Values Statement: Landmatch England

This document outlines the principles Landmatch England subscribes to. We encourage all partners, landseekers, landowners, and organisations involved in Landmatch England to uphold and evolve these principles.

Our mission is to support access to land for people practicing or aspiring to practice agroecological farming. We foster collaboration between farmers, landworkers, landowners, communities, and allied organisations, supporting long-lasting and mutually beneficial land partnerships. We are part of a broader movement for land justice and want to help actively challenge underrepresentation in land access.

We are committed to social and environmental justice and subscribe to the principles of Agroecology and Food Sovereignty

1. Environmental Stewardship

- We support farming systems that work with nature, regenerate soil, protect water, foster biodiversity, and build climate resilience. We believe that land use must prioritise ecological balance and long-term sustainability. This is based on the understanding that the effects of climate change are being felt by farmers most intensely.

2. Equity & Fair Access to Land

- We advocate for land agreements that offer fair terms, including secure and affordable access, especially for those historically excluded and/or currently marginalised from land access.
- We believe that relationships between landowners and landseekers must be based on mutual respect, trust, and clear communication.
- We support models that prioritise cooperation, long-term relationships, and community benefit over individual profit.
- We encourage collective ownership, shared stewardship and commons-based land approaches wherever possible.

3. Anti-Racism & Social Justice

- We are actively anti-racist. This means recognising and addressing the structural inequalities in land ownership and access in the UK and creating spaces for Black people and people of colour to participate in the landmatching process. We do not tolerate discrimination, exclusion, or harassment based on race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, disability, or religion.

4. Animal Welfare

- We support a high standard of animal welfare and believe that farming systems should allow animals to live in healthy environments, not subject to unnecessary suffering.

5. Community & Solidarity

- We share knowledge, tools and resources to build community connections and to support a fair and resilient food system.

6. Accountability & Reflection

- We commit to ongoing learning, self-reflection, and accountability in our work and relationships.
- We will be transparent in our intentions and communications with others, never knowingly keep information hidden to advance our position.

This is a living document. We will review this regularly, adapting to evolving understanding and feedback.