



ODP General Meeting

7th July 2025



What's the purpose of this meeting?

- **When is it?** Monthly, first Monday of the month
- **Who is it?** Everyone involved in Open Digital Planning (over **150** LPAs, delivery partners and the MHCLG team)
- **What is it for?** It's our opportunity to give updates, share opportunities, showcase some of the work happening in the community, and (sometimes) bring in speakers from elsewhere that are relevant to the work we do
- **Is it recorded?** No, but we do add the slides to the ODP hub

Agenda

- Community update
 - Events update
 - Delta reporting
 - Contacts and calendar/tools clean up
 - Introducing the Planning Advisory Service (PAS)
- Extract
- Opportunities
 - Learning and Development – upcoming 101s
 - DPIF open again

Community update

ODP Events update

Reflections on welcome events

- They were fantastic and full of amazing energy – thank you to our hosts and everyone who attended!
- Next steps:
 - We're going to synthesise the values exercise and give LPAs who did not attend these events a chance to input
 - We're going to collate everything we heard and prioritise where MHCLG can support best



ODP Summer event: 16th July in Gloucester

- Help us shape the agenda: in the registration form
 - Showcase slots for people to share interesting work (let me know if you are interested)
 - Networking time
 - Afternoon activities might involve... how we might work in 2035?
- Open to all LPAs and delivery partners (but spaces limited!)
- **Sign up by Wednesday**



Save the date!

- 16th July: ODP Summer event (Gloucester)
- 16th October: ODP Camp 2025 (Medway)
- 27th November: ODP Winter event (Lake District) (TBC)

Delta reporting

Monthly reporting on Delta

- We are moving all monthly reporting forms from Microsoft Forms to a digital service called 'Delta'.
- From July 2025 all reporting will be completed in Delta. Cohort 3 of the DPIF are already using Delta.
- You will need to register for an account on Delta. This week we are sending emails to lead contacts and sharing information on Slack about how to register on Delta.
- A reminder that your monthly reporting forms and your Slack monthnotes are due on the last working day of the month.
- On the Delta platform you will not be able to submit your monthly reporting form after the deadline. If you cannot meet the deadline you must discuss with your Community Manager as soon as possible.
- The existing MS form will be deactivated before the end of July. If there are any outstanding reports, please submit these as soon as possible.

Contacts and calendar/tools clean up

Contacts update

- We're working on ensure we have the correct contact details for everyone
- This will enable us to remove any legacy emails from meeting invites as well as tools like Slack and the ODP hub.
- We'll be re-issuing key invites
- If you were a member of ODP pre April (latest DPIF cohort) then please let us know if there have been any changes to your teams

Introducing the Planning Advisory Service (PAS)

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Open Digital Planning 🤝 Planning Advisory Service

- We're delighted to be collaborating with the Planning Advisory Service!
- Kelly Duggan has done a fabulous job designing and co-ordinating the current ODP learning offer – thank you Kelly!
- We're now going to begin to transition co-ordination and delivery of learning activities to colleagues in PAS

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Open Digital Planning Planning Advisory Service

- What will happen next:
 - You'll see some new names and faces in some Show & Tells, working sessions, and this General Meeting
 - You might be asked if you're interested in giving feedback on previous learning sessions, to help us iterate and improve these
 - PAS will start running some of the learning sessions offered to ODP
- What's staying the same
 - You'll still see communication about learning in the same places: Slack, the General Meeting, and the ODP hub
 - Learning sessions are still open to all

More about the Planning Advisory Service

- PAS is part of the Local Government Association (since December 2004)
 - Team of 17 (ish) plus a network of peers and suppliers
- Funded by DLUHC, Defra, Natural England
 - 15 projects
 - Helping LPAs understand and respond to planning reform + provide excellent services
- Growing importance of digital agenda
 - As a key stream of work in itself
 - In everything else we do with local authorities

Our current projects

- Business as usual
- Reform and change

Project
ATLAS
BNG
Cap and Cap
Design and Placemaking
Developer contributions
Digital Planning
DM Fees
DM Performance
DM Planning Committees
Local Plan reform
Local Plans BAU
NSIPs
Nutrient Neutrality, the NRF and EDPs
Planning Reform events
Strategic Planning

Priorities for us

- Get up to speed and engaged in existing events
 - show and tells, General Meetings, etc
- Working with new cohort
- Learning & Development sessions
 - GIS skills and applications
- Longer term delivery
 - new sessions from autumn
 - showcasing what can be done with clean data and its value

- What are your priorities now?
- What issues are coming down the track and what do these mean for digital planning?
- How do we make the most of the opportunities that better data and data management create?

Extract

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The vision

“Make the planning system in England fit for the 21st Century”

Prime Minister Keir Starmer says that England's planning system is such a 'blockage' to the economy that 'it obscures an entire future'.

Chancellor Rachel Reeves has expressed her shock at how slow the planning system is as she outlined her latest attempt to boost economic growth in the UK.

Planning Data

- A modern, digital planning system is reliant on sufficient, open, accessible and trustworthy planning data.

The lack of planning data **restricts the speed that we can transform** the planning system.

- Without open, digital planning data:

The sector **struggles to innovate** at scale.

Policymakers struggle to visualise the system.

