

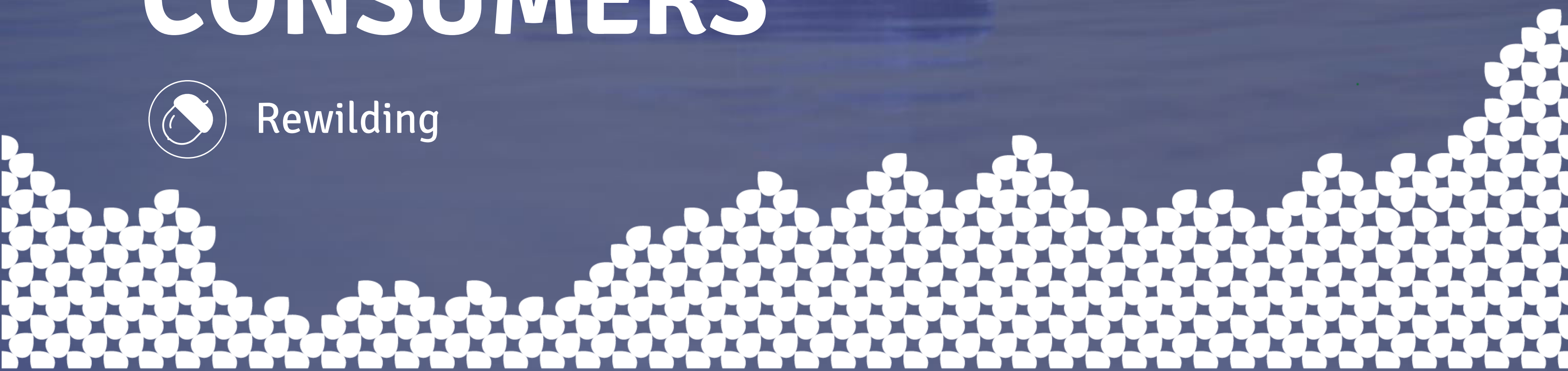


FOOD & FARMING
DISCOVERY TRUST

CONSCIOUS CONSUMERS



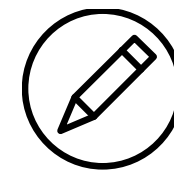
Rewilding



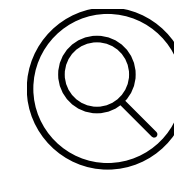
Introduction

Use this presentation to work your way through the topic workbook and activities.

Different activities will have different needs, you'll find icons according to the action you need to take:



Where there is an activity for you to do

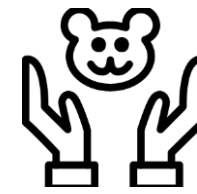


Some activities that you need to complete will require another resource



When you need to check the workbook

In this session you will:



Find out what rewilding is.



Understand the different definitions and approaches to rewilding.



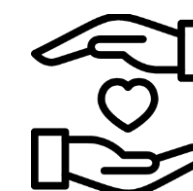
Explore some case studies of rewilding in the UK and change views.



Develop your own opinion on how we should approach rewilding.



Consider the challenges of rewilding for farmers.



Set yourself your own rewilding challenge.



Warm up activity

Before we start exploring the topic, we want you to get your brain in gear

There is an activity on the next slide to consider. You can think about it on your own, in pairs or as a group. You might want to share your thinking before moving on.

