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Commission

A Multi-functional Land Use Framework

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Why do we need a land use framework?

- Net zero by 2050
- 336,000 homes more resilient to flooding and coastal erosion by 2027
- 300,000 homes a year*, including 17,000 on brownfield sites
- 30,000 ha trees a year
- 30% of land and sea protected by 2030
- Strategic road and rail developments
- A five-fold increase in solar power by 2035
- Investment zones and freeports

***Recently made non mandatory (2022)**

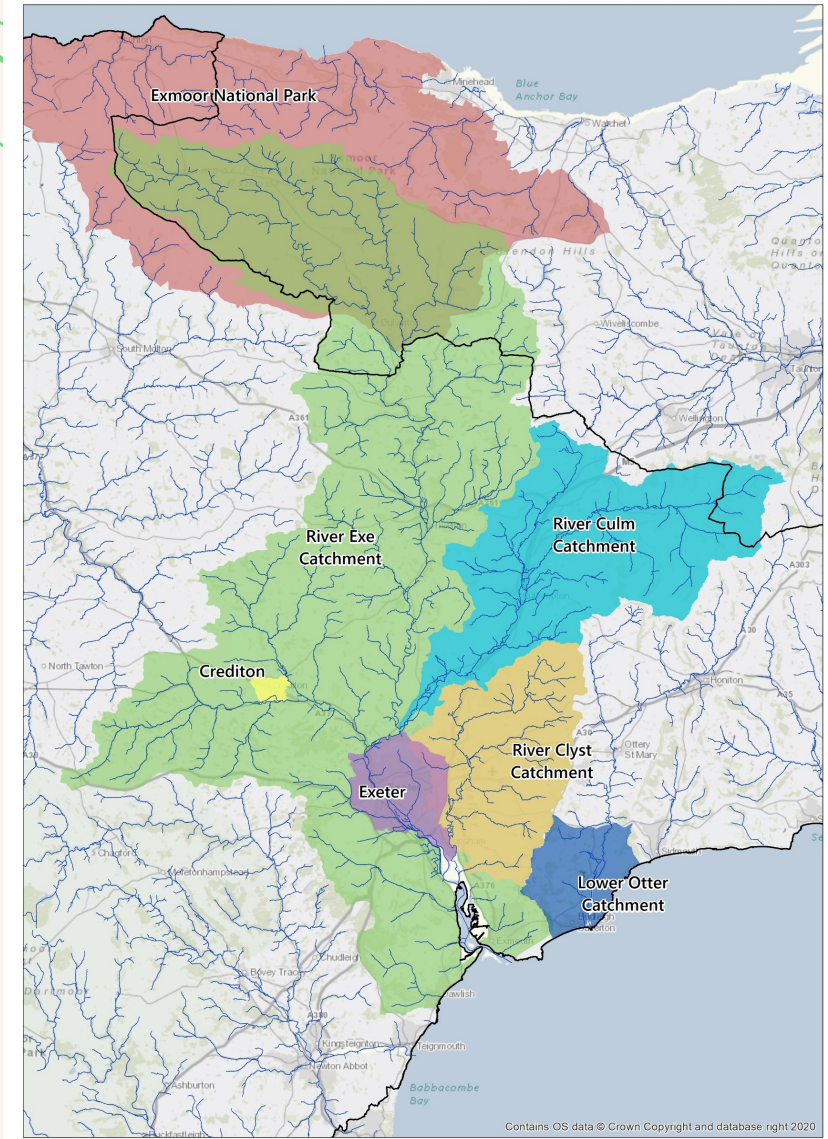


What is a Land Use Framework?

An enabling mechanism that brings together data, maps, people and sets out principles to follow to help those making land use change decisions deliver multiple benefits and better public value

MUST:

- be **owned and delivered across government**, covering all major land use changes to tackle siloed approaches.
- enable each land use change to **deliver against several issues** so that economic, environmental and social targets are met efficiently.
- facilitate effective **use and integration of data** to enable better decisions, by making available existing data at national, regional and local level.
- be **neither top down nor bottom up alone**, but must facilitate genuine landowner, community, civil society and business involvement in the ways that national targets are met at the local level.