Developers and homeowners waste time.

Time sinks and delays appear across the development pipeline.



A single place for trustworthy planning data



planning.data.gov.uk

Planning and housing data in England

About Datasets Search Map API Design data Provide data

BETA This is a new service – to help us improve it, [sign up to take part in research](#)

Find planning and housing data that is easy to use and trust

A platform to help you create services to inform planning and housing decisions in England.

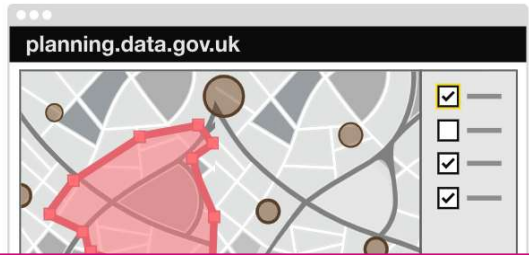
Learn more [about the platform](#)



Explore data on a map

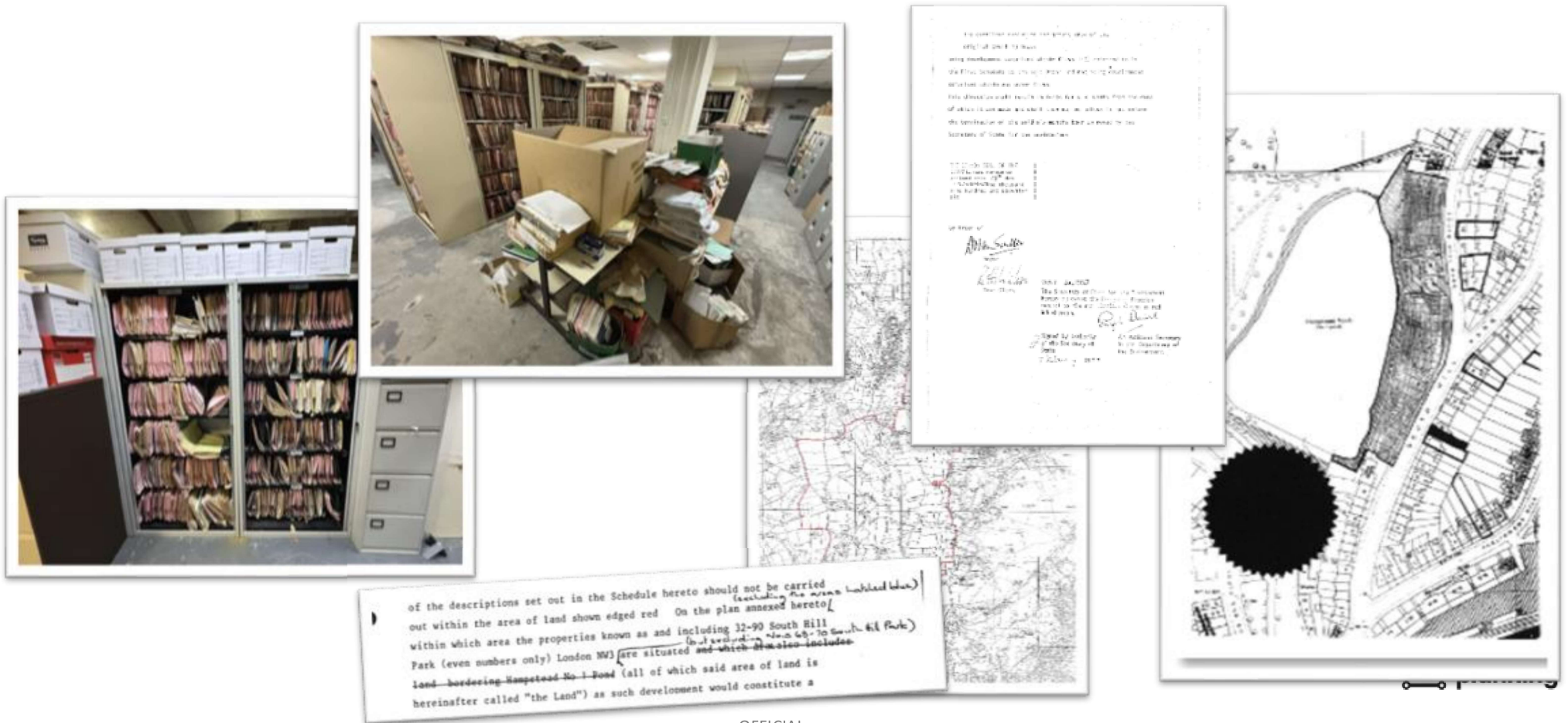
View planning and housing datasets with geographic location data on an interactive map.

