FAQ

STANFORDS' LAND CONSULTANCY AND PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT TEAMS JOINING CERES GROUP

We understand that clients may have questions about the announcement that Stanfords' Land Consultancy and Planning & Development teams will join Ceres Group from 1st October 2026. We hope the information below is helpful, but please contact your usual adviser if you would like to discuss what the change means for you.

QUESTION	ANSWER
Why is this change taking place?	Stanfords and Ceres Group have entered into a strategic agreement that will see Stanfords' Land Consultancy and Planning & Development teams join Ceres from 1st October 2026. The move brings together Stanfords' long-established local presence across Essex and Suffolk with the breadth of services and technical resources available through the Ceres Group, creating a stronger platform to support clients now and in the future.
Will I still work with the same adviser?	Yes. One of the key objectives of the transition is to maintain continuity for clients. Your existing adviser relationships will remain in place and you will continue to work with the people you know and trust.
Will my current projects or instructions be affected?	No. All ongoing work, instructions and projects will continue as normal. Both businesses are working closely together to ensure a seamless transition with no disruption to client service.
Is Stanfords closing?	No. Stanfords will continue to operate its Estate Agency and Auctions (Livestock and Chattels) businesses under the Stanfords brand. The change relates specifically to the Land Consultancy and Planning & Development teams, which will become part of Ceres Group from 1st October 2026.
What does this mean for me as a client?	In practical terms, very little will change day to day. You will continue to receive the same personal service from your existing advisers, while also benefiting from access to additional services and support through the Ceres Group.
Will contact details change?	Members of the Stanfords Land Consultancy and Planning & Development teams will move to new Ceres Property email addresses following the transition. Clients will be contacted directly with any relevant changes, and arrangements will be put in place to ensure emails and enquiries continue to reach the right people during the transition period.
Will office locations change?	The team will continue to serve clients from the Colchester area. Should there be any future changes to office arrangements, clients will be informed in advance.
What additional services will be available through Ceres Group?	As part of the Ceres Group, clients will have access to a broad range of professional services, including Land Consultancy, Planning Consultancy, Development Consultancy, Farm Agency, Property Management, Farm Consultancy, Farm Management and Crop Management. Your adviser will be happy to discuss any additional support that may be relevant to your circumstances.
What happens to my information and personal data?	Your information will continue to be handled securely and in accordance with applicable data protection legislation. Where client information transfers as part of the transition, it will be managed responsibly for the purpose of continuing to provide professional services.

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