

Eco-towns

Warmup

1. Say what you think an eco-town is.

Zoom in

Whole document (MUTE)

2. List the first shots that you see in the split screen.

a. A field with a pond and some birds on it.	b. A field with crops, and a town and a factory in the background.
c. A group of protesters.	d. An aerial shot of a large field or runway in the countryside.

3. What are the people in 2c. doing? Explain what you think this film is about.

The people are protesting against something.

4. Complete the sentence with the following words: full • field • reporter • airfield • long.

When the fourth shot is shown to **full** size, the viewer realises it is an **airfield**. This is followed by a **long** shot of a **reporter** in a **field**.

Whole document

5. Details about the place.

- a. Town: **Leicester**
- b. Types of land: **brownfield + farmland**
- c. Owner of some of the land: **The Co-op**

6. Take down the numbers and say what they refer to.

- a. 10: **number of eco-town sites** that will be chosen by the **government**
- b. 60: **number of eco-town sites under consideration**
- c. 4,000 : acres of **farmland owned by the Co-op there**
- d. 15,000: new **environmentally-friendly** homes proposed.

7. Complete the sentence that explains the government's intentions.
"They are a **green** solution to our **housing** crisis."

8. How do the people react?

The people are unhappy: they are taking to the streets. They are shouting and holding signs to express their disapproval.

9. Look at the pictures of Little Stretton. How is the village presented?

It looks like a typical, quiet country village, with a church, flowers and a country atmosphere. It is almost an idealised village.

10. Underline three words that are stressed by the journalist.

"They fear being swamped by thousands of new homes on their doorstep."

→ "Swamped" is **negative**. positive. Give a synonym: **invaded, covered, drowned** .

11. Tick the suitable adjectives to describe the two villagers' feelings.

Worried. Confident. **Calm**. Happy. Mad. **Stunned** (*abasourdi*).

→ Justify your choices with words you heard.

Both of them seem to be stunned by the "madness" of the project. The woman looks really worried. But both villagers seems to be quite calm as they are hoping to "wake up".

12. Environmentalists. True or false?

a. Eco-towns appeal to environmentalists. **True**. False.

→ **Many environmentalists like the idea of eco towns,**

b. They think eco-towns should be built in the countryside. True. **False**.

→ **If you build your developments out in the middle of the countryside, it's much harder to make your community sustainable.**

13. "What you end up with, essentially, is a well-heeled commuter belt."

→ The environmentalist thinks eco-towns may become:

Suburbs for wealthy people who work in a big town.

Lively communities in which people work locally.

14. a. How many new houses are needed in Britain? **3 million**

b. Will they all be in eco-towns? Yes. **No**. → "Just a **fraction**".

Look back

15. Do you think this report is objective? Explain your answer.

The journalist presents the exact facts and figures, but most of the images show how calm and green the village is. The report shows protesters and demonstrators, then interviews of villagers and an environmentalist, but nobody from the government. As a result, viewers will probably feel a little sorry for the villagers... without understanding what an eco-town will actually be.