



Investing in nature is good for business

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Dovestone Reservoir

Our purpose is to provide great water for a stronger, greener and healthier North West

We are responsible for water and wastewater services in the North West of England

7.3 million people and **200,000 businesses**

Industrial heritage and Victorian infrastructure

Rainy, hilly region so water stored mainly in **reservoirs**

12% of households affected by water poverty

Custodians of **56,000 hectares of land**

34% of land in the region has environmental protection

Annual water runoff **28% more** than rest of country

54% of sewer system is combined, with **2,200 storm overflows**

Challenges facing the North West

A growing population

1 million more people over the next 25 years

Climate change

More severe rainfall events
Hotter drier summers
Warmer reservoirs

Diverse communities

Differing levels of prosperity across the region's communities

Growing expectations

Environmental requirements driving unprecedented levels of investment over next 30 years



Why has investing in Peatland restoration been good for business?



Peatland at Dovestone 2005 – near Chew Reservoir

- 70% of UU's water supplies come from peat dominated catchments
- Some of our catchments were the most nature depleted places nationally as a result of industrial pollution



The more coloured and turbid the water the harder and more expensive it is to treat



Much of the peatland has environmental designations such as SSSI which carries responsibilities



UU has a net zero target for 2050

It takes time to restore peatland but it's worth it



What has actually happened so far?

The vast majority of SSSIs are now favourable or recovering

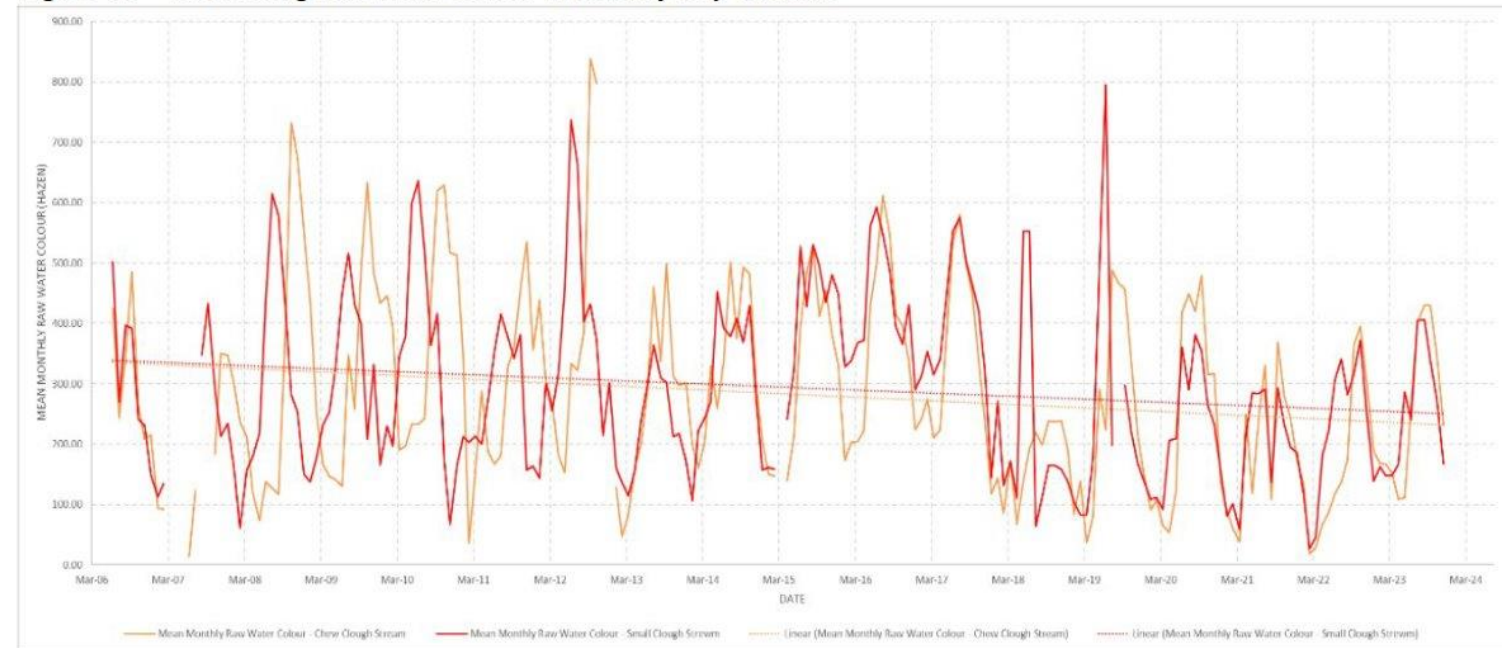
Table 1: Improvements in United Utilities land conditions since the start of the SCaMP Programme

