

Rewilding the Community Forest Path

On my walk around the path it was very evident that the forest path has changed dramatically since it was created, with vast amounts of house building, as well as works related to Hinkley Point B diverting the path.

(coordinates found)



Although the name of the path refers to the Forest of Avon (a combination of trees and woodland in the wider area) rather than the abundance (or lack) of woodland en route, it would provide a myriad of benefits if it was rewilded.

What is Rewilding?

Rewilding Europe (a not-for-profit foundation) that operates a number of interconnected initiatives to help make Europe a wilder place states that "Rewilding is a progressive approach to conservation. It's about letting nature take care of itself, enabling natural processes to shape land and sea, repair damaged ecosystems and restore degraded landscapes. Through rewilding, wildlife's natural rhythms create wilder, more biodiverse habitats".



Richard Long, a renowned Bristol-based artist who makes art by walking in landscapes, completed the circuit in 1998 as part of one of his pieces.



The Community Forest Path is a 46-mile walking trail created with the Forest of Avon Trust in 1997 to encourage people out of the city and into the countryside around Bristol. The path is a circular route around Bristol that few people seem to know about. The route is signed and maintained by the Forest of Avon Trust.

The Community Forest Path

This ZINE is a gentle encouragement for you to discover the path for yourself (if you've not already done so) a record of a journey around the path starting during lockdown on two feet, a celebration of this amazing route two to four peddles and a train or two (hopefully) a resource for further adventures, rewilding, art and even kindness (to yourself, other people or the wider world)! a brief introduction to the Community Forest Path a call to those living on or near the path to take steps (however small) to help rewild it

How to rewild...

If you're lucky enough to have any amount of outside space there are things you can do to rewild it, including:

- ✓ Leave 'weeds' to grow
- ✗ Choose plants with wildlife in mind
- ✗ Avoid chemicals
- ✓ Create a wildlife pond or even a bucket
- ✓ Look at the soil (mulch with home-made compost)
- ✓ Let your grass grow (or at least cut it less often)

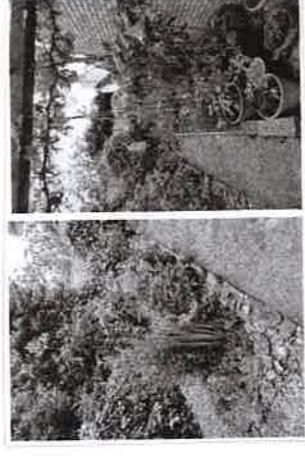
- ✓ Connect your garden with your neighbours to create wildlife corridors
- ✓ Create wildlife habitats (such as simple log piles or leaving areas alone)

Why Rewild?

Rewilding Britain outline the benefits of rewilding as:



- ✓ Helping wildlife adapt to climate change
- ✓ Drawing down carbon from the atmosphere



Improving our health and wellbeing (nearly 500,000 people live within the boundary of the path)



- ✓ Reversing biodiversity loss
- ✓ Supporting diversified economic opportunities



this zine was created by mossy margins

Rewilding Europe (<https://rewildingeurope.com/>) Richard Long (www.richardlong.org)

Thank you!

Forest of Avon Trust (<https://forestofavontrust.org>)

Rewilding Britain (www.rewildingbritain.org.uk) provide information on how to rewild your garden as well the rewilding network, where you can find local projects or get advice for your own project

Local Cycle Maps (<https://betterbybike.info/maps-and-guides/>)

www.sustrans.org.uk/national-cycle-network

OS Maps (available free from the library) and the OS Maps App, which also show Sustrans' National Cycle Network

Long Distance Walkers Association (www.ldwa.org.uk)

Other resources



