

## ■ PART 5 ■

# ASSESSING PLANNING

Part 5 ends the book with an assessment of the British planning system. Chapter 16 makes use of published research and statistics to assess the effects that the planning system has had in practice. This draws on the understanding of the operation of the planning system provided by the discussions of actors and institutions in Part 3 and the relation between planning and the market in Part 4. The different elements of the planning system are assessed under the headings used in Part 2: land use planning and conservation; countryside policy; environmental planning; urban policy and transport. The Conclusion in Chapter 17 then asks the question 'why plan?'. It argues that there are strong rationales for a planning system, even given the weaknesses of the current one. It calls for a greater emphasis on the redistributive potential of planning and for continued vigorous debate amongst opposing theoretical positions.