



WEST DORSET  
WILDING

Welcome



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Thank you all for coming!

# Who and what is West Dorset Wilding?

- Landowner-led charity (CIO by Association)
- Idea in 2020
- Constituted 2021
- 5 Trustees – including 3 major landowners in the Brit:
  - Mapperton, Symondsburry, Mappercombe
- Staff – 1 person, 1 day/week and others doing specific jobs
- Funding – membership, donations, grants (project funds)



# Who and what is West Dorset Wilding?

## Vision

Our vision is for a West Dorset with more wildlife and biodiversity, improved water, air and soil quality, better natural flood management and through natural processes, is tackling the impacts of climate change.

We want to reconnect people with nature, enabling them to as enjoy its wildlife and habitats in all its beauty and diversity.

# Who and what is West Dorset Wilding?

## Mission

We will improve the natural environment and its resilience by collaborating with landowners and managers, regional partners and the local community on projects and approaches which meet our vision.

These will include rewilding schemes, including reintroductions of native species, regenerative agriculture projects and delivery of education and public awareness projects.

# Who and what is West Dorset Wilding?

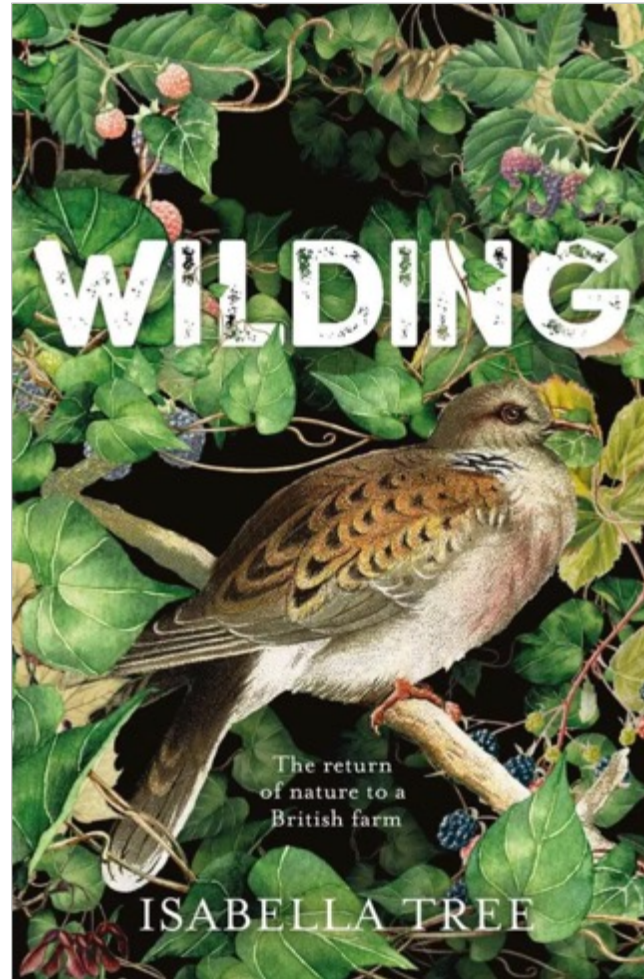
In short...

We hope to help bring back wildlife to West Dorset through allowing nature to do what it does best, and to help people get involved with the nature on their doorstep

We want to do that as a community and landowner led collaboration

Its not so much for us, but for our children and their children – we just hope its not too late!

# Why wilding?







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# Why wilding?

'Traditional' conservation vs. rewilding

NGOs and Govt vs. Landowners

Its not a 'verses', it must be an 'and'. We are all in this together. Collaboration and cooperation.



What do we mean by (re)wilding?



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Rewilding is the [large-scale] **restoration of ecosystems** to the point where nature can take care of itself. It seeks to reinstate natural processes and, where appropriate and when the time is right, reintroduce missing species, allowing them to shape the landscape and its habitats

