

25+ years of trusted socio- economic expertise

£3bn+

in funding bids and investment
supported

500+

regeneration, infrastructure and
policy commissions

Our story

Volterra is a specialist socio-economic consultancy with over 25 years of experience advising on the UK's most significant regeneration and infrastructure projects. We were founded on the conviction that the economy is a complex system shaped by human behaviour, and that good evidence should reflect that complexity rather than reduce it to a model that people struggle to read or interrogate.

Our reputation is based on a long track record of successful innovation, built one method at a time. The wider economic benefits approach we pioneered for Crossrail was later adopted into Department for Transport guidance and remains the standard approach to assessing the case for major UK transport infrastructure. What has followed is similar foundational work for housing regeneration, town centre renewal, social and leisure infrastructure, and the new categories of investment likely to shape the next decade.

Two things demonstrate the quality of the work we produce. people are always able to interrogate our analysis: every figure traces back to a source, every assumption is open to challenge, and our evidence holds up at committee, public inquiry and in the public debate that follows. And our clients come back. Most of our work is repeat business or word-of-mouth recommendation, because the partners who write the proposal are the people who deliver the job, and because we are genuinely collaborative.

The firm has always grown around its people, developing a friendly and collaborative culture we are proud of. Many of our senior team joined as graduates and have stayed ever since, and that continuity is what makes long, productive client relationships possible. As the world our clients build into changes faster, the work changes with it: we are now at the forefront of using new data sources and artificial intelligence to enhance our approaches. What has not changed is the commitment to evidence you can read, methods that fit the question, and a team that cares about the answer.



CROSSRAIL / THE ELIZABETH LINE

“

Volterra were excellent. They delivered a great report in a short timescale and managed the project and people with real professionalism. It was a difficult one to deliver, but they did it very well, on time and to budget, and we were all pleased with the end product.

HOMES ENGLAND, 2025



THE VOLTERRA TEAM

Our business areas

Volterra is a leading socio-economic consultancy for development and planning. Our work spans three connected practice areas, each led by senior people who bring the same rigour, transparency and clarity to every commission.

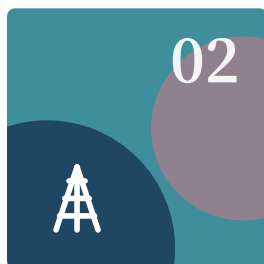


Development, Property & Regeneration

We guide developers through the planning process, from initial vision-setting and pre-application masterplanning, through application submission and implementing planning obligations, to expert witness support at public inquiries.

Our team provides strategic socio-economic advice aligned with economic, social, health and equality policies, ensuring developments respond positively to local priorities and deliver meaningful community benefits.

[READ THE PRACTICE BROCHURE](#) →

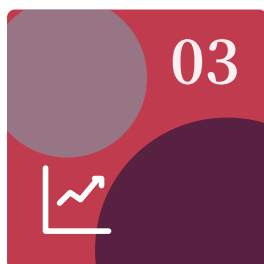


National Infrastructure

We help establish the case for national infrastructure and support major planning applications. Using robust economic modelling and the latest macroeconomic trends, we assess the economic case for major infrastructure.

We support developers through all stages of major project applications, from pre-application through to post-decision and inquiry. Our team is experienced across a variety of planning routes, including Development Consent Orders (DCOs) for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) and Special Development Orders (SDOs).

[READ THE PRACTICE BROCHURE](#) →



Strategy, Appraisal & Evaluation

We help clients understand their areas, make the case for investment and plan effectively for the future.

Our business cases and funding applications deliver robust value for money assessments to appraise the case for various projects and programmes.

We work with local authorities, combined authorities and other public bodies to produce forward-looking evidence base documents, including economic strategies, skills strategies and economic needs assessments. We also carry out impact evaluations to draw out lessons for future delivery.