Devon Land Use Framework

1. Establish
2. Scope
3. Create
4. Test
5. Learn and adapt
6. Embed and share



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Land Led

- Optimal for geology, soil types, weather?
- What was it used for in the past?
- Can it enhance biodiversity & ecosystem services?
- Is the proposed land use appropriate for the wider setting?
- Is the proposed land use consistent with the principles of preventing harm, and polluter pays?



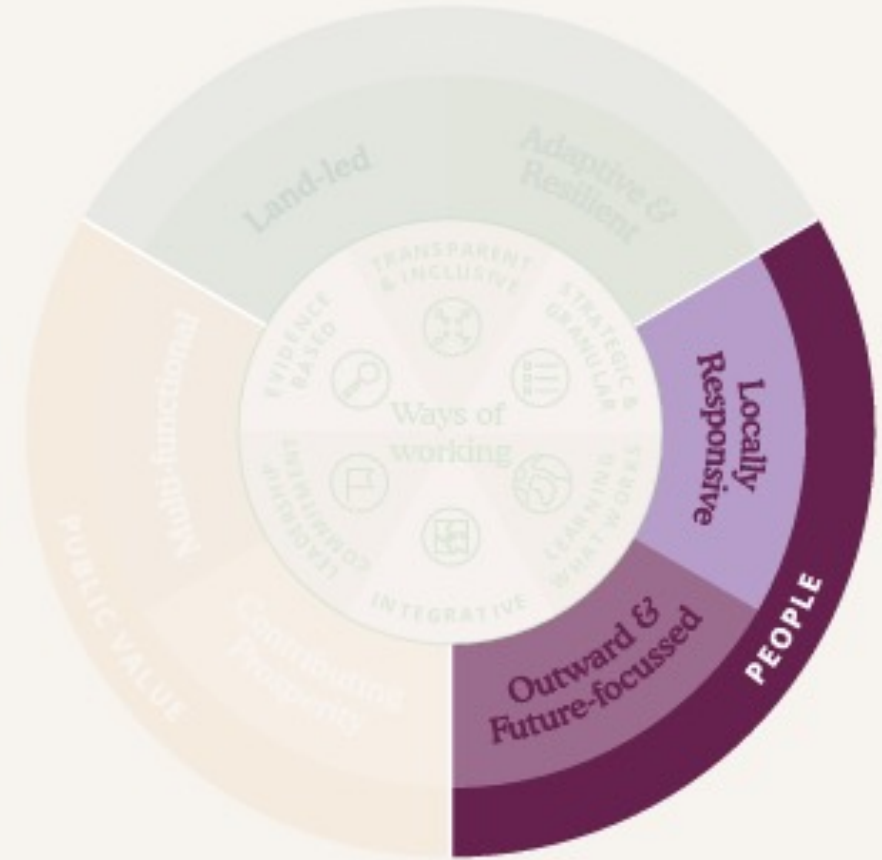
Adaptive and Resilient

- Adapts to and mitigates climate impacts?
- Does it mitigate the effects of new pests/diseases?
- Will the land be vulnerable to flooding or erosion?
- Does the proposed land use support national net zero targets?
- How adaptable is the potential land use to different futures?



