

# Minerals services at Farrer & Co

# About us

Farrer & Co is synonymous with the highest quality legal advice and service.

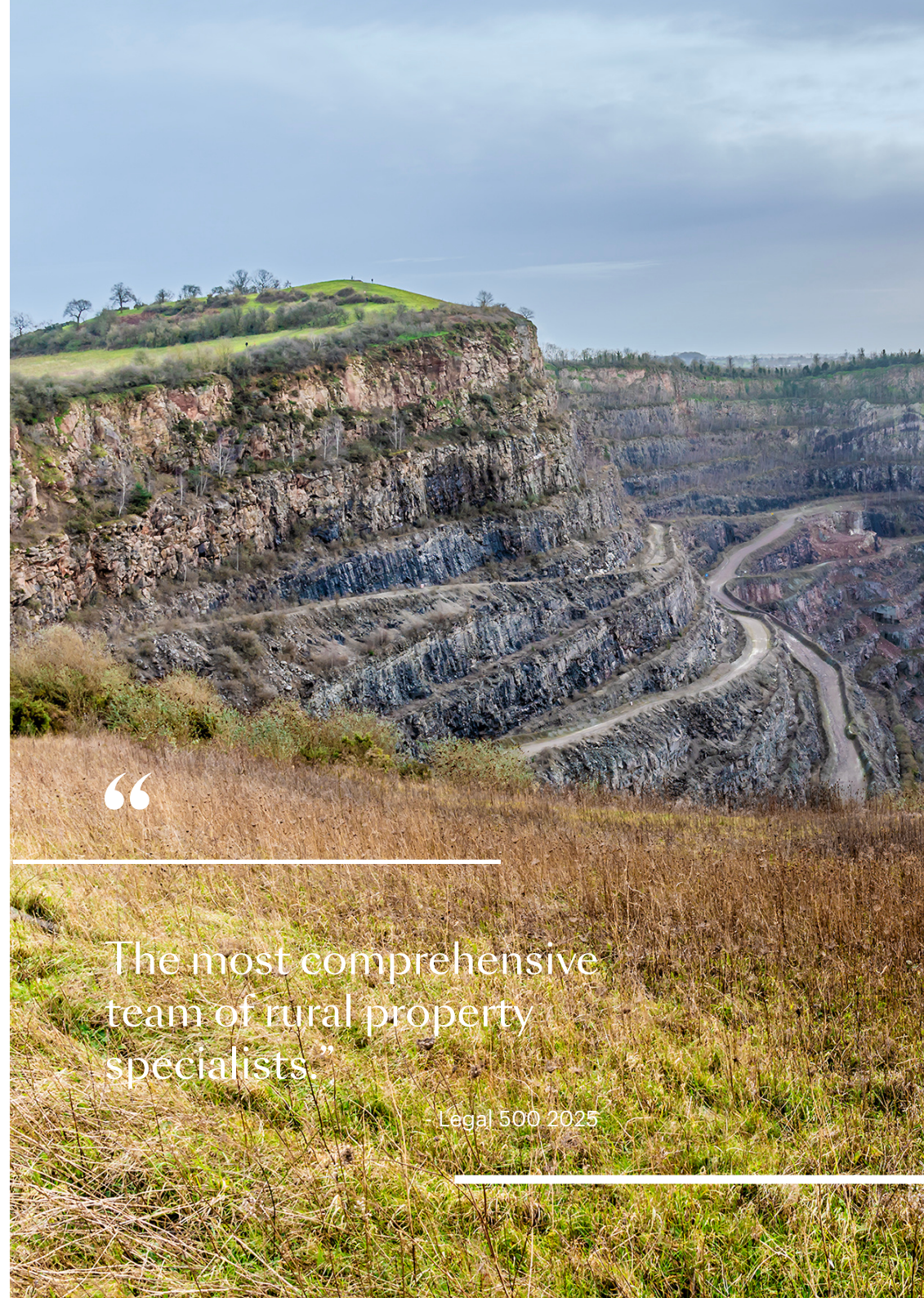
We advise individuals, families, businesses, financial services, educational and not-for-profit organisations on every aspect of the law, wherever the need arises. From our offices in London we work with trusted professionals around the world to deliver a seamless international service.

Our clients present us with complex and varied challenges. Whether that's a complicated family trust issue, a multinational corporate transaction, or an emerging threat to their reputation, they need clear thinkers who can advise on the best solutions, fast thinkers when speed is of the essence and agile thinkers who can produce a fresh approach to get the job done.

