

Eat, Sleep, Plan, Repeat!

Join us at New College, Oxford

Apply before
30th June for
Early Bird Fee

Scholarships
available

CPD
Available

Connecting the professions - dissecting the issues

The Joint Planning Law Conference (JPLC) – known as “The Oxford Conference” – brings together leading experts from across the four key professions in planning at this residential conference.

Attended each year by town planners, chartered surveyors, solicitors, barristers and joined by developers and guests from Government with an interest in planning law and environmental issues, the 53rd JPLC promises vibrant multidisciplinary discussion on the latest issues affecting the planning industry.

Learn

Listen to original in-depth presentations by our industry’s leading thinkers, based on research papers specifically prepared for JPLC delegates. All delegates attend one programme, and there is plenty of opportunity for questions and discussion.

Network

Grow your network, catch up with friends and peers and reconnect with former colleagues. Enjoy lively and constructive debate with professionals from all walks of the planning world – including invited guests from MHCLG, Planning Inspectorate, Scottish Government, PACNI, DAERA, Welsh Government and other Government organisations.

Enjoy

Take advantage of our fantastic venue, with ensuite accommodation in 14th-century New College and talks at the nearby Rhodes House conference centre. The programme includes drinks receptions, dinners including a gala dinner on the second evening, and time to explore the city.

Why attend the JPLC?

- The UK’s leading annual planning law conference
- Excellent speakers deliver topical research papers
- Ideal for planning professionals at all career stages
- A multi-disciplinary planning committee ensures high quality content relevant to all delegates
- A 50% scholarship scheme for recently qualified delegates (minimum 12 places available 3 per profession)
- Sponsored Local Authority places available to attend free of charge.
- CPD is available
- Friendly, informal networking opportunities
- 2 day residential conference enables you to catch up with old colleagues and meet new in an informal atmosphere.
- Beautiful Oxford University setting

“No other conference provides this calibre of speakers, or the ability to share ideas and explore the latest developments.”

Maria O’Loan
Of Counsel
Tughans LLP

“As a planning authority officer, I felt completely at home. Talking with such a wide cross section of legal and planning professionals was hugely beneficial too.”

Maggie Baddeley
Principal Strategic Planner
GLA

Expert speakers for 2025



Constanze Bell
Barrister, Kings Chambers



Simon Berkeley
Head of Local Plans
Planning Inspectorate



Rachel Fisher
Deputy Director – Food Security
and Coordination DEFRA



Peter Freeman CBE,
Chair, Cambridge Growth
Company and former Chair,
Homes England



Nicholle Kingsley
Partner, Mishcon de Reya



James Maurici KC
Barrister, Landmark Chambers



Catriona Riddell
Director, Catriona
Riddell & Associates



James Scott
Group Director of Strategy
and Planning, Urban&Civic



Paul Tucker KC
Barrister, Kings Chambers

The conference committee

The JPLC is a not for profit event organised jointly by members of the Law Society, the Bar Council, the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).

Bar Council members

Richard Ground KC, Cornerstone Barristers
Victoria Hutton, 39 Essex Chambers
Hashi Mohamed, Landmark Chambers
Melissa Murphy KC, Landmark Chambers

Law Society members

Claire Dutch, Ashurst LLP
Duncan Field, Town Legal LLP
Matthew White, Herbert Smith Freehills LLP

RICS members

Virginia Blackman, Avison Young
Robert Evans, Wellcome Genome Campus
and Quod
Leonie Oliva, Newmark

RTPI members

Sarah Cary, Imperial
Tom Dobson, Quod
Christine Thorby, former Planning
Inspectorate

For further details,
please visit our website

[JPLC.ORG](https://www.jplc.org)



Programme

Friday 19 September

- 16:30 Arrival, registration, and tea (17:00 Newcomers' welcome tea with organising committee), New College
- 19:00 Drinks reception in Cloisters, New College
- 20:00 Informal dinner (smart/casual) with keynote address by **Peter Freeman CBE, Chair, Cambridge Growth Company and former Chair, Homes England.** Chaired by **Robert Evans, conference chair**

