

WILD HOPE
A FARM GOES WILD

	TIME CODE	VIDEO	AUDIO
1.	01:00:05;06		<p>DEREK GOW:</p> <p>I'm holding in my hand a handful of shit, but actually there's, there's absolutely no smell to that other than Earth. And that's because this has no chemicals in it. If you were doing this in an industrially farmed landscape, it would stink.</p>
2.	01:00:21;11		<p>DEREK GOW:</p> <p>We have maybe 400 acres of farmland here, which we're now changing back solidly for nature, year on year.</p>
3.	01:00:29;18		<p>DEREK GOW:</p> <p>I feel that what I do here has capacity to affect change in the sense that you can show people what can be done. It's important to bring back the native species because they can restore function to landscapes in Britain.</p>
4.	01:00:42;08	<p>GRAPHIC: TITLE</p> <p>WILD HOPE</p> <p>A Farm Goes Wild</p>	<p>TITLE</p> <p>A Farm Goes Wild</p>
5.		ACT ONE	ACT ONE
6.	01:00:49;09		<p>NARRATOR:</p> <p>FOR YEARS, DEREK GOW WORKED THIS LAND IN WESTERN ENGLAND AS A CONVENTIONAL SHEEP AND CATTLE FARM.</p> <p>BUT AS A FARMER AND CONSERVATIONIST, HE KNEW THAT WASN'T RIGHT FOR THE NATURAL WORLD.</p>

7.	00:01:03;01 01:01:20;15	GRAPHIC: L3 DEREK GOW Conservationist	DEREK GOW We've engineered the landscape to suit ourselves because we want to use every last inch of it. We've taken out the wetlands and the woodlands to create an environment that's increasingly toxic and increasingly bereft of life. There has to be change both in the way we think and we respond ourselves to the care of our natural environment.
8.	01:01:24;22 01:01:39;13	GRAPHIC: Map of rewilding Coombeshead location	NARRATOR: IN 2018, WITH A VISION BASED ON DECADES OF WORK IN ECOLOGY AND NATIVE SPECIES REINTRODUCTION, DEREK DECIDED TO WALK THE WALK. HE TOOK DOWN THE FENCES, SOLD OFF THE LIVESTOCK AND BEGAN "REWILDING" THE LAND ON HIS COOMBESHEAD FARM. IT WAS THE FIRST STEP IN RESTORING THE LOCAL ECOSYSTEM.
9.	01:01:49;10		DEREK GOW: So the point of all this is that we're trying to take a landscape which is homogenous and bland and put features back into it. You seed it, you bring the water up, you then start to put texture, like log piles and rock piles, which make it possible for other life to exist.
10.	01:02:06;17		NARRATOR: INSPIRED BY OTHER SUCCESSFUL REWILDING PROJECTS, DEREK FORGED HIS OWN APPROACH. INCLUDING A PROGRAM TO BREED THREATENED SPECIES FOR REINTRODUCTION ACROSS BRITAIN.

			HE BROUGHT ON ECOLOGIST PETE COOPER TO HELP.
11.	01:02:25;14 01:02:25;21	GRAPHIC: L3 PETE COOPER Ecologist	PETE COOPER: If you give nature that space, if you give native species a chance to breathe, then we have a fight we can possibly win. To give something back to nature by wilding it can make a huge difference.
12.	01:02:40;06		NARRATOR: DEREK REPLACED HIS LIVESTOCK WITH ANCESTRAL BREEDS THAT HELPED SHAPE BRITAIN'S LIVING LANDSCAPE LONG AGO.
13.	01:02:48;14		DEREK GOW: We keep animals that are domestic as lawnmowers or burrowers or the creators of wallows. They're not producing food or they're not producing meat or milk or anything else.
14.	01:03:00;22		NARRATOR: GALLOWAY CATTLE IMITATE THE ANCIENT AUROCH, THE WILD ANCESTOR OF ALL DOMESTIC CATTLE. ALONG WITH EXMOOR PONIES, THE OLDEST HORSE BREED IN THE U.K. THEIR GRAZING BEHAVIORS CREATE HABITATS THAT ENCOURAGE PLANT GROWTH AND INSECT LIFE. IRON AGE PIGS ARE A MODERN HYBRID MEANT TO EMULATE THE WILD BOAR THAT ROAMED THESE FIELDS 4,000 YEARS AGO.
15.	01:03:29;15		DEREK GOW: You want big animals like a few boar running through, um, to create wallows that, that, that then become