That's why they choose us.



**Jeremy Gordon**  
Senior Partner



“

The most comprehensive  
team of rural property  
specialists.”

Legal 500 2025



# Minerals services at Farrer & Co

## Commerciality

Doing the legal work for mineral options and leases is about balance. At Farrer & Co we never lose sight of the need to get the deal done, without fuss, so that the rent and royalties start flowing. Our whole approach is geared to driving transactions forward. We do not look for problems where they do not exist. Nevertheless, commerciality must be balanced with attention to other factors, such as the long term interests of the landowner, in terms of restoration and aftercare, and also nuisance, pollution and other local sensitivities.

## Expertise

Commerciality must also be backed up with the relevant expertise. Mineral transactions often require difficult farm surrenders or complicated section 106 agreements. Minerals law itself is a niche area. We have market-leading knowledge of the complex issues surrounding mineral ownerships deriving from inclosure acts, ex-copyhold land or sales under the Land Taxes Acts. We advise many of the country's major landowners on these issues and are at the forefront of bringing this expertise to bear on questions of mineral trespass.

## Delivery

Many firms will only have one or two solicitors with mineral expertise; we have a team of seven partners and as many or more assistants familiar with minerals work. This means work can be allocated at the correct level, to those with time to dedicate to it, so it is done cost-effectively and quickly (and we will always look to the third party to pay the costs where possible).

## What we do

Options/leases for aggregates	Lithium extraction
Deep-level mining	Restoration and aftercare
Mineral trespass	Interpretation of reservations
Liability for historic workings	BNG opportunities



FARRER & CO

Dealing with uncertainty:  
minerals and land registration

Blundell Lecture - James Maxwell

“Underground Overground – minerals and profits” read James Maxwell’s Blundell Lecture on the history, law and modern day practicalities for landowners dealing with retained minerals, mineral rights and profits.

[Read more](#)



Responsible Business

At Farrer & Co, conducting business responsibly is fundamental to who we are. Our commitment to excellence, integrity, and partnership runs through every corner of the firm, guiding both our client work and our broader impact on society.

[Read more](#)

# Recent transactions and key contacts

- Option and lease for the UK's only tungsten mine in Devon, including complicated profit sharing arrangements for landowners, international funding complexities and major restoration obligations.
- Lease of the country's only Gypsum mine, involving issues of historic workings, fragmented mineral ownership and surface rights for boreholes.
- 40 year lease for a limestone quarry in Lincolnshire with a separate third party surface owner and a certain rent of £500,000.
- Successfully combating objections to manorial mineral registration applications at the First Tier Tribunal.
- Advising on liability for personal injury arising from historic workings
- Acting for a Cornish estate on a major option and lease for the extraction of lithium from hard rock and also liquid brines.

Please also see our dedicated brochures for [country houses and estates](#), [rural property](#), [renewable energy](#), [natural capital](#) and [forestry and woodland](#) for further details and recent work examples.

For further information please contact:



**James Maxwell**, Partner

+44 (0)20 3375 7364

[james.maxwell@farrer.co.uk](mailto:james.maxwell@farrer.co.uk)

James is an expert in rural land law, who helps the country's foremost institutional landowners and private estates in the management of their rural property.



**Simon Pring**, Partner

+44 (0)20 3375 7210

[simon.pring@farrer.co.uk](mailto:simon.pring@farrer.co.uk)

Simon has over 30 years' experience advising major institutions, charities and private estates on all aspect of property law including strategic estate planning, development and mineral leases.

“

The firm provides immediate turnaround times, very bright lawyers, and is fun to work with.”

- Chambers UK 2025



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# Complementary services

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## Planning and Environmental

We provide commercial and timely advice on the full range of planning and environmental law issues, including advising on minerals planning permissions, environmental concerns and requirements during extraction and the practicalities of aftercare and reinstatement after development. We are used to working closely with landowners and developers to navigate the journey from planning to aftercare and ensure both parties interests are protected and aligned.



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**Karen Phull**, Partner  
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## Tax

We advise on all aspects of personal and business tax and work closely with colleagues across the firm to provide comprehensive and joined-up advice to investors, businesses, institutions and charities. Our team gives practical, commercial and innovative solutions to complex tax and structure issues, including in relation to new revenue streams and capital payments arising from deals relating to mines and mineral ownership."



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**David Gubbay**, Partner  
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## Private Client

We pride ourselves on our ability to bring our collective experience, which has been earned through working with families over many generations while looking after their assets, to create strategic and practical solutions to the issues they face. We advise clients on how best to integrate new revenue streams deriving from mineral ownership and extraction deals, into their existing estate planning.



