Christopher Whitehouse

MRICS BSc (Hons) RICS Accredited Expert Witness



Biography

Christopher Whitehouse has been a Member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (MRICS) since 2010. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Planning and Development Surveying from Northumbria University (2009) and he is an RICS Accredited Expert Witness in Planning (2014). He is also a member of the National Expert Witness Agency (NEWA).

He is the Managing Director of the planning consultancy NextPhase, an RICS Regulated Practice that he has owned and managed since its formation in 2011; having beforehand worked as a planning consultant in a Planning Consultancy. He has over 17 years' experience in a broad range of planning matters and has across that time worked extensively on planning issues associated with major residential, environmental, commercial and minerals developments.

He has acted as planning consultant for a variety of housing and commercial developers, investment funds and minerals and waste operators. He has also worked extensively across a broad range of planning appeals, including many Public Inquiries and Hearings, acting as both lead advocate and expert witness for Local Planning Authorities, Minerals Planning Authorities and appellants.

Public Inquiry Expert Witness Work in 2023-2026

Appeal 3310099 - on behalf of Worcestershire County Council
Appeal 3314808 – on behalf of Newcastle-under-Lyme Council
Appeal 3319803 – on behalf of East Devon District Council
Appeal 3323268 – on behalf of South Oxfordshire District Council
Appeal 3320714 – on behalf of East Devon District Council
Appeal 3328712 – on behalf of Thurrock Borough Council
Appeal 3331431 – on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council
Appeal 3334527 – on behalf of BCP Council
Appeal 3336117 – on behalf of Wakefield Council
Appeal 3338483 – on behalf of Central Bedfordshire Council
Appeal 3342882 - on behalf of Thurrock Borough Council
Appeal 3350245 – on behalf of Newcastle-under-Lyme Council
Appeal 3350529 – on behalf of Ashfield District Council
Appeal 3351431 – on behalf of BCP Council
Appeal 3356489 – on behalf of Norfolk County Council
Appeal 3357445 – on behalf of Essex County Council
Appeal 3362073 – on behalf of Malvern Hills District Council
Appeal 3364181 – on behalf of Newark and Sherwood Council
Appeal 3363912 – on behalf of Central Bedfordshire Council
Appeal 3368957 – on behalf of Wakefield Council
Appeal 3369937 – on behalf of Walsall Council
Appeal 3375696 – on behalf of Norwich City Council
Appeal 6002440 – on behalf of BCP Council
Appeal 3377058 – on behalf of Cumberland Council
Appeal 6003807 – on behalf of Thurrock Borough Council
Appeal 6006971 – on behalf of Epsom and Ewell Council
Appeal 6011287 – on behalf of St Albans District Council
Appeal 6015261 – on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council

Professional Services & Specialisms

Christopher specialises in:

- Expert Witness Works
- Appeals Advocacy
- Major Application Planning Consultancy

Expert Witness Specialisms

- Planning Policy
- Planning Application Decision Making
- Green Belt Planning
- Development Plan Departure Applications
- Minerals Planning
- Environmental Statements and EIA Regulations

Contact Details

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Cannock
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www.nextphase.dev

References are provided overleaf.

NEXTPHASE
THE TOWN PLANNING EXPERTS

RICS
Regulated by RICS

NEWA
2026

"I have now worked with Chris on two significant public inquiries involving proposed and controversial Energy Recovery Facilities. He provided planning evidence in both cases. Chris is exceptionally efficient and responsive during the preparation phases of the case, he clearly has a well-organised mind which is reflected in his written evidence. His oral evidence at both inquiries was calm and measured, he was unflappable in cross-examination, a very good witness. Chris is a very effective witness who is a pleasure to work alongside."

Edward Grant, Barrister – Cornerstone Barristers

"Chris gets on top of things quickly, understands fully his role as an independent expert and demonstrates great skill, reliability and leadership in taking cases forward. He brings a good energy and full professional commitment to everything he does. A pleasure to work with".

James Pereira KC, Francis Taylor Building

"Chris was the ideal expert witness: thorough and well-prepared, as well as calm and clear under cross-examination, which revealed the care with which he had prepared his evidence. In this appeal, Chris was also required to manage the administration of the appeal, marshalling multiple technical witnesses, which he did with efficiency and good humour. Highly recommended."

Dr Ashley Bowes, Barrister - Landmark Chambers.

"I worked with Chris on a lengthy appeal inquiry for a minerals site. Chris had to consider a range of planning issues, including Green Belt and did not have a long period of preparation before the inquiry started. I was extremely impressed with the quality of his written work; his levels of engagement in the run up to the inquiry and the speed of his responses to rapid change documents, such as the statement of common ground. He knew the case intensively by the opening of the inquiry, and was a reliable and supportive team member. His expert evidence was excellent, and he was calm, confident and persuasive under cross examination. I would have no hesitation in recommending Chris."

