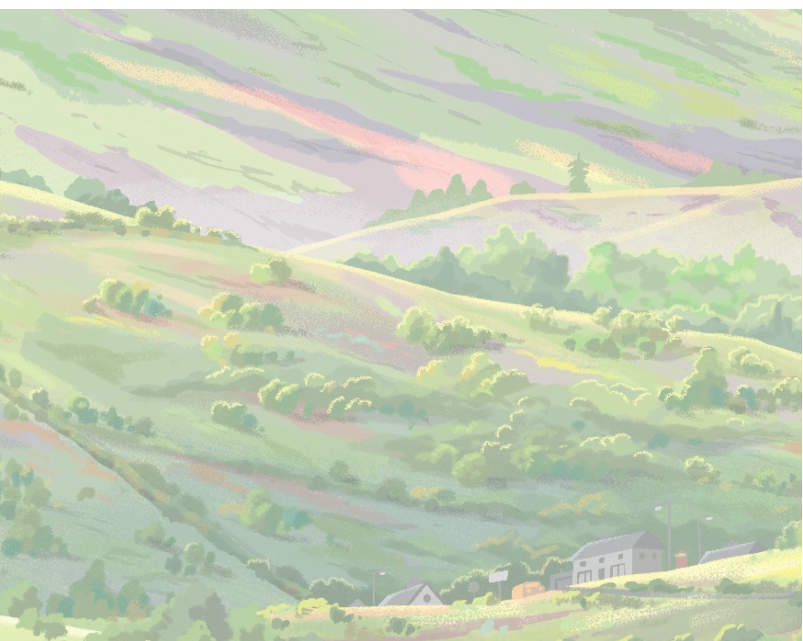


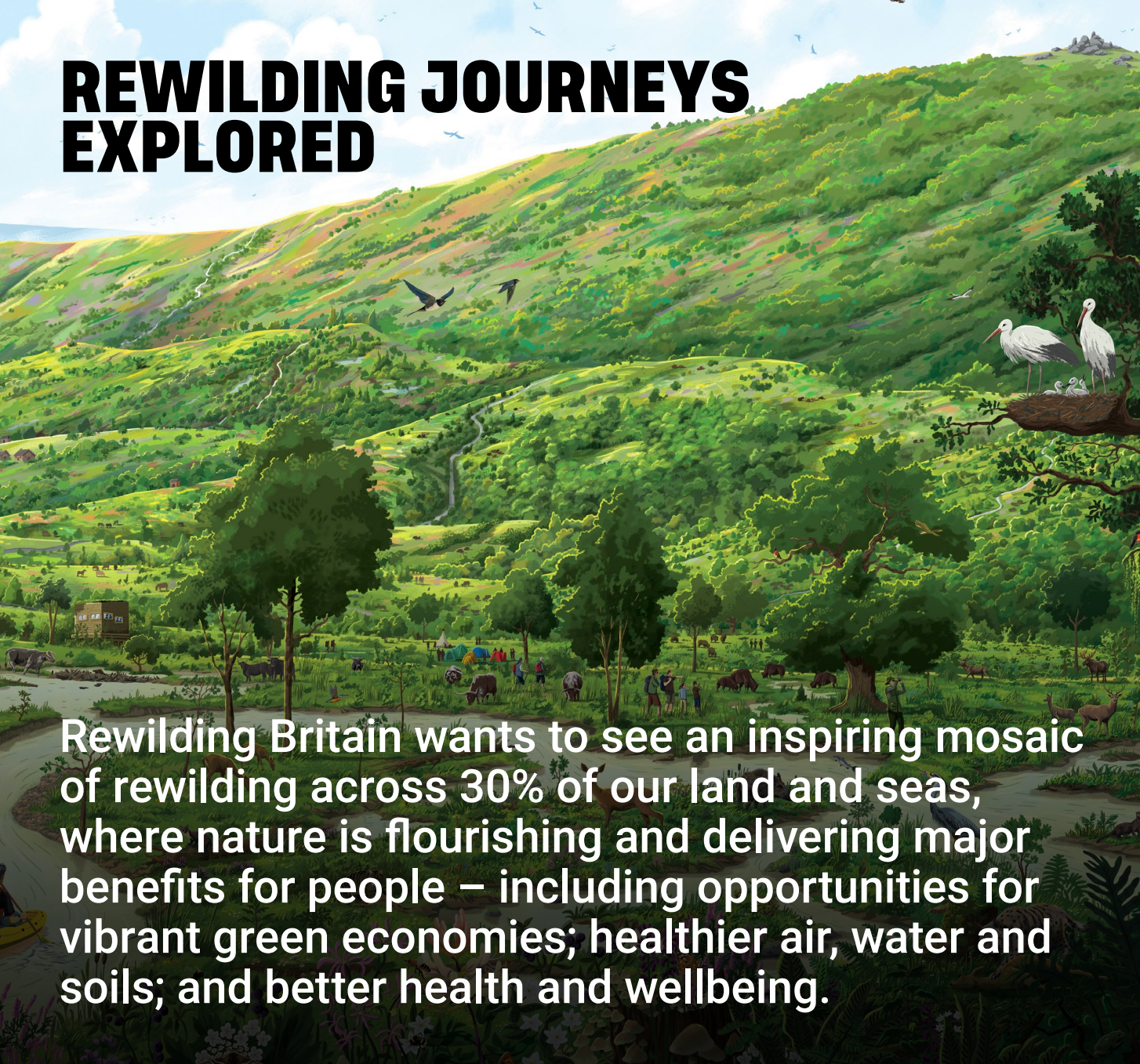
REWILDING JOURNEYS

Our vision for a mosaic of rewilding across 30% of Britain

**REWILDING
BRITAIN**



REWILDING JOURNEYS EXPLORED



Rewilding Britain wants to see an inspiring mosaic of rewilding across 30% of our land and seas, where nature is flourishing and delivering major benefits for people – including opportunities for vibrant green economies; healthier air, water and soils; and better health and wellbeing.

Rewilding has at its heart a focus on reinstating natural processes, such as free-flowing rivers or predator-prey relationships and, where appropriate, missing species – allowing them to create dynamic, constantly changing habitat mosaics.

It brings people and communities together to find ways to work, live and prosper within healthy, flourishing ecosystems. By recognising that prioritising nature can be a highly productive use of the land, rewilding can help us transition to a nature-rich, low-carbon future while delivering real, locally generated benefits today.

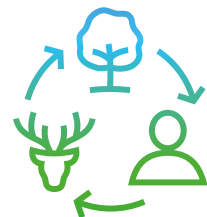
Rewilding can happen across a gradation of approaches. These depend on the extent to which nature takes the lead and are guided by the local community, context and culture. The illustration and diagram that follow aim to give a sense of this 'spectrum' of rewilding and what it might look like in practice.

Prioritising nature as the most productive use of the land across rewilding areas delivers multiple social, economic and ecological returns.



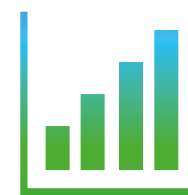
SOCIAL RETURNS

- Meaningful community involvement in decision-making
