

Associate Director

Consents Advisory Practice

August 2026

Job Description

About us

Infrastructure Matters is a specialist advisory firm working at the intersection of planning, consents, and infrastructure policy. We support clients navigating the consenting landscape for nationally significant infrastructure projects from water and energy to transport and digital connectivity. Our Consents Advisory Practice provides end-to-end guidance across the full project lifecycle, from pre-application strategy through examination and post-consent delivery.

We choose only the most talented and creative people to come and work with us. As an equal opportunities employer and one that welcomes diversity, we encourage applications from all suitably qualified persons because with a wide range of views and expertise we will continue to lead in the niche we dominate.

About the role

We are seeking an Associate Director to join our Consents Advisory Practice, playing a pivotal role in shaping how we deliver advice to clients, grow our practice, and develop the next generation of consents professionals. This is a leadership position suited to an experienced practitioner who combines technical knowledge of the UK consenting regime with strong commercial instincts and a track record of client relationship management.

You will work across a portfolio of high-profile infrastructure projects, leading multidisciplinary consents teams, providing strategic advice at critical junctures, and contributing meaningfully to the growth of the practice.

As well as building relationships with clients and prospective clients, there will be enormous opportunity for sharing skills, innovation and experience within and between the Consents and Advocacy teams in the business, to support learning for everyone.

Duties and responsibilities

Client Advisory and Business Development

- Build and sustain trusted relationships with clients, statutory consultees, and other stakeholders across the infrastructure and planning ecosystem.
- Represent Infrastructure Matters at industry events, roundtables, and in external forums to raise the firm's profile.
- Identify and develop new business opportunities, leading on pitches and proposals in coordination with the wider leadership team.

Technical Consents Delivery

- Provide expert technical input on complex consenting strategies, including pre-application engagement, examination preparation, and post-consent compliance.
- Lead or oversee the preparation and review of key consents deliverables including Planning Statements, Environmental Statements, and Statement of Common Ground.
- Advise clients on navigating the Planning Inspectorate process, Section 73 applications, and related regulatory frameworks.
- Stay abreast of legislative, policy, and case law developments and translate these into actionable guidance for clients and colleagues.

Team Leadership & Operations

- Line manage, mentor, and develop a team of consultants and senior consultants, fostering a high-performance and inclusive culture.
- Participate actively in leadership team discussions on strategy, hiring, and business planning.

Personal specification

You are an excellent collaborator with a strong entrepreneurial spirit — a proactive self-starter who is not afraid to ask questions, raise ideas, and bring the tenacity to go above and beyond.

Essential

- Experience in infrastructure planning and consents, ideally gained across consultancy, developer-side, or regulatory environments.
- Working knowledge of the Development Consent Order (DCO) regime and/or other major consenting routes for nationally significant infrastructure.
- Demonstrable track record of leading client engagements and delivering high-quality consents advice on major infrastructure projects.
- Experience managing and mentoring junior and mid-level professionals.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to convey complex planning matters

clearly to a range of audiences.

- Commercially aware, with experience contributing to business development and fee management.
- Chartered membership of the RTPI, ICE, or equivalent professional body.

Desirable

- Experience across multiple infrastructure sectors (water, energy, transport, digital).
- Familiarity with environmental impact assessment, habitat regulations assessment, or related technical disciplines.

Pay and Benefits

- Discretionary Bonus
- Pension: Employers: 3% Employee: 5%
- Annual Leave 25 days per annum
- 6-month probationary period
- Subject to two references