



Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Rt Hon Emma Reynolds MP
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Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP
Environment, Food and Rural
Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London
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18th March 2026

Dear Alistair,

I am writing to inform the House of Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee that today we are laying the Land Use Framework for England in Parliament. It will be published online on the following webpage: www.gov.uk/government/publications/land-use-framework.

Over the next 25 years, England's land will need to deliver more than ever before as pressures on our land continue to increase. The Land Use Framework demonstrates the Government's plan to manage these competing demands. It fulfils the Government's manifesto commitment, setting out a long-term, strategic approach for how England will use its finite land to support economic growth, deliver clean energy, strengthen food security, recover nature, and build climate resilience.

Firstly, the framework provides a coherent vision for how land use will need to change by 2030 and 2050. This identifies the changes required to deliver the homes, infrastructure, food system resilience, and environmental outcomes essential to the country's long-term prosperity.

Secondly, it sets out principles to inform land use decision-making. Applying these principles will drive more multi-functional and future-ready land use and ensure that land is used in the most appropriate way. The principles will help to ensure that policy and action, at national, regional, local and site level, can consider new information and evolve with new challenges.

Thirdly, the framework sets out a suite of actions and commitments which Government will take to support the implementation of these principles. This includes establishing a Land Use Unit in Defra, which will help co-ordinate and produce evidence, analysis, data and tools to inform national spatial priorities for relevant outcomes. This will facilitate coordinated decision-making across different scales and provide clarity on national priorities to empower local decision-makers. Further information will be published on GOV.UK this year.

The framework draws on extensive evidence and public engagement, including the 2025 Land Use Consultation. We are publishing a summary of responses to the consultation

alongside the framework, whilst the framework itself incorporates Government's response.

Responses to the consultation consistently highlighted the need for Government to set out a long-term policy direction for land use in England to manage competing demands for land. Most also called for the framework to be updated to incorporate new data and review progress. We will therefore publish an updated Land Use Framework every five years, refreshing our next steps as we work towards our vision for land use.

The work of your committee in advising and scrutinising the framework commitments where they concern farming and the environment will be hugely valuable. I look forward to liaising with you further on this.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Reynolds'.

THE RT HON EMMA REYNOLDS MP