

Planning and Peri-Urban Land - a roundtable

[Shared Assets](#) and the [Plunkett Foundation](#) would like to invite you to a roundtable to explore the planning challenges and opportunities presented by the productive management of peri-urban and Green Belt land for public benefit.

Rationale

Peri-urban land - land on the edges of towns and cities - is a potentially valuable resource for food growing, woodland management and other productive land uses. It represents a particular 'sweet spot' for social enterprise and other civil society models of land management, as it is often productive, close to markets and within reach of potential beneficiaries of the training, health and wellbeing programmes that often form an integral part of their business models.

Social enterprise and other "civil society" land managers often report that the planning system acts as a blocker to innovative or productive use of this land, not least because it is often designated as Green Belt which can reduce the likelihood of the type of development that would enable the land to be used productively. Non Green Belt peri-urban land is also under particular pressure from development resulting in displacement of traditional activities and competition with other more commercially attractive land uses.

While a debate is underway with respect to utilising the Green Belt for new housing developments, its potential to be providing other social, economic and environmental benefits to communities is often overlooked.

We want to bring planners, representatives of chartered institutions, other policy professionals and practitioners together to share perspectives, understand the challenges and opportunities, and explore ways forward. This roundtable will be the precursor to a more comprehensive event in November. We would really value your input at this early stage to ensure we are asking the right questions and engaging with the right people.

Roundtable Aims

- To test our understanding of the opportunities and challenges involved in productive peri-urban land management
- To identify other relevant work being undertaken on these issues
- To explore the potential for social enterprise management of this land
- To explore what types of social enterprise approaches could protect rural character of greenbelt land while providing economic, environmental and social benefits
- To inform the design of a wider event to tackle these issues in November

Logistics

The roundtable will be held at in the Camden meeting room at [CAN Mezzanine, 49-51 East Rd. London N1 6AH](#) on the 21st June from 2.30pm-4.30pm.

Invitees

In addition to the convening team, we are inviting representatives from TCPA, RTPI, CPRE, Sylva Foundation, Social Enterprise UK, the Landscape Institute, Power to Change, RICS, Wildlife Trusts, RSPB, Wildlife and Countryside Link, Sustain, Ecological Land Cooperative, Landworkers Alliance, Coventry University (CAWR) and others. We would welcome suggestions of other organisations or individuals doing interesting work in this area. If you cannot attend please feel free to nominate a colleague.

About the convenors

Shared Assets and the Plunkett Foundation are partners in the delivery of the Making Local Woods Work programme, supporting woodland social enterprises. We have recently produced a range of resources relevant to this debate including:

- [Essential Rural Workers Accommodation for Small Scale Agriculture](#)
- [Understanding the Planning System: A Guide for Smallholders and Community Food Enterprises](#)
- [Seeing The Wood and the Trees: Woodland Social Enterprises and the Planning System in the UK](#)
- [The Planning System and Woodland Social Enterprises: a \(very\) short guide](#)

Shared Assets is also a partner in the international SUGI-Nexus programme, exploring food growing on the urban periphery.

For more information and to RSVP

Please RSVP to Kate Swade - kate@sharedassets.org.uk