[Explore the map of planning data for England](#)





The Reality of Digitising Data



The Incubator for AI

AI.GOV.UK



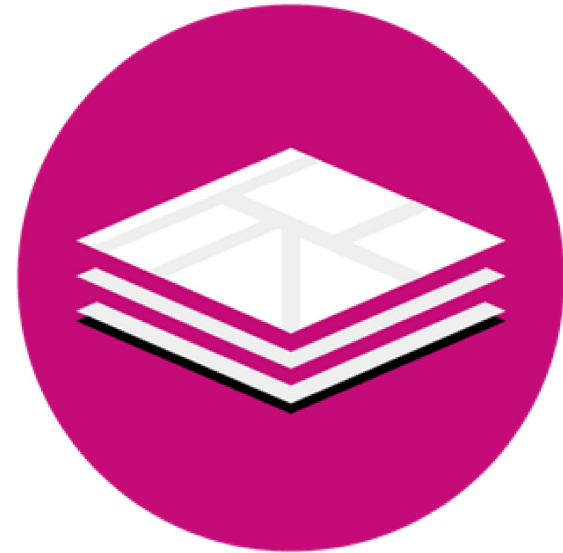
An **innovative team** of
highly empowered
technical experts at the
heart of government

“Our mission is to act on
government's duty to **harness AI for
public good**”



Extract

Transforming old documents into actionable data: streamlining processes and empowering innovation.



“...the same with planning applications, there is a huge amount of information out there that just needs to be brought together in one place. We can either use hours and hours of human time or we can get AI to do it”

Sir Keir Starmer

Recent weeks!

AI planning tool to transform blurry maps and handwriting

The Extract program could boost economic growth by digitising hard-to-read planning documents in as little as 40 seconds



Keir Starmer Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Labour MP for Holbo...

Why does it take so long to build anything in the UK?

You can blame our outdated planning system that's slowing us down

Around 350,000 planning applications are submitted a year in England. The system remains heavily reliant on paper documents — some even several pages long.

Once submitted, each of these documents needs to be manually validated and approved by a planning officer, taking them hours on end to go through it.

Today we're announcing a new government-built AI tool called Extract that can process these documents in minutes, freeing up thousands of hours for planning officers to focus on decision-making to speed up housebuilding.

In test trials across Hillingdon, Merton & Redbridge, and Epsom & Ewell councils...

Extract digitises documents in as little as 40 seconds. In some cases, it can reduce processing time from 2 hours to 20 minutes. It can also process handwritten notes and blurry maps.

My vision is to make the planning process more transparent, accessible and efficient. Through our Plan for Change, we will improve the reliability in the planning process and reduce cost and time for councils, businesses and developers.

It's a bold step forward in our mission to build 1.5 million more homes for working people, and to deliver a planning system fit for the future.

Angela Rayner reposted

Keir Starmer @Keir_Starmer

Our outdated planning system has held us back for too long.

Not anymore.

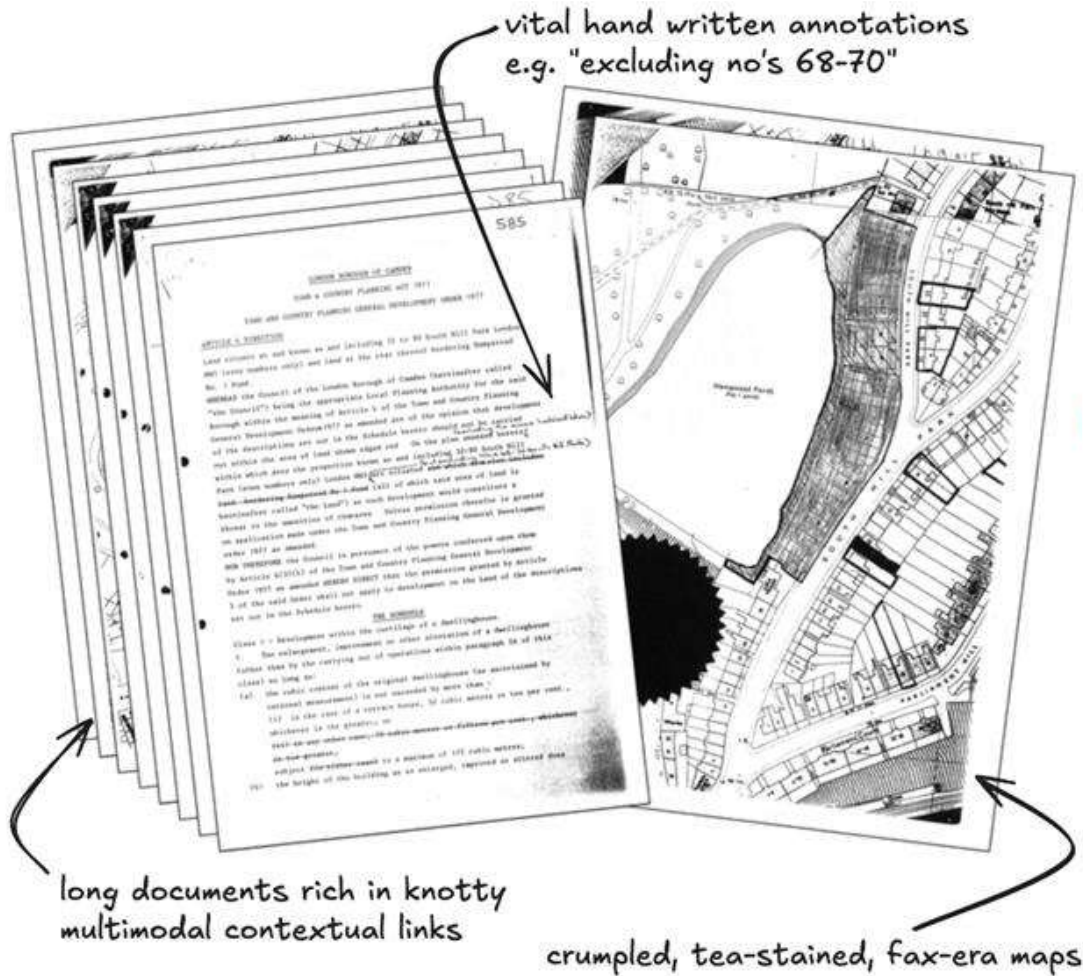
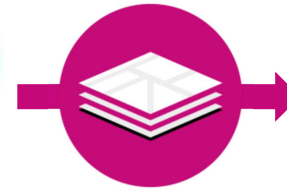
Today we're announcing a new government-built AI tool that will help planning officers cut red tape, speed up decisions, and unlock homes for hard-working people through our Plan for Change.

