

Introduction to Github

In context of planning permission data specifications

What we'll cover

1. What is GitHub?
2. Why do we use it?
3. How to find planning-application-data-specification repository
4. How to use the planning-application-data-specification repository

Introduction to Github

What is Github?

What GitHub is

For people collaborating on projects, documents, code and data

Stores a history of every change

Lets us raise issues, have discussions and publish updates

It's open

A little history

2005 - Git - an approach to version control

2008 - GitHub - Hosting and UI over an approach to version control

2018 - Bought by Microsoft

2023 - 100m developers, 420m repositories, 28m public repositories

A little history

2005 - Git - an approach to version control

2008 - GitHub - Hosting and UI over an approach to version control

2018 - Bought by Microsoft

2023 - 420 million repositories, 28 million public repositories

Version control

Version control = detailed history

Version control

Every change is recorded

- field: extension-height-over-4m

+ field: is-extension-height-over-4m

name: Extension height over 4m

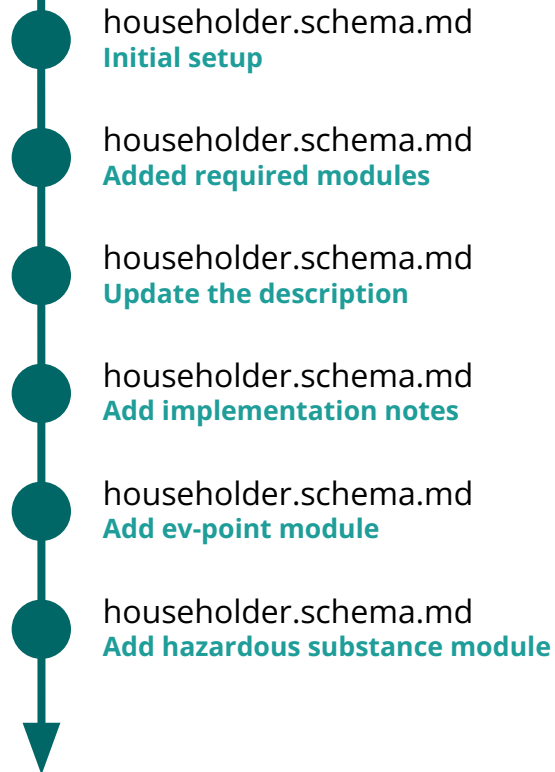
description: Will the extension exceed 4 metres in height

