



UNENDANGERED SPECIES

Follow me, please. Stay in line. Thank you. Please have your tickets ready. Yes, you too, Sir. All of you with green badges, follow me. Yes, Sir, that badge looks very green to me. You're in my group.

First of all, thank you for coming. I hope you'll find today's tour interesting. It's been specially designed for those of you with an interest in the era. Early Twenty-First Century Social Stereotypes. Of course, we'll have to do a whistle-stop tour because we're a little pushed for time and we have a massive amount of species to be covered; I believe that next on your schedule is early Space Travel and First Contact? But that's not my field. Someone else will take you.

In the first cage on the left then, Ladies and Gentlemen, you'll find White Van Man. An opinionated yet usually ill-informed commentator on occurrences relevant to the time. Note his gobbiness as he rolls down the window and spouts forth.

In the enclosure opposite is Fashion Victim. Easily recognised by addiction to handbags and shoes in a large variety of colours, but also prone to serious lapses in taste. Next – sorry, Madam, we really have to push on – is Harassed Mum. The species is identified by its habit of driving uncommonly messy vehicles to ferry multiple children to and from school and after-school activities.

Opposite, we have Soap and Reality TV Addicts. No point trying to attract their attention, they won't be lured away from the screen. No, sweetheart, you're not allowed to feed them. They've got their own junk food.

Moving on, please observe High Achiever. This particular specimen is always in a hurry and can reach a top speed of 9mph on foot when late for an important meeting! There are several sub-genres of the species, the Ones with Important Jobs, including bankers, lawyers, to mention but a few...

Yes, I'm sorry, but we do have to press on. In the next cage on the right...

No, Madam, that house isn't included in the tour. The enclosures need renewing, we have so many species in there. And it's – how shall I say – not that, um, uplifting. Oh, I don't want to say. Well... you're very persistent, aren't you? All right, step aside with me, I'll tell you quietly. In there, we have Domestic Abuse Victim. You can tell by the purple and blue skin tones. Child Cancer Sufferer. But we don't like to put them on display. Pub Fight Victim. Rape Survivor. Aids Orphan. Yes, sadly all of the same era. No, Madam, please don't take photographs. If I could ask you over here to rejoin the rest of the tour...

Really, Madam. I'm sure that can't be of any interest to you.

If I could have your attention please... before we go on to the next enclosure, would anyone like some refreshments?