



Thomas Hill KC

Year of call: 1988 | Silk: 2009

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"He puts all his energy into a case, absorbing vast amounts of detail quickly and providing succinct advice."

"His advice is always of excellent quality, and he is a seasoned advocate."

Thomas Hill KC has 35 years' experience in the fields of planning, environmental, compulsory purchase and related administrative law. He is regularly instructed at public inquiries, hearings and examinations and in the High Court, acting for a wide variety of developers, local authorities and third party clients.

He has had a long term interest in the development and application of planning and environmental law, since studying both at Cambridge University. His extra-legal interests also encompass many of those directly relevant to practice in this field, including architecture and design, stewardship of the natural and built environments, the practice of agriculture and the development renewable energy and he has an extensive working library at his disposal.

His practice at the Bar has for many years encompassed advocacy and advisory work in relation to major infrastructure - with particular emphasis on the airport (runway and terminal expansion), port (container port proposals, HROs and harbour dues litigation) and energy sectors (biofuels, EfW, wind and solar energy). He is also very familiar with the full range of issues relating to residential development (including both bringing forward strategic greenfield sites and complex brownfield redevelopment opportunities).

Work of note includes appeal and advisory work for several UK airports and ports, for Birmingham City Council on its Development Plan over many years, the promotion of strategic land allocations for estate and developer clients, numerous section 78 appeals for residential developers and housing associations, as well as appeal and advisory work for many private individuals, with particular emphasis on projects with complex design issues in London. Many of his clients have been instructing him regularly for over 25 years. He enjoys the cut and thrust of inquiry work, but is equally at home advising on long term strategy or conducting cases in the more nuanced environment of the public examination.

Tom has, for many years, been recognised as a Leading Silk for Planning work by Chambers and Partners and The Legal 500.

Areas of expertise

Planning and Environment

Infrastructure

Energy and Natural Resources

Energy and Natural Resources

Energy has been a consistent feature of Tom Hill's practice for many years, since he appeared for Teesside Development Corporation at the inquiry into the routeing of new 400 kV overhead power lines through Teesside and North Yorkshire.

He is fully conversant with relevant law and policy in relation to renewable energy and with practical issues such as those which arise in relation to Energy from Waste and Combined Heat and Power proposals.

He has successfully promoted renewable energy plants at appeal, including the Avonmouth Bio fuel Plant and a Biomass Plant at Port Talbot.

He has appeared at a number of inquiries into wind energy proposals in the North East, including the major conjoined inquiry into the Green Rigg, Ray and Steadings wind farm proposals in Northumberland. He is familiar with applications under both planning legislation and section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989. He has developed particular expertise in cases involving the impacts of wind turbine development on aviation interests, in particular impacts on primary surveillance radar.

Since their initial publication and subsequent revision, he has lectured on the Energy NPSs.

Recommendations

- *"very astute and incisive advocate who argues clients' cases effectively"* Chambers and Partners
- *"charming, tough and highly effective opponent, [He has} a winning style which chimes well with inspectors"* Chambers and Partners
- *"is good on the strategy side, wins the client's confidence from the off" and "operates well under difficult circumstances."* Chambers and Partners
- *"Urbane, authoritative and a strong cross-examiner"* Chambers and Partners
- *"a solid awareness of clients' needs, an ability to set out advice cogently, persuasively and authoritatively and a refreshingly relaxed working style"* Chambers and Partners
- *"Accessible and friendly, he is extremely personable and has a good eye for detail." "I was impressed by his detailed approach and analysis – he was well prepared."* Chambers and Partners
- *"He is thorough, reassuring, careful and measured"* Chambers and Partners
- *"He has a special expertise in the area of renewable energy development as well as aviation matters."* Chambers and Partners
- *"His advice is always of excellent quality, and he is a seasoned advocate."* The Legal 500
- *"can hold his own in any forum against any counterpart and has an astonishing ability to get to the rub of matters very quickly"* The Legal 500

Memberships

- PEBA
- ALBA

Qualifications

Education

- MA (Hons) Law, Jesus College, Cambridge
- Inns of Court School of Law

Scholarships

- Open Exhibitioner, Cambridge University
- Tancred Scholar, Hardwicke Entrance Scholar
- Sir Louis Gluckstein Prizewinner, Lincoln’s Inn

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