

Nurturing Nature in the New Forest



Science – protecting habitats

The New Forest? Where's that?
It's a large area of protected woodland near the south coast in Hampshire that is famous for its herds of wild ponies.

The forest has National Park status and it is regularly patrolled by wardens to safeguard the landscape as well as the plants and animals.

Local people who live within the boundary of the New Forest National Park have to apply for permission if they want to make any changes to their homes, gardens, shops or villages. This might sound like a lot of bother, but most people are glad because it protects them from noise, pollution, high-rise buildings and overcrowding. Quite a lot of people even applied to have their homes included in the National Park!



Activity

The Eco-Traveller challenge

In this exercise, you'll make decisions to help preserve the New Forest.

Remember, it's important to attract tourists and visitors, but you must ensure that they don't spoil the countryside. You'll also need to try and help local people find jobs, but don't let them ruin the environment with anything noisy, smelly or harmful.

Case 1

Mrs Armstrong wants to paint her cottage. It's made of local stone and currently blends in well with the rest of the village, but she wants to brighten it up by painting it pink.

What do you think?

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Your decision:

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Case 2

Mr Henry wants to open a fish and chip shop to cater for locals and visitors. He will open at lunchtime and from 5pm to 11pm every evening. He has promised to dump his rubbish "somewhere the tourists won't see it".

What do you think?

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Your decision:

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Case 3

Mr Sandyman wants to open a kiosk where tourists can buy bags of chopped carrot and apple to help feed the New Forest ponies. He's thinking of selling sugar lumps and chocolate bars as special pony treats.

What do you think?

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Your decision:

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Case 4

Mrs Vine wants to open an exchange bookshop, where people can buy second-hand books, read them and then return them for a 50% refund. Every book gets recycled. She would also like to sell tea and homemade cakes to her customers.

What do you think?

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Your decision:

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Case 5

Mr Hughes wants to lease a small workshop in the village and hire four people to make hanging baskets that he can sell. He plans to fill them with flowers from the greenhouse at farmer Lindsey's farm. The wire is made in Southampton, but he'll bend it into shape and weld it.

What do you think?

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Your decision:

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How did you do?

Do you think your decisions would help to make the New Forest a safer place for wildlife? What effect would they have on local people? And what about visitors? Would they want to come back?

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