

# Mike Derbyshire

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**Mike leads Bidwells' planning practice. He is a passionate and vastly experienced advocate for thoughtful, well-designed development and a thought leader on the future of planning in England.**

His track record demonstrates how he has overcome our clients' biggest planning challenges with a blend of strategic and political instinct and forensic knowledge of the planning system. Mike breeds confidence and spots an opportunity quicker than most but more importantly, Bidwells' most senior planner loves his work.

As an expert witness, Mike's most at home arguing his case at a planning committee, in the media or at the High Court. He helped turn 26 planning reasons for the refusal of Brookgate's 1.6m sq ft CB1 scheme at Cambridge train station into an award-winning commercial success, which is now home to three out of four of the world's trillion-dollar corporations.

In 2009, the SoS dismissed a called-in appeal on the former Dunsfold Aerodrome stating it was in an inherently unsustainable location. Nine years later, and with Mike at the helm, the owner secured an allocation for 2,600 homes and approval for a parallel application for 1,800 homes and 250,000 sq m of commercial floorspace after a call-in Inquiry.

Channel 4 even once made a documentary about a one-of-a-kind planning case that Mike won for his client in the High Court after she painted the facade of her Kensington home in bright red and white stripes.

## Key relevant project experience

### Residential

Grosvenor - Promotion of a new Garden Community, including 5,000 new homes in North Essex.

The Wellcome Trust on an urban extension for 2,500 homes in Abbots Langley at Three Rivers District Council.

Preparation of an application for 1,000 houses in the Green Belt for the Lawes Agricultural Trust in Hertfordshire.

### CB1 Cambridge

CB1, Cambridge, the Lord Rogers designed master plan for 1.6m sq ft of development around Cambridge Station. This is 75% complete and was highly commended in the RTPI East of England awards in 2017.

### Cambridge North Station

2m sq ft around the new Cambridge North Station. This involves 1,000 homes being developed in advance of an AAP for the wider area which will be facilitated by the relocation of the adjacent water treatment plant. This scheme has secured circa £200m in HIF.

### Caprice Holdings/The Birley Group

Both clients for many years and projects include Scott's, the Club at the Ivy, "34" in Grosvenor Square, and Sexy Fish. In February this year, the new Annabel's opened to much acclaim in Berkeley Square. Mike led on the planning strategy relocation and refurbishment of this Grade I listed building which included a retractable glass roof over the dining terrace, the first of its kind in London.

**"Mike managed to help us unlock a site that a series of experienced planning consultants, architects and heritage consultants have been unable to do over a six-year period - quite an achievement and one he should be proud of."**

Mark Lees, Designwest