of our landscape to the attention of all our visitors and the huge surrounding population of the northern towns and cities.

“None of this would have been possible without the willingness of our partners to work together; the job is too big and crosses too many boundaries,” he says.

The success of the project so far was celebrated today at a House of Commons reception, hosted by Angela Smith, MP for Stocksbridge, where she expressed her support for protecting upland water catchments into the future.

Malcolm continues, “over the next five years we will work with the Moors for the Future Partnership to increase biodiversity activity further – establish more habitats and support protected species.

Beyond that, we need to ensure we protect this improvement and sustain it. The key to this, and to our success so far is partnership working. Through pooling experience, funding and expertise we can achieve so much more together than alone.”

More information about Moors for the Future can be found at [www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk](http://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk)

-ENDS-

### **Notes to editors**

For images or more information, please contact Kate Yarwood, Pinstone Communications, at [kate@pinstone.co.uk](mailto:kate@pinstone.co.uk) or call 01568 617667.

### **Severn Trent**

Severn Trent was founded in 1974 as a regional, state-owned water authority based in the Midlands, responsible for water supply management, as well as waste water treatment and disposal. Located in the catchment areas of two of Britain's largest rivers - the Severn and the Trent, it's from these rivers that we get our name. 1989 saw the formation of Severn Trent Plc, the parent company for Severn Trent Water. As a private company, Severn Trent Water invested heavily in replacing and repairing its assets and infrastructure. As well as complying with government legislation it set its own internal standards on issues such as public health, leakage reduction and the cleanliness of rivers and other water sources in its catchment region.

The group also began to build a products and services business in the United States beginning with the acquisition of Capital Controls Company in 1990. Since that time, Severn Trent Plc has built a portfolio of companies, known as Severn Trent Services. Severn Trent Services provides water and waste water treatment and operating services to utilities, municipalities and commercial customers.

Severn Trent has supported the Moors for the Future Partnership since 2010.

<https://www.stwater.co.uk/>

### **Peak District National Park**

We work closely with others to keep the National Park a special place for residents and visitors. We aim to keep the best and make changes for the better, so that future generations have the chance to continue to enjoy its beauty. Moors for the Future is playing an important part in conserving and

enhancing important landscapes, while raising awareness and understanding of why the area - with its rare habitat and outstanding wildlife - is so important.

[www.peakdistrict.gov.uk](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk)

### **Moors for the Future Partnership**

Moors for the Future is a partnership organisation that since 2003 has been working across the Peak District and South Pennines to protect the most degraded landscape in Europe.

The work of the partnership to protect peat moorland is delivered by the Moors for the Future staff team through the Peak District National Park Authority as the lead and accountable body.

It is supported through its partners including the Environment Agency, Natural England, National Trust, RSPB, Severn Trent Water, United Utilities, Yorkshire Water, Pennine Prospects and representatives of the moorland owner and farming community.

Moors for the Future was originally established by funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

<http://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/>