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**Your ref:** XXX  
**Our ref:** XXX

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**From the Secretary of State**  
The Rt Hon Caroline Spelman MP

## **Making Space for Nature Review: Publication of Government Response**

Thank you for your letter of 24 May.

I was delighted to hear that you have agreed to accept my invitation to become the Chairman of the national panel to judge the competition for the initial tranche of twelve Nature Improvement Areas (as I think you know, the name is different but the concept is the same as for your original proposal for Ecological Restoration Zones). I have asked my officials to be in touch with you about how best to take forward the competition which we will be launching later in June in conjunction with publication of the new England Biodiversity Strategy. The details of how to express an interest in piloting biodiversity offsetting (which was of course another one of the 24 recommendations in the *Making Space for Nature* Review) will also be made available at that time.

Our broad response to the Review will be through the publication of the Natural Environment White Paper. However, in addition, we have developed a specific response to each of the twenty-four recommendations and these are set out in the attached Annex A. We propose to publish these responses alongside the Natural Environment White Paper tomorrow (7 June).

Thank you once again for your tremendous contribution to this process. I think we have a really exciting way forward.

**CAROLINE SPELMAN MP**