

## Fforest Fawr Geopark

1. What is the appeal of the Fforest Fawr Geopark to tourists?
2. How can the impacts of tourism be managed?
3. What else is being done (to promote sustainable tourism)?
4. How can the Geopark be accessed?
5. Activities
6. Evidence Logs

### TAB 1

**QUESTION – What is the appeal of Fforest Fawr Geopark to tourists?**





Compare your score other groups. Can you think of three ways in which you could improve the video?

### **EVIDENCE LOG 1 – The Fforest Fawr Geopark**

The link below provides questions and answers about the Fforest Fawr Geopark.

<http://www.fforestfawrgeopark.org.uk/about/frequently-asked-questions/>

Using the link above, add your own answers to the questions on the Evidence Log. For each answer, you should write one sentence of 12 words or less.

### **INFORMATION**

Many countries have now established National Parks, which are areas in which the landscape is protected and is preserved for tourism and recreation. Geoparks focus more on protecting the geology of the area and promoting understanding of the rocks that make up the landscape.

The link below will provide further information about the Geoparks idea.

<http://www.fforestfawrgeopark.org.uk/about/european-geoparks-network/>

It is important to understand that most visitors (tourists and local people) visit the area to find peace and quiet in their leisure time as well as to appreciate the landscape. That's why the area is marketed with the slogan: '***The biggest attraction of the Geopark is the landscape itself.***'

Information about enjoying the Fforest Fawr Geopark is found at the link below. Remember that the Geopark is a relatively recent development, so more information may be added in the future.

<http://www.fforestfawrgeopark.org.uk/enjoying>

### **EVIDENCE LOG 2 - Planning a day visit to the Geopark**

The link below gives further information about possible activities in different parts of the Fforest Fawr Geopark. This will be particularly for people living in the surrounding area who wish to spend a day in the Geopark.

Using the link:

<http://www.fforestfawrgeopark.org.uk/enjoying/places-to-go>

Choose **three** of the areas identified and produce itineraries for a day visit to the Geopark, possibly starting from your home area. Use the grid provided on the Evidence Log as a guide for recording your work.

## **TAB 2**

**QUESTION – How can the impacts of tourism be managed?**







**Can you think of any development or tourist activity in your local area that does / doesn't match the criteria set out in the definition above?  
Discuss in your groups.**

## **INFORMATION**

Being part of the Brecon Beacons National Park, the Geopark has to follow and agree to the idea of supporting sustainable tourism. The Brecon Beacons National Park has worked with the other National Parks in Wales, (Pembrokeshire Coast and Snowdonia) to agree a common strategy towards sustainable tourism.

The 'Position Statement' document found at ([http://www.nationalparks.gov.uk/sustainable\\_tourism\\_position\\_statement.pdf](http://www.nationalparks.gov.uk/sustainable_tourism_position_statement.pdf)) mentions four principal factors driving the development of genuinely sustainable tourism within National Parks:

- 1. To reduce the loss of tranquillity, environmental erosion and pressure on the man-made infrastructure that was originally built for small populations.***
- 2. To resolve transportation problems – carbon emissions from vehicles, disturbance or damage caused by numbers of vehicles exceeding the capacity of specific locations, parking issues, charging for access or parking, lack of access by public transport in many areas.***
- 3. To reduce the negative impacts of large-scale development, including disturbance to local communities, loss of local services and the leakage of funding away from small-scale local operators to support large-scale developments.***
- 4. To resolve conflicts, real or perceived, between the National Park purposes and tourism-related activities. The nature of open country and coastal tourism makes certain activities very hard to manage directly. To be sustainable, the capacity of an area to maintain an activity needs to be given suitable consideration by tourism and activity companies.***

## **EVIDENCE LOG 3 - Re-writing the 4 factors**

Re-write the four factors above into simple statements. Record your statements on the Evidence Log.

### **TAB 3**

**QUESTION – What else is being done (to promote sustainable tourism?)**

In your groups, look again at the developments that you have labelled 'unlikely' or 'not possible'. Discuss the obstacles that, you feel, would prevent these developments from going ahead.

Can you suggest additional ideas for proposed developments?



### **INFORMATION**

New technologies have provided travel and tourism organisations with many new ways of informing and communicating with their customers. The latest smart phones and other devices allow tourists to receive information while they are visiting an attraction or taking part in an activity.

The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority has developed a range of ways in which information can be provided to visitors through their website. These include:

- Podcasts
- Audio Trails

- Web cams
- Park Explorer

In particular, the Park Explorer is a very important development, since accurate maps and up-to-date information can be received by visitors on to smart phones, i-pads etc.

Information about these developments can be found at the link below.

<http://www.breconbeacons.org/visit-us/outdoors-activities/audio-trails>

### **EVIDENCE LOG 4 – Communicating with visitors**

Investigate the four ways of communicating with visitors mentioned above. For each, identify the advantages they provide for visitors and suggest what the potential problems might be and record your comments on the Evidence Log.

## **TAB 4**

**QUESTION – How can the Geopark be accessed?**



### **INFORMATION**

The Fforest Fawr Geopark is located in central South Wales and forms the western half of the Brecon Beacons National Park. As you will have seen, there is very little development within the Geopark and tourist accommodation

is limited. Surveys undertaken by the Brecon Beacons National Park indicate that most visitors are made by people who live fairly close to the Geopark.

The link below gives information about how visitors can get to the Geopark.

<http://www.fforestfawrgeopark.org.uk/where-is-the-geopark>

### **EVIDENCE LOG 5 – Getting to the Geopark**

Complete the table on the Evidence Log by thinking about the advantages and disadvantages of getting to the Geopark by each of the four types of transport mentioned. Use the links provided in this unit for more information. For each type of transport think about the impacts it has and the principles of sustainable tourism.