

**GAP and DWT Conference
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Re-connecting with water – a South West Water perspective

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Presentation content

1. Climate change and the challenges
2. Possible solutions
3. Full scale trials
4. Our proposals

1. Climate change and the challenges

- Increasing temperatures
- Increasing storminess
- Risk of summer droughts
- Flooding
- Erosion



Challenge 1: major national events

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Challenge 2: intermittent local events

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Challenge 3: erosion event, Otter Valley

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December 2008



Drought and erosion in Tenerife

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Historic erosion in Galway, Eire

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2. Possible solutions

- ‘Upstream thinking’
- Keep soil, peat and fertilizers on the land
- Slow down water release and run-off
- Encourage more wetlands, buffer strips and areas for biodiversity
- Support viability of land use
- Develop a reward for ‘farming clean water’
– eco-system services

3. Full scale trials

- Moorland rewetting implemented on Exmoor to restore 250 Ha of peat
- Reduced erosion, better flood control, wetted peat captures carbon, habitat and biodiversity gains
- CSF techniques implemented by Westcountry Rivers Trust above Upper Tamar Lake
- 15 farms supported and improved

Tamar Lake catchment improvements



Before: erosion by livestock, sediment deposition into stream

After: fencing installed to make a formalised drinking point

Tamar Lake catchment improvements



Before: slurry lagoon with leakage into stream and lake

After: pre-cast solid walls fitted to ensure no slurry escapes

Tamar Lake catchment – biodiversity gains



Left: wetland pond created at Trentworthy Farm

Right: restored wetland at Upacott Farm

4. Our proposals

- These projects are now approved from 2010-2015:
- Extend Mires pilot from 250 Ha to an additional 4,000 Ha, mostly on Exmoor with trials on Dartmoor
- Undertake seven farmland improvement programmes on key rivers, including DWW
- Investigate 17 catchments above SWW's abstractions and reservoirs



Funding Exmoor/Dartmoor restoration

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Carbon capture by sphagnum moss

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Biodiversity restoration

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Your involvement will help protect these

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