Saturday 20 September

- 07:30 Breakfast, New College (until 09:00)
- 08:30 Networking and refreshments, Rhodes House
- 09:30 Conference (Rhodes House). Chair's introduction, **Robert Evans, Wellcome Genome Campus and Quod**
- 09:40 Opening address: **Ten reasons why Labour will fail to build 1.5 million new homes *revisited*: what else can be done to help deliver this goal?**
James wrote a paper last year entitled "10 reasons why Labour will fail to build 1.5 million homes" His view that building 1.5 million new homes within five years of a Labour government is not achievable is very widely held. The paper for the conference will revisit these 10 reasons, with the Government over one year into its term of office, examining what the Government has already done, what it is still proposing to do and what else it could do to try and help deliver this laudable but very ambitious goal.
Speaker: **James Maurici KC, Landmark Chambers**
- 10:15 Questions and Discussion chaired by **Claire Dutch, Ashurst**
- 10:35 Coffee and Networking
- 11:10 **Putting the strategic back into planning**
The Government has promised to reintroduce a strategic – sub-regional- layer of plan-making following 15 years of reliance on the Duty to Cooperate to manage larger than local and cross-boundary development. The new generation of strategic plans – spatial development strategies – will be universally required, will be prepared quickly and will be focused on a few key issues. Catriona will be explaining what this new generation of strategic plans are likely to look like, how they will attempt to take the sting out of the current long plan process with all its inherent technical and political risks, and what the challenges around this new approach are likely to be, especially in a world with few public sector resources and an ever-changing governance landscape through expanded devolution and local government restructuring.
Speaker: **Catriona Riddell, Catriona Riddell & Associates**
- 11:45 Questions and Discussion chaired by **Chris Thorby, former Planning Inspectorate**
- 12:05 **Development Plans - A view from the Planning Inspectorate**
Simon will give the Planning Inspectorate view on Development Plans. What the current system is and how to navigate your way through it. He will address what is coming through changes in policy and law and how to prepare for a successful examination. He will also talk about how the new development plan system will relate to other planning initiatives including speeding up the system and boosting growth.
Speaker: **Simon Berkeley, Planning Inspectorate**
- 12:40 Questions and Discussion chaired by **Melissa Murphy KC, Landmark Chambers**
- 13:00 Lunch and Networking
- 14:10 **Another Texan in England: Personal reflections on English Land use**
In 1944 Texan folklorist and historian J Frank Dobie published *A Texan in England* which chronicles the year he spent a year at Emmanuel College Cambridge. The book explores the English culture, people, and their relationship to the land. Drawing on her experience of working in the English built environment and planning system for the last 20+ years Rachel will examine the role of land in the imagination and future of the industry.
Speaker: **Rachel Fisher, DEFRA**

Programme

Saturday 20 September

14:45 Questions and Discussion chaired by **Sarah Cary, Imperial**

15:05 **Securing and Delivering Development in Challenging Market Conditions**

Navigating the complexities of planning permissions in today's volatile economic landscape requires strategic foresight and legal acumen. Drawing on Nicholle's extensive experience with large-scale regeneration projects and 25 years of planning advisory work, this paper examines critical considerations for securing deliverable planning consents.

The paper will examine strategies for obtaining robust permissions, both outline and detailed, and address the nuances of multi-phased and cross-jurisdictional developments. Key topics will include adapting to market changes, achieving flexibility, securing post-consent modifications, longer term delivery consideration such as viable funding arrangements and effective exit strategies. Additionally, the paper identifies common grounds for challenges and offers tactical approaches to mitigate these risks. While not exhaustive, the analysis will provide both private and public sector professionals with a practical framework to identify and overcome obstacles in development delivery, even in the most challenging market conditions.