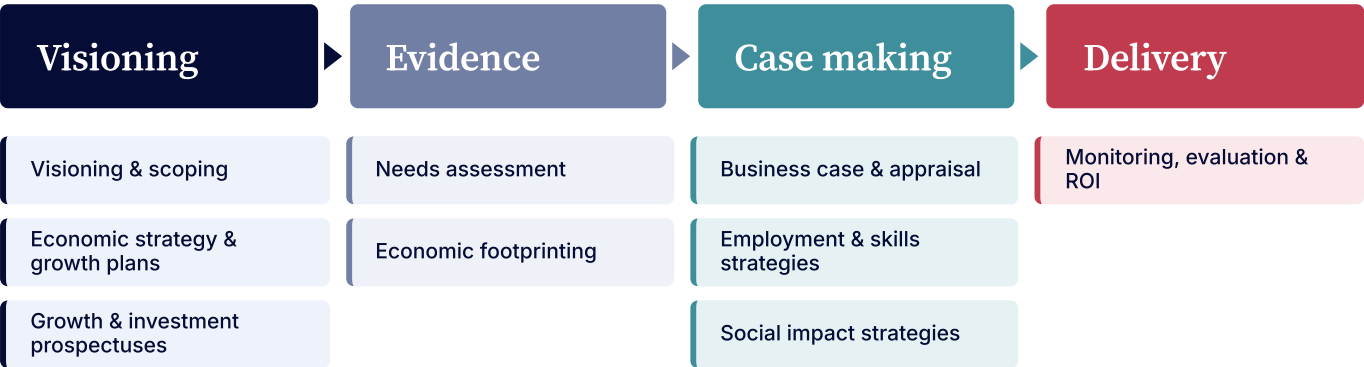
[READ THE PRACTICE BROCHURE](#) →

Our areas of expertise

We have more than 25 years of experience making the socio-economic case for development and infrastructure, and using economic analysis to deliver strategic advice for our partners.

We combine deep policy insight with advanced data analytics to create rigorous, compelling and accessible methodologies that stand up to scrutiny. The result is expertise our clients can act on with confidence.

Our core service offer provides comprehensive support across the entire project life cycle, from initial visioning through to successful delivery.



SERVICES THAT SPAN SEVERAL STAGES



Many services span more than one stage. Work such as strategic site promotion, impact assessment and expert witness support runs across several stages of a project, and what we learn at delivery feeds back into the next round of visioning.

Key sectors

From critical national infrastructure to neighbourhood-scale regeneration, our recent portfolio spans the UK's most active investment sectors.

 Residential Market & affordable	 PBSA Student accommodation	 Co-living Shared rental	 Build to rent BTR
 Later living Senior & care	 Retail & town centre High street regen	 Leisure & experience Visitor economy	 Sport Stadia & clubs
 Hotels Visitor accommodation	 Creative & cultural Galleries & venues	 Film, TV & media Studios & production	 Mixed-use regen Town & city centres
 Industrial & logistics Sheds & freight	 Offices Workplace	 R&D & life sciences Labs & campuses	 Public transport Rail, bus, metro
 Aviation Airports & airfields	 Active travel Walking & cycling	 Ports Maritime & freight	 Data centres Digital infrastructure
 Public realm Streets & squares	 Energy Renewables & grid	 Public sector Councils & authorities	 Social infrastructure Schools, health, community

