



Our vision for land use in England

Purpose of this consultation

A long-term view of land use change

What we mean by land use change

1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with our assessment of the scale and type of land use change needed, as set out in this consultation and the Analytical Annex?

Strongly agree

Please explain your answer:

In principle we agree with the plan to change land use, but the proportion of land that is allocated to multi use – both environmental and food production should be significantly larger. Arable and grassland farming should incorporate environmentally farming techniques as a matter of course.

Education should be broadened to ensure land managers are aware of the management of trees within the farmed environment, ie, no ploughing or cultivating within the drip line

The framework should be used to inform decisions about land use change. The finalised Land Use Framework needs to show how the Government will meet 30by30. The scale of land use change proposed in this Consultation and its Analytical Annex fall far short of meeting this international commitment. Without additional policies, the UK may have to accept that they have only protected 15-23% of England for nature – and likely even less than this by the deadline of 2030.

Land management change (category 1) should also be within scope. If agricultural land is managed in different ways, it has the capacity to hold more water, lock up more carbon and do more for nature, whilst still being productive. Without this climate change targets are not going to be met.

Principles: Taking a spatial approach

2 Do you agree or disagree with the land use principles proposed?

Strongly agree

Please explain your answer:

1:important but no reason for delay. Potential conflict needs to be acknowledged & dealt with. More appropriate to be consultation but design itself to be written by a smaller group of people, taking into account the data collected

2:Land cannot do everything, the nuances in understanding what the land is capable of & its best use in relation to sustainable food production & nature recovery are key. Some needs to be protected to allow for more vulnerable species & habitats

3:Crucial-links to the above point. Strengths for each bit of land to be decided with the the farmers, conservationists & ecologists. The strengths will differ to different people so needs to be an understanding of the true land capability recognising its role in the climate change and food production scenario

4:essential-beyond the length of any individual parliament needing cross parliamentary agreement

5:It must be adaptable to changing environmental or political circumstances

How the parameters & the weighting of the principles is determined & the final decision maker needs to be clear. It's implementation practical & robust.

The approach must be linked to LNRS & incentivised to enable land managers to meet targets for nature recovery and food production

3 Beyond Government departments in England, which other decision makers do you think would benefit from applying these principles?

Combined and local authorities (including local planning authorities)

Please explain your answer:

These principles should apply to any body involved in land management and use.

Particularly - highways and land management service departments within local authorities.

- and housing services within local authorities who manage land around housing stock.

Forestry Commission should also be part of the decision making process.

It needs to be clear what weight these principles have within the decision-making process. They should be front and foremost.

The wider community input to these decisions is key to the long term acceptance and agreement of what happens to land. (The community being those living within the area and are affected by the land use changes.)

Not Answered

Please explain your answer:

Bodies such as NFU and CLA need to be aware of how to assess land capability and be able to inform their members, with particular attention to regenerative land management techniques rather than the more conventional farming/land management methods used over the last 50 years.

Others (please specify)

Please explain your answer:

The managers of public spaces such as parks and gardens.

Schools and education authorities

Publicly owned housing stock managers with land area around the buildings.

Making the best use of land

4 What are the policies, incentives and other changes that are needed to support decision makers in the agricultural sector to deliver this scale of land use change, while considering the importance of food production?

Please explain your answer:

- Long term (5 years minimum) stability in schemes to enable farmers to plan and make changes to their farming practices

- Set up support to enable farmers to transition to nature friendly farming methods.

- Supermarkets to pay real cost of production, including environmental impact of production

- Enhancing payment rates for the mixed farming operations and farming without chemicals

- Better resourcing regulators like Natural England and the Environment Agency to enforce existing regulations (e.g. Farming Rules for Water; SSSI protections), carry out more frequent and comprehensive monitoring, and deliver more on-farm advice

- Information for farmers, with data re. changing farming practices to reduce artificial inputs and move to more regenerative ag; directly or via farming advisers and farming bodies such as FWAG, NFU, CLA. Where local authorities still own farms -to be included
- Where does the responsibility lie for delivery of the plan- national, local or individual?
- Consistency in approach from Government. Eg many additional features/options were added to the SFI programme, only to have the scheme close with no notice. Payments need to be available to enable farmers to change land practices and to make a living

Making the best use of land

5 How could Government support more land managers to implement multifunctional land uses that deliver a wider range of benefits, such as agroforestry systems with trees within pasture or arable fields?

