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the Edge is hosting a series of four thought-leadership discussions on the future city of 2030-2040 in partnership with Taylor Wessing and UCEM

2. Public and Private Land:

As privatisation of public land increases, how can civic urban spaces evolve to ensure their survival?



Public open spaces offer the 'freedom of the city' where all have a right to roam, to gather or protest, to sit and eat a sandwich or even beg from fellow citizens if all other support has gone.

Today

Over time urban parks, commons, Metropolitan Open Land and green spaces have suffered from a lack of investment, diminishing quality and a reduced sense of safety. Local councils have been under pressure to make savings and privately-owned public space (POPS) is increasingly relied upon to deliver urban open space - restricting access and removing it entirely if the land is later sold for redevelopment.

There is a large body of research that confirms the importance of access to green space and nature for our mental and physical health – and the COVID-19 crisis has accelerated the urgency for cities to revisit the value of urban open space.

& looking ahead to 2040:

- How do planners ensure that access to public open space can be secured for the long term?
- Should we resist the increasing privatisation of urban space in recognition of its true value as a place for all citizens?
- What are the implications for governance and how could community involvement be better supported?

Chair: **Stephen Edwards**, Living Streets

Speakers: **Peter Neal**, Peter Neal Consulting
Helen Griffiths, Fields in Trust
Claudia Carter, Birmingham City University
Thomas Perroud, Université Paris II, Panthéon-Assas
Finn Williams, Public Practice

Online: Zoom

Timing: Tuesday 24th November 2020, 16.00 – 17.30

To attend please register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/city-2040-series-public-and-private-land-access-and-use-tickets-128063181423>