datatype: boolean

Version control

Every change is recorded

Complete history

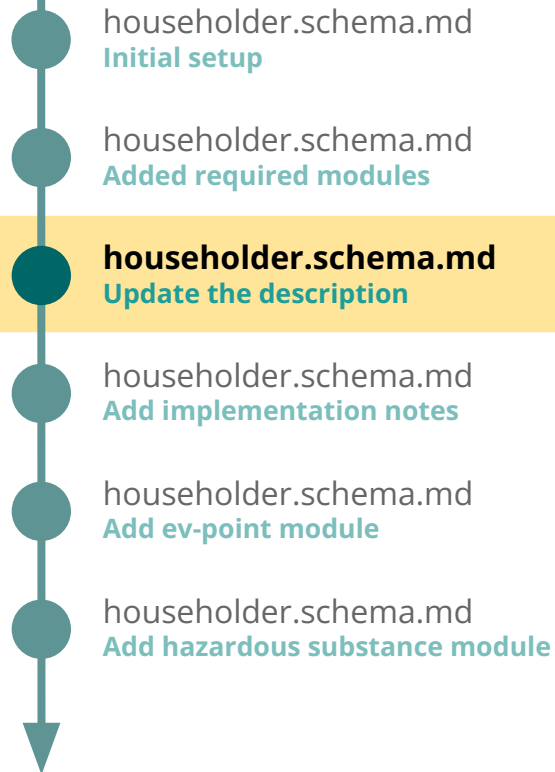


Version control

Every change is recorded

Complete history

Browsable timeline



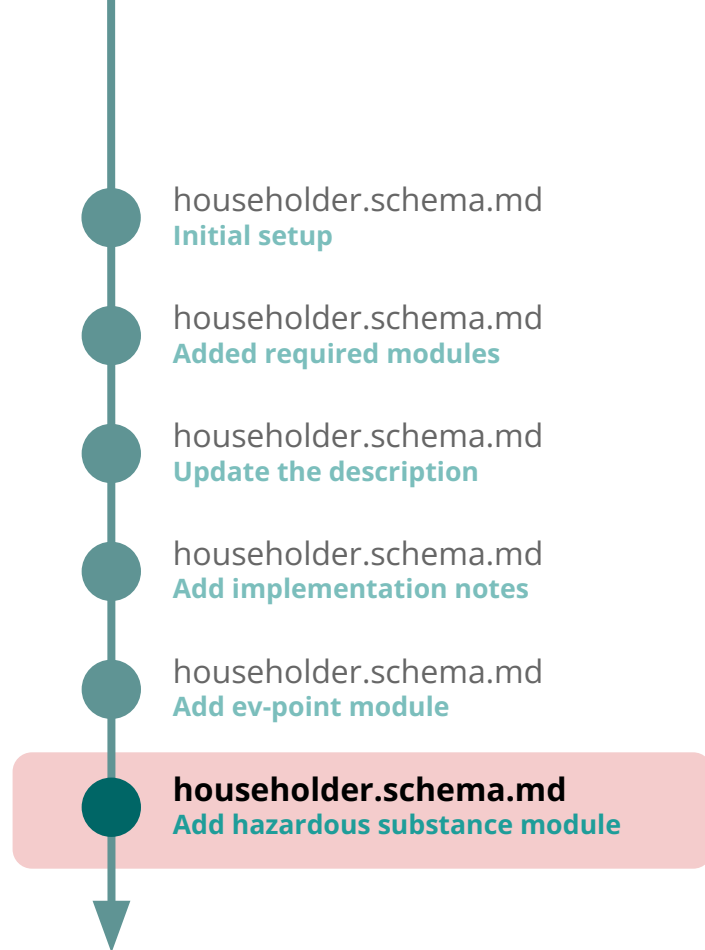
Version control

Every change is recorded

Complete history

Browsable timeline

Rolling back



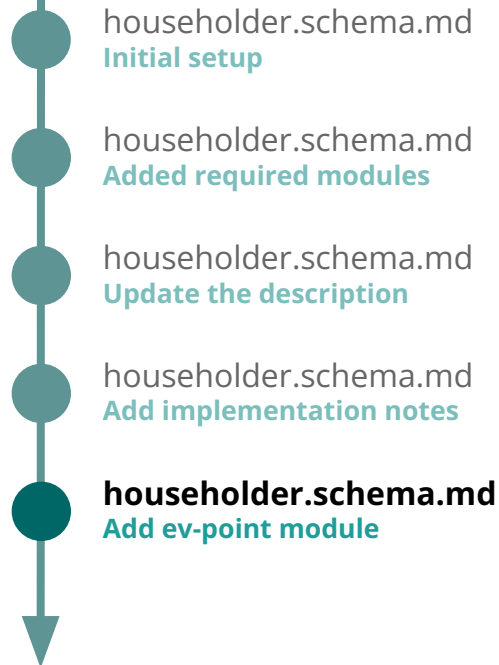
Version control

Every change is recorded

Complete history

Browsable timeline

Rolling back



Version control

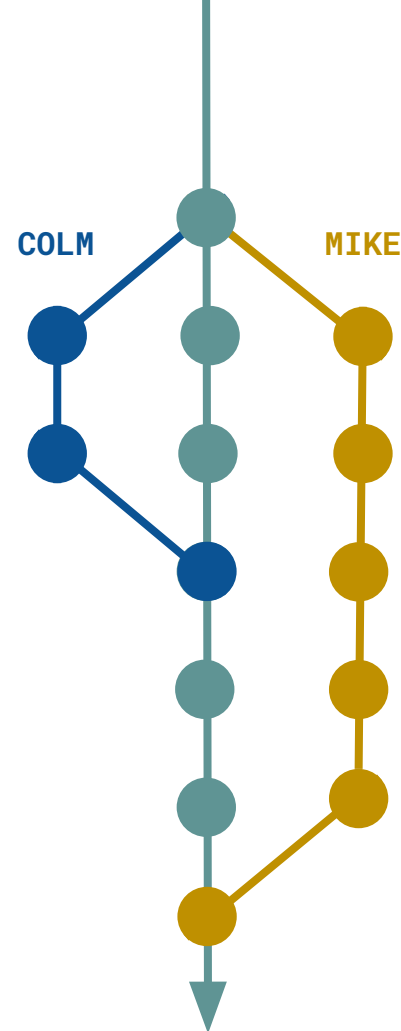
Every change is recorded

