

The Institution of Agricultural Engineers

Position Brief - UK Government Land Use Framework



In March 2026, the UK government published the **Land Use Framework**, which built on consultations and national discussions from earlier in 2025. The Framework recognises land as a critical national asset and sets out how it can be used more effectively to deliver multiple benefits. It is not a national plan that tells people what to do; rather, it provides a structure to enable collaborative data-based decision-making among all those with a stake in land use.

To achieve this, the Framework sets out three key elements: firstly, a vision for how a strategic data-driven approach can support resilient food systems, housing and infrastructure delivery, climate mitigation, and nature recovery; secondly, a set of principles to guide better land use decision-making; and finally, the actions the government will take, in partnership with others, to enable and support land-use change.

The Institution of Agricultural Engineers (IAgrE) recognises the increasing and competing demands placed on land. In addition to supporting national food production, land plays a critical role in meeting climate and biodiversity targets, delivering clean and secure energy, and enabling the infrastructure and housing needed for economic growth. IAgrE welcomes the publication of the Land Use Framework and sees it as an important foundation for a collaborative approach that will support more informed, balanced, and sustainable land-use decisions.

IAgrE recognises that food security and farm viability are closely interconnected, and believes it is essential that the Framework supports a balanced approach between food production and other demands such as renewable energy. We therefore welcome the Framework's emphasis on reforming data tools and systems, which will also help stimulate private sector innovation. IAgrE understands that a more joined-up approach is essential to prevent further fragmentation of data systems. Collaboration through the Land Use Framework will enable more seamless data flows between agricultural equipment, farm management systems, and wider stakeholders across the food chain. This will help address existing data fragmentation and accelerate the adoption of innovation at farm level.

IAgrE's membership comprises highly qualified engineers, environmental specialists, and industry leaders with extensive expertise in developing multifunctional land-use systems. The design and delivery of sustainable farming methods, nature-positive infrastructure and climate-resilient land-use systems are central to our members' work across agriculture, forestry and the wider land-based sector. We encourage the newly formed Land Use Unit within the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to draw on IAgrE members' expertise to actively support collaboration across the many different stakeholders and disciplines involved in land-use decision-making.

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