11:03 AM · Jun 9, 2025 · 469K Views

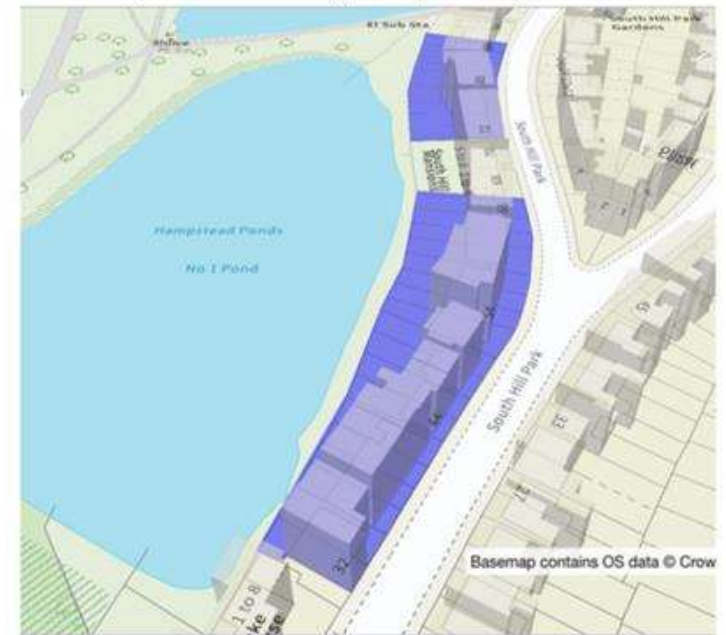


Extract: Documents to Data

AI for automatically transforming planning documents into modern geospatial data



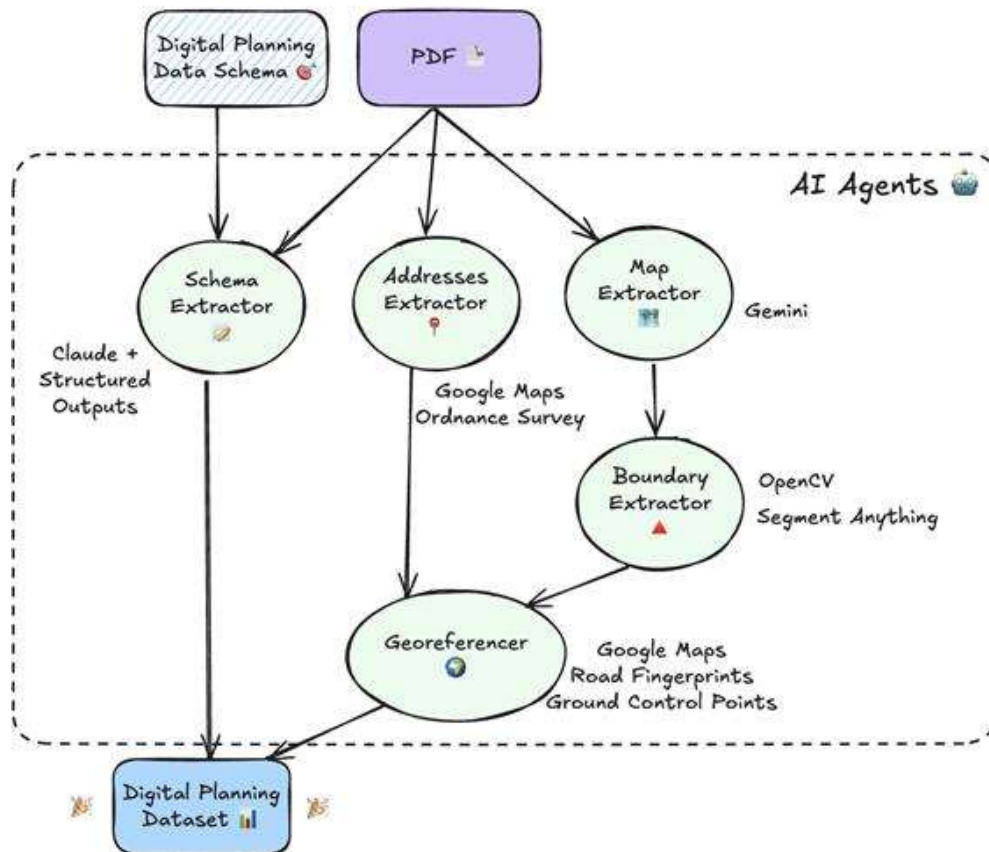
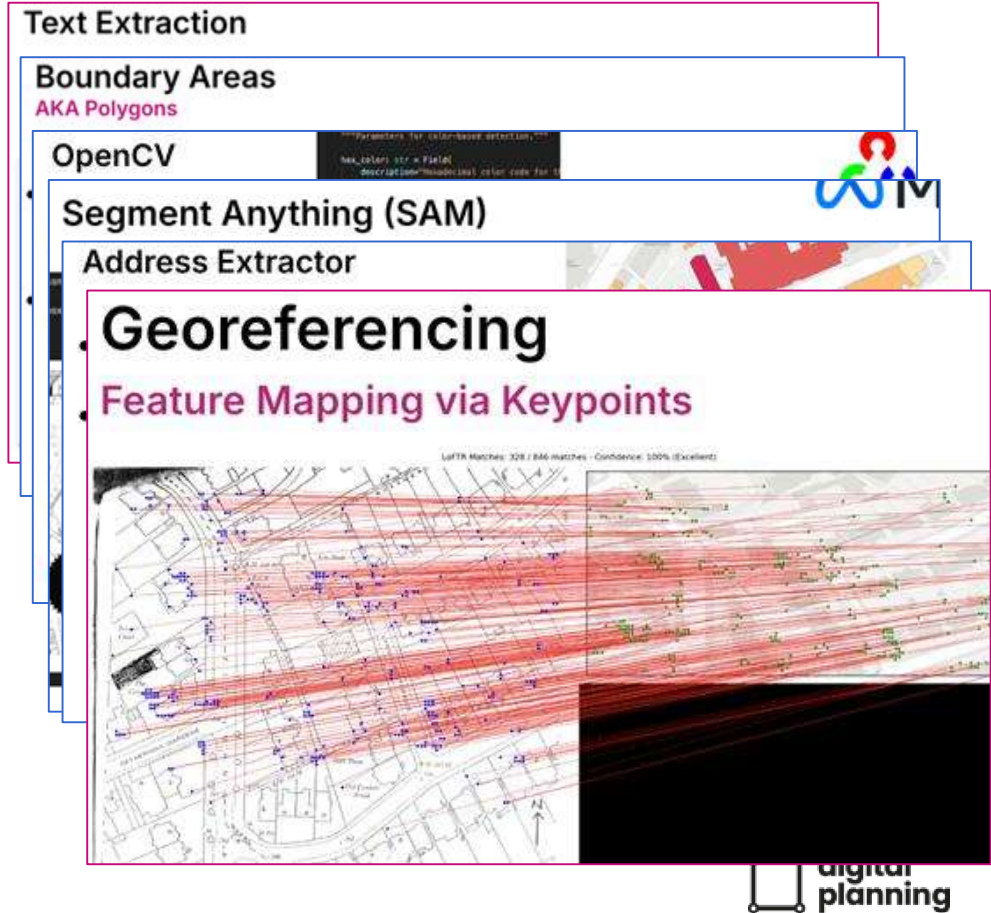
Clean, structured data that enable
faster, smoother digital planning decisions.



Digitised in 2 mins with AI vs 2 hours manually

Extract has a stack of cutting edge AI tooling under the hood

Making LLMs reason better by decomposing the problem and building sophisticated tools