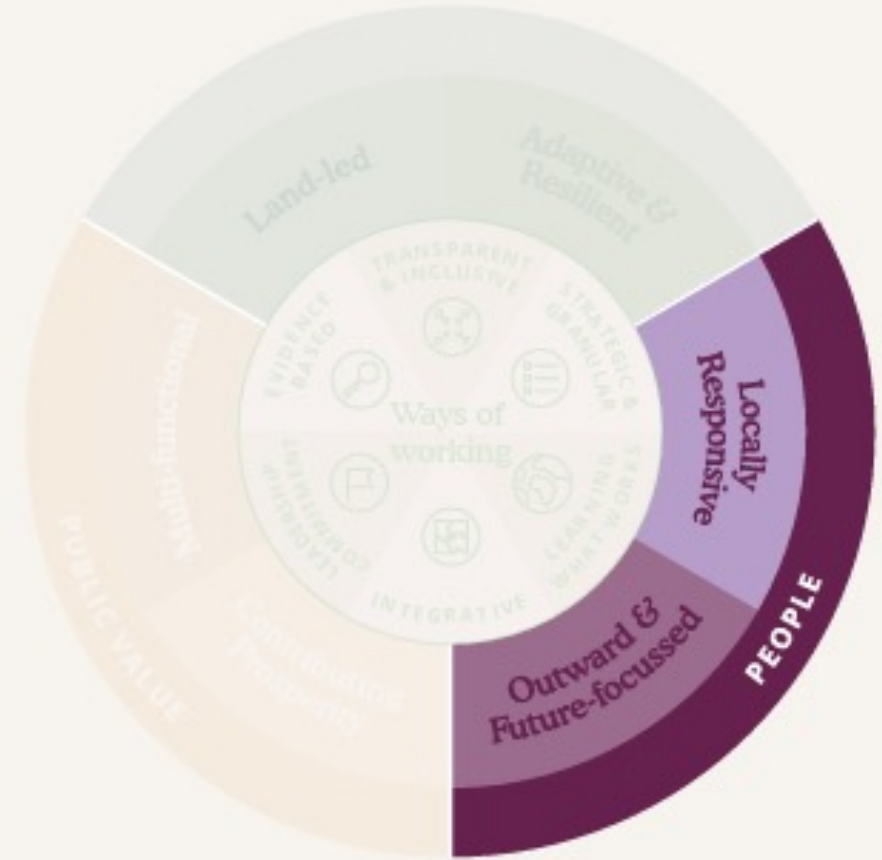
Locally responsive

- Is the land use meeting local wellbeing and needs?
- How are the land owners/managers incorporating local views and engagement into plans?
- Strengthening community engagement long term?
- Are local environmental experts being consulted?



Outward & Future focused

- Is the land use decision making taking into account communities outside the immediate area?
- How might the proposed impact affect future population shifts?
- How are the needs of future generations being addressed?
- How are impacts on the non-human world being addressed?



Multifunctional

- Is the land being used to its full capabilities to bring multiple benefits across human and ecological needs?
- How will organisations and agencies work together to support maximum multifunctionality?
- How will multifunctionality be maintained and measured over the long term?
- How is management being joined up across functional and organisational boundaries for better outcomes?



Contributing prosperity

- Is the land being used to sustain / increase local livelihoods? Or productive agriculture?
- Will the land use support local, diverse supply chains?
- Will additional funds be attracted externally – if so, will they be locally invested?
- Will value be created, missed or destroyed with the proposed land use?



Lessons from the pilots

Leadership:

