

**jplc** 54  
**.org**

Joint Planning Law Conference Oxford  
18-20 September 2026

# “A little less consultation, A little more action please”

Join us at New College, Oxford

Apply before  
30<sup>th</sup> June for  
Early Bird Fee

Scholarships  
available

CPD  
Available



The Law  
Society



**RTPI**  
Royal Town  
Planning Institute

# 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 54<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup>-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 2026



**David Bird BSc (Hons)**  
CEng MICE, Director,  
Rovia Transport Planning



**Tom Carpen**  
Consents Lead, Thames Water, and  
Board Chair, National Infrastructure  
Planning Association



**Alex Notay**  
Chief Executive, The Housing  
Forum



**Roy Pinnock**  
Partner, Dentons



**Zack Simons KC**  
Barrister, Landmark  
Chambers



**Isabella Tafur KC**  
Barrister, Francis Taylor  
Building



**Sophie White**  
Regeneration Sector Head  
Aviva Capital Partners

### 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), the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and Kramer.

### 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  
Kramer 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 18 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 **To be announced shortly**. Chaired by **Claire Dutch, conference chair**

## Saturday 19 September

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

08:30 Networking and refreshments, Rhodes House

09:30 Conference (Rhodes House). Chair's introduction, **Claire Dutch, Ashurst**

09:40 Opening address: **Planning with the Market in Mind**

The Planning and Infrastructure Act creates opportunities for local communities and for investors. Drawing on experience as a strategic advisor and investor in the residential sector, Alex will speak on how those opportunities can come to life, reflecting on what kind of investor considerations planners need to understand better when designing Local Plans and Spatial Development Strategies. Alex is Chief Executive at the Housing Forum, a cross-sector, industry-wide organisation that represents the entire housing supply chain.

Speaker: **Alex Notay, The Housing Forum**

10:15 Questions and Discussion chaired by **Sarah Cary, Imperial**

10:35 Coffee and Networking

11:10 **Planning for water - a critical reflection on the role of national infrastructure planning in meeting future supply challenges**

In the context of challenges we as a society face to maintain sustainable future supplies of water, what lessons can we draw from the evolution of national infrastructure planning in recent decades, how can we harness current national infrastructure and other reforms, and are any pieces missing from the infrastructure planning jigsaw? Tom will present a critical look at the role of national infrastructure planning in achieving sustainable water supplies, drawing on his career in infrastructure planning. He will be presenting in a personal capacity, drawing on all his insights and experience in infrastructure planning.

Speaker: **Tom Carpen, Thames Water and National Infrastructure Planning Association**

11:45 Questions and Discussion chaired by **Tora Hutton, 39 Essex Chambers**

12:05 **Delivering Regeneration Through Partnership**

Delivering successful regeneration and placemaking requires strong, long-term partnerships between the public and private sectors. With ongoing housing and regeneration challenges, innovative delivery models are needed to unlock complex schemes. The public sector offers land stewardship, convening power, and a long-term vision, while the private sector brings capital, market insight, and the ability to attract further investment. Together, these strengths can unlock opportunities that would not otherwise proceed, creating sustainable, high-quality places built on shared objectives, trust, and aligned risk and reward.

Speaker: **Sophie White, Aviva**

12:40 Questions and Discussion chaired by **Virginia Blackman, Avison Young**

13:00 Lunch and Networking

# Programme

## Saturday 19 September

- 14:10 **Vision Led Transport – The train leaves from Platform 10**  
Vision led transport has come to the fore in recent years and is now embedded in policy. But what does it really mean? Are these just words or do they affect how we plan our developments and places. How can the vision add value rather than cost to schemes and what do users of developments actually want? Are the latest policy changes heading in the right direction? This session will explore these topics with reference to current and recent examples  
Speaker: **David Bird, Rovia**
- 
- 14:45 Questions and Discussion chaired by **Leonie Oliva, Newmark**
- 
- 15:05 **Something Special? How development orders can help deliver at scale, at pace**  
We often treat planning as a single system and assume every project must travel the same journey. We often forget that planning should be about delivery as much as control. Development Orders offer alternative pathways. This session will look at what makes some development orders “special”, how they are being used and what that tells us about the planning system as a way of getting things done.  
Speaker: **Roy Pinnock, Dentons**
- 
- 15:40 Questions and Discussion chaired by **Matthew White, Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer**
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- 16:00 Tea and Networking (until 17:00) - rest of the afternoon free
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- 16:25 Optional historical walking tour of Oxford: **Rivalry, Ritual and Remarkable Oddballs – Oxford Off-Centre** *“Behind the calm stone fronts lie strange rules, long grudges and flashes of inspired eccentricity.”*
- 
- 18:45 Sweet & Maxwell champagne reception, New College
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- 19:30 Black tie JPLC **Gala Dinner** with guest speaker **To be announced**, chaired by **Hashi Mohamed, Landmark Chambers**, in New College Dining Hall followed by late night entertainment

