

Food miles

In Britain, what is described as 'food miles', the distance which food is transported from the place where it is grown to its point of sale, continues to rise. This has major (0) *economic*, social and environmental consequences, given the traffic congestion and pollution which (16) *invariably* follow.

**ECONOMY
VARIABLE**

According to (17) *pressure* groups, the same amount of food is travelling 50 per cent further than twenty years ago. What's more, the rise in the demand for road haulage over this period has mostly been due to the transport of food and drink. The groups assert that the increase in the number of lorry journeys is (18) *excessive* and that many of these are far from (19) *essential*.

PRESS

**EXCEED
ESSENCE**

In the distribution systems employed by British food (20) *retailers*, fleets of lorries bring all goods into more (21) *centrally* located warehouses for redistribution across the country. (22) *Illogical* as this might appear, the situation whereby some goods get sent back to the same areas from which they came is (23) *unavoidable*.

**RETAIL
CENTRE
LOGIC**

AVOID

In response to scathing (24) *criticism* from environmentalists, some food distributors now aim to minimise the impact of food miles by routing vehicles, wherever possible, on motorways after dark. This encourages greater energy (25) *efficiency* whilst also reducing the impact on the residential areas through which they would otherwise pass.

CRITIC

EFFICIENT