RELU
Rural Economy and Land Use receives £20m over three years, enabling ESRC, BBSRC and NERC to develop a programme which will help deliver modern, sustainable and competitive farming, protect the environment and achieve beneficial social and economic outcomes for people in rural areas.
Programme Objectives

Science
To deliver integrative, interdisciplinary research of high quality that will advance understanding of the social, economic, environmental and technological challenges faced by rural areas, and of the relationships between them.

Capacity building
To enhance and expand capabilities for integrative, interdisciplinary research on rural issues.

Knowledge transfer
To enhance the impact of research on rural policy and practice by involving stakeholders in all stages of RELU, including programme development, research activities and communication of outcomes.
Research supported under RELU will:

- address both rural economy and land use issues
- be integrative and interdisciplinary (involving both social and natural science), in order to exploit opportunities for synergy between the communities supported by the participating Councils and maximise the Programme's added value
- be cutting edge and innovative
- be relevant to policy, but not policy-led
- provide opportunities for interdisciplinary capacity-building
- be undertaken at an appropriate range of scales - from individual fields and farms to the wider landscape and rural economy in their national and international contexts
- focus on short to medium-term research issues - spanning no more than a 20-year time horizon