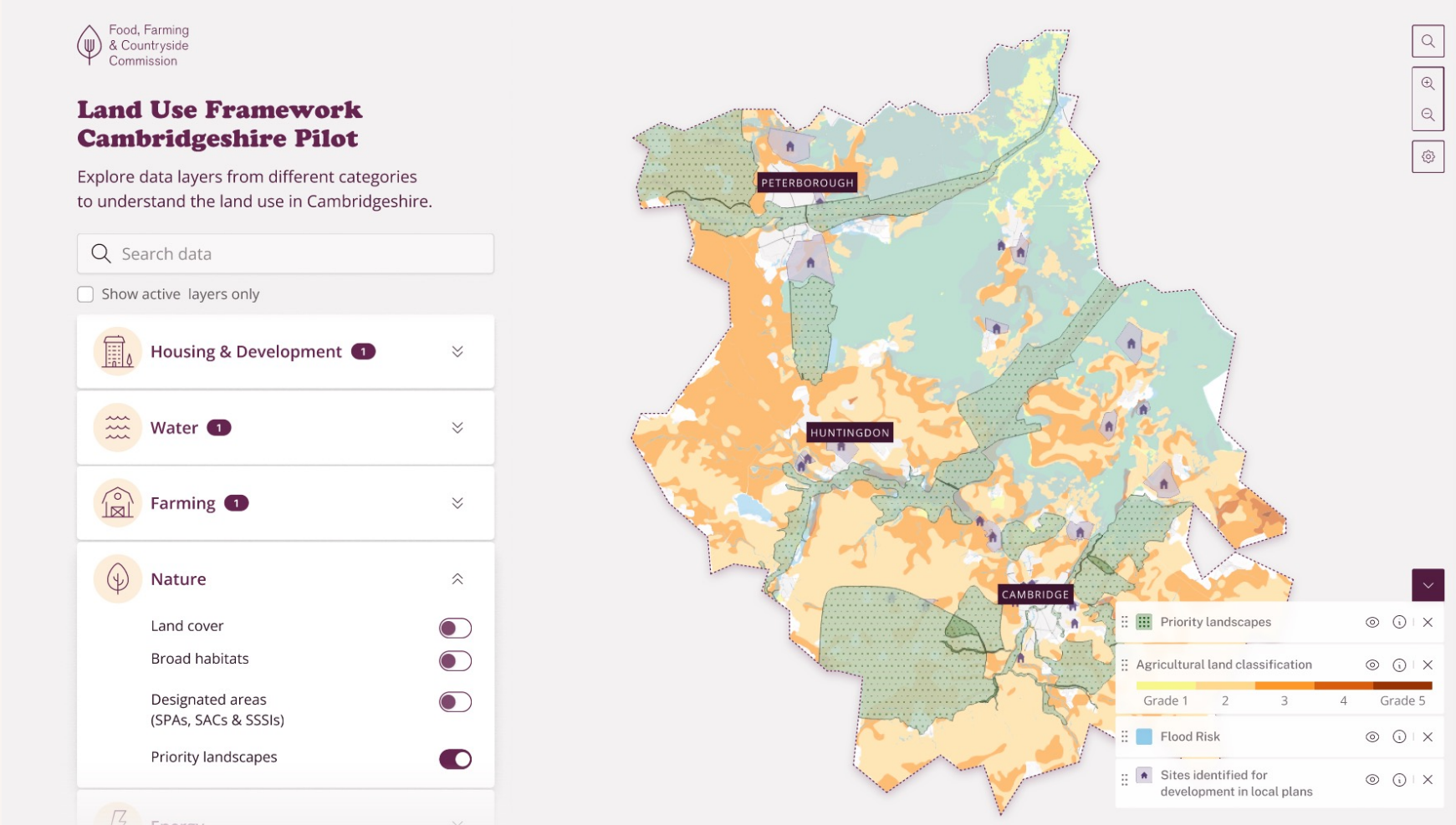
- Stakeholders in Devon and Cambridgeshire saw the opportunity to save on effort and expenditure by joining up land use decision making with a strong leadership commitment
- Stakeholders want to understand how existing statutory instruments will integrate with a Land Use Framework
- There is a strong appetite for change across both counties and disciplines
- The success of county land use frameworks will rely on their statutory weight.
- Expert facilitation is essential to delivering county land use frameworks.

Lessons from the pilots

Data and Evidence:

- Land use decision makers would benefit from a shared evidence base to help break down silos and encourage multifunctionality.
- Spatial data and land use modelling initiatives would benefit from greater integration.
- Access to data can be a challenge and there is demand for better standards around data sharing and utilisation.
- Wider utilisation of spatial data depends on designing a tool that makes it easy for non-experts to access, understand and manipulate that data.
- Spatial data could be improved by devolving power to amend datasets to trusted actors at the county level.

Cambridgeshire decision-support tool prototype



Lessons from the pilots

Scope, scale and stakeholders:

- Land use decision making ranges from the local to the strategic: a land use framework must be able to accommodate top-down targets and bottom-up detail, and – critically – capacity for implementation.
- Scale determines available evidence, which actors can be engaged and the kind of actions that are possible.
- Choosing the right scale matters, and often that means choosing a scale that people understand.
- The land use framework must have a broad scope and a long-time horizon, encompassing all major land uses and likely future scenarios.
- Stakeholders want to understand how a land use framework operates at different scales.
- Some standardisation of the land use framework process is desirable for operating across boundaries.

Land Use Framework desired outcomes

- Better land use decisions & **better value delivery**
- Joining up targets - more jobs, housing, services, infrastructure, healthy food....
- Enhancing nature, improving climate resilience, reduced flooding, better food and diets
- Better integrated health, education, equality whilst reducing carbon emissions
- Process benefits – fewer land use conflicts (saving time and money), pooling of resources, good governance, share data, knowledge and skills, convergence of effort





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Diolch!

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<https://ffcc.co.uk/land-use-framework>