

The leading commercial law firm in Leicester and the East Midlands



An introduction



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Welcome



BHW is a leading commercial law firm based in Leicester.

BHW is different from other commercial firms because it was set up in 2003 as a “clean sheet” business. Since then it has grown from a staff of 2 to a staff of nearly 90 and that growth has been entirely organic.

Despite its short history, BHW is already ranked as a UK top 100 firm for its Corporate/Commercial practice in the Legal 500 guide and is also ranked as a top 200 firm for Commercial Property and IT & Telecoms.

BHW is one of only two firms in the whole of the East Midlands ranked by Chambers & Partners in the top band for SME Corporate/M&A work. Its Real Estate practice is also ranked by the Chambers guide.



“Nick Bridle’s legal strategy is ‘ahead of the game’.”

Legal 500

“BHW’s mission has always been the same – to be the best commercial law firm in the East Midlands. We believe that our client commitment and relentless attention to detail are what set us apart.

We have always believed that the key to our success is simple – looking after our clients better than anyone else. We are proud to act for every one of our clients and to play a part in their success.”

Nick Bridle, Managing Partner

Corporate and Commercial

Mergers & Acquisitions

With a team of 8 solicitors, BHW has one of the largest M&A departments based in Leicester. BHW is widely recognised as one of the UK's leading firms for M&A transactions in the SME sector.

SME and Private Equity

Corporate Services

We support incentivisation and succession projects including Employee Ownership Trusts (EOTs), secondary management promotions, EMI schemes, other share incentivisation schemes and structured buyouts.

Restructuring

The Department undertakes significant corporate restructure deals in the SME and private equity sectors.

Secured Lending

BHW enjoys a significant reputation in Secured Lending for both traditional and peer to peer lending. The Department is also influential in establishing market leading standardised transaction documents for peer to peer funding platforms.

Commercial Contracts

The Department routinely deals with a range of general commercial contracts including fleet sales, long term supply and exclusive supply contracts.

Aerospace

We are an authority in the Aerospace sector for M&A work, corporate support services and supply chain management solutions.

Specialist Sector IT and Telecoms

BHW regularly advises on:

- Software development, maintenance and licensing agreements
- Hosting agreements
- Hardware supply agreements
- IT infrastructure projects
- Website development agreements
- E-commerce agreements and terms of business and
- Procurement and tendering for IT Projects.

Corporate and Commercial



“Ed Nurse is the quintessential example of a good corporate solicitor – commercially savvy, intelligent and down to earth”

Chambers and Partners

**Ed Nurse,
Partner and Head of
Corporate & Commercial**

ed.nurse@bhwsolicitors.com
Direct Dial: 0116 281 6230

Ed Nurse is a Partner and heads the Corporate and Commercial department. He joined BHW shortly after it was established and has over 10 years' experience in all forms of corporate transactions and commercial contracts. Ed specialises in commercial contracts in the aerospace sector. Ed is highly respected for his pro-active approach and his ability to problem solve.



“Matt Worsnop of BHW Solicitors has an excellent understanding of the IT contracting market place”

Legal 500

**Matt Worsnop,
Partner**

matt.worsnop@bhwsolicitors.com
Direct Dial: 0116 281 6235

Matt Worsnop is a Partner in the Corporate and Commercial department, having trained and qualified with the firm. Matt has experience of all kinds of corporate and commercial transactions but specialises in IT contracts, advising on software development, licensing, hosting and implementation agreements.



**Steve McElhone,
Partner**

steve.mcelhone@bhwsolicitors.com
Direct Dial: 0116 281 6237

Steve McElhone is a Partner in the Corporate & Commercial department. Steve has more than 20 years' experience in all aspects of corporate transactions, including acquisitions, disposals and corporate fundraising as well as dealing with public markets work including IPOs and advisory work.



**Alex Clifton,
Partner**

alex.clifton@bhwsolicitors.com
Direct Dial: 0116 281 6232

Alex Clifton is a Partner in the Corporate and Commercial department having trained with the Firm. Alex handles a range of corporate and commercial transactions. In particular, Alex has had extensive experience of SME acquisitions and disposals and specialises in corporate re-structuring and shareholders agreements.

Real Estate

Commercial Property

The Department advises on all aspects of freehold and leasehold property for its business clients.

Retail and Leisure

BHW acts on major acquisitions in shopping centres, high streets, retail parks and industrial parks. We are the principal advisers to several well-known companies for real estate matters.

Development

BHW acts on major development projects across the UK, including site acquisitions, promotion agreements, option agreements, infrastructure agreements, management agreements, site set-ups and plot sales and purchases.

Distribution and Data Centres

BHW specialises in leases for Distribution and Data Centres. Our clients include national and multinational companies.

