

A National Nature Service to support jobs and the environmental economy

What is it?

The National Nature Service (NNS) is a jobs programme that will enable unemployed people to find paid work and training in nature conservation at the same time as putting more resource into meaningfully improving the UK's depleted natural landscapes and seascapes. The idea is based on the Civilian Conservation Corps, the most successful work programme enacted by Franklin D. Roosevelt following the Great Depression.

The vision – what will it do for people and nature?

Our vision is that by using initial Government investment:

- We will rapidly provide, particularly for younger and black and minority ethnic people, a wide range of entry level jobs all across the country
- Then, over the course of the year's programme, we will give them the confidence and transferable skills to prepare them for either on-going jobs in nature conservation or in the growing green economy
- Finally, we will help deliver significant enhancements to this country's rural and urban natural infrastructure, as well as supporting Government commitments for nature including the 25 Year Plan for the Environment, Nature Recovery Network and Tree Strategy.

In this way the NNS can support the creation of thousands of new green spaces for deprived communities and restore our natural capital so our economy and citizens can thrive. The NNS complements habitat restoration and green infrastructure investments by ensuring a supply of skilled labour to fill the job opportunities created.

The benefits are three-fold:

- Economic - Employment opportunities and on-the-job training
- Social - Enhanced health and wellbeing, stronger community cohesion
- Environmental - Reduced flood risk, increased resilience to climate change and other ecosystems services

In summary, a National Nature Service programme would leave a legacy of a more employable workforce fit for a green economy, infrastructure to foster community cohesion, and healthier ecosystems to protect future generations.

What principles should underpin it?

We propose three pillars to underpin the success of the programme and to ensure it delivers on the Government's green recovery ambitions:

1. Investment in the NNS.

- Paid jobs and training
- Invest in the delivery partner organisations so they can supervise the programme
- Investment in a small coordinating body



2. **Funding for a pipeline of nature projects** on which to deploy NNS staff alongside experts and required materials.
3. **Implementation of the Government green legislative programme**, which will ensure the creation of on-going jobs in the sector, funded by public and private sources.

What investment does it need?

An annual investment of £426m p.a. in the NNS, of which £200m p.a. could come from the Kickstart programme, would deliver over 11,500 new jobs per year, including 9,700 entry level jobs for unemployed people. The number of jobs could be scaled significantly in later years with further investment.

Due to the skills heavy nature of this proposal this investment is in addition to a Comprehensive Spending Review that delivers a total of £2.9bn annually on environmental land management, including £615 million each year on restoration and creation of priority habitats.

To find out more please visit the National Nature Service website [here](#).