- Community cohesion and sense of place
- Health and wellbeing
- Inclusive access to wilder nature
- Educational opportunities



ECONOMIC RETURNS

- Thriving range of nature-based enterprises
- Diversified livelihoods and revenue streams
- Production of food, timber and other resources
- Local economic regeneration



ECOLOGICAL RETURNS

- Biodiversity and ecosystem recovery
- Carbon capture/storage and climate resilience
- Flood mitigation
- Healthy, stable soils
- Water quality and retention

SEMI-WILD AREAS

These semi-wild areas support a diverse range of natural process-led land uses and enterprises while allowing nature to heal and flourish.

LEVEL 1

Restoration activities kick-start natural processes, which may be limited by scale but help provide connectivity. Management is natural process-led, such as semi-wild grazing. Some active management, e.g. hay meadows, is used to maintain rare habitats. Nature-based enterprises and production of food, timber, etc., are flourishing.

LEVEL 2

Restoration activities are progressing and consideration is given to reinstating missing species. A balanced diversity of herbivores is returning. Hardy breeds are used as 'proxies' if native herbivores aren't yet present. Natural regeneration is prioritised, and local people are actively engaged in rewilding activities.

LEVEL 3

Dynamic mosaics of habitats are emerging through natural regeneration and succession. Diverse free-roaming herbivores create natural patterns of disturbance in the landscape. Missing species are being reintroduced. Varied local employment opportunities and income streams support community regeneration.

