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Dear Clare

United Utilities Green Recovery - Accelerating Partnerships to Deliver Natural Solutions

I am very pleased to offer this letter of support from the Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership to work together with United Utilities on their Green Recovery proposals; with a particular focus on peatland restoration for catchment land for Barnacre and Grizedale reservoirs, supplying the Franklaw Treatment Works.

For almost a decade, the Forest of Bowland AONB Unit has been securing investment for- and managing peatland restoration projects within the area. The Unit has helped establish trusted working relationships with landowners and land managers to develop and implement these schemes, including for those owning catchment land identified in the United Utilities Green Recovery proposals.

The proposed investment from United Utilities will offer a valuable opportunity to comprehensively address issues relating to the degradation of peatland and also build on previous restoration ensuring the habitats progress towards healthy and functioning peatland. In addition, the investment will help support job creation and retention within the wider rural economy, in particular specialist moorland contractors and their suppliers, alongside the organisations managing programme delivery.

Lastly, it is worth emphasising that this proposed investment is extremely timely, as it will allow project partners to investigate and maximise the opportunities offered by new and developing funding programmes, policies and mechanisms to complement and enhance United Utilities Green Recovery proposals. These include: the Government's Nature for Climate Fund; Nature Recovery Fund; and Environmental Land Management system; alongside future private sector investment interest via the Peatland Code.

Yours sincerely

Elliott Lorimer
Forest of Bowland AONB Manager