

Rob Hopwood

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Partner, Planning

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Rob's infectious energy has driven two decades of planning success for promoters, developers and landowners across the Oxford to Cambridge Arc.

As someone who helped to secure planning permission for the world's largest microchip manufacturer in record-breaking time, and who was streamed live on Bangladeshi TV for a uniquely community-focussed and award-winning project, Rob is an energetic people-person who always strives to deliver.

Clients rely on him to oversee multiple sites and large multi-disciplinary project teams because his positive energy brings people together and makes things happen. He leads Bidwells' Oxford to Cambridge Arc team and advises clients on development opportunities and planning strategy across this nationally important growth corridor.

Rob has a rock-solid knowledge of local government procedures and hierarchies, having worked in a few himself, which means he connects at all levels with the right people at the right time.

Sustainable development is more important than ever to Rob, who promotes cutting-edge innovation in planning for a green economic recovery.

Key relevant project experience

New Cambridge Mosque for Muslim Academic Trust

This unique and inspiring project, designed by the architects of the London Eye, raised considerable public interest which needed to be managed and coordinated to ensure full and effective communication throughout the city and beyond. This project has won the Royal Town Planning Institute's Planning Excellence Award for the East of England 2019. It went on to represent the Region in National Awards in 2020/21.

ARM's Headquarters in Cambridge

Rob advised ARM Holdings Plc, the world's leading intellectual property supplier guiding ARM's award-winning World Data Centre building to planning permission in record time using innovative communication techniques.

Cambridge North Railway Station

Rob provided strategic planning and policy advice to Brookgate Land's proposed redevelopment of Chesterton Railway sidings for nearly 2million sq ft mixed use development to support the new Cambridge Park Railway.

Cambridge Colleges

Rob has provided planning advice to many Cambridge Colleges on redevelopment proposals, including student accommodation such as Trinity College's application success for post graduate student accommodation (45 rooms) and refurbishment of the grade II* Listed Cambridge Union Society Building shortly to re-open at 3-5 Round Church Street.

"Bidwells has exceeded themselves; this is going to be a hard act to follow."

Allan Brigham, former Local historian and guide, Cambridge