# December 2025

**REWILDING** is any activity that increases or restores nature, whether in a National Park or within a busy, urban environment. There is no set definition, since rewilding projects vary depending on the location, local communities and the amount of biodiversity already present.



**Abriachan Forest** near Loch Ness in the highlands of Scotland was going to be flattened, until one family plus their village saved it. In 1998 the community purchased 540 hectares of forest and open hill ground from Forest Enterprise. They have boosted biodiversity by replacing some of the non-native conifers with birch, oak, aspen and Scots pine, while at the same time, diversifying the age structure of the remaining plantation. 125,000 native trees have been planted and a 75% increase in wildlife diversity has been recorded. The forest is home to black grouse and crossbills, while red squirrels and pine martens have made a comeback. As a social enterprise, the Abriachan Forest Trust has managed the land to create local employment, improve the environment and encourage it's enjoyment by the public through a network of spectacular paths, family suited mountain bike trails, innovative outdoor learning as well as health and well-being opportunities. www.abriachan.org.uk






**Ughill Farm** is a pioneering landscape recovery project covering 132 hectares and forms a key component of the larger nature recovery plan for the city of Sheffield. When the farm came up for sale, the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust knew it needed to do all it could to save the land from conversion to intensive agricultural farming, championing nature-friendly farming. The diverse terrain includes a mix of improved and rough pasture, lush woodland, meandering stream corridors, and an ancient quarry. As low grade, marginal farmland it is an important site for Curlew, Golden Plover, Lapwing and other nationally threatened birds that come to our moors each spring to breed. With its mosaic of different habitats, the site also supports a vast array of species, including other birds, bats and insects. By combining innovative farming techniques with ecological restoration, the trust aims for Ughill Farm to become a haven for wildlife, a thriving landscape for sustainable agriculture, and a beacon of hope for the preservation of precious natural heritage. www.wildsheffield.com/ughill/

Learn more about rewilding log onto www.wildlifetrusts.org/rewilding

# January 2026

## RSPB's BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH



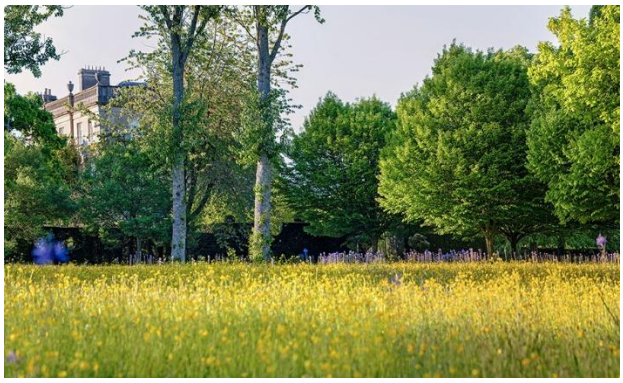
Join in the RSPB's Annual BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH. 23-25 January 2026. Just sit back, relax and watch the birds in your garden for an hour. It's easy and great fun

In mid-December you can register to take part in the world's largest garden wildlife survey at www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch
In 2025, over 590,000 people took part – and you could be with them in 2026. Once you register, the RSPB will keep you updated with top tips on how to get ready for your best Birdwatch ever.



On the day of the Big Garden Birdwatch itself, taking part couldn't be simpler! You just spend an hour watching the birds in your garden, from your balcony or in your local park, and tell them what you've seen. If you see very few birds or none, that's also useful information for the RSPB, so please join in. I will be, let me know what birds you see and how many many birds, please email stalbanofferton@gmail.com with your bird info – I'll get back to you in February with my results.

**Finding Harmony: A King's Vision** (provisional title) is a TV documentary in which King Charles explains how he wants to inspire a "sense of determination" to protect the environment through "harmony" and working with nature rather than against it. The King's Foundation (formerly The Princes Trust) says the feature-length TV film will be shown on Amazon Prime in early 2026.



The King says that "never has it been more important for the world to make a concerted effort to protect and prioritise our plant, and to restore our relationship with it. He hopes the film will demonstrate just some of the remarkable work being done around the world to put harmony into practice, from the forests of Guyana to sustainable communities in India – and, closer to home, through the work of his Foundation at Dumfries House and Highgrove. King Charles reflects on his decades of campaigning for sustainability, and he hopes this film will encourage a new audience to learn about the philosophy of harmony with the aim to restore balance to our planet which is under such stress.