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585.

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN
MEMORANDUM

From: DLAS
Ref: legal/PH 303
Telephone inquiries to: D. Davies
Ext. 5686

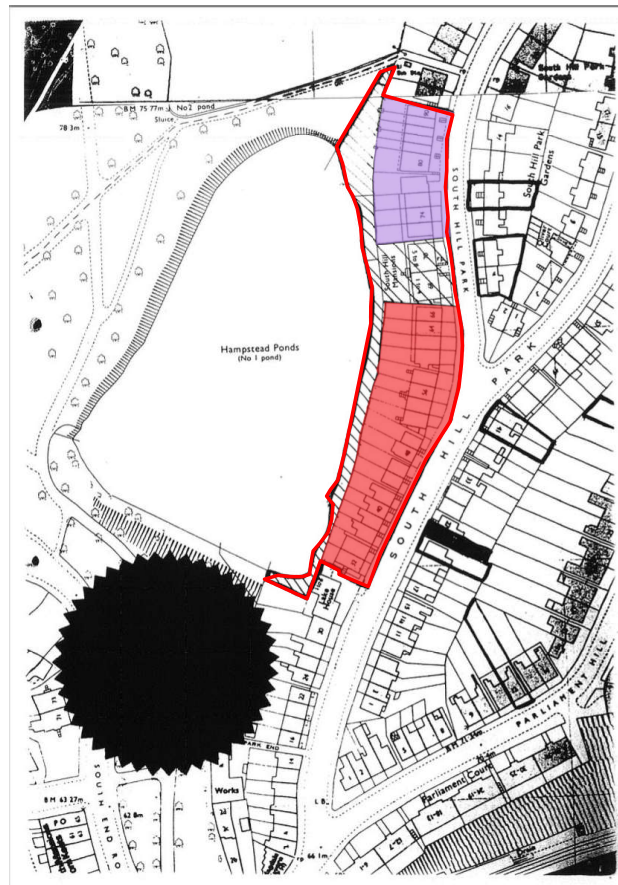
To: Y Land Changes
DFT - Planning Records

Your Ref: —
Date: 10th January 1987

Article 4 Direction
32 - 66 (Even numbers only) South Hill Park NW3
and 72 - 90 (Even numbers only) South Hill Park NW3

Please now find attached copy of Article 4 direction which has been approved by the Secretary of State subject to the modifications shown in manuscript.