			ephemeral pools. So you get more amphibians in the landscape as well.
16.	01:03:41;21		NARRATOR: FIVE YEARS ON, THE RESULTS ARE EASILY VISIBLE.
17.	01:03:46;10		PETE COOPER: Right now, this pond's actually full of tadpoles, so some of the local frogs and toads have taken advantage of these ponds that become available over the winter and the tadpoles absolutely feasting in this area. It's both a home in its own right, but is also, a food shop for so many other species at the same time, too.
18.	01:04:02;21		DEREK GOW: By returning water to the surface of the landscape, you create living space for all the other creatures like ducks, amphibians, water beetles, dragonflies. Everything is intricately linked.
19.	01:04:18;04		NARRATOR: BUT THERE'S ONE ANIMAL THAT TAKES LANDSCAPE ENGINEERING TO A WHOLE NEW LEVEL: BEAVERS.
20.	01:04:26;20		PETE COOPER: The beaver is creating habitat on a vast scale for so many smaller species. These are our most industrious ecosystem changing animals, only beaten by us and elephants in terms of the environmental change they can bring about.
21.	01:04:40;03		NARRATOR: DEREK'S BROUGHT BACK BEAVERS NOT ONLY TO HIS FARM, BUT TO OTHER LOCATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.
22.			ACT TWO
23.	01:04:46;20		DEREK GOW:

			I mean I've been involved with, with reintroduction project for beavers in Britain for a quarter of a century. In the beginning, there were a few other people who were interested, but not very many.
24.	01:04:57;06		<p>NARRATOR:</p> <p>OVER THE YEARS, BEAVER REINTRODUCTIONS AND PUBLIC SUPPORT HAVE INCREASED.</p> <p>THERE'S ALSO ANOTHER ECO-ENGINEER THAT DEREK IS WORKING TO REESTABLISH ACROSS BRITAIN: WATER VOLES. THESE SMALL RODENTS LIVE ALONG RIVERS AND STREAMS AND HAVE BEEN IN SEVERE DECLINE.</p>
25.	01:05:20;05		<p>PETE COOPER:</p> <p>Water voles were actually the reason that Derek kind of worked his way to beavers in the first place.</p>
26.	01:05:24;21		<p>NARRATOR:</p> <p>LIKE THE BEAVER, BUT AT A SMALLER SCALE, WATER VOLES CAN ALSO REESTABLISH CRITICAL BUT COMPROMISED WETLAND SYSTEMS.</p>
27.	01:05:33;16		<p>DEREK GOW:</p> <p>We come to a time where we've just so changed the landscape, so removed his aquatic element, all the things that are dependent on them go too. So it's not a simple loss of a single species, it's the complex chain of interactions.</p>
28.	01:05:53;12		<p>NARRATOR:</p> <p>SO, DEREK HAS BEEN BREEDING WATER VOLES FOR DISTRIBUTION ACROSS ENGLAND SINCE 2001!</p> <p>BUT NOW HE'S RAMPED UP TO AN INDUSTRIAL-SIZED PLAN TO BRING THEM BACK.</p>

29.			ACT THREE
30.	01:06:06;01		DEREK GOW: We have a water vole farm here. These are our water vole breeding pens. So they function on a really simple principle that what the species needs is burrowing medium they make nests in, which is snug and cozy, for their babies. Each cage can produce about 22 babies on average a year.
31.	01:06:26;07		NARRATOR: THAT ADDS UP TO AS MANY AS 2,000 VOLES RELEASED A YEAR. A LEGION OF MANY ECO-ARCHITECTS THAT WILL IMPROVE THE AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT.
32.	01:06:36;08		DEREK GOW: They make loads and loads of burrows like muskrats into the banks of, of rivers and streams and small creatures like frogs and toads and lizards use their burrows.
33.	01:06:46;17	CU WATER VOLE	NARRATOR: DEREK BELIEVES REWILDING A SIGNIFICANT POPULATION CAN HELP RESTORE THOSE HABITATS ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY.
34.	01:06:53;23		DEREK GOW: We're producing 'em for projects in the north of England to reintroduce water voles into the Lake District, which is a big English region that where not a single water vole survives.
35.	01:07:07;15		NARRATOR: DEREK HAS ALSO BEGUN BREEDING STORKS, WILDCATS, AND OTHER ANIMALS FOR <i>FUTURE</i> REWILDING PROJECTS.
36.	01:07:18;10		DEREK GOW:

			Year on year you see these relationships getting stronger and you see the demand for animals like this rising significantly. And I think in that, that is great hope. All these things are tiny steps, but the tiny steps in the end that lead to the assemblage of a jigsaw, which even though it's got huge parts missing, starts to form a picture again.
37.	01:07:50;01	GRAPHIC: CREDITS	
38.	TRT: 01:08:35;00		OUT