25+

Sectors actively covered in current and recent commissions

£3bn+

In funding bids and investment cases supported across UK regions

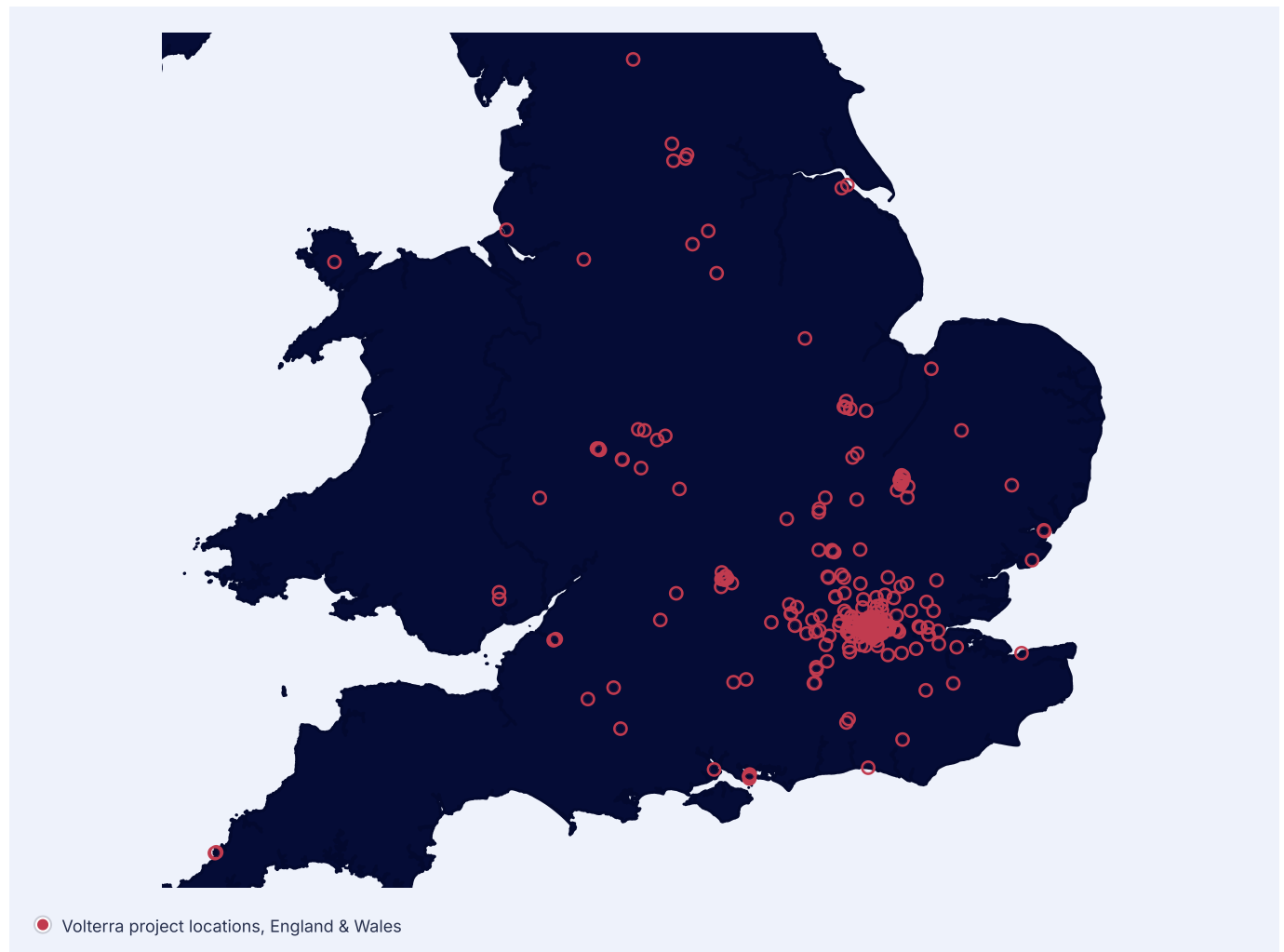
500+

Projects delivered for private, public and third-sector clients

Our track record

Our work has underpinned some of the most complex and high-profile development and infrastructure schemes across the UK, helping clients across the private and public sectors win funding, planning consent and public support.

With experience spanning hundreds of projects of varying scales and complexities, we are experts in understanding how regeneration and infrastructure projects affect economies and communities.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Crossrail / Elizabeth Line

Wider economic benefits methodology, adopted into DfT guidance

Marlow Film Studios

Socio-economic case, needs case and employment and skills strategy for a major new film studio campus

Oxford Local Government Reorganisation

Growth scenarios and agglomeration impacts behind the recently announced Greater Oxford geography

Regent Street, Haymarket & Piccadilly Circus

Public realm improvements, strategic outline business case

Islington Inclusive Growth Strategy

Economic strategy for inclusive growth across the borough

Olympia London

Economic and cultural case for redevelopment of a London landmark

Beehive Centre, Cambridge

Life sciences cluster economic and social value evidence

National Evaluation of Free Bikes Schemes

Programme evaluation of free bike schemes across the UK

Our team

Our team of experts work on the country's most interesting, complex and significant projects. We are highly skilled in both demonstrating and optimising socio-economic impact, combining innovative techniques with intellectual rigour to develop compelling insights and narrative.

