

**REWILDING  
BRITAIN**



# REWILDING MANIFESTO

**#ThinkBigActWild**

# IT'S TIME TO LET NATURE LEAD.

**We need the UK Government to Think Big and Act Wild for nature, people and planet.**

The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world with just half (53%) of its biodiversity remaining, a figure that places us in the bottom 10% of the world's countries for the state of our nature.

**We need our government to make radical changes to reverse this decline and commit to nature recovery, by dedicating 30% of land and seas to rewilding by 2030.**

By working with nature rather than against it, rewilding offers hope and the opportunity to give nature (and us) a chance. It can help us transition to a nature-rich, low-carbon future while delivering real, locally-generated benefits today. These benefits include carbon storage, climate resilience, thriving biodiversity, vibrant green economies, local livelihoods, flood mitigation, healthier air, water and soils, and improved health and wellbeing.

We estimate around 1% of Britain is currently rewilding and we need each political party to incorporate rewilding 30% of land and seas into their election promises and post election delivery. We've done the hard work for political leaders and created the **30% Rewilding Manifesto** to enable our government to act swiftly and decisively to protect, restore and rewild nature in Britain.

**30%**  
**LAND & SEAS**  
**REWILDING BY**  
**2030**

An aerial photograph of a mountain valley. In the foreground, a dense forest of trees with autumn foliage in shades of green, yellow, and orange surrounds a blue lake. The lake reflects the sky and the surrounding landscape. In the middle ground, rolling hills and valleys are covered in similar forest. In the background, rugged mountains rise, some with patches of snow on their peaks. The sky is a clear blue with scattered white clouds. The overall scene is a beautiful representation of a natural landscape.

## WHAT IS REWILDING?

Rewilding is about hope for tackling the nature and climate emergencies, whilst delivering a wide range of benefits for people and local communities. It is the large-scale restoration of nature until it can take care of itself – and us – again. In a world wrecked by biodiversity loss, habitat destruction and climate breakdown, rewilding can replenish nature's remarkable web of life – restoring habitats, natural processes, and the diversity and abundance of native species.

# OUR MANIFESTO

Our manifesto has five key calls to action which will create positive and inclusive change on land and at sea:

**1.**

## **Rapidly deliver 30% rewilding by 2030:**

Catalyse rewilding to help us transition to a nature-rich, low-carbon future while delivering real, locally-generated benefits today.

**2.**

## **Expand nature-based jobs and businesses:**

Incentivise and invest in nature-based economies linked to rewilding as part of a just, green transition.

**3.**

## **Make wild nature a right for all:**

Improve access to and restore our connection with wilder nature to benefit all our health and wellbeing.

**4.**

## **Empower communities to lead rewilding:**

Place people and communities at the heart of decisions about our land and seas and its recovery.

**5.**

## **Create a game-changing shift in rewilding funding and investment:**

Drive long-term, sustainable, public and private investment into 30% rewilding delivery within a financial system that values and invests in nature.

# OUR POLICY ASKS NATURE & CLIMATE

---



## Rapidly deliver 30% rewilding by 2030

Catalyse rewilding to help us transition to a nature-rich, low-carbon future while delivering real, locally-generated benefits today.

---

### Our land and seas

- Establish legally-binding national and local Land Use Frameworks and marine spatial plans that adequately balance nature, net zero, food and timber production targets with a commitment to rewilding 30% of Britain.
- *Scotland:* Create a 'Rewilding Nation' plan that sets out how Scotland can achieve 30% of land and sea rewilding in ten years; examines how rewilding can deliver for people, nature and climate; and ensures natural capital investments are regulated to maximise public and community benefits.

### Our wildlife and habitats

- Streamline legislation for vital reintroductions of missing native species to help rebuild healthy ecosystems.
- Set national species recovery targets with an increase in range and abundance for a minimum of 100 of our most threatened species.
- Update the licensing system to facilitate wild beaver releases across all suitable English and Welsh rivers, and expand beaver populations in Scotland.
- Issue licences for trial lynx reintroductions in defined woodland locations, carried out in close collaboration with key stakeholders and local communities.

- Incentivise the large-scale restoration of natural processes across 30% of Britain's land and seas, including the following measures:
  - Double woodland cover using natural regeneration as the default approach wherever possible.
  - End moor burning and the other environmentally damaging activities associated with driven grouse shooting.
  - Ensure the sustainable management of deer numbers.
  - Shift the management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) from a feature-based to a whole-site approach.
  - Ban bottom trawling and dredging across our MPAs.