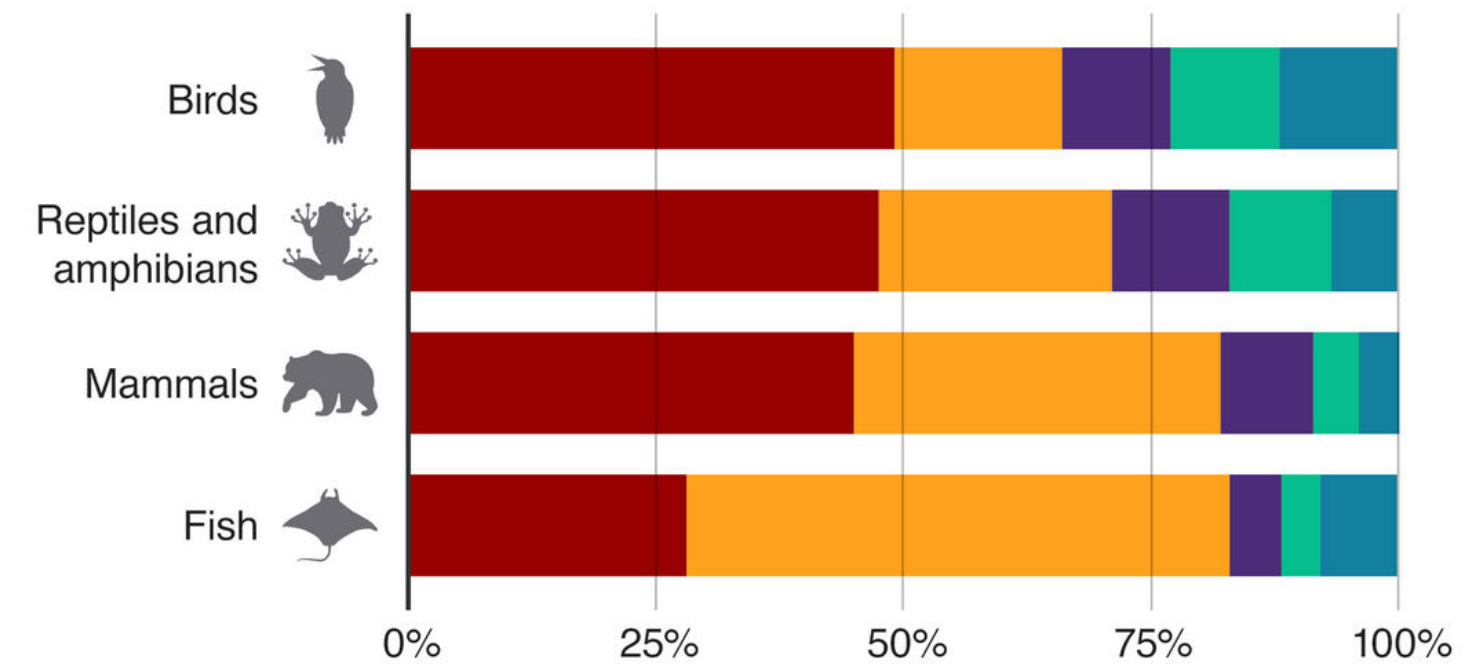
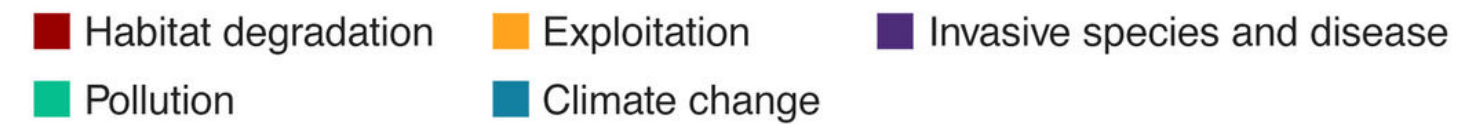


Look at the graph

1. What does it tell you?
2. What questions does it raise?
3. Why might it be relevant to the topic we are exploring?

Habitat loss is a major threat to biodiversity

The Living Planet Report assesses key drivers of species decline



Note: A sample of 3,789 populations evaluated by the Living Planet Index

Source: WWF, Living Planet Report 2018





What observations did you make and what questions did you ask?

Discuss in a group or jot down your thoughts on the following:

What is happening to the rate of species extinction and why do you think this might be?

Why might there be a difference between the different groups of animals?

Do you think the two graphs are linked?

What are the possible effects of species loss on ecosystems?

