

Rebalance Earth Appoints Renowned River Scientist, Prof. Neil Entwistle, to Lead Climate Adaptation Strategy as Flooding Crises Escalate

Neil will bring his expertise in natural flood management to Rebalance Earth, supporting the business in financing Nature as business-critical infrastructure

Rebalance Earth, the UK's first boutique asset manager focused on financing Nature as business-critical infrastructure has appointed **Professor Neil Entwistle**, a leading figure in river science and climate resilience at the University of Salford, as its new Head of Science. His appointment comes at a critical time as severe weather events and flooding have surged across the UK and Europe, with the BBC reporting this month that *"the UK's flood defences are in the worst state on record."*

With over 20 years of expertise in river ecosystems, landscape restoration, and sustainable environmental strategies, Entwistle brings a wealth of knowledge to Rebalance Earth. His work spans multiple continents, tackling the challenges of climate change, habitat restoration, and natural flood management, making him an invaluable addition as Rebalance Earth scales its mission to integrate nature-based solutions into climate-resilient infrastructure for companies and communities.

In the UK, flooding costs businesses an average of £82,000 each, with 185,000 enterprises at risk. Beyond economic impacts such as disrupted supply chains, rising operational costs, and increased insurance premiums, a critical factor remains undervalued: Nature itself.

"Rebalance Earth's approach is innovative and necessary," says Neil Entwistle. *"By recognising Nature's inherent value and restoring natural processes, we can mitigate flooding and bolster climate resilience. I am excited to be part of a team that puts Nature at the heart of climate solutions and offers investors attractive returns through these restorative projects."*

Rob Gardner, CEO of Rebalance Earth, added: *"We are thrilled to have Professor Neil Entwistle join our team. His passion for natural rivers and their floodplains makes him an invaluable resource. His leadership will be critical as we continue to expand our impact and ensure that, over the next decade, we mobilise long-term asset owners to invest in UK natural infrastructure, building climate adaptation and resilience."*

Professor Neil Entwistle will continue to research part-time with the University of Salford. *"This strategic partnership with Rebalance Earth will deliver biodiversity and climate resilience at scale, whilst providing our staff and students with real-world opportunities to apply their world-leading research"* said Professor Ian Goodhead, Associate Dean for Research and Innovation at the University of Salford. *"Together, we will build a sustainable future for generations to come"*.

Nature as an Asset

Rebalance Earth's strategy is to treat Nature as an investable asset class, by working with Local Governments on Nature restoration project. Its pilot project with Plymouth City Council to re-wiggle and restore the River Plym highlights the strategic importance of water management in Plymouth's infrastructure planning. Investing in nature-based solutions mitigates the risk of the extensive flooding, that

the UK is currently facing. This project sets the stage for scaling similar initiatives across Plymouth and the UK, with Entwistle playing an intrinsic role in highlighting the power of Nature to deliver climate resilience as well as a driver of both economic and social prosperity.

By making a clear business case for companies to pay for Nature restoration in their local areas in order to increase their operational resilience using Nature as a Service (NaaS) offtake agreements, Rebalance Earth aims to build resilient infrastructure that generates stable cash flows and offers risk-adjusted returns for investors. This transformative approach involves creating a blueprint for businesses to enhance their operational resilience in the face of climate change, whilst meeting their sustainability goals.

Entwistle's role at Rebalance Earth will focus on leveraging science-based methodologies to enhance the company's mission of aligning investment strategies with resilient natural systems. He will lead the scientific approach and innovation to strengthen water as an investable asset, driving key projects that help businesses across the UK achieve flood resilience and biodiversity recovery.

Rob Gardner concludes: *"Flooding is costing billions, not just in direct damages but in lost economic productivity and increased risks. By positioning Nature as business-critical infrastructure, we can leverage it as our greatest ally in the fight against climate change. Simply put, Nature isn't optional; it's essential infrastructure for business resilience."*

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Notes to Editors:

About Rebalance Earth

Founded in 2023, Rebalance Earth is a boutique asset manager dedicated to investing in Nature as business-critical infrastructure. With a mission to restore natural landscapes at scale, from source to sea, the fund generates stable cash flows. It delivers attractive returns for investors by taking an innovative approach to nature-based solutions.

Unlike traditional models prioritising biodiversity or carbon credits, our approach begins by addressing high-value catchments facing pressing risks like flooding, drought, and water quality issues, such as Plymouth. We work backwards from these risks to identify, price, and mitigate them through Nature restoration, transforming these essential services into investable assets. By providing solutions like flood control and clean water access, we enable companies to benefit from enhanced operational resilience, charging them directly through Nature-as-a-Service (NaaS) contracts.

Rebalance Earth is 75% employee-owned, with 25% held by the West Yorkshire Pension Fund (WYPF), reinforcing our commitment to a mission to create a world worth living in.

About Professor Neil Entwistle

Professor Neil Entwistle is a leading environmental scientist specialising in fluvial geomorphology, river catchment management, and restoration. He has extensive experience in applied science and has partnered with national and international award-winning projects on ecosystem restoration, catchment renaturalisation, and flood resilience.

His research spans the globe, from the foothills of the Himalaya, in the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh, to the canton of Valais in southwestern Switzerland, and the provinces of Limpopo and Mpumalanga in northeastern South Africa and Mozambique. His impact focuses on Natural Sediment Management to infer Natural Flood Management and the role of Nature Based Solutions to mitigate risk.

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