## Sunday 20 September

- 07:30 Breakfast, New College (until 09:00)
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- 08:00 Church service, New College Chapel
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- 09:30 Conference (Rhodes House). Chair’s introduction, **Claire Dutch, Ashurst**
- 
- 09:40 **Why national planning policy doesn’t work – and how to fix it**  
Labour’s 2024 National Planning Policy Framework introduced big changes, e.g. “grey belt” and the “golden rules”. And the new 2026 NPPF takes those changes further, e.g. the new “presumption” tests, spatial development strategies, national development management policies, and the train station policy. The Government needs those reforms to work – they are used to justify projected GDP increases of several billion pounds. But will they work? Do changes in national policy ever really work? How can we tell? Has the Government ever checked? And what would we have to change to make national policy work better?  
Speaker: **Zack Simons KC, Landmark Chambers**
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- 10:15 Questions and Discussion chaired by **Tom Dobson, Quod**
- 
- 10:35 **Legal Update**  
Discussion of the key themes that emerge from case-law over the past year.  
Speaker: **Isabella Tafur KC, Francis Taylor Building**
- 
- 11:10 Questions and Discussion chaired by **Duncan Field, Town Legal**
- 
- 11:30 **Conference close**

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

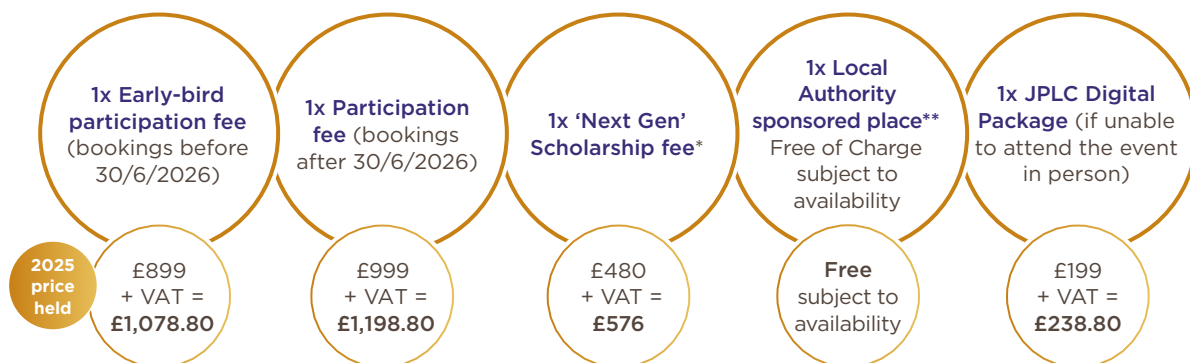
> [jplc.org](https://www.jplc.org)

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026 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, Town Legal LLP, Kings Chambers, Quod, Imperial, Newmark and the Planning Officers Society.

Complete the application form on the website [jplc.org](http://jplc.org) or email [lucinda@jplc.org](mailto:lucinda@jplc.org) for further details.

**Calling all cyclist attendees:** JPLC invite you to join a friendly networking cycle ride on **Friday 18 September**, starting in Reading at 11am. The route takes us over the Chilterns on quiet country roads for a relaxed 50–60km ride, paced to suit the group, with a leisurely lunch stop before finishing in Oxford at New College Gardens by 4pm. A support van and luggage transfer will accompany the ride, with an option for bicycle return to London.

To register your interest, please email: [lucinda@jplc.org](mailto:lucinda@jplc.org)

## 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](mailto: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 2026 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 2026 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 2026

Artwork: **Turley**

Champagne Reception:  
**Sweet & Maxwell**

Conference App: **Herbert  
Smith Freehills**

Refreshments: **Dentons**

### Next Gen Sponsors

The Planning Inspectorate  
FTB – Francis Taylor Building  
No5 Chambers  
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Cornerstone Barristers  
Savills

### Local Authority Sponsors

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