Speaker: **Nicholle Kingsley, Mishcon de Reya**

15:40 Questions and Discussion chaired by **Duncan Field, Town Legal**

16:00 Tea and Networking (until 17:00) - rest of the afternoon free

16:25 Optional historical walking tour of Oxford: ***"Eureka Moments: Oxford's Greatest Discoveries - By Accident and By Design"* (focusing on buildings in Oxford which have witnessed major discoveries).**

18:45 Sweet & Maxwell champagne reception, New College

19:30 Black tie JPLC **Gala Dinner** with guest speaker **Paul Tucker KC, Kings Chambers, chaired by Hashi Mohamed, Landmark Chambers**, in New College Dining Hall followed by late night entertainment

Sunday 21 September

07:30 Breakfast, New College (until 09:00)

08:00 Church service, New College Chapel

09:30 Conference (Rhodes House). Chair's introduction, **Robert Evans, Wellcome Genome Campus and Quod**

09:40 **Flexibility is better than prophecy (for consents underpinning new large scale communities)**

Outline consents for large scale new communities will see development brought forward over 15 to 30 years. The belief that fixes and certainties, relevant to shorter term projects, can or should be applied to these larger sites creates delays and often mistrust in the process. Incorporating flexibility in the outline to reflect the realities of delivery, whilst ensuring that there are ongoing checks and balances for decision makers, is central to Urban&Civic's Master Developer approach. This session will review the logic, impediments and opportunities for this flexibility via a number of examples which are in delivery today.

Speaker: **James Scott, Urban&Civic**

10:15 Questions and Discussion chaired by **Virginia Blackman, Avison Young**

10:35 **Legal Update**

Discussion of the key themes that emerge from case-law over the past year.

Speaker: **Constanze Bell, Kings Chambers**

11:10 Questions and Discussion chaired by **Richard Ground KC, Cornerstone Barristers**

11:30 **Conference close**

To book please use the online booking form and request an invoice

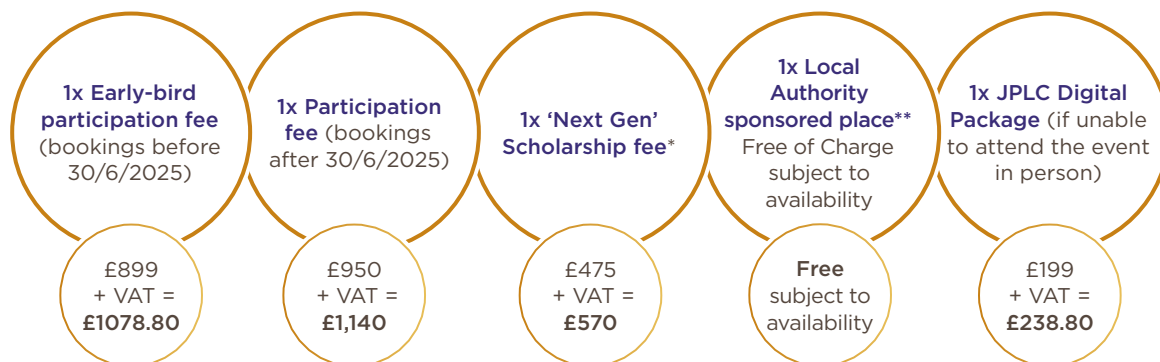
> **jplc.org**

All bookings will be confirmed immediately by automated email. You will also have the option to download an invoice/booking confirmation at the time of booking. Please check your inbox and junk folder for the email, if not received email lucinda@jplc.org for a copy.

Once bookings have been made payment is due within 14 days of issue. Please note once you have made the online booking your booking is confirmed and you are liable to pay the invoice. Please see terms below.

The fee includes:

- Attendance at the conference
- Two nights' ensuite bed & breakfast at New College
- Saturday lunch at Rhodes House
- Pre-dinner reception
- Informal dinner with wine/soft drinks
- Champagne reception
- Gala dinner with wine/soft drinks
- Refreshments
- Conference materials and access to the post event digital package (as set out below).



DIGITAL PACKAGE ONLY

This package is for delegates who are unable to attend the event in person. The speakers presenting the main papers will be recorded on the day – these recordings will be made available post-event for up to three months together with access to the speaker's written papers. The cost for this package only is £199+VAT per person.