Complete history

Browsable timeline

Rolling back

Collaboration



Introduction to Github

Why do we use it?

Why do we use it?

Version control

Its free

Its open

Most [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) services are on it

Most companies use it

Get a lot out of the box

Why do we use it?

Transparency

Collaboration

Traceability

Single source of truth

Introduction to Github

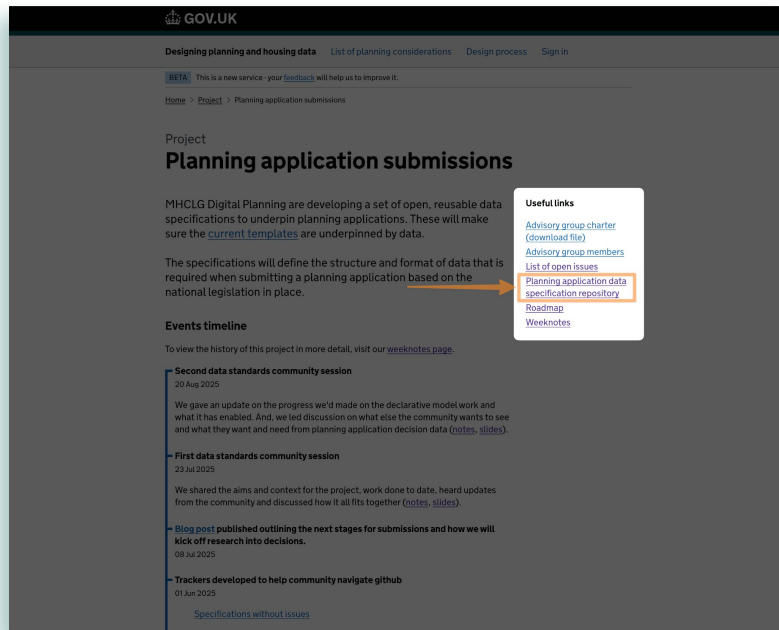
How to find the repository

How to find the project

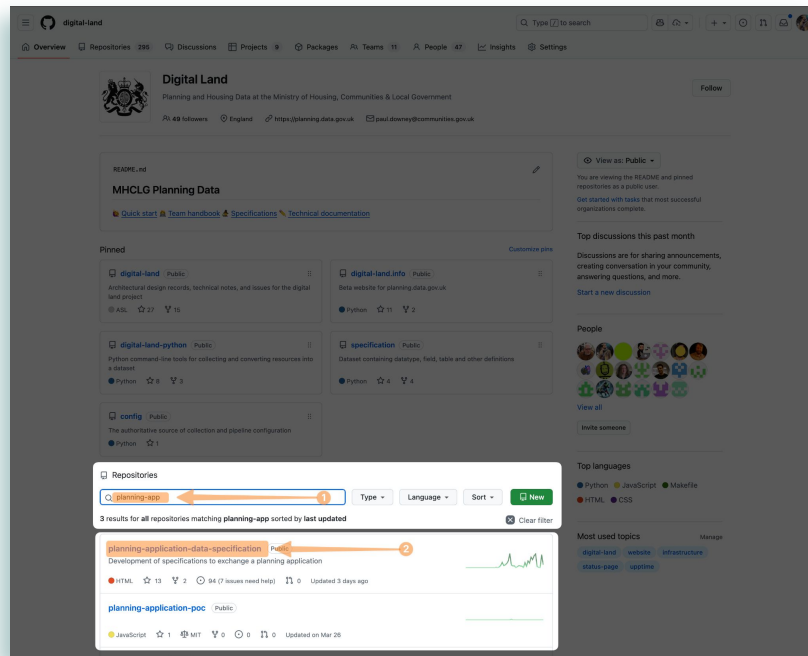
Options:

