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| This is us

We are a specialist planning law firm set up at the end of 2016 by some of the leading figures in the planning law sector.

We advise on all aspects of planning law, across England and Wales. We act for a range of clients, including developers, landowners, and public authorities.

One of our partners is a leading planning barrister, which is one of the things that sets Town apart and provides added value to clients, in terms of the quality and speed of our advice.

We are the most highly rated planning law firm in the country, according to Planning magazine's 2019, 2020 and 2021 annual planning law survey. We are ranked in the top band of London planning law teams in Chambers Directory and Legal 500 and listed in The Times survey, Best Law Firms 2021.

'Town Legal provides us with the highest quality of advice and support across our schemes. That Town contains some of the best and nimblest minds in planning law gives us great confidence when we know that more niche queries can always be subject to a 'straw poll' across the office.'

'Being a boutique planning law practice has allowed Town Legal to focus on giving great advice, rather than be weighed down by vast management structures. It is no mistake that the firm has so quickly established a 'top spot' reputation in the planning field.'

(Legal 500, 2021)

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www.townlegal.com



OUR WORK INCLUDES:

- Strategic planning law advice
- Legal audit of planning applications
- Section 106 and other planning agreements
- Planning appeals, call-ins, inquiries, hearings, written representations
- Local plan examinations
- Litigation- judicial review and legal challenges
- Highways law
- CPO and compensation law (including conducting claims in the Upper Tribunal)
- Corporate and real estate transaction support
- Community Infrastructure Levy
- Legal advice in relation to environmental impact assessment and related EU legislation
- Certificates of lawfulness
- Rights of light and appropriation of land for planning purposes
- Heritage law
- Rating Law

"One consultant described Town Legal as 'a fresh new practice which seems to be attracting some of the best planning law talent'. Another said: 'Their advice is as good as you'll get anywhere, but it's given without fuss and with a charm that fits perfectly with what they got away from their corporate backgrounds to start; a law firm with personality'."

(Planning magazine annual planning law survey 2019)

| Our clients include:

- 22 Bishopsgate Limited Partnership
- A2 Dominion
- Asra Housing Association
- Argent
- Arun District Council
- Battersea Power Station Development Company
- Be First
- Bellway Homes
- BentallGreenOak
- Berkeley Homes
- British Land
- Brockton Capital
- Burhill Group Estates
- Canary Wharf Group
- Capital & Regional
- Car Giant
- Carmarthenshire County Council
- Chinese Estates Group
- Church Commissioners for England
- CIT Group
- City and Provincial
- Coin Street Community Builders
- Corporate Officers of the House of Commons and House of Lords
- DAMAC group
- Dandi Living
- Danescroft Land
- David Wilson Homes
- Derwent London
- DP World London Gateway
- EcoWorld
- Edyn Group
- Elysian Residences
- Fabrix
- Far East Consortium
- Fawley Waterside
- First Base
- Francis Crick Institute
- Freightliner
- Galliard Homes
- Gleeson Strategic Land
- Goldcrest Land
- Great Marlborough Estates
- Great Portland Estates
- Greenwich Hospital
- Greystar
- Groveworld
- Guinness Developments
- HB Reavis
- Hines
- IM Properties
- Imperial College
- Ironmongers' Livery Company
- J Murphy Group
- JP Morgan
- Joseph Homes

- Lands Improvement Holdings
- Lidl
- Lincoln MGT
- London Borough of Islington
- London Eye
- London City Airport
- London Hotel Group
- Jansons
- London Metropolitan University
- London Strategic Land
- Londenewcastle
- Mayfield Market Towns Limited
- Merseyside Pension Fund
- Meyer Bergman
- Mount Anvil
- Native Land
- Nine Elms Property
- Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- Plymouth City Council
- Pocket Living
- Prologis
- Queen Mary University of London
- Redrow
- Ritz Hotel
- Royal National Theatre
- Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust
- Royal Mail Group
- Satnam Millennium
- SAV Development
- Scape
- SEGRO
- Sellar
- South Hams District Council
- Southend Borough Council
- Southern Housing Group
- St George
- St James
- St Mary's University
- St William
- Stanhope
- Stansted Airport
- Taylor Wimpey
- Telereal Trillium
- Telford Homes
- The Collective
- The Crown Estate
- Tishman Speyer
- Transport for London
- U+I
- University of London
- Waterbeach Development Company
- West Devon Borough Council
- Worshipful Company of Brewers