L. Cowen
DLAS



Complete ✓

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585.

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN
MEMORANDUM

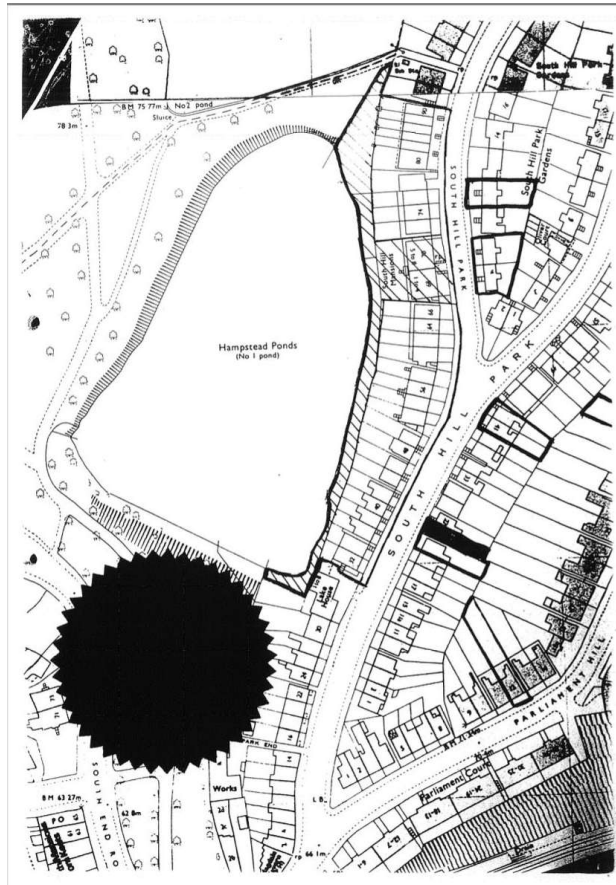
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and 72 - 90 (Even numbers only) South Hill Park NW3

Please now find attached copy of Article 4 direction which has been approved by the Secretary of State subject to the modifications shown in manuscript.

L. Cowen
DLAS



Overview Map Document Info Address Info

Map of Extracted Areas

South Hill Park Article 4 Direction

Enactment Date: 05 July 1988

Area 1: South Hill Park Even Numbers

Addresses:

- 32-66 South Hill Park, London NW3 (even numbers only)

Permitted Development Rights:

- Class 1 - Development within the curtilage of a dwellinghouse

Area 2: South Hill Park Higher Even Numbers

Addresses:

- 72-90 South Hill Park, London NW3 (even numbers only)

Permitted Development Rights:

- Class 1 - Development within the curtilage of a dwellinghouse

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The Extract Interface

 **Extract** ALPHA



AI-Powered Planning Document Digitisation

Turn planning documents into modern geospatial data in minutes.

Key Benefits for Planners

- **Eliminate manual data entry** - AI extracts dates, descriptions & development rights
- **Map constraints instantly** - Auto-detects maps and addresses to extract polygons for the areas
- **Integrate with GIS** - Download structured data for seamless imports into your GIS system

How It Works

1. **Upload** - Upload your planning document PDF
2. **Extract** - AI extracts text content & polygons
3. **Save** - Verify and export your GIS data

Prototype

This prototype is in an early development phase and is **not designed to be reliable or fast**. We're actively working on enhancements to performance and stability.

Please check the outputs carefully. iAI cannot vouch for the quality of the prototypes results.

Discover more about our innovation process at [i.AI](#).

Upload PDF

Upload a document

Drag and drop files here
Limit 200MB per file • PDF

Browse files

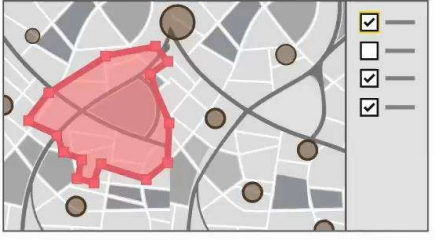
Examples

Or select an example PDF to learn how the app works

Camden Hampstead

Load Example

planning.data.gov.uk



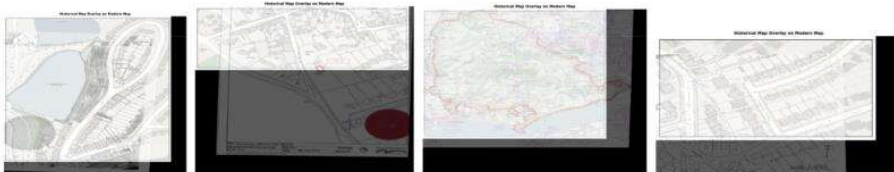
A Digital Planning service

[Help](#) [About](#) [Contact](#)

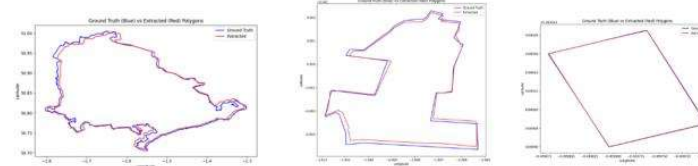


Results so far..