We pride ourselves on a strong culture of trust, reliability and genuine collaboration: our clients always work directly with the people promised, and end up with a result that truly reflects their priorities.

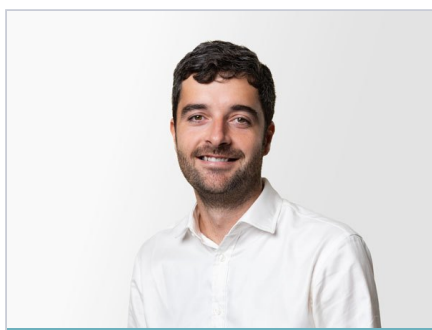


**SENIOR PARTNER ·
INFRASTRUCTURE**

Ellie Evans

Ellie is Volterra's Senior Partner, leading the company's work on major developments and nationally significant infrastructure projects. With over twenty years at Volterra, she is passionate about challenging methodologies and developing bespoke approaches that get to the heart of the issue. An expert in socio-economics, she regularly gives evidence at examinations and committees.

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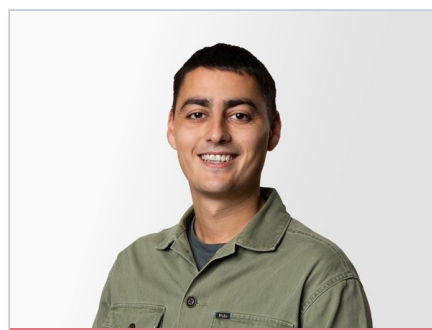


PARTNER · DEVELOPMENT

Alex O'Byrne

Alex leads Volterra's work in property development, and has spent his whole career at the firm, helping to grow the business he now helps lead. He specialises in economic, social and health impact assessment and public benefit strategies, with particular expertise in employment, residential and hospitality uses. He has advised on some of the UK's highest-profile schemes, including Battersea Power Station, the Beehive Centre and Westfield.

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**PARTNER · STRATEGY &
EVALUATION**

Luke Thurley

Luke leads the Strategy, Appraisal and Evaluation side of the business, having spent his career at Volterra and helped drive the company's growth. He supports public sector clients with compelling cases for investment and deliverable strategies, and is experienced in economic impact modelling, econometrics, socio-economic assessment and economic masterplanning. He has recently led several high-profile business cases and growth prospectuses.

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What makes us different

01 Committed delivery, every time

The partners and directors who win the job work with you to deliver it, drawing on their experience and areas of expertise. Senior staff lead from day one, supported by our talented consultant team.

02 A team that stays

Most of our senior team joined as graduates and have driven the company's growth since. That continuity reflects the culture we have built, and it is what makes the long, productive client relationships that drive most of our business possible.

03 Modelling you can understand

Every assumption is set out in plain language. We do not use proprietary tools or black-box models. Socio-economic evidence has to stand up to scrutiny, and evidence that cannot be read cannot be trusted.

04 Analysis you can interrogate

Every figure traces back to a source and every model is open to inspection. This allows clients to defend their evidence where needed and builds longevity and added value into our outputs.

05 A clear story from complex data

We uncover the insights buried in complex data, place each project in its local economic context, and translate the analysis into a case stakeholders can engage with, rather than appendices no one reads.

06 Insight, not just numbers

We identify the trends shaping the local economy and articulate why the numbers matter for the people a project will affect. That is the difference between a report and a result.

07 Industry pioneers, unrivalled experts

The wider economic benefits method we pioneered for Crossrail is now the DfT standard. From Battersea to Marlow Film Studios, ports, renewable energy and data centres, clients work with the team that sets the benchmarks others follow.

08 Methods that fit the question

Where standard appraisal cannot capture what is really at stake, we develop a method that can, from health benefits of active travel to security benefits for public realm. The method follows the question, not the other way round.

“

I have worked with a lot of consultants over the years. When we were told to engage economic consultants I felt a slight dread; I could not have been more wrong. Volterra's involvement, engagement, enthusiasm, maturity and intellectual rigour have been very impressive.

BENJAMIN DOVE-SEYMOUR,
CLDN



BATTERSEA POWER STATION

Let's make the case together

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