Our partners



(Back) Duncan Field, Raj Gupta, Clare Fielding, Meeta Kaur, Mary Cook, Patrick Robinson, Michael Gallimore
(Front) Louise Samuel, Simon Ricketts, Elizabeth Christie

"Sought-after planning boutique, home to industry specialists with a wealth of experience in high-profile regeneration and development projects. Advises on the full range of planning matters including compulsory purchase and related compensation work and processes such as public inquiries and appeals."

(Chambers and Partners, 2020)

| Elizabeth Christie

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Elizabeth spent nine years at Herbert Smith Freehills before becoming one of Town's founding partners. She has a wide-ranging planning practice, including advising on tall buildings, PRS, heritage issues, and major regeneration schemes.

Experience

22 Bishopsgate Limited Partnership
22 Bishopsgate

SH Reading Master LLP
Station Hill, Reading

Lendlease and London & Continental Railways
International Quarter, Stratford City

British Land
Broadgate Estate

Imperial College
Perfume Factory, North Acton

Francis Crick Institute
Francis Crick Institute

Danescroft Land
Clock House and Access House, Bromley-by-Bow

Brockton Capital
Post Building, Camden

Market Tech Holdings
Hawley Wharf, Camden Lock Market, Stables Market

| Mary Cook

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Experience

Development schemes & strategic land advice:

Mary regularly offers early strategic advice on the promotion of regeneration schemes, considering the prospects of changing policy contexts, testing the robustness of the planning strategy (including the need for certificates of existing use and development/enforcement history) and ultimately shaping the planning application, considering the need for & adequacy of EIA screening &/or scoping opinions. She has considerable experience in schemes involving Green Belt issues, flood risk issues, protected species & their environments, daylight and sunlight assessments, complex transport assessment issues as well as statutory and locally listed buildings and conservation areas. She regularly works in conjunction with colleagues at Town.

Local Plan examinations & Neighbourhood Plans:

Mary is currently advising landowners and developers, appearing at various examinations promoting a new garden village in York on land to be removed from the Green Belt, a new Town at Cranbrook in Devon, the redevelopment of previously developed land in the ANOB and Green Belt in Kent, potential allocations for commercial and residential floorspace on former mineral workings in Essex, an urban extension in Litchfield, and a housing allocation in Windsor and Maidenhead. She successfully resisted the promotion of a retail led town centre on behalf of owners of a well-established out of centre retail centre. She

is advising on the policies coming forward in neighbourhood plans designed to limit development opportunities.

Mary has particular experience in **Retirement and Care Homes:** Acting and advising Churchill Retirement Living, Inspired Villages Group, Elysian Residences and Carebase.

Schools, Colleges & PBSA: Advising various establishments on their development plans and related planning applications involving listed buildings, conservation areas and MOL in Camden and Haringey and in the Green Belt.

Hotels: Currently advising on three hotel projects in London at various stages in the development pipeline and a significant commercial leisure scheme.

Commercial: Currently advising B2/B8 operators in the Green Belt on expansion prospects; owners of former airfields transforming them into mixed use schemes.

Section 78 Appeals: Mary has acted on appeals for Bellway in Buckingham; for A2 Dominion at Siege Cross, West Berkshire; at Forest Farm at Chippenham and Manor Farm in Guildford Borough for Gleeson Strategic Land. She has secured consent on appeal for a residential scheme in the ANOB in Chipping Camden, for Cove Homes in Swallowfield, Wokingham, various mixed-used schemes in London for Goldcrest and beyond. She is currently working on a variety of housing appeals and one for purpose-built student accommodation.



