

# Multifunctional land use decisions: what role could collaborative governance models play?

We are trialling this form to make it easier for contributors to submit information to POST.

**The deadline to submit information is 23:59 on Wednesday 11 June.**

This form will not be accessible after this time.

If you are unable to use this form please let us know via [POST@parliament.uk](mailto:POST@parliament.uk) and consult the email contributor guidance here - <https://post.parliament.uk/contributing-to-post-research-as-an-expert>

Please note that we only accept contributions relevant to the project scope.

Irrelevant contributions can not be considered.

We review contributions as they are received and submitting your information early offers the best opportunity for your insights to be fully considered.

## Privacy notice



1. Your personal data is important to us and we will handle it in line with our responsibilities under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA).

We are asking you to provide personal data. We require this for the purpose of being able to identify and get in contact with relevant experts to seek expert insights to inform the work of Parliament, parliamentary staff, Members of Parliament and their staff. We may use this data for this specific request and other future relevant requests. We will only share this with other relevant teams of the House of Commons and the House of Lords, including Members of Parliament and their staff, and only for this purpose.

We will retain your information for up to seven years, in line with our information retention policy, after which we will securely destroy it.

We will process your personal data because it is in the legitimate interests of yourself, Parliament, and society at large.

However, you still have rights over your personal data.

Details of those and other information about how we will process your personal data can be found on our main Privacy Notice -

<https://post.parliament.uk/privacy-policy>



2. Your name, including the title we should use to address you \*

Professor Benedict Wheeler

3. Your job title \*

Professor in Environment, Health & Inequalities

4. Your email address \*

b.w.wheeler@exeter.ac.uk

5. Your institution or organisation, if relevant

European Centre for Environment and Human Health, University of Exeter

6. How are you submitting information? \*

☐ On behalf of an organisation or a group of researchers

☒ An individual submission

7. A link to your research profile, if applicable

<https://experts.exeter.ac.uk/4303-ben-wheeler>

## Multifunctional land use decisions. What role could collaborative governance models play?



Large-scale landscape changes are being driven by demand for housing, infrastructure, food, energy, nature recovery and climate mitigation and adaptation. The government consultation on the land use framework estimates that a change in use or management in 20% of agricultural land in England is required to 2050 to meet Environment Act Targets and Net Zero.

The Royal Society's 2023 Multifunctional Land Use report stated an additional 4.4 million hectares of land (18% of the total UK land area) would be needed to deliver UK net zero, biodiversity and development objectives by 2050 if levels of agricultural production remain similar. Multifunctionality is described as the capacity of a landscape or ecosystem to provide multiple social, economic and environmental benefits to society.

Decisions over land use and land change can be controversial. Different bodies have been developing and piloting collaborative models for multifunctional land use decision-making and governance. Such models can include co-production, where power is shared and different types of knowledge, expertise and stakeholders are involved on an equal basis as decisions or outputs are generated collaboratively.

The POSTnote will summarise the challenges and opportunities in the development of new multifunctional collaborative land use governance models and the evidence these can support a more integrated approach to achieving the multiple and increasing land use demands. Work will commence in May 2025, with publication expected in October 2025. We will accept stakeholder contributions until 23:59 11 June 2025.

8. Please briefly explain how your research expertise is relevant to the POSTnote topic.

E.g. if you teach a course, or if you've published a paper linked to the topic. \*



Our group leads the policy and governance work package of the GroundsWell prc

9. What are the key issues relevant to the POSTnote that you would like to make us aware of?

E.g. a link to a relevant policy document, or statistics that relate to the topic.

Where possible, please provide links to sources for any statements you make. \*



Natural features in urban/rural landscapes can deliver health and wellbeing as a key function, and involvement of communities in governance supports this. E.g. we are developing a review "What is known about what works in community-involved decision-making relating to urban green and blue spaces?" (protocol: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13643-023-02333-y>).

Links between environmental and health inequalities are another key facet of the importance of collaborative governance models that shape land use and our landscapes, for example through inclusive co-production in the design and delivery of Nature-based Solutions. We have published work with collaborators in European projects such as Re-Thinking People and Nature Interactions in Urban Nature-Based Solutions <https://doi.org/10.3390/su17073043>

10. Are there other individuals or organisations you think would be interested in contributing to this POSTnote?

Key GroundsWell colleagues - Emmylou Rahtz <E.Rahtz@exeter.ac.uk>; Rebecca L

11. Please select which stakeholder group best represents you (or the organisation you are representing).

If more than one group is relevant you can select up to three. \*

☐ Government department or arm's-length body

☐ Regulator

☐ Industry


☒ Academia

☐ Consultancy

☐ Legal

☐ NGO

- ☐ Third sector - not a NGO
- ☐ No affiliation - submitting as an individual
- ☐ Other

12. Where did you find out about this opportunity to contribute to POST's research? 

- ☐ Knowledge Exchange Unit (KEU) newsletter
- ☐ POST's website
- ☐ LinkedIn
- ☐ X
- ☒ Word of mouth e.g. from a colleague
- ☐ Other



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