CORE REWILDING AREAS

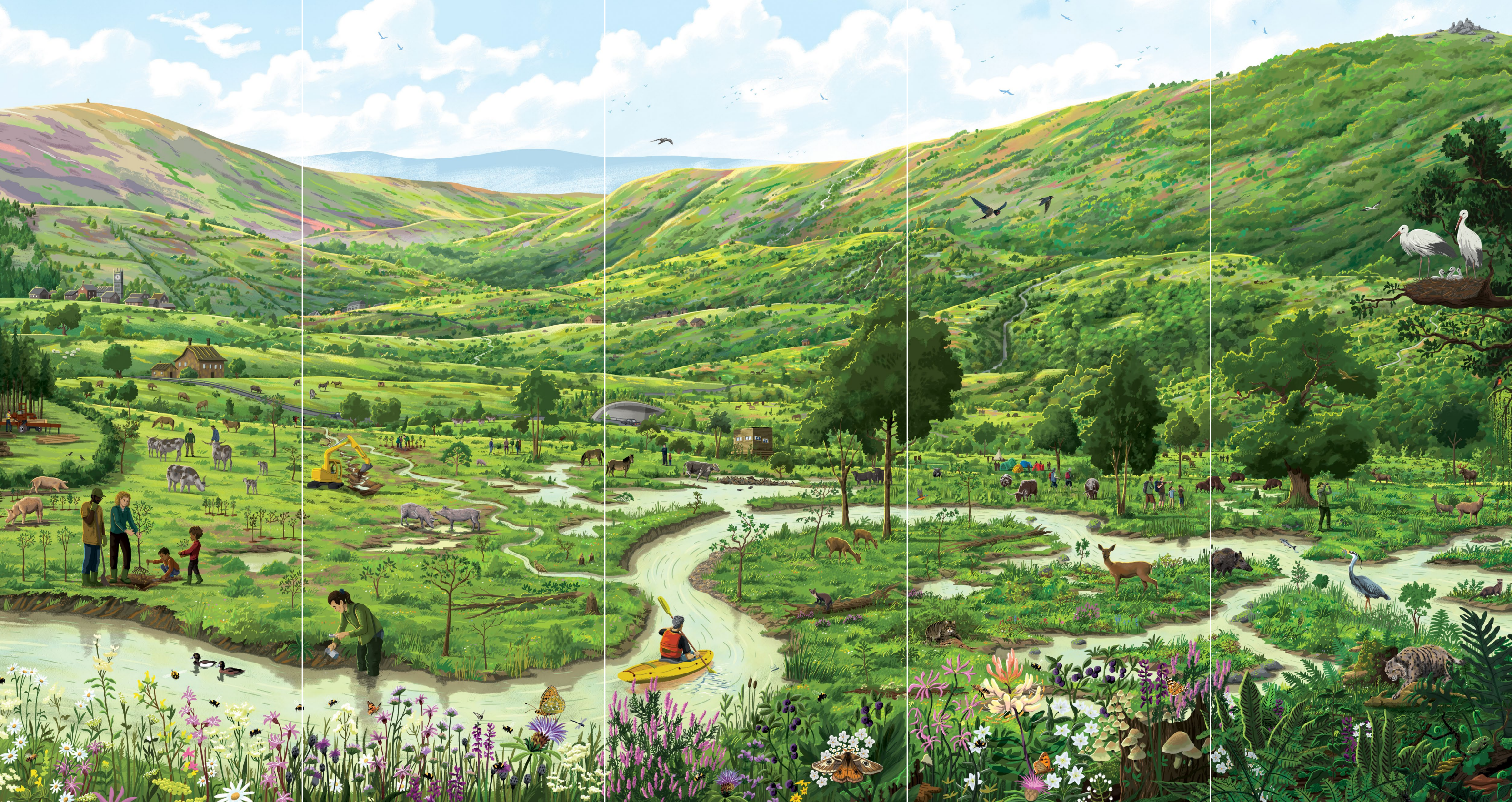
In these core rewilding areas nature drives changes as much as possible.

LEVEL 4









Nature's web of life has largely been restored across expansive interconnected landscapes. Most herbivores are 'wild' and able to show natural grazing and herd behaviour. Some culling may be needed where predators are absent. A range of 'wild enterprises' engage people using 'leave no trace' principles.

LEVEL 5

The full web of life has been restored, including larger predators, such as lynx. Large herbivores are able to show natural migration and herd dynamics. A diverse range of people actively engage in and experience wild nature. Local communities play a key role in the governance, stewardship and protection of the land.



