

EXTRA EXTRA!

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Forest towns plan aims to bring nature home

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A new set of forest towns will be built in the area between Oxford and Cambridge, nestled in the middle of a new national forest.

Ministers want to demonstrate that mass housebuilding can be delivered alongside new nature. The government has promised to plant millions of trees to boost England's nature.

Nature minister Mary Creagh said that the aim was to "bring nature closer to people, green jobs closer to these new communities and help us tackle climate change."

"It's about creating places and spaces where generations of people are going to build a home, make their families," she added.

The government wants the region to be "Europe's Silicon Valley". The new national forest is supposed to give those who live and work in the area green spaces to enjoy. It will be connected to existing cities by rail links.

It could show how governments and developers can work together to build communities and beautiful housing without damaging the environment. Some people think that the plan could



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be essential for the UK's economic growth, adding £78 billion to the economy by 2035.

The homes will be a 10-minute walk from the forest, while another national forest will be planted in the north of England. A competition will be launched early next year to name the forest.

In March, the government also announced the Western Forest, which was the first new national forest in three decades. It will stretch from the Cotswolds to the Mendips in the West of England.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs says that planting trees across Britain could also result in over 14,000 jobs being created.

The environment secretary, Emma Reynolds, said: "Our woodlands are vital for regulating our climate, supporting wildlife, and increasing access to nature for us all."

More details are expected next year about how the government will spend the £1 billion that it has promised for tree planting in the next five years.

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Answer to Find the truth. True! Houses are responsible for 40% of global carbon emissions. Read [more here](#).



CHECK YOUR FACTS

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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?
ANSWER: Oxford and Cambridge	ANSWER: Mary Creagh	ANSWER: West England	ANSWER: 2026	ANSWER: It could damage the environment	ANSWER: 10 minutes



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