



NEWS DETECTIVES

TODAY'S NEWS STORY

New 'forest towns' made for people and nature

KEYWORDS

- ☐ **Forest:**
A large area of trees
- ☐ **Housebuilding:**
Creating new homes
- ☐ **Silicon Valley:**
A global technology centre in California
- ☐ **Green spaces:**
Outdoor areas with grass, trees and plants



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BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Many people say the UK needs to build more houses so that everyone in the country has a home, but there are fears about the environmental impact all this building could have. Forest towns aim to show that mass housebuilding doesn't have to damage the environment.

A town hidden in a **forest** might sound like something out of a fairytale, but it is actually part of a UK government plan to show how **housebuilding** and nature can work together.

Green vision

The new forest towns will be built in a national forest between Oxford and Cambridge. It is part of a wider plan to turn the region into "Europe's **Silicon Valley**".

According to the government, the new national forest will

create places to live and also **green spaces** for people working in the two cities to enjoy.

Point to prove

But there is also a larger point to prove. Activists say that mass housebuilding in the UK must not come at the expense of the environment.

The model aims to "use trees to essentially build communities and provide beautiful housing and beautiful locations for people," explains nature

minister Mary Creagh.

Next steps

The new homes in these towns will be just a 10-minute walk from the forest, giving their residents access to green spaces whenever they need to reconnect with nature.

And the plan doesn't stop there. It adds to a new Western Forest that was announced last year, and a competition to name a new forest in the north of England will be launched next year.





INVESTIGATION OF THE DAY

CAN PEOPLE LIVE ALONGSIDE NATURE?

WHICH
cities will the
new forest
benefit?

WHO
is the nature
minister?

WHERE
was a new forest
announced last
year?

WHEN
will a
competition
be launched?

WHY
are activists
concerned about
housebuilding?

HOW
far away will the
new towns be
from the forest?

1 TAKE ACTION

Even if you don't live in a forest town, there are things you can do to make your local area greener and more environmentally friendly. Take part in a group activity such as litter picking or tree planting to transform your community!



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2 SHARE YOUR IDEAS

What have you found out in your investigation? Write, present or even record a piece about your green activism. Share what you've learned with your family and friends. What do they think? We want to hear your ideas too! Your teacher can share your reports with us too by sending them to editorial@theday.co.uk.

3 Build THE Change



CREATE YOUR DESIGN

Imagine that the government has asked you to design one of its new forest towns. What would you do to minimise its environmental impact and make it a beautiful place to live?

STEP 1:

Think about your design! What materials would the buildings use? How would it exist in harmony with nature?

STEP 2: Build the change!

Create your design. Use LEGO® bricks or household materials to create a model of your forest town.

Share your genius
Show your work
to your class!



Upload a photo of your work to the **Build the Change** gallery by scanning the QR code and have your work displayed to inspire real-world change.

4 BUILDER OF THE WEEK

Every week we handpick one of the most inspirational designs from our online photo gallery to be our **BUILDER OF THE WEEK**. To get your creation featured here, ask your grown up to take a photograph and upload it to our Build the Change gallery, using the QR code on this page.



This week we have an island dying because of the lack of trees.

"GREAT WORK!"



This worksheet is available every Tuesday at 6:30am London time from <https://theday.co.uk/resources/news-detectives>.
For any feedback or help please contact buildthechange@theday.co.uk. Thank you.

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