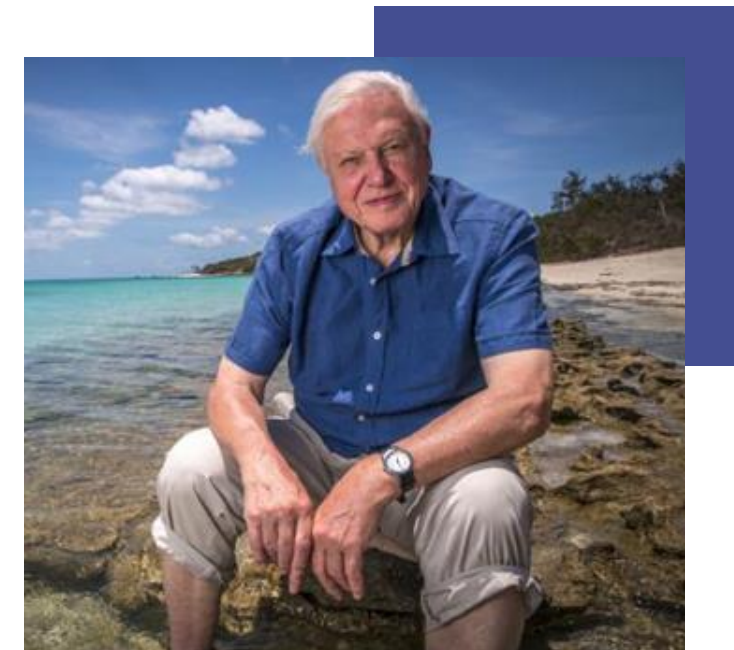
Experts agree that biodiversity loss is one of the biggest challenges we face.

To overcome this we need to protect and restore nature so that the wild stops shrinking and starts to grow!

“A less wild world is a less stable world, one that is less able to support all species including ourselves.”

“To restore stability to our planet we must restore its biodiversity, the very thing we have removed. It is the only way out of this crisis that we have ourselves created. We must rewild the world.”

- Sir David Attenborough





What is Rewilding?

Jot down your thoughts on rewilding in your workbook.

Under the 'before' section.

Discuss these ideas in pairs or groups.



Rewilding Britain

"At Rewilding Britain, we define rewilding as the large-scale restoration of ecosystems to the point where nature is allowed to take care of itself. Rewilding seeks to reinstate natural processes and, where appropriate, missing species - allowing them to shape the landscape and the habitats within. It's focused firmly on the future although we can learn from the past."

Source: Rewilding Britain website, accessed 19.08.21

It's all about perspective:

Compare your words and ideas with the definition from Rewilding Britain. – Does it seem similar or are there differences to your own ideas?

Rewilding is a relatively new concept. However there are already many different definitions out there. The 're-' prefix means 'back' in Latin and implies returning something to what it once was.

As a **conscious consumer** it's a great idea to be certain about what an organisation means when it says something, whether it is organic, plant-based, sugar-free or environmentally friendly.

Do you feel like you have enough information about Rewilding Britain's perspective? If not, follow the link to find out more about them:

→ <https://www.rewildingbritain.org.uk/>

Land use

Rewilding Britain make a compelling case for rewilding as much of the land as possible but there are many things to consider:

Keystone Species

Rewilding can involve the reintroduction of a species to restore a human-impacted area to its natural state. Some people are very in favour of this approach while others are not.

Food Production

One of the biggest controversies over rewilding is the availability of land that can be given over to rewilding and the impact on food production.



Case Study

Complete the next two activities to explore case studies to find out more about the complexities of rewilding

Case Study One: Beavers in Britain

Beavers were once widespread in the UK and played a crucial role in wetland landscapes until they were hunted to extinction over 400 years ago.

Beavers are an example of a keystone species, an ecological engineer which are able to restore wetland ecosystems and create opportunities for many other species to thrive.

The Wildlife Trusts have been running projects to release beavers into the wild and evaluate the effects. Since beavers last roamed in the wild our landscape has changed dramatically. While most people are sympathetic to their reintroduction, some are concerned about the impact on agriculture in the area.





Activity 1:

Eurasian Beaver

Most agree that the numbers should be monitored closely and the effects carefully managed in the long term. In autumn 2021 the UK government is asking the public whether they wish to see beavers reintroduced to other rivers in England.

Follow the links below to explore the story of the Eurasian Beaver and think about the questions on Activity Sheet 1 in your workbook. Discuss with your group and jot down your thoughts.

→ [Eurasian Beavers Wildlife Trust](#)

[shorturl.at/jklv8](https://www.wildlife-trust.org.uk/shorturl.at/jklv8)

→ [For and Against Re-Introduction of Beavers in Britain](#)

<https://www.countryfile.com/wildlife/wildlife-stories/the-case-for-and-against-the-reintroduction-of-beavers-in-britain/>



Case Study Two: Food Production

This activity introduces you to two large Estates, both with their own spin on how they are improving biodiversity.