1. Go straight to [repository](#)
2. Go to [planning application data specification website](#)
3. Go to [digital-land organisation](#) on GitHub
4. Go to [GitHub](#)

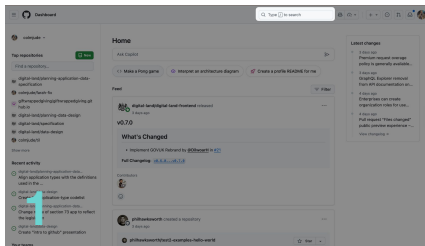
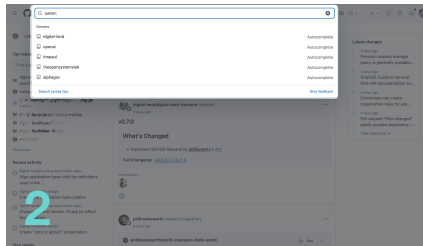
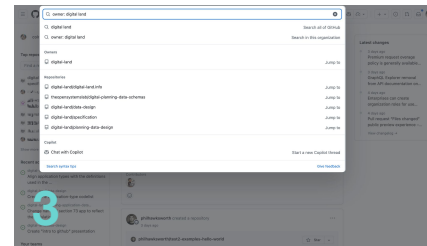
How to find the project



How to find the project

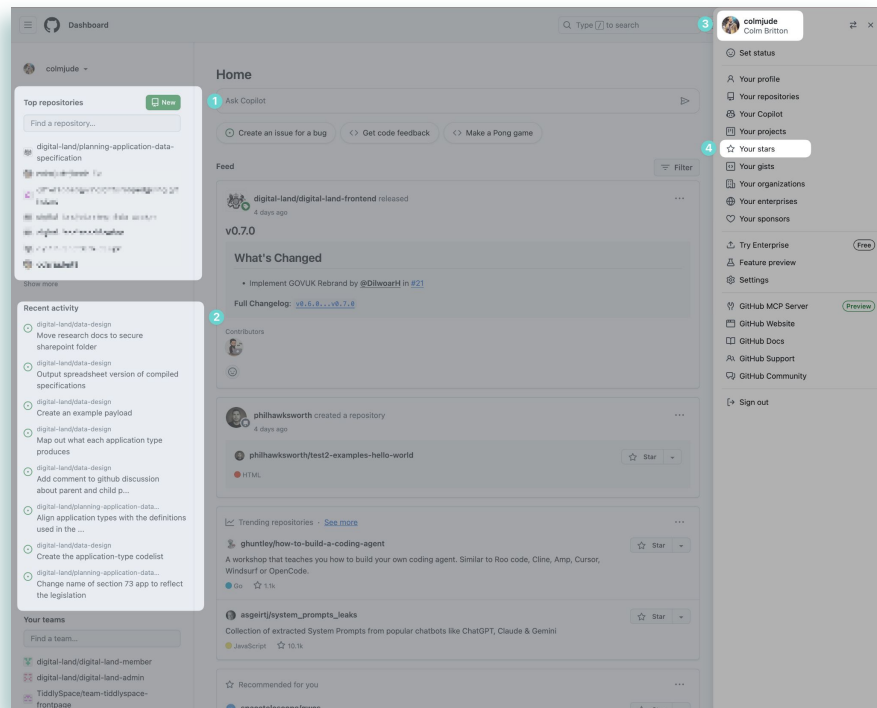


How to find the project



How to find the project

- 1 Top repositories
- 2 Recent activity
- 3 Your account
- 4 Starred projects/repositories