Year	% meeting area of favourable or unfavourable recovering	Favourable	Unfavourable - Recovering	Unfavourable - No change	Unfavourable - Declining	Destroyed
2023	91%	8%	83%	6%	3%	0%
2015	100%	9%	91%	1%	0%	0%
2004 (pre SCaMP)	48%	12%	36%	29%	23%	0%

Source: Natural England's designated sites portal



Figure 1.3 Decreasing Raw Water Colour in Ashway Gap Streams



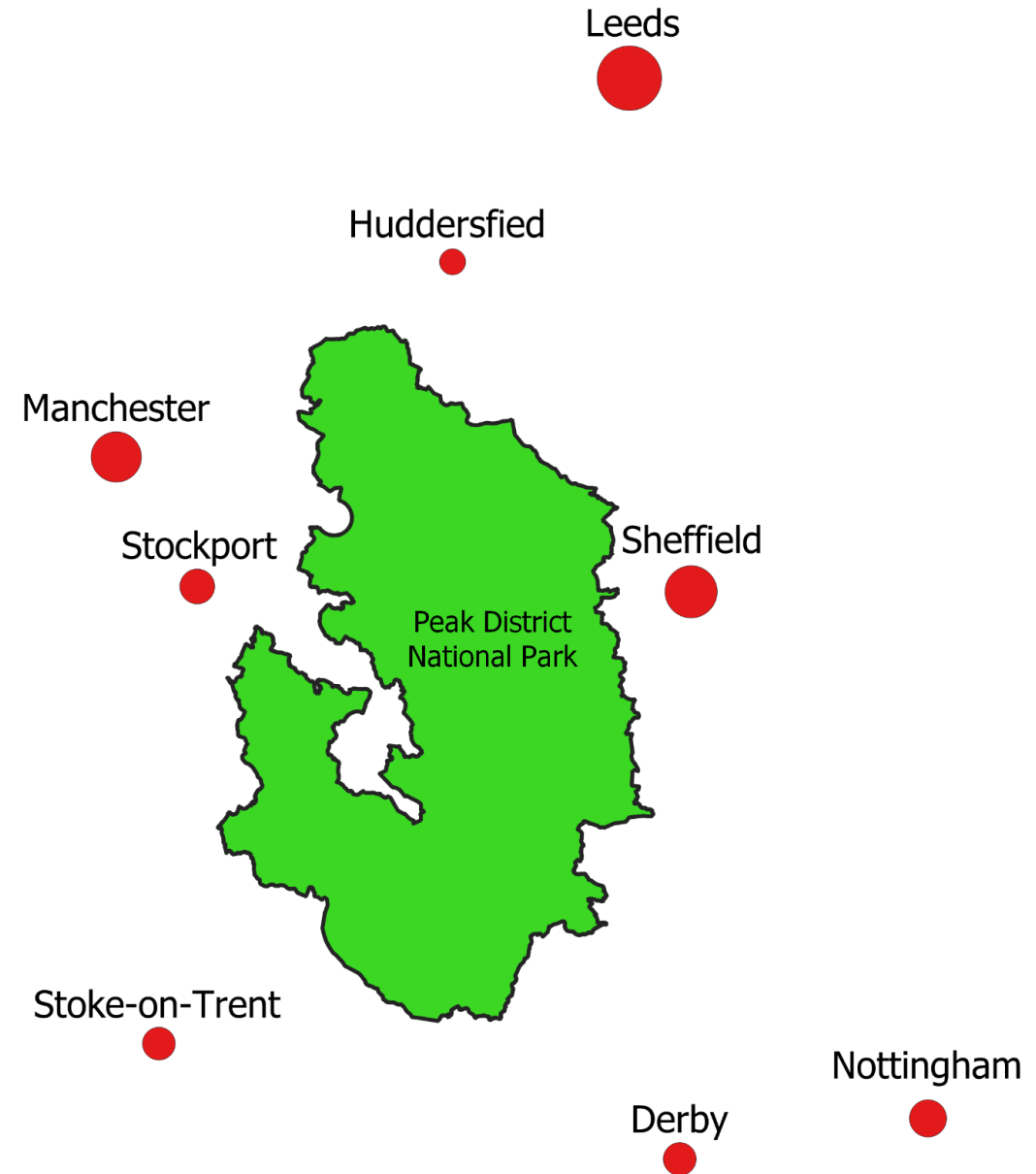
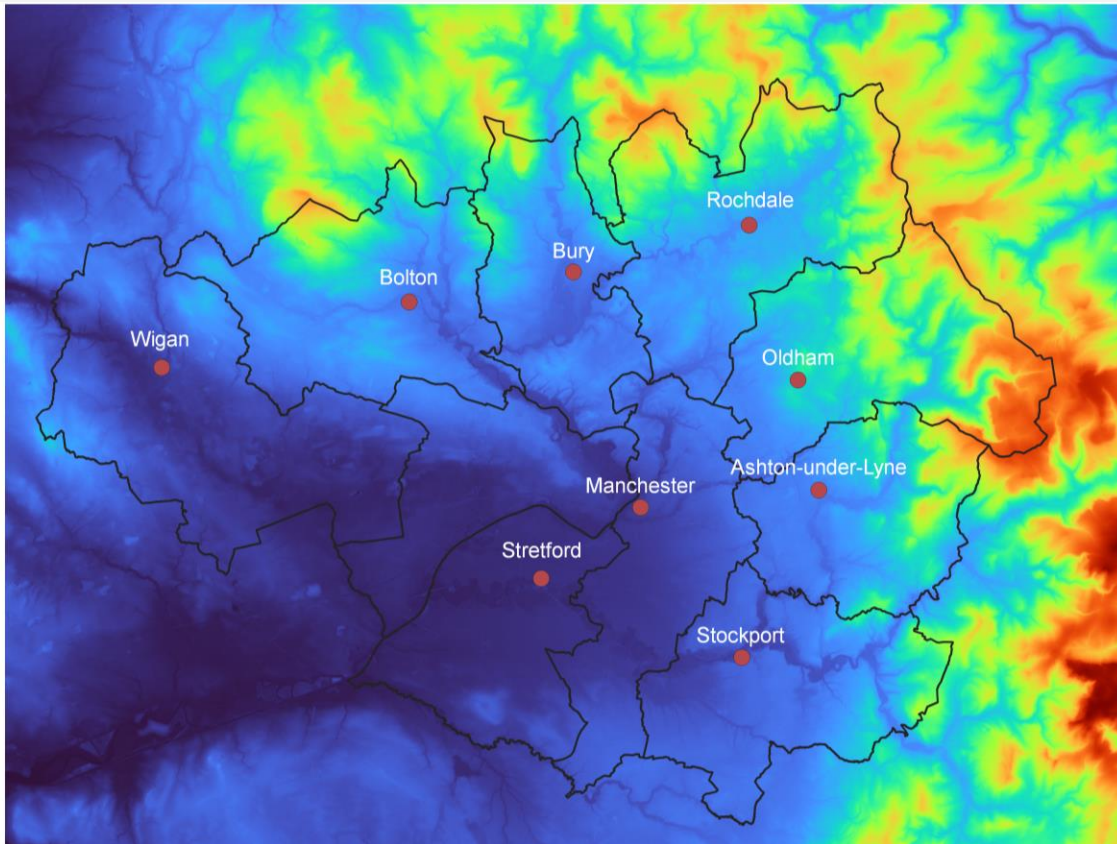
Long term trends are starting to show an improvement in colour

What does the future look like?



Connecting finance from the towns and cities into the Peak District

Greater Manchester sits in a topographic bowl. What happens on the peatland impacts water resources, water quality, flood risk resilience, biodiversity, health and wellbeing





Integrated Water Management for Greater Manchester

Vision

Working together, we will manage Greater Manchester's water wherever it falls, to enhance the environment, support people and forge prosperous places.

Seven Interdependent workstreams



Delivering the IWMP through Workstreams





Water for the North West