



Isle of Flight

When are white-tailed eagles being reintroduced?

- The government says white-tailed eagles will be reintroduced this summer to the Isle of Wight.
- This is the first time this bird will be seen in the wild there since 1780!

Photo: Sea eagles are coming to England.

White-Tailed Eagle Coming to Island

Every year, hundreds of holidaymakers flock to the Isle of Wight. Now there's something else they'll be able to see: white-tailed eagles — the UK's largest bird of prey.

They've not been seen on the island since 1780! But the government says white-tailed eagles will be returning this summer.

The white-tailed eagle is also known as the sea eagle. It mainly eats fish but it is also feeds on other birds, rabbits and hares.

While **conservationists** are excited, farmers are worried. The National Sheep Association says that white-tailed eagles will hunt their sheep.

The farmers say this will affect the **livelihood** of sheep farmers on the island. It says that with their large wingspans the birds will be able to take sheep and other animals.

By contrast, the government said in a statement that "there is no evidence" of sea eagles hunting sheep "becoming a problem".

The white-tailed eagle has had a **turbulent** history during the last three centuries. By 1800, though, the white-tailed eagle had

become extinct in England and in 1918, the last one was killed in Shetland.

The eagle was reintroduced to the Isle of Rum, Scotland in 1975. There are now over 100 breeding pairs living in **eyries** across Scotland.

This summer, young eagles will be moved from Scotland to the island. Over the next five years, 60 white-tailed eagles will be brought to the Isle of Wight.

The eagles will be brought from Scotland to their new home on the island.

Glossary

conservationists	People who try to protect wildlife.
livelihood	How people make their money.
turbulent	Not calm or stable.
eyries	Large nests of eagles or other birds of prey.

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Questions

1. Where was the white-tailed eagle first reintroduced in the UK?

2. Why are farmers worried about the white-tailed eagle being reintroduced?

3. How do you think hotel owners will react to this news? Explain your answer.

4. Why do you think conservationists are so excited?

5. Find a word which means there are no longer any living animals or plants in a species.

6. Has reintroducing sea eagles been successful in Scotland? Explain your answer.

7. Summarise the story in 15 words or fewer.

Answers

1. Where was the white-tailed eagle first reintroduced in the UK?
The Isle of Rum, Scotland
2. Why are farmers worried about the white-tailed eagle being reintroduced?
They think the white-tailed eagles will hunt their sheep.
3. How do you think hotel owners will react to this news? Explain your answer.
Accept any reasonable answer which refers to the story, e.g. I think they will be really excited because lots of people will want to visit the Isle of Wight and stay in their hotels because of the white-tailed eagles.
4. Why do you think conservationists are so excited?
Accept any reasonable answer which refers to the story, e.g. I think they are so excited because white-tailed eagles have not been seen on the Isle of Wight since 1780.
5. Find a word which means there are no longer any living animals or plants in a species.
extinct
6. Has reintroducing sea eagles been successful in Scotland? Explain your answer.
Accept any reasonable answer which refers to the story, e.g. I think it has been successful because there are now 100 breeding pairs in Scotland.
7. Summarise the story in 15 words or fewer.
Accept any reasonable summary that is 15 words or fewer, e.g. White-tailed eagles are coming to the Isle of Wight but farmers are worried.