

Wildlife and Countryside Link- Submission to the Reset Enquiry

Dear Reset Initiative,

These are three priorities we believe you should consider in your enquiry.

1. **A global economic crisis can be caused by ecological over-exploitation.** So [ecological restoration is a good economic strategy](#) for the long term (to avoid flood, fire, drought, disease, climate change), as well as providing an economic stimulus in the short term. We think at least [£615million extra](#) is needed a year in investment in habitats and species on top of the £2.2bn already spent on farming. As well as investment, success will rely on effective environmental regulation – that means strengthening rules like [environmental planning protection](#) and water targets, not weakening them.
2. **Investment in urban nature is amazing value for money.** [National Trust research](#) found benefit to cost ratios of up to 200:1 for investment in greener parks, urban trees, peri-urban habitats. Lockdown showed the important of access to nature for everyone, and the social and ethnic inequalities in access. The proposal is for £5.5bn investment to benefit 20million people, with 40,000 short term and 6,000 permanent jobs. Of course, this kind of investment is also essential for improving the natural environment for wildlife.
3. **A National Nature Service.** The Government is looking for a short-term boost in jobs and investment to get money flowing round the economy. Conventionally, that means investment in hard infrastructure. But “green infrastructure” is more important for the economy and just as effective an economic boost. A [National Nature Service](#) could create tens of thousands of jobs, inspire the next generation of conservationists, and help us “grow back better” from the crisis.

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