Please explain your answer:

- There are three levers – money, regulation and knowledge
- Broadening the knowledge base to ensure the best understanding is “on the ground” when putting into place changing farming practices
- Ensuring farmers and land managers are suitably rewarded for making the transition to multifunctional land use, being nature friendly farming delivering a wide range of benefits
- Long term (5 years minimum) stability in schemes and appropriate level funding to enable farmers to plan and make changes to their farming practices
- Setting up a process/scheme to enable farmers to transition to more nature friendly farming methods
- Supermarkets to pay real cost of production, including environmental impact of the crop production
- Enhancing payment rates for the mixed farming operations, rather than mono cropping
- Enhanced payments for farming without chemicals

6 What should the Government consider in identifying suitable locations for spatially targeted incentives?

Please explain your answer:

- Land capacity to deliver for nature and climate and food
- Vulnerability of certain land types
- Habitat types and habitat connectivity to maintain and enhance
- Understanding the competing demands for the land concerned
- Local input to the spatial planning
- Local Hydrology and Geology

7 What approach(es) could most effectively support land managers and the agricultural sector to steer land use changes to where they can deliver greater potential benefits and lower trade-offs?

Please explain your answer:

- Targeted advice and support
- Targeted funding
- Education and training for land managers
- Joined up thinking and planning across all departments – led from Treasury and covering all sectors of our community
- Retail sector involvement in helping promote more beneficial land management systems

8 In addition to promoting multifunctional land uses and spatially targeting land use change incentives, what more could be done by Government or others to reduce the risk that we displace more food production and environmental impacts abroad?

Not Answered

Please explain your answer:

- Monitoring is more of a health check. The awareness of what the land is capable of needs to be at the forefront of decision making

Not Answered

Please explain your answer:

- How is displaced food production impact assessed in a world marketplace? It is agreed that our impacts should not just be exported to another country, so the wider impacts of food production should be factored into the costs paid for food brought into the country.

Not Answered

Please explain your answer:

- This is already in place, however, agricultural production on this land should still be using nature friendly farming methods

Not Answered

Please explain your answer:

• Higher market value should be given to the greater biodiversity enhancement. Biodiversity and nature recovery should have an equivalent value to food production, because it does enhance people's health and wellbeing as well as diversity. It is not a free gift and this needs to be recognised financially.

Making the best use of land

9 What should Government consider in increasing private investment towards appropriate land use changes?

Please explain your answer:

- Stability in the sector is critical to encouraging investors into the marketplace
- Governance of the different areas – carbon trading, nature bonds – needs to be in place and trusted
- Consistency of application once the governance has been established - this needs to be cross party agreement, however, the governance structure remains unclear. This needs to be developed and published.
- The private financing of this sector should be seen as a bonus, not primary source right now. It is not established well enough to enable the targets to be met. Therefore, Government funding at this stage is crucial.

Making the best use of land

10 What changes are needed to accelerate 30by30 delivery, including by enabling Protected Landscapes to contribute more?

Not Answered

Please explain your answer:

- * strongly agree with this statement.
- * Protected Landscapes have shown to have the knowledge and ability to effect change within the land management community. This should be enhanced and developed.

Not Answered

Please explain your answer:

- * this should go be a given already

Not Answered

Please explain your answer:

- * Schemes such as Farming in Protected Landscapes have been well targeted and have given land managers the confidence to invest in their businesses.
- * the FiPL scheme, whilst focussing on protected landscapes, could be given the authority to extend beyond their boundaries to enable farmers outside protected areas to benefit from the focussed advice and support

Not Answered

Please explain your answer:

Defra, EA, NE all need to speak with one voice. There is too much silo mentality and not enough joined up thinking. Update the statutory purposes of all public bodies to include nature recovery

The importance of mobilising private capital is highlighted for "nature-based solutions" to meet the UK's climate and nature goals, including a "greater role" for nature markets. For the framework to attract the funding needed to succeed there must be a loud voice coming from businesses that depend on nature

It will fail to drive sufficient capital if deals with businesses/land interests are based on biodiversity credits. These can drive funding towards distant projects rather than specific nature-based outcomes within business supply chains. Businesses need to see that nature loss is a barrier for growth right now and act on its recovery

The consultation insists "a thriving natural environment and stable climate are the foundations of our economy and are essential to food security and profitable farm businesses", and acknowledges the role of nature in sequestering carbon, reducing flood risk and supporting wildlife. Yet nature does not often provide a significant financial income or security for the landowner, manager or business(es).

Making the best use of land

11 What approaches could cost-effectively support nature and food production in urban landscapes and on land managed for recreation?