- Extract takes 2 minutes instead of 2 hours for a human ✓
- All required text content is accurately extracted ✓
- Extract consistently produces more and higher quality data ✓
- 95% of enactment dates are accurate ✓
- 90% of boundary areas are the correct shape ✓
- 82% of boundary locations are within acceptable accuracy ✓

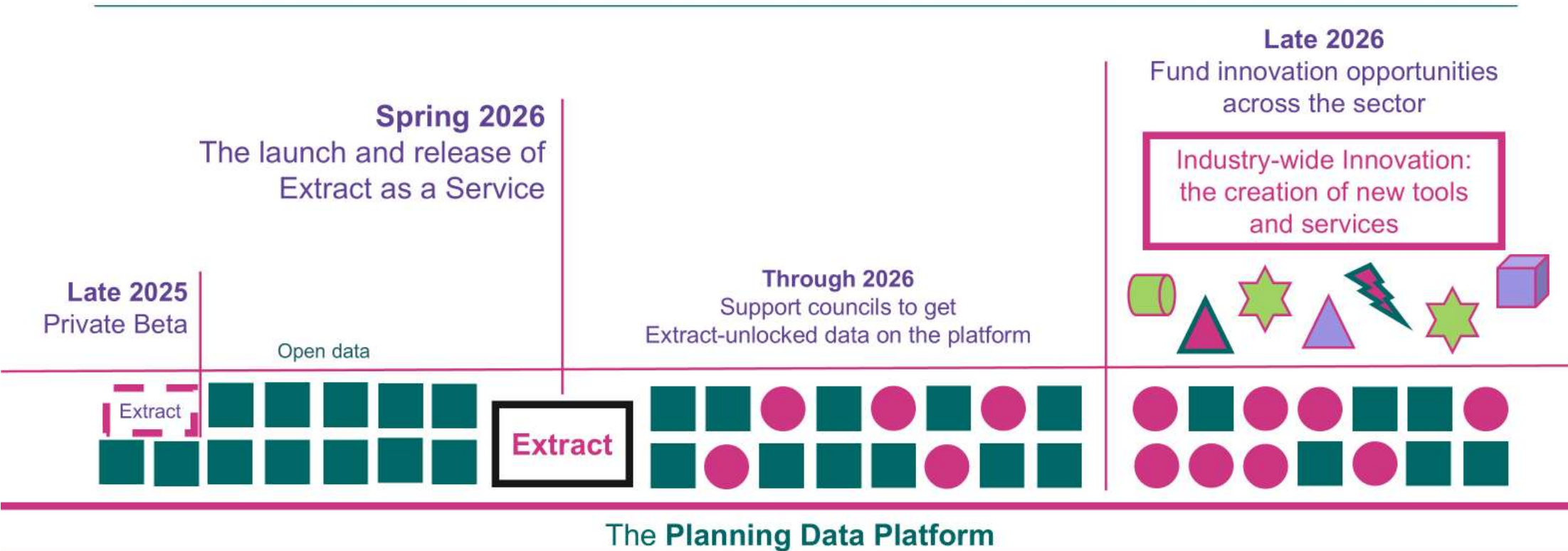


Results of our method to precisely position old maps onto their modern locations



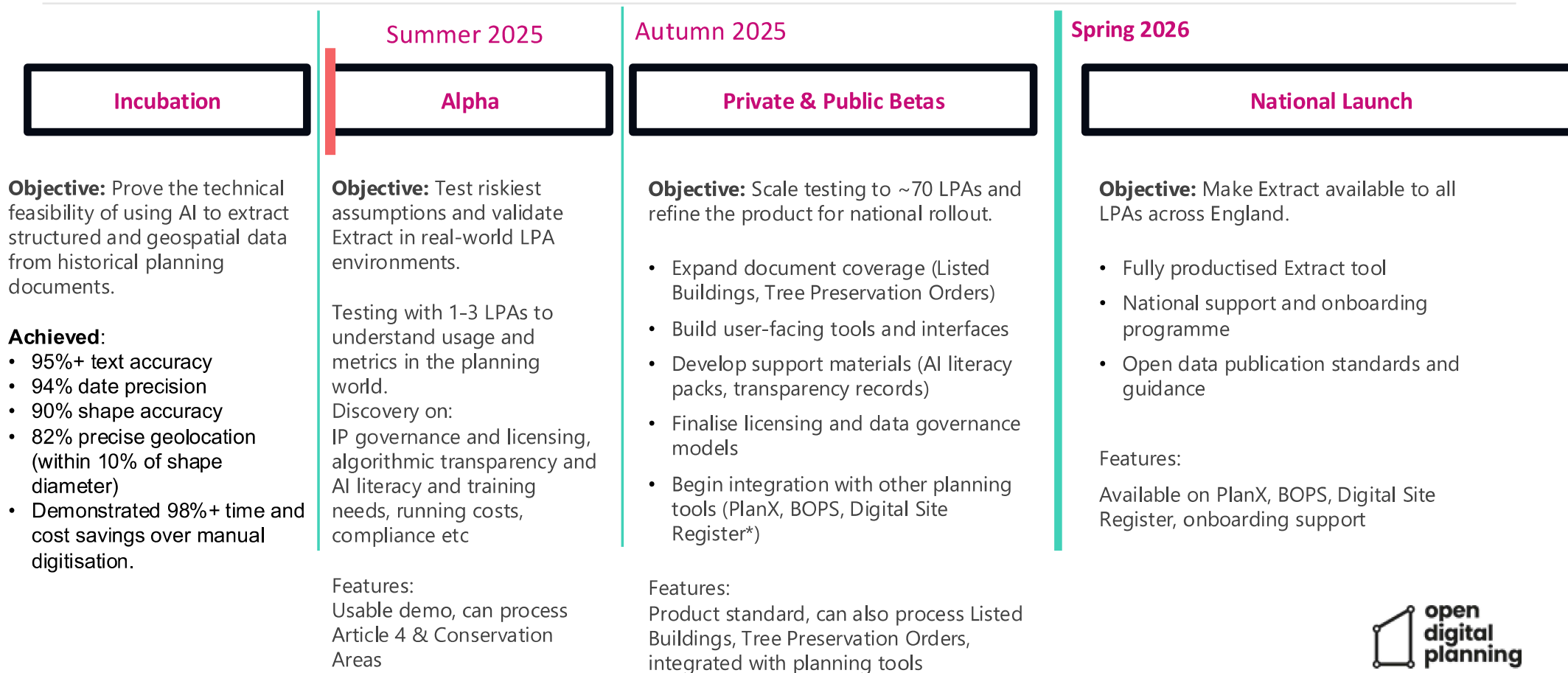
A sample of the planning boundaries that can be extracted and geolocated as a result of this
(blue is ground truth, red is what our AI extracts)

The Ambition

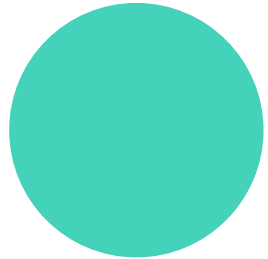


Extract: Delivery

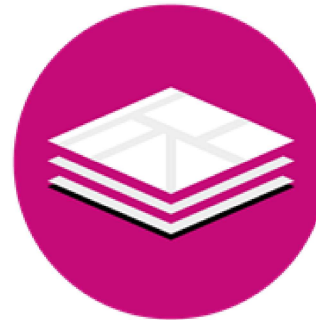
Extract Product Roadmap



We'd love your thoughts

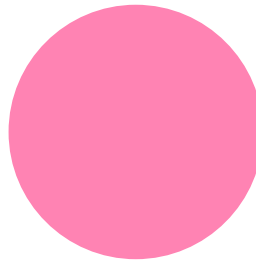


Which
document
types should
we support?

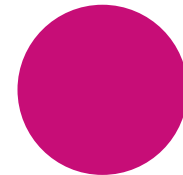


How would
Extract fit into
your current
day-to-day
workflow?

Where could
Extract be
the most
helpful?



Interested
in **testing**
Extract?



Opportunities

Learning and Development

Learning and development

Sessions are continuing...

- Series of online 101 introductory sessions that last **45mins – 1hr**
- Topics align with the different categories of the Digital Planning Maturity Assessment
- They are taking place Wednesday's 11:30 - 12:30
- **All sessions will be recorded** and shared on ODP Hub.
- If you are part DPIF cohort 3, you will have an invite to each of the sessions - but attendance is optional!
- Everyone is welcome to join, please contact your Community Manager if you would like an invite or watch out for the links that are shared on Slack.

