



Howard Bassford

Partner

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Howard Bassford focuses on obtaining planning and other regulatory approvals for major energy, infrastructure, marine and railway development projects as well as conventional projects.

He is often asked to advise on the highest-profile and most controversial development proposals. He has considerable experience in all aspects of planning, compulsory purchase and local government law. He advises regularly on industrial, retail and residential planning matters, as well as wider public law issues. Howard is regularly published and asked to comment on planning matters.

His recent roles include: lead planning lawyer on the first ever development consent order - which involved special parliamentary procedure; leading the legal team for the largest infrastructure project promoted by a public authority outside London - the Mersey Gateway bridge project; and securing significant concessions from the Government for a major industrial client in relation to HS2. Currently, Howard is promoting the largest project ever carried out by the National Grid and is advising on the world's first tidal lagoon energy project - Tidal Lagoon Swansea Bay.

- Real Estate Development and Planning
- Real Estate
- Public Sector

Howard is one of the pre-eminent Planning Act 2008 solicitors. He has promoted many development consent orders (DCOs) including:

- The first DCO subject to special Parliamentary procedure, Rookery South
- The first tidal lagoon DCO, Tidal Lagoon Swansea Bay
- The first major smart motorway DCO, M4 Junctions 3 to 12
- The first IGCC coal and gas power station DCO, C.Gen Killingholme

Howard advises regularly on Town and Country Planning Act 1990 matters, particularly in relation to complex or large residential and commercial development. Examples include:

- Mersey Gateway, advising on the construction of the bridge and tolling
- Securing listed buildings consent for the preservation of the Cutty Sark
- Advising a major professional services firm on securing concessions in relation to HS2

CREDENTIALS

Professional Qualifications

- Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales

Prior Experience

2005 to date, Partner, DLA Piper

2001 to 2005, Associate, UK based multinational law firm

1997 to 2001, Assistant Solicitor, UK based commercial law firm

Education

- Christ Church, Oxford, BA (Hons) Modern History, 1997

INSIGHTS

Publications

Powers of compulsory acquisition under the Planning Act 2008

19 May 2022

In this article we set out the key conditions and considerations for the inclusion of compulsory acquisition powers in a DCO, focusing on the tests under the Planning Act, the considerations under the Guidance (Planning Act 2008: Guidance related to procedures for the compulsory acquisition of land, 2013) and Human Rights factors.

The Future of UK Infrastructure - Summary of the Panel Discussion

15 November 2021

Summary of a panel discussion looking at the future of UK infrastructure, post-COVID and post-Brexit. Panellists were Rt Hon Jesse Norman MP (former Financial Secretary to the Treasury), Sir John Armit CBE (Chair of the National Infrastructure Commission) and Dr Gemma Tetlow (Chief Economist at the Institute for Government).

BEIS publishes draft energy national policy statements and launches consultation until 29 November 2021

14 October 2021

DLA Piper's summary of the UK Government's revised national policy statements relating to nationally significant energy projects in England and a reminder to all investors, developers and operators of energy infrastructure to consider responding to the consultation, to shape future consenting policies and emerging technologies.

- "UK infra needs a new public-private relationship, July 2020"

Events

Previous

Outline: Planning Law Update

20 January 2022
Real Estate Seminar Programme
Webinar

The Future of UK Infrastructure

15 September 2021
UK Sector Fortnight
Webinar

Outline Planning Law Update

14 January 2021
Real Estate Seminar Programme
Webinar

Outline Planning Law Update

14 January 2021
Outline UK Planning update
Webinar

NEWS

DLA Piper advises Elgin Energy on sale of UK's largest solar portfolio

19 January 2022

DLA Piper has advised Elgin Energy, a leading international independent solar and storage developer, on the sale of a 519MW portfolio of solar PV projects and 70MW of co-located energy storage capacity to ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of global utility Iberdrola Group, one of the world's largest energy companies.

DLA Piper advises Tarmac on its agreement with Forth Ports to create the UK's largest construction materials terminal at Tilbury2

21 May 2021

DLA Piper has advised Tarmac in relation to its agreement with Forth Ports for the creation of the UK's largest construction materials terminal at the new T2 facility at the Port of Tilbury in Essex, England.