Mary is a leading planning barrister, and prior to Town was a member of Cornerstone Barristers where she served as Joint Head of Chambers. She is one of Town's founding partners.

High Court challenges: Mary is regularly called upon to advise and act for those who wish to defend or challenge the grant of planning permission, whether granted locally or on appeal and very often works with associates at Town.

Compulsory Purchase: Advising Southwark on the Elephant and Castle Shopping Centre redevelopment. Previously acting on various regeneration schemes. Advising Carmarthenshire County Council on road/footway and cycle schemes.

| Duncan Field

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Experience

The Crown Estate

The regeneration programme for Regent Street and St James's in Central London over a 20 year period.

Olympus Property Holding Limited

The £1.3 billion cultural regeneration of the Olympia Exhibition site.

Hinduja Group and OHL Desarrollos

Redevelopment of the Old War Office in Whitehall, Central London as a luxury hotel with apartments.

London City Airport

The expansion of the airport over the past 20 years.

London Luton Airport

The expansion of the Airport to increase capacity to 18 million passengers per annum.

PD Ports

The 1.5 million TEUs Northern Gateway Container Terminal at Teesport.

DP World

The continuing development of London Gateway Port and Logistics Park.

The Crown Estate

Offshore Wind Leasing Rounds.

McLaren Group

The extension of the McLaren campus in Woking, Surrey.

London Legacy Development Corporation

The post-Games transformation of the Olympic Stadium.



Duncan advises on major infrastructure projects and regeneration schemes around the UK. He was previously head of planning law at Norton Rose Fulbright and was also a specialist planning partner at Wragge & Co and SJ Berwin. Duncan led the team that won the Real Estate Team of the Year at the British Legal Awards in 2016 and Planning Law Firm of the Year at the UK Planning Awards in 2017.

Clare Fielding

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Clare Fielding is particularly known for substantial London projects. She regularly advises on complex planning strategy, viability issues, Community Infrastructure Levy, JR risk, and on property-related corporate transactions. Her style is collaborative, problem-solving and people-centred. She is closely involved in the leadership and management of Town and regularly speaks on diversity and inclusion in the workplace. Legal 500 2021 said: "Clare is very pragmatic, and her work is a very good example of the public and private sector working together. She's very good on strategy."

Outside work she is passionate about lifelong learning, cooking, golf and Spanish language and culture.



Experience

Battersea Power Station Development Company
Redevelopment of Battersea Power Station, LB Wandsworth

Sellar
Shard Place and Canada Water regeneration, LB Southwark

Derwent London
White Collar Factory, LB Islington

St James
White City Living and Centre House, White City, LB Hammersmith and Fulham

Greenwich Hospital
Redevelopment of Greenwich Market, RB Greenwich

Minerva plc
St Botolphs and the Minerva Building (Canon Street), City of London

Stanhope/Schroders JV
Croydon Gateway CPO inquiry, LB Croydon

Arsenal Football Club
Emirates Stadium and associated regeneration, LB Islington

Michael Gallimore

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Mike was head of planning at Hogan Lovells before joining Town Legal. He is widely recognised as a leading planning lawyer developing his reputation through a number of high profile projects. Mike has over 30 years' experience spanning regeneration and mixed use schemes, new housing settlements, office, retail and leisure projects as well as new infrastructure. Legal 500 has described him as "an industry expert" who "takes the time to understand his clients' requirements".

Experience

Argent (King's Cross) Limited

The redevelopment of King's Cross Central

Argent Related

Brent Cross Town

Canary Wharf Group and Qatari Diar

The redevelopment of the Shell Centre on the South Bank

St George

1 Blackfriars, Grand Union Alperton and Royal Exchange Kingston

Joseph Homes

The Albion Waterside development in Gravesend

Pocket Living

Various London projects

Grovesworld

Redevelopment of the former Royal Nose, Throat and Ear Hospital on Gray's Inn Road

Helioslough Limited

Radlett Strategic Rail Freight Interchange

London Legacy Development Corporation

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

Mayfield Market Towns Limited

Mayfields new settlement



U+I

The redevelopment of 8 Albert Embankment

| Raj Gupta

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Raj specialises in all aspects of compulsory purchase law and is particularly well-known for his expertise in contested land compensation proceedings and in infrastructure planning. Before joining Town, Raj led Pinsent Masons' compulsory purchase team for three years having previously spent ten years at Eversheds. Raj is an elected member of the national committee of the Compulsory Purchase Association and is ranked in Chambers Directory.