## Our coasts and rivers

- Support land managers to become our river restoration heroes with proper funding to expand riparian restoration and Natural Flood Management.
- Establish a 500 metre-wide Coastal Wild Zone around Britain's coastline to restore ecosystems alongside enhancing coastal economies.
- Support ambitious projects to restore carbon-rich habitats such as saltmarshes, seagrass, sea kelp and oyster beds around our coasts.
- Reform licensing processes to accelerate active marine restoration, incentivising seascape-scale restoration.

## Our protected landscapes and seascapes

- Make nature recovery a primary purpose of all our protected landscapes and seascapes to restore ecosystems, help arrest climate breakdown and drive vibrant nature-based economies.
- Set legally-binding targets for the restoration of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) that allow for and encourage a rewilding approach.

# OUR POLICY ASKS

## JOBS & ECONOMY

---

### 2

#### Expand nature-based jobs and businesses

Incentivise and invest in nature-based economies linked to rewilding as part of a just, green transition.

---

- Unleash a wave of innovation in nature-based enterprise and nature-led food, fisheries and timber production linked to a rewilding approach, e.g.
  - Create supportive legal frameworks for natural grazing
  - Create markets and food chains for wild/semi-wild meats
  - Develop and deliver a climate-smart fisheries strategy
  - Transition to community-led low-impact nearshore fishing
  - Expand nature-led forestry practices and local sawmilling to produce timber and wood products.
- Establish 'nature-based enterprise zones' with associated packages of business development support.
- Deliver a skilled green workforce by fast-tracking the development and accreditation of training and apprenticeships to fill rewilding and nature-based enterprise skills gaps.
- Create a network of community-based, trusted advisors to support land managers and sea users to transition to rewilding approaches.

# OUR POLICY ASKS HEALTH

## 3

### Make wild nature a right for all

Improve access to and restore our connection with wilder nature to benefit all our health and wellbeing.

- Support a Right to a Healthy Environment, establishing a human right to healthy ecosystems and a stable climate.
- Support a Right to Access Wild Nature and put in place solutions, including public transport infrastructure, to deliver this right to all citizens.
- Require and incentivise cities and towns to integrate urban rewilding into their plans, including wilder areas across all green and blue spaces.





# OUR POLICY ASKS

## COMMUNITY & SOCIETY



### Empower communities to lead rewilding

Place people and communities at the heart of decisions about our land and seas.

- Enable and empower locally and community-led partnerships to co-design and upscale rewilding initiatives.
- Diversify public, private and community ownership models that enhance localised decision-making, e.g. through supporting Community Rights to Buy for nature restoration, as well as effective community benefit-sharing mechanisms.
- Clarify commoner, tenancy and crofting rights for carbon and biodiversity to ensure they unlock, and share benefits from, nature restoration.



© Peter Cairns / scotlandbigpicture.com



© Richard Shucksmith / scotlandbigpicture.com

## OUR POLICY ASKS: INVEST IN OUR FUTURE

5

### Create a game-changing shift in rewilding funding and investment

Drive long-term public and private investment into 30% rewilding within a financial system that values and invests in nature.

- Commit to long-term public funding and payment schemes that provide stability to and reward land managers and fishers for their vital role in balancing food and timber production, climate action and nature restoration.
- Rapidly upscale high-integrity private sector and philanthropic investment to support a portfolio of large-scale rewilding initiatives.
- Enshrine and adhere to our five financing rewilding principles to ensure funding and investments bring shared value for nature, the economy and local communities.



## WHO WE ARE

We are Rewilding Britain. We're helping to create a wilder Britain for nature, climate and people. We're inspiring a movement of rewilders across Britain's land and seas - a groundswell of hope, so that together we can ensure a wilder, nature-rich future that benefits us all.

[rewildingbritain.org.uk](https://rewildingbritain.org.uk)



© Jan-Dirk Hansen/Shutterstock

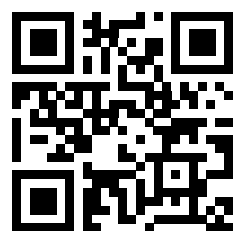
# REWILDING BRITAIN



Let's work together to commit to rewilding 30%  
of our land and seas by 2030.

**It's time to act.**

**#ThinkBigActWild**



---

Rewilding Britain is a charitable incorporated organisation registered in England & Wales (no. 1159373), and Scotland (no. SC045685).  
Registered office: The Courtyard, Shoreham Road, Upper Beeding, Steyning, West Sussex, BN44 3TN