Please explain your answer:

- Community groups should be able to access the advice and funding
- The support given should be relevant to the potential quantity of food produced and the health benefits to the wider community gained
- The potential to grow within garden setting should be investigated
- Greater support to rent or buy peri-urban land for community lead food production

Making the best use of land

Making the best use of land

12 How can Government ensure that development and infrastructure spatial plans take advantage of potential co-benefits and manage trade-offs?

Please explain your answer:

- By taking into consideration all the above comments in earlier questions
- Listening to local community needs and interests
- By designating and treating some green and blue infrastructure as Nationally Significant Infrastructure

Making the best use of land

13 How can local authorities and Government better take account of land use opportunities in transport planning?

Please explain your answer:

- Local communities need to be involved in the decision-making process, for example, including locations for allotments close to transport facilities
- Food growing needs to be close to accessible neighbourhoods
- Providing safe active transport routes alongside country lands on field edges
- Integrating the transport networks with the spatial mapping for nature recovery and planning
- Transport networks (road, rail, waterways) can also be developed as habitat corridors enhancing the nature links

Making the best use of land

14 How can Government support closer coordination across plans and strategies for different sectors and outcomes at the local and regional level?

Please explain your answer:

- The departments within the government need to join up and have a consistent message, demonstrating they are supporting and listening to the grass roots voices from the local communities
- Local accountability is imperative to decision making processes
- Create statutory provision for having regard to strategies
- Require the framework to be used consistently

Making the best use of land

15 Would including additional major landowners and land managers in the Adaptation Reporting Power process (see above) support adaptation knowledge sharing? Please give any reasons or alternative suggestions in the text box below.

Yes

Please explain your answer:

- Our view is that the Adaptation Reporting Power should include all major landowners but also include landowners within strategically important areas e.g. protected landscapes and significant areas identified within the Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

16 Below is a list of activities the Government could implement to support landowners, land managers, and communities to understand and prepare for the impacts of climate change.

Please explain your answer:

- ☐ Providing better information
 - * this has to be in a form that people can understand and have time to digest and implement
- ☐ Providing improved tools
 - * again it has to be in a usable format that farmers and land managers can implement
- ☐ Developing and sharing clearer objectives and resilience standards
 - * good practice sharing is always beneficial and in a format that people can interpret for their own scenario
- ☐ Supporting the right actions in the right places
 - * this should be a given but who makes the decision that it is the right action in the right place?
- ☐ Other (please specify)
 - * providing in person support and advice, (such as with the FiPL scheme)
 - * Providing a specific and targeted Adaptation Programme fund, that can be used to secure land use change and Adaptation activity. This fund could be administered by Regional Strategic or Combined Authorities

Making the best use of land

17 What changes to how Government's spatial data is presented or shared could increase its value in decision making and make it more accessible?

Not Answered

Please explain your answer:

* yes always good to be as up to date as possible. The Government should focus on releasing more spatial data as Open Data – which can then be used by citizens, civil society groups and start-ups to create user-friendly tools, apps, online maps

Not Answered

Please explain your answer:

* what is the cost to this option? Who would pay? The potential for inconsistency across different local authorities becomes greater if adequate funding is not provided to implement effectively.

And who decides which tool is best if going out to private sector?

Not Answered

Please explain your answer:

* There is a clear public interest in joining them together and a clear set of user cases for doing so. For example, being able to accurately map corporate landholdings could:

Make it easier for Landscape Recovery projects to identify neighbouring landowners and collaborate on bids;

Aid Local Authorities when drawing up Local Nature Recovery Strategies;

Help with projects to reduce flood risk and clean up water pollution by identifying the location of land owned by water firms and other companies who could change their land management practices to do so.

Not Answered

I feel this way because:

* yes, but if the point above was implemented well this would not be needed

Not Answered

Please explain your answer:

* this should be more explanation AND support

Not Answered

Please explain your answer:

* Yes but if the tool used is good this will be covered anyway

Not Answered

Please explain your answer:

* it is important to know how these decisions are being taken and by whom, to ensure they are relevant and understandable to the farmer undertaking the land management changes

It may prove difficult to reconcile different opinions. While many of the interested parties are focused on setting land aside for nature, farmers are insistent that agricultural production should not suffer. If there is no nature, there is no food and there are no other uses of land. The government need to recognise the importance of nature as a foundation for growth.

18 What improvements could be made to how spatial data is captured, managed, or used to support land use decisions in the following sectors?

