

MORAG THOMSON - EXPERIENCE

Morag is a specialist planning lawyer who has dealt with all aspects of planning related work. She advises on all aspects of the planning process from inception to permission and beyond. She currently advises national, residential and commercial, property developers on a wide range of developments and is very experienced in major planning inquiry work and the negotiation and drafting of complex Section 106 Agreements and other infrastructure related agreements, such as agreements under s.278 of the Highway Act 1980.

Major residential developments upon which Morag has been instructed include:

- Dartford Park, Dartford – 1500 dwellings, science park and community infrastructure for Prologis UK Limited
- Cambridge Urban Extensions – approximately 2000 dwellings and social infrastructure for Barratt Strategic
- Redevelopment of Inglis Barracks at Mill Hill – 2280 dwellings and community infrastructure for St Modwen, Annington Developments Ltd and London Borough of Barnet
- Urban extensions around Greater Nottingham for various developers/landowners
- Major urban extensions in Central Bedfordshire comprising several thousands of houses at Houghton Regis and Leighton Buzzard for Central Bedfordshire Council
- Regeneration of Alton Estate, London Borough of Wandsworth for Redrow

Morag also has particular experience in the promotion of ‘nationally significant infrastructure projects’ through applications for Development Consent Orders (DCO) under the Planning Act 2008. These involve the preparation and submission of complex applications to the Planning Inspectorate followed by a six-month Examination (written and oral). Morag has been heavily involved in the promotion of five DCO schemes from inception to approval and is advising in respect of an additional two schemes at various stages of progress. Of note is a Harbour Facilities order obtained in connection with an export facility in Teesside for a new Potash Mine (Woodsmith Mine) permitted in North Yorkshire, upon which Morag also advises. Morag also has also been the principle legal advisor in relation to applications for Development Consent Orders for:

- the extension to Daventry Rail Freight Interchange (known as DIRFT) involving up to 8 million sq. ft of warehousing and new rail freight terminal (The Daventry International Rail Freight Interchange Alteration Order 2014 SI 1796).
- the development of a new logistics park and rail freight terminal adjacent to East Midlands Airport which included approximately 8m sq. ft. of warehousing and highways orders relating to major works on and around J24 of the M1 (The East Midlands Gateway Rail Freight Interchange and Highway Order 2016 SI 17);
- the Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Interchange Order including approximately 6m sq. ft of warehousing and a bypass adjacent to J15 of the M1 motorway (The Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Interchange Order 2019 SI 1358);

- an application for a logistics park (involving approximately 6.5 million sq. ft with rail freight terminal near J10 of the M6) (West Midlands Interchange – DCO approved by Secretary of State for Transport on 4 May 2020).

In addition to continuing to advise Anglo American on aspects of the York Potash Project (Woodsmith Mine) Morag continues to advise on the implementation of the East Midlands Gateway DCO, the Northampton Gateway DCO and the West Midlands Interchange DCO.

Morag is a Legal Associate of the Royal Town Planning Institute and member of the Law Society's Planning Law Accreditation Scheme.

Morag's employment history is summarised below:

July 2015 to 30 April 2020	Partner in Eversheds Sutherland, Planning and Infrastructure Consenting Team
1994 to July 2015	Partner in Marrons/Marrons Shakespeares, Leicester
Previously	Partner in Fishers, Ashby de la Zouch Solicitor at Charnwood Borough Council Trainee at New Forest District Council

15 March 2021