Experience

Claims against HS2

Acting on a number of high value claims Including for Freightliner, IM Group, Canfield, Curzon Park, Booker Group and Grinsaem including in relation to certificates of appropriate alternative development.

Car Giant

Assisting Car Giant in successfully objecting to the OPDC's proposals to develop its land.

East West Rail

Acting for a number of landowners in objecting to Network Rail's proposals and negotiating agreements to protect their interests.

Compulsory Purchase Orders

Acting for a number of developers and acquiring authorities in promoting CPOs, including negotiation of site assembly agreements and securing confirmation following inquiry.

London Development Agency/ Greater London Authority

Promoting the Olympics CPO and acting on compensation claims arising from it.

Transport for London

Advising on securing and implementing powers for various projects including the East London Line Extension and the Silvertown Tunnel and on landmark compensation claims including Spirerose and Urban Edge.

| Meeta Kaur

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Meeta is a UK qualified lawyer and chartered town planner. She specialises in large scale mixed-use redevelopment and regeneration schemes, including urban extensions, both in London and across the country. She advises on all aspects of planning and associated areas, including highways, compulsory purchase, CIL, heritage, affordable housing and scheme viability, on both the contentious and non-contentious side. Before Town, Meeta spent 12 years at King & Wood Mallesons (previously SJ Berwin) and before that was a planning officer at Westminster City Council.

Meeta is vice chair of the board of trustees of the Royal Town Planning Institute, a non-executive director of Public Practice and an advisory board member for Women in Planning.

Experience

St William Homes

Mixed use residential-led redevelopment of Fulham, Poplar, Bow Common and Marian Place Gasworks.

Chinese Estates

Mixed use commercial development of 120 Fleet Street including the Grade II* listed former Daily Express Building.

British Land

Clarges Estate in Mayfair, Putney High Street in Putney, Blossom Street in Shoreditch, Eden Walk in Kingston and the Leisure Hall extension to Meadowhall Shopping Centre.

Far East Consortium

Redevelopment of listed Hornsey Town Hall, Haringey.



Meyer Bergman

Retail-led redevelopment of Vinopolis.

Berkeley (East Thames)

Kidbrooke Village estate regeneration.

Northants

Wellingborough North urban extension.

Hanwood Park

Kettering East urban extension.

Simon Ricketts

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Simon specialises in planning, compulsory purchase and related public law issues in relation to major mixed-use development schemes across England. Before co-founding Town, he was head of planning and environmental law first at SJ Berwin and then King & Wood Mallesons. He has been ranked as the country's most highly rated planning solicitor for the last eleven years running in Planning magazine's annual survey. He is author of the Simonicity planning law blog.

Experience

British Land

5 Kingdom Street, Paddington

Lands Improvement Holdings

Houghton Regis urban extension

Stansted Airport

Increase in passenger numbers

Fawley Waterside

Former Fawley power station site development, Hampshire

Richborough Estates

Suffolk Coastal Supreme Court proceedings

IM Properties

Peddimore logistics development, Birmingham

Mount Anvil

Whitechapel Central

Capital and Regional

Walthamstow town centre

London Eye

London Eye retention

Patrick Robinson

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Patrick spent thirty-eight years at Herbert Smith Freehills before becoming one of Town's founding partners. He continues to practice across all areas of contentious and non-contentious planning work. He brings to the subject the broader experience of a development real estate lawyer's background.

