



Background

For some time, the IES has been the professional body of choice for many land condition professionals. Numbers of these specialists within our membership have grown to the extent that in 2017 land condition became our largest sector. To ensure that we are serving this group we are establishing a new land condition community, to replace our special interest group in this area. This will be the first of a series of new communities established by the IES to better facilitate engagement with and between our members. The communities will generate ideas for events, publications, guidance, policy work or other services and strategies. The Policy and Communities Officer will work with members to facilitate community activities and to develop interaction between members both virtually, and face-to-face where appropriate.

We have already heard from many members with exciting ideas for activities in this area, and we are looking forward to putting in place the structures to enable members to drive this work over the coming months. Based on member surveys and conversations we have identified several activities for the community to work towards, which shall form its initial aims.

Aims

1. To convene and deliver a one-day conference for land condition professionals in early 2018 *in collaboration with the IES Events Officer.*
2. To curate an edition of the environmental SCIENTIST journal, focusing on topical issues, developments or challenges for the sector, for publication in mid-2018 *in collaboration with the IES Publications Officer.*
3. To conduct a gap analysis to identify any areas where guidance for professionals in the sector is currently lacking, and where a working group led by the IES could potentially work towards the development of such guidance.
4. To consider other activities that would benefit IES land condition specialists, such as a programme of webinars, early career support and discussion meetings.

Terms of reference

Object

The object of the community is to develop membership services that support the specialism it represents.

Membership

The community is open to any professional member of the IES active or interested in the specialism it represents. Members at different stages of their careers are encouraged to contribute to community working groups. The IES values the diversity of its membership, and encourages individuals from all backgrounds to engage with and shape this community. Individuals from outside the IES membership may be invited to participate in certain activities, discussions or working groups to facilitate strong cross-sector collaboration.

Meetings

The IES will host occasional meetings for interested members to discuss community strategy and activities in person. Members at all stages of their careers are encouraged to attend. Where possible, remote access will be available. Representatives of other organisations and bodies in the sector will also be invited to attend these meetings.

Ways of working

- The activities of the community shall be delivered through working groups, operating on a 'task and finish' basis. These groups shall primarily communicate electronically, by email or conference call, and shall be facilitated by the PCO or other appropriate IES staff member.
- Members will be encouraged to join and regularly contribute to a LinkedIn group, where day-to-day interaction can take place and ideas can be discussed.
- Positive relationships will be built with other bodies and organisations, to ensure the community is a well-integrated and meaningful contributor to the sector.

Land condition community

Initial aims and terms of reference



- Following an initial meeting and online member consultation, a working group shall be formed to develop an action plan for the community. This plan shall set out the key areas identified by the community for action, and how it shall achieve these aims. The plan will be developed in collaboration with the IES Project Office, ensuring that the community's aims and objectives fit within the operational capacity and wider strategy of the organisation, and will be regularly reviewed.
- The community shall elect a Chair, to liaise with the Policy and Communities Officer regarding delivery of this action plan, and to chair community meetings.

Contact

The IES Policy and Communities Officer shall be the primary point of contact for members regarding the community. Other members of the Project Office team will be engaged as appropriate in specific projects and activities.