Learning and development

This week



101 Schedule

Agile 101 14th May	User research 101 21st May	User centred design 101 28th May	Content Design 101 4th June	Impact measurement 101 11th June	Procurement 101 18th June	AI 101 25th June	Change Management 101 9th July	Citizen engagement 16th July
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All of these sessions are recorded and available afterwards on the ODP hub.

Watch out on slack for the links to join if you don't have the invites.

Learning and development

Coming up soon

- Agile Training
- GIS
- PowerBI

DPIF is open

Digital Planning Improvement Fund

Digital Planning Improvement Fund Round 4

Start or continue an application for funding to begin your digital planning improvement journey

We'll be accepting applications continuously and formally reviewing them in batches.

You can submit your application by midday on 29 July 2025 to be considered for our first cohort, with onboarding starting in September 2025.

If you submit an application after 29 July 2025, we will automatically consider it for the next cohort and contact you with further details later in the year.

This approach allows us to provide high-quality support, by onboarding councils in coordinated groups.

While this is not a competitive funding process, we will ask questions to assess your readiness to receive the funding and begin the work.

[Read the fund's prospectus](#) before you start.

Submission deadline: 29 July 2025 at midday

Enter your email address >

Coming up soon

- £ 50,000
- Summer cohort onboarding in September
- Autumn cohort onboarding in January



Q&A

Coming up soon

- GIS
- Get your services found and used

Thank you!