Not Answered

Please explain your answer:

* the environmental survey data is the foundation to enabling realistic planning to be put in place, to ensure environmental damage is minimised.

Currently environmental data is not consistent across different local authorities

* The Government should also fund Local Environmental Records Centres (LERCs) so that they can make it open and more useful to everyone. LERCs hold detailed species and habitat data that would be significantly beneficial to a wider audience. Having greater public access to local environmental records, built up by naturalists over a century or more would enable informed decisions over changes to land use.

Not Answered

Please explain your answer:

* the data is currently very inaccessible and difficult to process for the average farmer. It needs to be more readily available and produced in a format that can be translated into actions on the ground

Not Answered

Please explain your answer:

* such records could be publicly funded to enable the data to be in the public domain, rather than at a cost

Not Answered

Please explain your answer:

* this information is reasonable available currently

Not Answered

Please explain your answer:

* this information should be available to those bodies designing transport and infrastructure, to enable awareness and links to local food production.
* such transport links may then enable local food production to develop and support reduced supply chain systems

Making the best use of land

19 What improvements are needed to the quality, availability and accessibility of ALC data to support effective land use decisions?

Please explain your answer:

- The quality of this data set is no longer fit for purpose. The ALC data is out of date and needs reviewing in light of climate change and food production systems and the ever-increasing demands on land for multifunctional performance
- Need to ensure there are no gaps in the system, taking into account the climate changes and environmental loss that has occurred over the last 50 years.

Making the best use of land

20 Which sources of spatial data should Government consider making free or easier to access, including via open licensing, to increase their potential benefit?

Please explain your answer:

* As much as possible providing personal data is not included

Making the best use of land

21 What gaps in land management capacity or skills do you anticipate as part of the land use transition?

Not Answered

Please explain your answer:

* there are knowledge/ skills gaps and staffing gaps. The understanding and application of land management is currently limited amongst public sector staff
* development of in work training and development qualifications to cover these skills

Not Answered

Please explain your answer:

* the understanding and implementation of regenerative farming techniques needs to be expanded and facilitated in a much broader context. New technologies need to be recognised and seen in an holistic form
* agricultural universities should be focussing on the changing land management techniques not dwelling on practices from 40 years ago as their main stream agricultural studies
* environmentally friendly farming training and education should be the norm not the exception
* agriculture and agricultural practices, including regenerative techniques should be taught as part of the schools national curriculum.

Not Answered

Please explain your answer:

- * practical skill levels are short on the ground
- * as above these skills should be developed at school age
- * innovation needs to be embraced

Not Answered

Please explain your answer:

- * practical skills shortage
- * understanding the wider benefits of recreation on health and wellbeing
- * understanding the impacts on the environment from recreation These last two points may well be seen to be in conflict, but needs to be recognised

Not Answered

Please explain your answer:

Skills gaps in nature based solutions - development implementation and planning,
Adaptation planning and implementation,
Rewilding and nature lead ecological restoration.

Making the best use of land

22 How could the sharing of best practice in innovative land use practices and management be improved?

Please explain your answer:

- Be clear who the target audience is
- Be clear about what information is needed to enable the recipient to make practical use of the information
- Sharing information available to as wide audience as possible

Making the best use of land

Co-creation and engagement on a Land Use Framework: next steps

23 Should a Land Use Framework for England be updated periodically, and if so, how frequently should this occur?

Yes, every 3 years

Please explain your answer:

Yes, I think the Land Use Framework for England should be updated at least every 5 years, and perhaps every 3 years. Ideally, updates should be done on a time cycle that helpfully synchronises with carbon budgets and Environment Act target deadlines
It would also benefit from aligning with local plan production

Co-creation and engagement on a Land Use Framework: next steps

24 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed areas above?

Strongly agree

Please explain your answer:

- To insure joined up thinking and planning takes place across all government departments, and the relevant decision makers are involved. Consistency is key
- The joined up spatial alignment is key to this framework actually being useful and enabling effective decisions to be made from evidence based data.
- The involvement of research organisations adds validation to the decision making process
- The involvement of technical experts on the ground to adds to the above also gives strength to decisions made, providing the voices are listened to
- The implementation and delivery mechanisms is required before the launch date of the Land Use Framework.

Consultee Feedback on the Online Survey

Overall, how satisfied are you with our online consultation tool? Please give us any comments you have on the tool, including suggestions on how we could improve it.

Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

Feedback:

It is quite clunky. If saved to return to later, still have to work through every page rather than go to the one where the input was left off.