



REWILDING

What is it?

Rewilding is all about giving control back to nature and enabling natural processes to come into their own. Unlike (traditional) conservation techniques, rewilding has no fixed objective or targets; it works by putting our trust in nature's self-managing abilities, rather than through human micro-management.

Why rewild?

Through rewilding, ecosystems develop their own rhythms, increasing their **resilience** and **biodiversity**. In Britain, where [97% of wild grassland](#) has disappeared since WWII (turned into farmland, roads, homes and clipped lawns) over [1/3 of pollinating insects](#) and [40 million birds](#) have vanished from the skies.

How do I start?

By definition, rewilding is less a collection of specific practices and more a philosophy, but these basic principles can help get you started.

Rewilding your perspective

The first step is rewilding yourself. We've been conditioned to see neat, clipped, carefully-ordered lawns as ideal but, compared to wild grassland, they're arid and hostile. We need to flip our perspective and see 'untidy', overgrown sites as fertile and welcoming, and accept that they'll unfold in their own way.

Rewilding your garden

- Replace any astroturf (and paving if you can) with real grass
- Ditch the pesticides, insecticides, weed-killer and chemical fertiliser
- Let some [weeds](#) grow out ([identify your weeds](#) and research their [benefits](#))
- Don't just let your lawn grow out: sow other types of grass and [native wildflowers](#)
- Create a [nectar border](#)
- [Encourage wildlife](#) with '[bug hotels](#)', bird boxes, bird feeders and [hedgehog corridors](#)
- If you can, [create a pond](#)
- Create corridors to neighbours' gardens, or replace the dividing fence/wall with a [hedge](#)

Rewilding a public space

- [Template Letter](#). Before you set about rewilding a public space, you may want to notify your local municipality of your intentions. We've made this easier for you by drafting this template letter.
- [The Good Verge Guide](#). This is aimed at councils but holds relevant information for anyone looking to rewild a road verge, and can be applied to other public areas.
- The [Guerrilla Grafters](#) have a [nifty guide](#) to grafting fruit-bearing branches onto ornamental trees.

Leading Voices: [Rewilding Britain](#) (UK) | [Rewilding Earth](#) (North America) | [Rewilding Europe](#) (Europe)

Communities: [Extinction Rebellion Rewilding](#) (Global) | [Blue Campaign](#) (UK) | [Wild4Good](#) (UK)

Books: [Feral: Rewilding the Land, the Sea, and Human Life](#), George Monbiot | [Rewild Yourself](#), Simon Barnes | [Weeds](#), Richard Mabey | [Wilding](#), Isabella Tree