

CPRE's Centenary Conference Running out: facing the crisis in land use

Thursday 25 June 2026, 09:30 – 17:00

UCL East – One Pool Street, Stratford

09:30 – 10:00 Registration and refreshments

10:00 – 10:10 Welcome: Roger Mortlock, CEO, CPRE and Professor Kate Jones, UCL

10:10- 11:30 Session 1: How did we get here?

Our opening session examines the roots of the land crisis, from false divides between town and country planning, to fragmented policy and data, to the influence of land ownership and vested interests. Drawing on experts across sectors, speakers will make the compelling case for rethinking how we use land.

Chair: Mary-Ann Ochota, CPRE President

- Emma Pinchbeck, CEO, CCC: Climate change and land use change
- Professor Mark Tewdwr-Jones, UCL: Planning and addressing long term needs
- Guy Shrubsole, Author: Land ownership and rethinking land use
- Sue Pritchard, CEO, FFCC: Multifunctional land use

11:30 – 12:00 Break

12:00 – 13:15 Session 2: Designing systems that work

Integrating land use across sectors and places requires systems thinking. This panel explores how economic and democratic systems can be better designed around land use, why the environment must be treated as first infrastructure, and how joined-up spatial policy at national level can unlock sustainable solutions.

Chair: Tom Heap, writer and broadcaster

- Rachel Fisher, CEO, RTPi: Plan for England
- Tom Curtis, 3Keel: Economic imperative for systems thinking
- Natalie Prosser, CEO, OEP: Environment as economic bedrock
- Tom Lafford, Defra: Defra and LUF

13:15 – 14:15 Lunch

14:15 – 15:00 Session 3: From ambition to action

Our final session focuses on delivery. We will showcase the latest examples of integration in practice, including new CPRE research on the tools being used by Combined Authorities, insights from landowners leading innovative land use change, and perspectives from those shaping place-making at local level.

Chair: Fiona Reynolds, CPRE Vice President

- Helen Browning, CEO, Soil Association: Farming, food and health
- Carolyn McKenzie, Chair of Environment Board, ADEPT: Integrating environment into spatial planning
- Ellie Brodie, Grounded Insight: Tools for Integrating Land Use Decisions, CPRE research

15:00 – 15:30 Session 4: Panel discussion with UCL students

15:30 – 15:45 Reflections, Next Steps: Roger Mortlock, CEO, CPRE