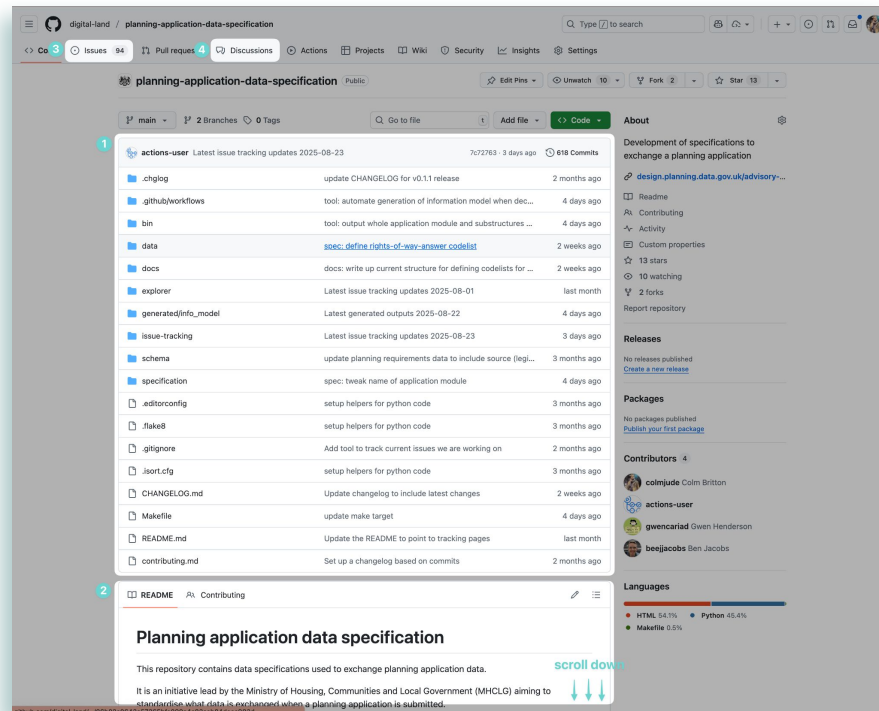


Introduction to Github

How to use the repository

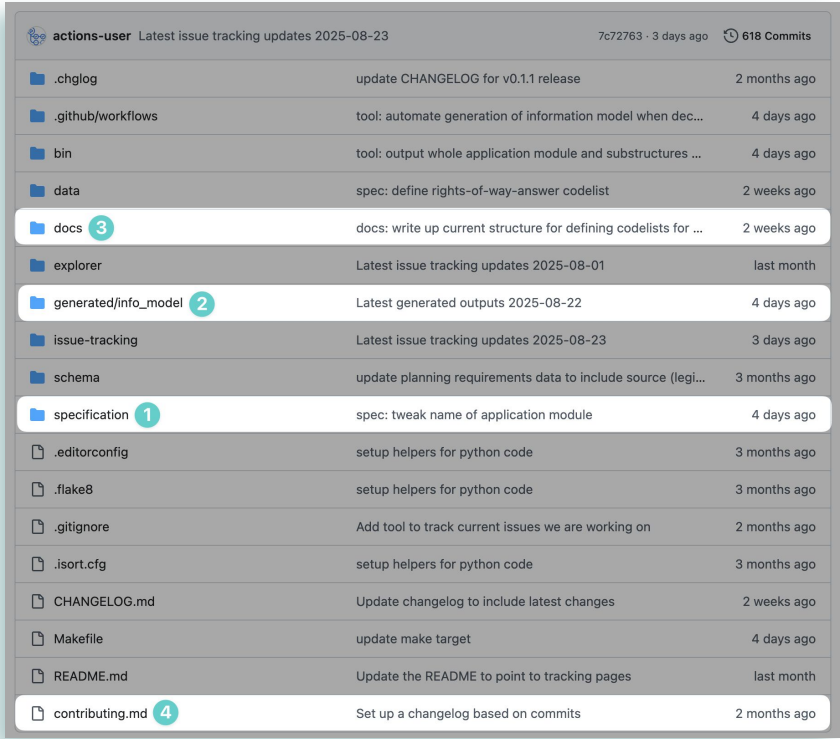
How to use the project

- 1 Main folder of files
- 2 Information and instructions
- 3 Issues
- 4 Discussions



