Lester Aldridge Welcomes New Planning Lawyer

Lester Aldridge is pleased to welcome Matt Gilks as a Senior Associate in the Planning & Environment team, based at the Southampton office.

Matt is a highly experienced planning and environment solicitor who specialises in planning transactions, applications, appeals and judicial reviews. He advises on a huge range of planning and environmental law matters ranging from application strategy, enforcement, NSIP infrastructure, and community infrastructure levy all the way to planning obligations, biodiversity net gain, as well as specialist areas such as minerals, waste, hazardous substances and heritage development.

Matt works on both town and country planning, with a particular focus on rural and urban diversification, regeneration and bespoke business and residential development. He has previously worked as a barrister in the Government Legal Service where he advised the Secretary of State, as well as working at several international law firms in London.

“I’m excited to be embarking on this new challenge as a key part of a large, dedicated real estate team”, said Matt. “Lester Aldridge’s strengths across the real estate, development and private client sectors enable me to continue to provide specialist knowledge and offer value for our varied client base.”

Tom Alder, Partner and Head of Real Estate Southampton, commented: “I am delighted to welcome Matt, his arrival is a fantastic addition to our market-leading real estate team. His significant experience in the planning sector bolsters the team’s existing expertise and specialist knowledge that we can use to provide our clients with the very best service.”

From offices in Southampton, Bournemouth and London, Lester Aldridge provides legal advice and assistance to clients nationwide in all aspects of real estate law. As a full-service firm, the Real Estate group works closely alongside other teams providing a seamless and unified service to its clients in the sector.

Tel: 0344 967 0793 | Email: info@LA-Law.com | www.lesteraldridge.com

Lester Aldridge LLP is authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA ID: 463177). It is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales under number OC321318. Managing Partner: Tom Alder; Compliance Officer for Finance and Administration: Dan Baker-Mist (Financial Controller); Compliance Officer for Legal Practice: Joanne Clarke (Partner) - See more on the Lester Aldridge Privacy Policy

© 2026 Lester Aldridge