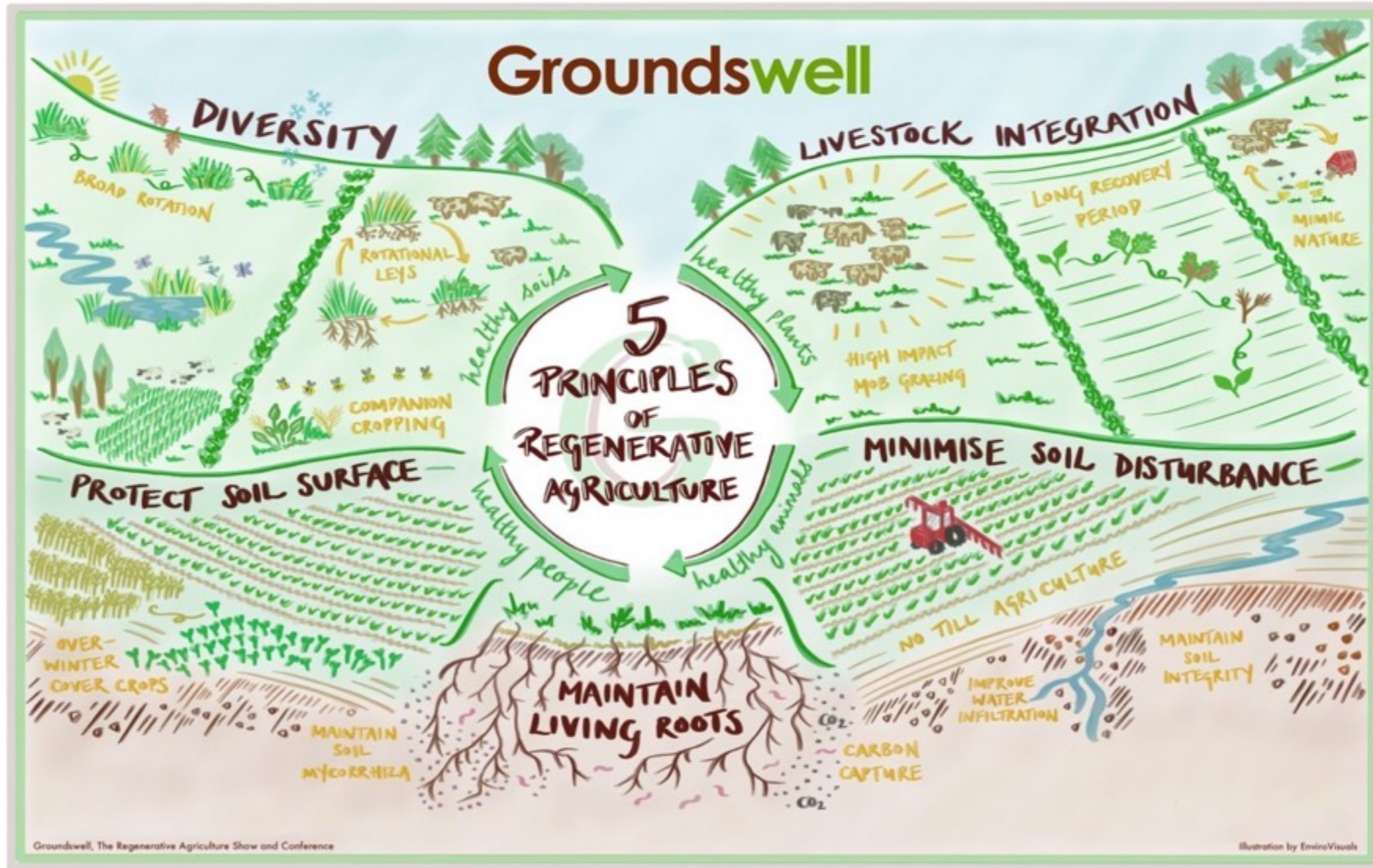


What do we mean by regenerative  
agriculture?

Regenerative Agriculture is quite simple: it is any form of farming, i.e. the production of food or fibre, which at the same time **improves the environment**. This primarily means regenerating the soil. It's a direction of travel, not an absolute.

**Groundswell**





# Where are we working?

The clue's in the name...

Nature doesn't follow administrative boundaries

We have to start somewhere...





# Where are we working?

We have to start somewhere... Brit valley

But not exclusive

# So what's tonight about?

To introduce the community to West Dorset Wilding

To talk about about rewilding and regenerative agriculture

To encourage landowners and others to get involved, particularly landowners in the Brit Catchment Recovery Project (more later)

To encourage membership and donations

# What's the plan?

Tom Brereton – the nature of the Brit Catchment

Nick Gray – landscape recovery and the potential for change

Sam Rose - Overview of what WDW are going to do

Sara King – Rewilding nationally and how WDW fits into this

Sophie and Tom Gregory – Regenerative agriculture

Q&A with speakers and Trustees

Over to Tom...



