

Conservation Scenario Cards



Conservation Debate Cards

The Farmer

You are a farmer who wants to use certain insecticides on their crops. The use of these insecticides increases food production by removing other plants that take the necessary resources needed for the crops to grow. You want to be allowed to use the insecticide DDT.



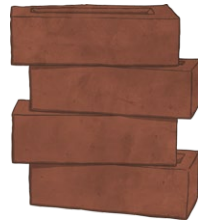
Pros: increased food production and healthy crops.

Cons: the insecticide DDT has been responsible for a large reduction in bird numbers and high levels have been found in birds of prey.

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The Builder

You are a builder that is aware of the government targets to build 240,000 new houses every year. There is huge pressure to keep up with the demand. People are living longer and the population continues to grow. New houses need a lot of space. Floodplain land is the cheapest land to build on, but you don't want people to know that when they buy their new home. You want to buy more wetland, floodplain and farmland areas to build on.



Pros: new houses are built.

Cons: houses built on floodplain land are likely to flood, especially with climate change; loss of birds and wildlife as fields and wastelands are built on.

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The Conservationist

You are an active member of the RSPB – The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. You count birds on a regular basis, interpret data regarding the numbers of birds and are involved in ringing and recording information about birds decreasing in numbers, particularly the yellow wagtail which lives in farmland and wetland areas and has suffered a 45% drop in numbers since 1995. The number of grey partridges, another farmland bird, has dropped by 53% since 1995. You want to stop the farmers using insecticides and the builders buying up wetland areas to build on.



Pros: protecting the birds and other wildlife and areas of conservation.

Cons: conserving a lot of land that could be used for housing or further farmland.

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The Local Member of Parliament (MP)

You are aware that there needs to be more housing built in the next five years, and that the biggest problem is getting hold of the land needed to build on. There are 1.8 million people who are on the waiting list for social housing. There are many rules about what type of land can be bought and sold, but if those rules about planning permission were 'relaxed' it would make it easier for building developers to buy the land and build more houses.

Pros: more land could be sold for building houses.

Cons: loss of green belt areas of conservation land; loss of bird and other wildlife habitats; houses built on floodplains.



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Chairman of the National Trust

As the Chairman of the National Trust, you are aware of the importance of looking after nature and that changing the planning permission of rules for more farming or building will sweep away decades of protection for the countryside. There is also the fear that local MPs will destroy environmental projects by allowing new building regulations.

You will argue that there needs to be sustainable development and housing should be built without an increased threat to nature.

Pros: continued protection for animals, green belt areas and wildlife.

Cons: less available areas for housing.