How to use the project

- 1 Declarative models
- 2 Information models
- 3 Documentation
- 4 How to contribute



The screenshot shows the GitHub repository interface for 'actions-user'. The header indicates 'Latest issue tracking updates 2025-08-23', '7c72763 · 3 days ago', and '618 Commits'. The file list includes folders like '.changelog', '.github/workflows', 'bin', 'data', 'docs', 'explorer', 'generated/info_model', 'issue-tracking', 'schema', 'specification', and files like '.editorconfig', '.flake8', '.gitignore', '.isort.cfg', 'CHANGELOG.md', 'Makefile', 'README.md', and 'contributing.md'. Each entry shows the commit message and the time since the last update. The 'docs' folder is highlighted with a green circle containing the number 3, and the 'specification' folder is highlighted with a green circle containing the number 1. The 'contributing.md' file is highlighted with a green circle containing the number 4.

File/Folder	Commit Message	Time
.changelog	update CHANGELOG for v0.1.1 release	2 months ago
.github/workflows	tool: automate generation of information model when dec...	4 days ago
bin	tool: output whole application module and substructures ...	4 days ago
data	spec: define rights-of-way-answer codelist	2 weeks ago
docs	docs: write up current structure for defining codelists for ...	2 weeks ago
explorer	Latest issue tracking updates 2025-08-01	last month
generated/info_model	Latest generated outputs 2025-08-22	4 days ago
issue-tracking	Latest issue tracking updates 2025-08-23	3 days ago
schema	update planning requirements data to include source (legi...	3 months ago
specification	spec: tweak name of application module	4 days ago
.editorconfig	setup helpers for python code	3 months ago
.flake8	setup helpers for python code	3 months ago
.gitignore	Add tool to track current issues we are working on	2 months ago
.isort.cfg	setup helpers for python code	3 months ago
CHANGELOG.md	Update changelog to include latest changes	2 weeks ago
Makefile	update make target	4 days ago
README.md	Update the README to point to tracking pages	last month
contributing.md	Set up a changelog based on commits	2 months ago

Main folder of files

How to use the project

Links to all the things you need
will be in here

📖 README 📄 Contributing

🔗 Application types

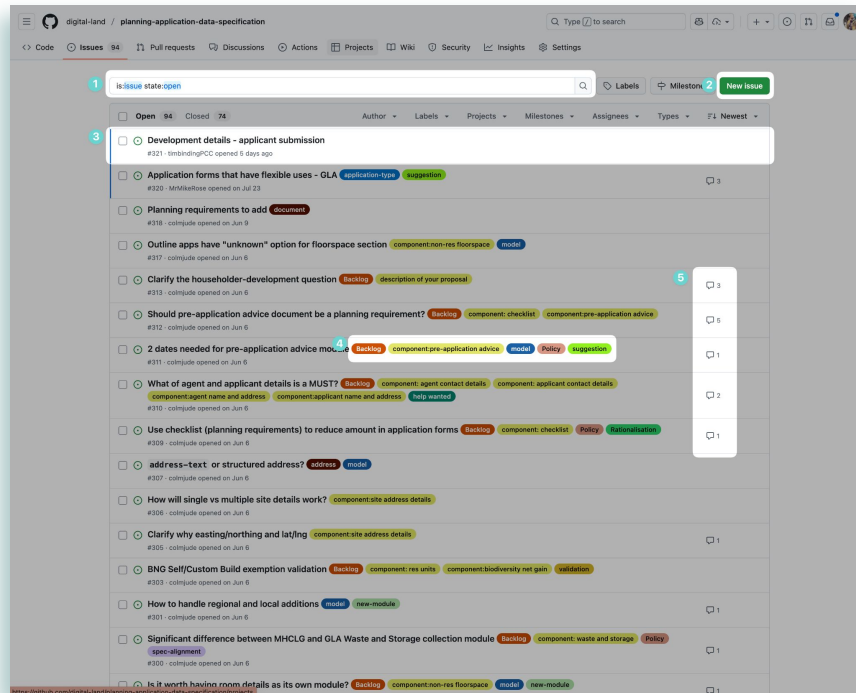
Below is the list of official application types (and their sub-types where applicable) that we are working through.