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What are we doing?

# What are we **not** doing?

Not buying land

Not saying stop farming

Not saying that this has to be done at large scale (but it helps)

Not prescribing what people should do

Not saying do it on your own

Not saying you should all do this out of the goodness of your heart

# What are we doing?

1. Brit Catchment Recovery Project
2. Beavers in the Brit?
3. Community engagement

# 1. Brit Catchment Recovery Project

Large scale extensive, herbivore-led wilding where possible

Natural tree regeneration, rather than planting

Connectivity is essential – particularly through rivers

Hedgerows and margins

Areas of regenerative agriculture

River naturalisation, ideally through beaver wild release



# 1. Brit Catchment Recovery Project

Coalition of the willing

Clear financial incentives

Landscape Recovery ELMS bid to develop project

Work starts now



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## 2. Beavers in the Brit?

### Advantages:

- Natural flood management and water quality
- Biodiversity through wetland creation
- Carbon sequestration

### Potential disadvantages:

- Flooding
- Tree felling
- Infrastructure conflicts

## 2. Beavers in the Brit?

### Consultation in March

- Village hall meetings

- Talks (online and in person)

- Site visits

- Online consultation

Beaver management plan development

Licence application

Learning from others

Not a done deal!





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# 3. Community engagement?

*Still working on this*

Urban areas:

- Access to nature and breaking down barriers

- Consider social prescribing

- Focus on young people

# 3. Community engagement?

*Still working on this*

Rural areas:

- Rural skills and employment opportunities

- Focus on young people

- Local champions and smallholder networks

# 3. Community engagement?

*Still working on this*

Events for members and non-members:

- Annual 'do'

- Visits and 'show and tells'

- Talks in-person and online

- Arts events

Over to Sara...



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How to get involved

# How to get involved

- Become a member
  - Landowner / smallholder member
  - West Dorset Wilder
  - Corporate partner
  - Community partner

# BECOME A MEMBER

## Landowners and land managers

Whether you steward 1 acre or 1,000+, membership of the WDW network equips you to lead on tackling the climate and biodiversity crisis in your community, through shared support, action and stewardship of WDW's nature-based mission.

*For as little as £4 per month annually  
or £20+ per month annually for voting members.*

[Learn More](#)



# BECOME A WEST DORSET WILDER

Individuals & families in West Dorset and beyond

Joining the WDW community connects you with ways to explore and encourage a healthier landscape on your doorstep, and supports our projects restoring habitats - so that local people and places can flourish.

*Join for as little as £2.50 per month annually or pay what you can*

[Learn More](#)



# BECOME A CORPORATE PARTNER

## Local businesses

Becoming a partners enables you to contribute to nature recovery and the climate crisis in your local area. Whether you are aiming to be a B-Corp, or just locally and environmentally responsible, get in touch and we can work out a mutually supportive relationship.

*Donation negotiable*

Contact us

# BECOME A COMMUNITY PARTNER

## Community and non-profit organisations

We are looking to work in partnership with organisations in and around West Dorset, whether they are Parish Councils, charities, wellbeing groups or others. Please get in touch and we can work out how best we can work together.

Contact us

# How to get involved

- Donate

Choose amount →

Help us act to restore nature

One-time **Monthly** Annually

You can log in to edit your recurring donation any time ⓘ

GBPE 5   GBPE 10   GBPE 25

GBPE 50   GBPE 100   GBPE 500

GBPE Custom Amount

Dedicate my donation in honor or in memory of someone

Write us a comment

*giftaid it*

**Boost your donations by 25% at no cost to you!**

Yes, I am a UK taxpayer and I would like West Dorset Wilding to reclaim the tax on all qualifying donations I have made, as well as any future donations, until I notify them otherwise.

I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Next →

Powered by Donorbox

# How to get involved

- Volunteer
  - Just not quite yet – sign up and we will be in touch when we are ready
- Sign up to the mailing list
- Look out for the Beavers in the Brit? consultation in march – have your say!
- Ideas and suggestions on stickies please!



How to get involved

Spread the word!

Thank you for listening

... and now its time for...

Questions.. .. and answers?