Experience

22 Bishopsgate Limited Partnership

22 Bishopsgate

Elizabeth House Limited Partnership

Elizabeth House

Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust

Royal Brompton Hospital

U+I

8 Albert Embankment

British Land

Broadgate

Stanhope

Royal Street

Trustees of the Tate Gallery

Tate Modern

Stansted Airport

Increase in passenger numbers

| Louise Samuel

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Louise joined Town in October 2019 after 16 years in the planning team at Linklaters. She has a wide range of experience across the UK, including securing consent for town extensions and energy/ infrastructure projects, but Louise particularly enjoys advising on complex development within central London. She has acted on a number of London's iconic tall buildings (including One Undershaft, 40 Leadenhall, 122 Leadenhall and 20 Fenchurch Street) and major City HQs (including for Bloomberg, UBS and Goldman Sachs).

Experience

BentallGreenOak

Bury House, City of London; and
105 Victoria Street (Southside),
Westminster

CIT Group

Finsbury Tower (HYLO), Islington;
Vinegar Yard, Southwark; and
Colechurch House, Southwark

Delta Properties

Finchley Road (Camden); and
The Rookery at the Hyde (Barnet)

Galliard plc

(and JV, Starbones Limited)
Chiswick Curve, Hounslow; Holly
House, Hounslow; and Leegate
Shopping Centre, Lewisham

Great Portland Estates plc

New City Court and Minerva House,
Southwark; French Railways House,
Hanover Square and Rathbone Place,
Westminster; and 50 Finsbury
Square, Islington



Native Land

Bankside Yards and Neo Bankside, Southwark;
Regent House, Kilmuir House and New
Burlington Gate, Westminster; and St Mary's
Wharf, Guildford

Sydell Holdings

The Ned, City of London; and Nomad London
(formerly Bow Street Magistrates Court),
Westminster

The Ritz Hotel (London) London

The Ritz, Westminster

| Martin Dawbney

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Martin is a consultant specialising in business rates law, having spent over 30 years at Herbert Smith (latterly Herbert Smith Freehills) as a property lawyer with an ancillary rating practice.

His work at Town ranges from day-to-day advice on rates mitigation schemes and liability disputes to running complex cases before the Valuation Tribunal for England (VTE) and the Upper Tribunal (Lands Chamber). He also has a developing practice in neighbourly matters and continues to provide and real estate advice on a non-transactional basis.

Experience

Harrods and Selfridges

Acting on tribunal cases in respect of the 2000 and 2005 lists.

A media client

Advising on a proposed judicial review and ultimate settlement in the light of retrospective liability imposed under the 2010 list in the light of the Mazars decision. This included acting for a major international law firm on a similar issue, which was also settled.

Native Land

Advising on the use of a Guardian arrangement to mitigate rates liability in respect of a commercial building awaiting demolition and redevelopment, including acting on the case before the VTE.

A major developer

Advising on the relationship between business rates and the Community Infrastructure Levy, in particular assisting in maximising the CIL exemption in respect of in-use buildings.



Olympic Legacy

Acting in a case concerning the rateable value of the Velodrome in the 2010 list, which settled prior to trial.

Neighbourly matters

Advising a number of City Livery companies and owners of other sensitive-receptor properties on the protection of heritage assets from adjoining redevelopments.

Steve Quartermain CBE

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Steve joined Town in June 2020 having stepped down as the Government's Chief Planner, a post he held since 2008. Steve has over 40 years of practical and policy experience having previously held senior roles in Local Government, the last 12 years of which saw him run all front line services including an economic development function. The council was adjudged an excellent council and the planning services awarded Beacon Council status.

As Chief Planner Steve has been at the heart of the Government's planning reform agenda, most notably the NPPF and planning practice guidance reviews; he managed the casework function and was responsible for the design brief.

Steve was made a Commander of the British Empire in 2015 for services to planning infrastructure.

Steve brings the breadth of his practical and strategic experience on planning and related matters to Town.

| Our associates



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"The team has excellent knowledge of the subject area and excellent strategic thinking, and the firm retains good relationships with other professionals of a similar calibre."




(Chambers and Partners, 2020)

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