You can download a csv of [planning application types](#) and [sub-types](#).

Application type	Sub type	Spec	Notes
Advertising		see spec	
Approval (discharge) of conditions		see spec	
Consent under TPO		see spec	
Development relating to the onshore extraction of oil and gas		see spec	A form of full planning with enough difference to warrant its own type
Full planning permission		see spec	
Hedgerow removal notice		see spec	
Householder planning application		see spec	
Lawful development certificate	Existing use of the site	see spec	
Lawful development certificate	Prospective use of the site	see spec	
Lawful development certificate	Proposed work to a listed building	see spec	
Listed building consent		see spec	
Non-material amendment		see spec	
Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area		see spec	
Outline planning	All matters reserved	see spec	
Outline planning	Some matters reserved	see spec	
Permission in principle		see spec	
Planning permission for relevant development in a conservation area		see spec	

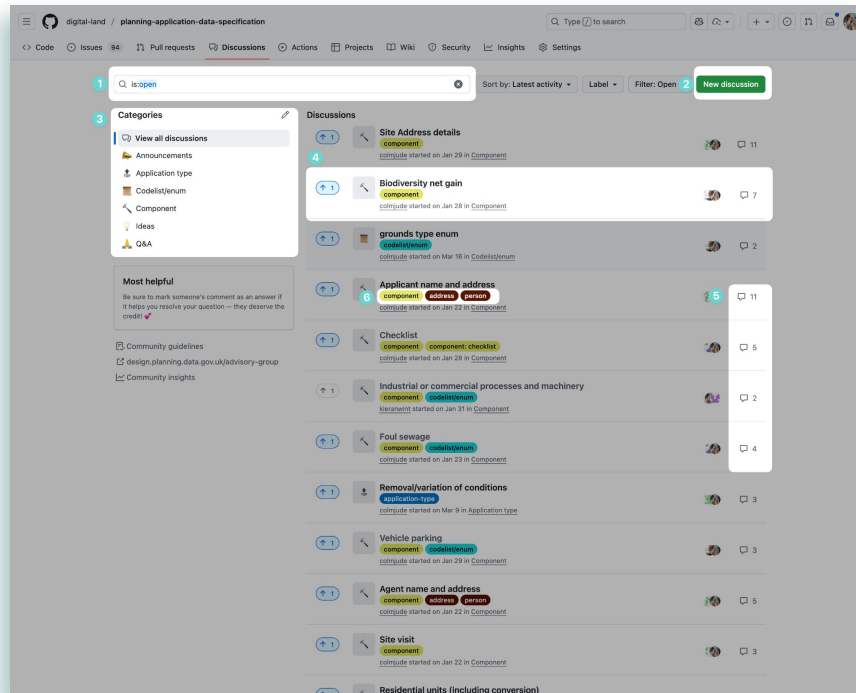
How to use the project

- 1 Search
- 2 Issue item
- 3 New issue
- 4 Tags
- 5 Comments



How to use the project

- 1 Search
- 2 New discussion
- 3 Categories
- 4 Discussion item
- 5 Comments
- 6 Tags



Introduction to Github

Questions?

Terminology

Repo or repository

Git

GitHub

Commits

Changelog

Version control