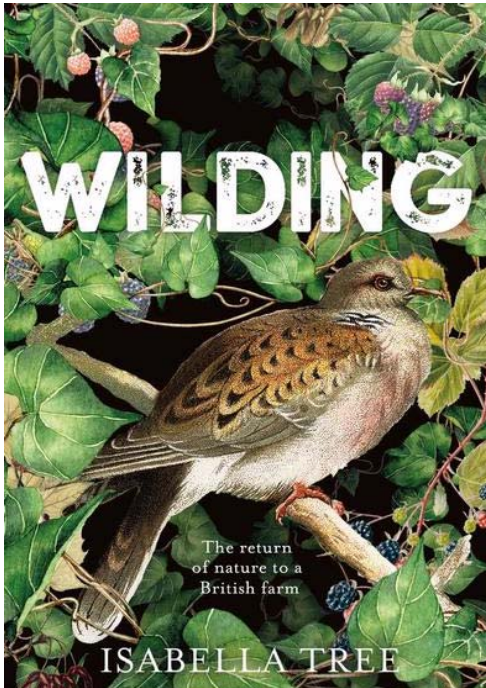


# The Literacy Lowdown: Wilding



A level geography students, remember, you should:

- undertake wider reading
- use factual texts, discursive / creative material

## Summary

Wilding is a fascinating book about the 'rewilding' of the Knepp estate, West Sussex, away from subsidy-reliant (and economically failing) intensive agriculture towards a more nature landscape.

The book is a proposed solution to our biodiversity crisis, sadly articulated by the demise of the beautiful turtle dove, which once numbered 250,000 in the 1960s but today only stands at 5,000 'now, at Christmas, when we sing of the gifts my true love gave to me, few carollers have ever heard a turtle dove, let alone seen one'.

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## Specification links

AQA 3.1.1.4. Adaptation – in agricultural systems, managing water supply, reducing risk.

Edexcel 3.3. The UK has its own variety of distinctive ecosystems that it relies on.

OCR 2.1.5. Threats to biodiversity and attempts to mitigate these through sustainable use.

Eduqas 5.4.3 How can ecosystems be managed sustainably?

## Key quotes

"The *State of Nature* report discovered that the UK has lost significantly more biodiversity over the long term than the world average. Ranked 29<sup>th</sup> lowest out of 218 countries, we are among the most nature-depleted countries in the world." (p7)

"Key to the recycling process are yet more fungi, this time visible and above ground – such as the edible and appropriately named chicken-of-the-woods and beefsteak fungus..." (p27)

"Having only isolated pockets that are rich with life – putting all your eggs in one basket – is a risky business. Wildlife hotspots can become species *sinks*." (p204)

"Feeding cattle on grain is expensive, carbon-demanding, and fraught with inefficiencies." (p251)

"This continuous lowering of standards and the acceptance of degraded natural ecosystems is known as *shifting baseline* syndrome." (p147)

"The origins or the Anthropocene continue to erasure and dissimulate violent histories of encounter, dispossession, and death in the geographical imagination." (p101)