**Jenny Ridgway**, Partner  
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## Corporate

Farrer & Co's Corporate team has market-leading expertise in complex, high-value transactional and advisory work, including advising on acquisitions, disposals, fundraising, investment and joint ventures (including between investors, operators and landowners), as well as advising on initial structuring of mineral extraction deals.

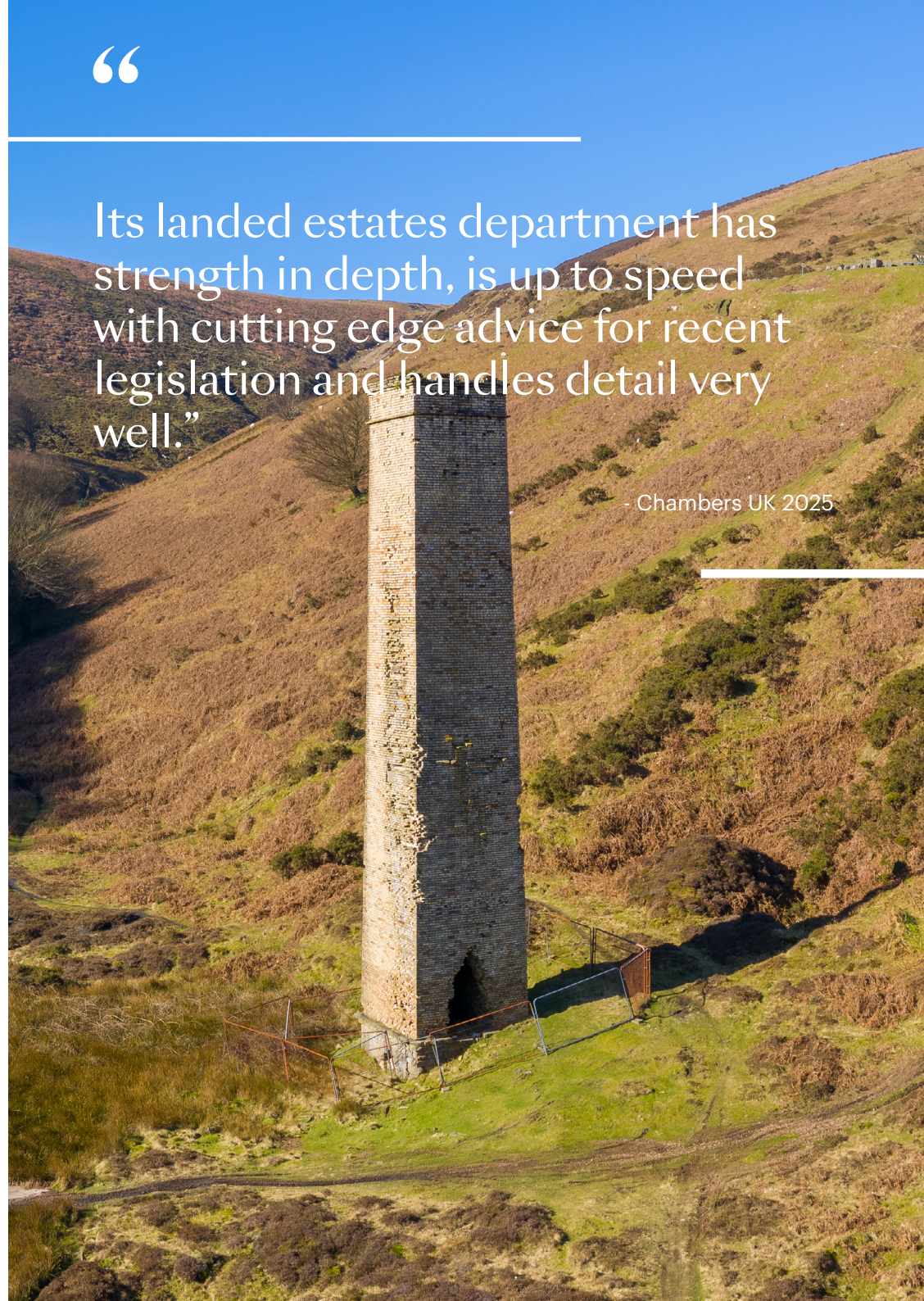


**Jonathan Haley**, Partner  
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“

Its landed estates department has strength in depth, is up to speed with cutting edge advice for recent legislation and handles detail very well.”

- Chambers UK 2025





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