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## How do land managers and advisers access new knowledge?

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Land managers need increasingly to work with a range of professional advisers to provide all the services we need from a limited amount of land in the UK.

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### What role do advisers play?

The research has shown that professional advisers play a key role in getting research into practice:

- There are increasing demands on land to provide a variety of ecosystem services, including food, clean water, flood management, biodiversity, carbon storage etc.
- Economic and environmental uncertainty adds to the pressures.
- In the face of these challenges and an ever more complex regulatory environment farmers and other land managers rely on a range of professional advisers.
- They need to keep up to date with the latest research and interpret it at farm level, but often find it difficult to access in an appropriate form.
- Advisers often rely on their professional organisations to filter out and synthesise what scientific developments are relevant to their work.

### How could research be made more relevant?

Land advisers come from a wide range of professions but all have to work together.

This means that:

- They are more open to an interdisciplinary approach.
- They have similarities to researchers who also work increasingly across disciplines to address research questions; both groups could benefit from working together in the research process, sharing different expertise.
- Involvement of advisers would enrich the research and make it more relevant to front line practitioners, while also ensuring the results reach the people who need them.
- Strengthening links between research organisations and professional bodies, as the key knowledge source for advisers, could maximise knowledge exchange opportunities.
- More initiatives such as Landbridge are needed to bring front line practitioners from all the land-based professions and researchers from different disciplines together.

### Further information:

- This note draws on research from [\*Science in the Field: Understanding the changing role of expertise in the rural economy\*](#) an ESRC funded research project (Award RES-229-25-0025) exploring the knowledge practices of field advisers.
- [Landbridge](#) is an ESRC-funded knowledge exchange network for rural professionals (Award RES 0515-7244). Its aims are to provide a platform for inter-professional learning and debate among advisors from across the professions and to provide opportunities for two-way exchange with the research community.

### Useful resources:

- The Landbridge website may be accessed at [www.landbridge.org.uk](http://www.landbridge.org.uk)
- The [Science in the Field](#) website may be accessed at <http://research.ncl.ac.uk/scienceinthefield/index.php>
- Relu Policy and Practice Note No 30: [Field advisers as agents of knowledge exchange](#)
- LWEC Policy and Practice Note No 3: Could advisers of land managers work more effectively across professions? (in press)
- Landbridge Professional Development Resources: [Interprofessional working](#)
- Klerkx L and Proctor A (2013) [Beyond fragmentation and disconnect: networks for knowledge exchange in the English land management advisory system](#), *Land Use Policy*, 30, 13-24.
- Proctor A, Donaldson A, Phillipson J, Lowe P (2012) [Field expertise in rural land management](#), *Environment and Planning A*, 44(7), 1696-1711.

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