

## Lesson 1 assignment: investigating a rural sense of place

Read the following extract.

### Rural Landscapes of the UK

A useful framework for studying different kinds of rural place was designed in the 1990s by a team of UK geographers led by Terry Marsden. They identified four 'typical' rural landscapes for the UK.

*Preserved countryside* Typical of the English lowlands (including large areas of Surrey and Kent) and more accessible upland areas such as the Lake District, this type of rural landscape is characterised by 'preservationist' attitudes as expressed by mainly middle-class incomers who almost totally dominate areas that they perceive to be rich in natural and/or cultural heritage. Any proposed new development that threatens the 'chocolate-box' image of the area is likely to be challenged by migrant home-owners who use the local political planning system to preserve the rural landscape from new changes.

*Contested countryside* In areas just out of reach of the metropolitan commuting zone, farmers and industrial development interests may still exercise a high degree of power, especially if the landscape lacks special environmental quality. However, these remoter rural areas are also starting to receive larger numbers of in-migrants (thanks in part to the general availability of work-from-home broadband internet access). Many of these incomers will want to see the countryside preserved as a wilderness, while farmers instead want a working productive landscape – and as a result conflicts may arise. Parts of Yorkshire fit this profile (notably areas where villages were abandoned to make way for reservoirs).

*Paternalistic countryside* This term describes rural landscapes where the 'paternal' power of old (occasionally but not necessarily aristocratic) estate owners and large farms has gone almost entirely unchallenged. However, in the face of falling estate incomes, some major land-owners are now actively seeking to implement new diversification opportunities, such as hunting trips, with a view towards economically sustainable long-term estate management. Because such areas often have not experienced large-scale in-migration, it may be possible to maintain a sense of wilderness. Scotland's Isle of Jura fits this profile well, where the Ardlussa estate offers tourists a deer stalking opportunity at '£475 per stag'. (see [www.ardlussaestate.com/](http://www.ardlussaestate.com/))

*Clientilistic countryside* In some of the UK's most remote rural areas, economic activity simply cannot take place without state support. Counterurbanisation has brought few incomers here. Tourism brings limited revenues due to remoteness, inaccessibility and poor climate in these often out-lying areas. Local politics are dominated by concerns for employment and the sustainability of the community. People have become highly dependent (as 'clients') on government grants and subsidies. These are features of life for many fringe areas of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland and parts of mid-Wales.

### Questions for discussion

1. Which of these four types of rural place do you think is most likely to meet the expectations of migrants from cities, and why?
2. How might the framework shown help you structure an answer to the following exam question?

*Examine the consequences of counterurbanisation for rural areas and communities. (10 marks)*