

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, Director of The People and Nature Lab, UCL

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.

10:10 – 10:15 Introduction from Chair: Mary-Ann Ochota, President, CPRE

10:15 – 10:25 Emma Pinchbeck, CEO, Climate Change Committee (CCC)
How do we achieve a successful transformation in UK land use?

10:25 – 10:35 Professor Mark Tewdwr-Jones, Professor of Cities and Regions, UCL
A matter of policy: The real reason why we are all frustrated with planning

10:35 – 10:45 Guy Shrubsole, Author
Why rethinking land use has to contend with who owns land - and how might we hold landowners to account?

10:45 – 10:55 Sue Pritchard, CEO, Food, Farming and Countryside Commission (FFCC)
Land - the taboo topic

10:55 – 11:25 Panel discussion and Q&A

11:25 – 11:45 Refreshment break

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.

11:45 – 11:50 Introduction from Chair: Tom Heap, writer and broadcaster

11:50 – 12:00 Rachel Fisher, CEO, Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)
A plan for England?

12:00 – 12:10 Natalie Prosser, CEO, Office for Environmental Protection (OEP)
View from the OEP – How effective land use can help government meet its environmental targets

12:10 – 12:20 Tom Curtis, Founder and Director, 3Keel
From systems thinking to systems action

12:20 – 13:00 Panel discussion joined by Tom Lafford, Head of the Land Use Framework Project, Defra and Kevin Reid, Head of Strategic Planning, MHCLG

13:00 – 14:15 Lunch

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 Strategic Authorities, insights from landowners leading innovative land use change, and perspectives from those shaping place-making at local level.

14:30 – 14:35 Introduction from Chair: Fiona Reynolds, Vice President, CPRE

14:35 – 14:45 Helen Browning, CEO, Soil Association
Integrated land use in practice

14:45 – 14:55 Carolyn McKenzie, Chair of Environment Board, ADEPT
Environment - The first infrastructure of place, rhetoric to reality

14:55 – 15:05 Ellie Brodie, Director, Grounded Insight
What tools can Mayoral Strategic Authorities use to integrate land use decisions?

15:05 – 15:15 Baroness Barbara Young, House of Lords and Chair, Forestry Commission
Title tbc

15:15 – 15:45 Panel discussion and Q&A

15:45– 16:00 Reflections, Next Steps: Roger Mortlock, CEO, CPRE

16:00 – 17:00 Drinks reception