Enquiries:

If you have any questions or haven't received your confirmation of booking please contact:

Lucinda Howe

Email: lucinda@jplc.org

Tel: **07879 228775**

"The conference provides a forum in which people engaged in the planning process engage with each other in a relaxed atmosphere whilst focussing on topical issues of planning and planning law."

Grahame Kean,
The Planning Inspectorate

Car Parking

We can offer a limited amount of parking at New College Sports Ground, approximately a 10mins walk from New College. The cost will be £50 + VAT = £60 for a permit.

We recommend that delegates arrive by train or other public transport where possible. Otherwise there are also park and ride sites around the outskirts of Oxford which are open 24 hours. You can park for up to 72 hours for approx. £12.50 including bus ticket. [oxford.gov.uk/parkandridesites](https://www.oxford.gov.uk/parkandridesites)

* 'Next Gen' Scholarships

Limited scholarship places are available supported by our "Next Gen" supporters' scheme, for individuals qualified for less than 5 years and barristers below 5 years' call.

If you are interested in a place email lucinda@jplc.org to check availability before booking.

** Local Authority FREE Places

We have a limited number of sponsored local authority places this year (including accommodation at New College for 2 nights/ meals but excluding travel).

Criteria

- Subject to availability
- If you are unable to get funding/part funding from your authority.
- One per local authority in the first instance with a potential of a second place if available.
- Geographical spread taken into consideration.
- First time attendance at the conference.

Criteria

- Qualified for 5 years' or less
- Your firm/organisation will not fund the full cost.
- Only one person per organisation/set of chambers will be accepted in the first instance.
- Priority will be given to those who have not received a place before.

Applications will be reviewed 30th June 2025 and allocated shortly after this date.

Once the place is offered you will be asked to complete your registration within 7 days, if your confirmation is not received the place will be reallocated.

This offering is kindly sponsored by Landmark Chambers, 39 Essex Chambers, Cornerstone Barristers, Kings Chambers, Quod, Imperial and the Planning Officers Society.

Completing the application form on the website [jplc.org](https://www.jplc.org) or email lucinda@jplc.org for further details.

"I love this conference as it makes me feel a part of the planning profession and reminds me what it is all about and why I love it."

Anne Harrison,
DAC Beachcroft LLP

"The Joint Planning Law Conference is inspiring, with a very high level of interactions and quality questions from an authoritative and engaging audience. It is very well organised, with a great program of speakers, plenty of opportunity to network and the venue is ideal."

John Walker, CT Group

SPONSORS

We are extremely grateful to all this year's sponsors who support the 'Next Gen Scheme', 'Local Authority Places' and also who support the cost of the conference as a whole.

We will be adding to the list on the website in the lead up to the conference.

If you/your organisation are interested in supporting please email lucinda@jplc.org for the package details.

Conditions of booking

1. Delegates are members of the RICS, RTPI, the Law Society, the Bar or another professional body.
2. Registration is considered binding immediately. Payment is required within 14 days of booking or as soon after as possible. Early bird fee must be paid by end of June 2025 otherwise full participation fee will be due.
3. Numbers are limited and bookings will be taken on a first come, first served basis.
4. Refunds will be given for cancellations made in writing before 7 August 2025 less an administration charge of £100+VAT. No refunds will be given after this date and unpaid invoices for the full fee of any person cancelling after this date will still be due before the event date. Substitute delegates will be accepted.
5. VAT will be charged at the prevailing UK rate.
6. The organisers reserve the right to vary the speakers and content within the overall objectives of the conference.
7. The organisers accept no responsibility for views expressed or contained in the conference documentation.

Confirmed Conference Sponsors 2025

Artwork: **Turley**

Champagne Reception:
Sweet & Maxwell

Conference App: **Herbert
Smith Freehills**

Refreshments: **Dentons**

Next Gen Sponsors

The Planning Inspectorate
FTB – Francis Taylor Building
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Ashurst LLP
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