REWILDING LEVELS EXPLAINED

	SEMI-WILD AREAS			CORE REWILDING AREAS	
	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	LEVEL 5
 NATURAL PROCESS-LED MANAGEMENT	Restoration activities kickstart recovery. Natural process-led production, e.g. of meat and timber. Some conservation management.	Restoration activities (e.g. to restore free-flowing rivers) and natural process-led production are ongoing. Conservation management is reducing.	Management and extraction (e.g. of meat and timber) are reducing. Both focus on enhancing natural processes.	Minimal management takes place. Extractive activities carried out only where essential, e.g. deer culling in the absence of predators.	Nature takes care of itself, with natural processes restored. Minimised intervention and non-essential infrastructure are removed.
 PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES	Local communities have an increasing involvement in – and a sense of ownership of – rewilding decisions, which deliver shared benefits. People engage with wilder nature and have access to recreational, educational and volunteering opportunities.			Local communities are meaningfully involved in the long-term governance, stewardship and protection of the land. People have inclusive access to experience wild nature.	
 NATURE-BASED ECONOMIES	Nature-based business models sustain local land-based jobs (e.g. stock managers, game/wildlife managers, deer managers, foresters) and create new livelihoods (e.g. education, tourism, ecology). Wild/semi-wild meats and forestry products are produced. New income streams emerge, such as public money, carbon/nature credits. The diversification and regeneration of local communities takes place as part of a just rural transition.			A range of wild enterprises employ local people, for example in tourism, education, research and wellbeing. If culling is needed, community stalking produces wild meat. All activities use 'leave no trace' principles.	
 GRAZING AND BROWSING	The focus is on restoring the balance and diversity of large herbivores using natural grazing and browsing. Hardy breeds of cattle, ponies and pigs are used as proxies for missing species if needed. All increasingly show free-roaming, natural herd behaviour and dynamics.			Diverse free-roaming large herbivores are present, with a minimal number of proxies. They display natural herd dynamics and little to no intervention is needed.	The full range of free-roaming large wild herbivores is in place, displaying natural migration and herd dynamics and behaviour.
 SPECIES	The focus is on increasing the abundance and diversity of species. Reintroduction, translocation and reinforcement of missing species takes place, where appropriate. There's an acceptance that some species may see some decline locally.			Species abundance and diversity have largely been restored, but some larger predators or native herbivores may be absent.	A full web of life (trophic system) has been restored, bringing ecosystem resilience. Large native predators and keystone species are in place.
 WOODLAND AND FORESTRY	Restoring and creating native woodland is central. Natural regeneration is prioritised, with assisted tree planting only where needed. Single species plantations are converted to mixed, natural woodlands. Natural process-led forestry practices – such as coppicing in the absence of beavers or continuous cover forestry – produce timber and wood products. There's a reducing need for active management.			Minimal management is carried out only if essential to support natural processes. No timber extraction takes place and deadwood is left to break down naturally.	Natural woodland processes and dynamics are fully functional. No woodland management is needed.
 RIVERS AND FRESHWATER	Natural river and wetland processes are restored, through re-meandering, the re-vegetation of river banks, the reconnection of floodplains and the reduction of nutrient run-off. Natural flood management is used wherever possible, with essential flood protection maintained.			Rivers naturally braid, flood and form wetlands.	Full, naturally functioning rivers and wetlands are in place.
 LONGEVITY	Commitment to rewilding secured in the medium-term.			Commitment to rewilding secured in perpetuity wherever possible, e.g. through protected area status or conservation covenants.	

A REWILDING LANDSCAPE

Any rewilding landscape will involve a patchwork of different levels across the 'spectrum' of rewilding – connecting into and around our towns and cities, as well as providing stepping stones through more intensively managed areas. Each area may aspire to a different range of levels with their own rewilding journeys.

KEY

- Rewilding level 5
- Rewilding level 4
- Rewilding level 3
- Rewilding level 2
- Rewilding level 1
- Non rewilding land
- Urban areas

FEATURES

- A** Communities can coexist alongside rewilding, which supports nature-based economies.
- B** Restoration activities kick-start recovery, sustaining local land-based jobs.
- C** People have access to experience nature in all its diversity, with the web of life restored.
- D** Green bridges can provide ecological corridors across barriers like roads.
- E** Enterprises such as sustainable timber production take place alongside forestry and farming.



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rewildingbritain.org.uk

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Illustration: Tom Clohosy Cole

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