Follow the links below to watch two videos about the Knepp and Holkham Estates to gather some primary information direct from the people working the land.

There is a space in your workbook for you to make notes

→ [Holkham](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TyUkBdQ7sf4>

→ [Knepp](#)

<https://knepp.co.uk/rewilding/>



Activity Two: Answer Activity Sheet Two

Once you have watched the videos discuss or make notes on the following points:

- In exploring the two approaches from Holkham and Knepp - did you spot any differences?
- Did you notice that Holkham don't use the term rewilding? Why do you think this is?
- Is it important we have a mixed approach to reintroducing biodiversity?
- Does the Knepp Estate farm produce food at all now – why not?

Evaluating Perspectives

Rewilding can be a contentious issue, with land-owners and farmers having different views on how much land can be given over to wilding and increasing biodiversity. The case studies have given you some food for thought but what other issues might be raised by rewilding?

The final activity is to explore a range of different articles that raise some important points. The links are provided for you and there's a table in your workbook to help structure your note taking as you read. Before you start, check out the Conscious Consumers 'Top Tips' below about assessing quality of information!

'Top tips' to assess quality of information

Who is putting the information out there?

Just because a website is popular doesn't mean its content is accurate. What evidence is being presented? Is it referenced to a source?

Who is the author?

Have they published anything else? Do they have qualifications to support their claims? Is it a balanced argument?

Is the story current or recycled?

Make sure an older story isn't being taken out of context.

How did you find the article?

If the content showed up in your social media feed or was promoted on a website proceed with caution.

Are there any links to advertising?

Might someone be profiting from this point of view? Are they trying to guilt the reader into action?



Activity 3: Impact on farming and assessing reliability of sources

Here are 4 secondary information sources for you to review that explore some of the challenges of rewilding for modern farming. Follow the links to the articles, read through them & make notes in your workbook (Activity sheet three)

- [The Guardian](#)
- [Farmers Weekly](#)
- [Sustainable Food Trust](#)
- [Farming UK](#)

Drawing conclusions

You have explored lots of issues related to rewilding so now consider these final points.

Use all your findings from the session to answer the following – especially the last question.

- How does the information you've read affect your view or perception of rewilding?
- Do you think some of the sources are more reliable than others?
- What other information would you need to feel you could make your own decision about rewilding and how far we should go?
- Do you think farmers should be offered subsidies to encourage or incentivise changes in practice to support rewilding? (Government plans are moving in this direction).
- Do you think rewilding as Rewilding Britain define it is good for farmers, farmland or food production?

Finally...

We hope you've enjoyed finding out about rewilding and building your own opinion on this important area.

It's important you feel confident in your own views, and that you are informed about potentially significant changes to the way we farm and feed the UK.

If you'd like to explore this area a little more there are two final challenges you might like to take on!

Don't forget to complete your workbook by filling out what your thoughts on Rewilding are now, after the workshop.



Extra Challenge: As conscious consumers what can we do?

Wild East

Wild East are part of Rewilding Britain – they don't have their own land but they are trying to influence others (including us!) to return 250,000 hectares of land to nature. If every backyard, schoolyard, farmyard and industrial yard can save a bit of space for nature, we can realise this mission together.

→ [Wildeast.co.uk](https://wildeast.co.uk)

→ [15 Ways to a Wilder Garden](#)

Biodiversity Audit

Do a biodiversity audit(count) before and after rewilding your garden to see what difference you can make.

→ [Garden Wildlife Surveys](#)

Science Communication Challenge

We hope you are feeling inspired to continue your journey through Conscious Consumerism.

If so have a go at one of the following two challenges:

Design communication materials

to dispel common myths and help people gain a better understanding of the topic. This could be in the form of a blog, a poster, leaflets or a podcast for example.

Develop a campaign

to collect real data and report your findings or to encourage people or companies to change behaviours. For example, you could campaign to create a rewilding area in your local area or at your school.

Let us know what you produce - tag us on social media via @ffdt_uk use the hashtag: #ConsciousConsumerWorkshops

Thank you

You can find this and other materials here:

<https://ffdt.co.uk/learn>

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