Sarah Clover, Barrister – Kings Chambers.

"Chris picked up a difficult brief and produced an admirable proof of evidence in short order. I was particularly impressed by the more marginal points which Chris tackled with vigour. This was followed up by a stalwart performance at the inquiry".

Horatio Waller, Barrister – Francis Taylor Building

"Chris is a great witness - he is organised, clear, and, importantly knows which points to run. He is honest in his views on merits, and, is able to provide compelling evidence to Inspectors. I have worked with him on a number of appeals and would highly recommend his services".

Sioned Davies, Barrister – No5 Chambers

"Chris Whitehouse is an astute and experienced witness who works well within a team. It was a pleasure working with him on a recent Green/Grey Belt public inquiry".

Gary A Grant, Barrister – Kings Chambers

"Chris's work in the appeal has been exceptional. From the start he expertly put together a clear argument for refusal in a difficult case that no-one else was able to argue. He was calm and professional in his approach throughout the Inquiry and gave an outstanding performance on the witness stand. We are impressed with his work and would have no hesitation instructing him again".

Penelope James, Solicitor – Worcestershire County Council

"Chris demonstrated a good understanding of the case and was very organised and efficient. He was confident and professional in giving evidence and he was a pleasure to work with. I would not hesitate in instructing him as the Council's witness in the future".

Rachel Killeen, Development Manager - Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council

"It was a pleasure to work with Chris on a controversial and hotly-contested 2 week inquiry in Oxfordshire, where I was counsel for the local planning authority. Chris was a real safe pair of hands with the planning evidence. Despite his busy schedule, he was reliable in producing work when it was required and it was to a very high standard. His assessments were reasonable and fair and he performed very well under cross examination, remaining calm and unflappable at all times. I would not hesitate to recommend him in future and would welcome the chance to work with him again. And we won the case!"

Emma Dring, Barrister - Cornerstone Barristers

"We instructed Chris to provide planning advice and act as a witness for this authority in respect to two complex appeals (one in relation to a solar farm and the other in relation to a battery storage

facility) which were dealt with by way of lengthy Public Inquiries. It was the first time that I have worked with Chris and I found him to be very friendly, approachable, knowledgeable and generally excellent at his job. He responded to e-mails quickly and comprehensively and was always happy to discuss any issues over the telephone or via 'virtual' and 'in-person' meetings. Our barrister was also impressed with his professional approach and the way that he conducted himself and gave evidence clearly and confidently at the Inquiries. As a result, I would not hesitate to recommend him to colleagues in other authorities and look forward to working with him again in the future!"

Damian Hunter, Planning Solicitor - East Devon District Council

"Chris very quickly was able to identify the best approach for the client in a very difficult case. He presented this extremely well, both in the written documents and as a robust witness. He was a pleasure to work with".

Stephen Morgan, Barrister - Landmark Chambers

"Chris immediately got up to speed with the details and complexities of the appeal, identifying the key issues and clearly communicating his approach, including when he would get drafts to us and our KC. Chris was very responsive, thorough and reliable in meeting deadlines throughout the project and was well prepared and professional in giving evidence at the Inquiry. I would not hesitate to appoint him to assist with any appeal in the future".

Deborah Jeakins, Planning Manager - Cambridgeshire County Council

"BCP Council recently employed the services of Christopher Whitehouse of Nextphase to represent the Council as an expert planning witness in their defence of an appeal (Public Inquiry) lodged against the non-determination of a major planning application for employment use on a site close to Bournemouth University. Christopher was an excellent witness who was able to quickly get up to speed with the complex issues associated with the planning application and provide expert and concise planning advice throughout the Public Inquiry process in order to assist the Council in presenting the best possible case at the Public Inquiry. His detailed knowledge of planning policy, analytical skills and thorough preparation made him an excellent witness at the Inquiry and he was a valued member of the appeal team. BCP would definitely use Christopher and NextPhase again in the future".

Simon Gould, Development Management Manager - BCP Council

"Chris was a pleasure to work with on a recent public inquiry as the Council's expert witness, he was extremely responsive and delivered the required information promptly and this was of a high quality. He was professional and confident giving evidence and I would not hesitate in instructing him as the Council's witness again".

Lucy Mannion, Senior Planning Officer - Thurrock Council

"I was very impressed with Chris' extensive planning knowledge and his application to the case throughout. He was able to very quickly get up to speed with the somewhat complex planning back story associated with the site, which was a huge advantage, clear he is extremely dedicated and puts in a lot of work. As well as this Chris was highly likeable and easy to work with, nothing seemed like too much trouble. Overall, it has been a pleasure working with Chris and I would certainly have no hesitation in seeking the professional services of NextPhase in the future. I would also be happy to recommend Chris to other Local Authorities seeking professional independent planning support".

Bryn Walters, Planning Manager – Central Bedfordshire Council