Investment Properties

BHW acts for a number of property investment companies and regularly acts on the acquisition, funding and sale of substantial properties ranging from office blocks, business parks and retail premises.

Secured Lending

BHW is a key player in lending where commercial property is used as the sole or primary security and both banks and peer to peer lenders are included in our client portfolio.

Pension Fund Property

BHW is the regional leader in Pension Fund Property and pension scheme led funding and refinance projects. The Pension Fund Property team also provides legal training to its Professional Trustee clients.

Specialist Sector Agriculture

BHW's Agriculture team specialises in the following:

- Development, Promotion and Option Agreements including s106 agreements for residential and other types of development
- The acquisition and disposal of agricultural and rural properties
- Agricultural tenancies and farm business tenancies
- Working with landowners to restructure their businesses to plan effectively for succession
- Renewable Energy Agreements and
- Secured lending in relation to agricultural property.

MAIN CONTACTS



“Beverley Merrell is very efficient and very effective”

Legal 500

**Beverley Merrell,
Partner and
Head of Real Estate**

beverley.merrell@bhwsolicitors.com
Direct Dial: 0116 281 6221

Beverley Merrell is a Partner and heads the Real Estate department, having trained and qualified with the firm. She has extensive experience of all kinds of property transactions and advises on property finance matters, as well as leading a team specialising in pension fund property work.



Ian Sanders, Partner

ian.sanders@bhwsolicitors.com
Direct Dial: 0116 281 6227

Ian Sanders is a Partner in the Real Estate department, Ian has knowledge and expertise in a range of commercial property work including acquisitions and disposals, landlord and tenant, development and secured lending. Ian also has extensive experience of public sector and local authority work.



Eleanor Rattay, Partner

eleanor.rattay@bhwsolicitors.com
Direct Dial: 0116 281 6224

Eleanor Rattay is a Partner in the Real Estate department and has over 11 years' experience of acting for landlords and tenants on a wide range of commercial property matters. Eleanor also acts for landowners, investors, developers and FTSE 100 companies in relation to acquisitions, disposals and refinancing and is a key member of the Agriculture and Secured Lending teams.



**Kate Burlinson,
Partner**

kate.burlinson@bhwsolicitors.com
Direct Dial: 0116 402 9022

Kate Burlinson is a Partner in the Commercial Property department. Kate has particular experience working with a variety of lenders on the refinancing of commercial and investment property portfolios, including the provision of development finance. Kate specialises in secured lending, as well as handling all other aspects of commercial property.



**Raj Hundal,
Partner**

raj.hundal@bhwsolicitors.com
Direct Dial: 0116 402 7249

Raj Hundal is a Partner in the Commercial Property department. Raj handles a wide variety of commercial property transactions and specialises in pension scheme property work. Raj is regularly recommended and instructed by lenders to act on pension scheme transactions and also works closely with in-house teams to provide property-related corporate support.



Dispute Resolution

Company, Partnership and Shareholder Disputes

Our Dispute Resolution team has a wealth of experience advising on all types of company, partnership and shareholder disputes for businesses of all sizes including director disputes, partnership dissolution and injunctions.

Property Disputes

We specialise in freehold and leasehold property disputes for both commercial landlords and tenants including those relating to forfeiture, arrears, breach of covenant, defective premises and possession.

Debt Recovery

BHW deals with debt recovery for all types of businesses, from issuing court proceedings through to the enforcement of debts whether by obtaining charging orders, attachment of earnings, or warrants in the County Courts or High Courts.

Contract Disputes

Our Dispute Resolution team handles a variety of disputes regarding commercial contracts including those for the purchase of goods or services, joint-ventures and franchises, consumer credit/hire purchase agreements and claims against insurers and banks.

Professional Negligence Claims

We advise on professional negligence in instances where service levels are below those expected, where problems are encountered as a result of a professional's lack of care and attention, or where a professional has been incompetent or negligent.

Product Liability Claims

BHW's litigation team can provide legal advice and support for all product liability cases, including product recalls, legal claims and claims against suppliers. Our experienced commercial lawyers have extensive knowledge of managing and defending product liability cases while giving consideration to protecting profits, brands and reputations.

Specialist Sector Disputed Wills

We specialise in contentious trust and probate work. We deal with validity claims, financial provisions under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975 and estate claims. We advise Trustees, Beneficiaries and Executors and bring and defend claims on behalf of them all.

MAIN CONTACTS



**Paul Davis,
Partner and Head of
Dispute Resolution**

paul.davis@bhwsolicitors.com
Direct Dial: 0116 281 6231

Paul Davis is a Partner and heads the Dispute Resolution department, having joined BHW upon qualification. He deals with a wide range of commercial disputes and leads the Contentious Probate team. Paul is a member of the Association of Contentious Trust and Probate Specialists, a prestigious organisation for solicitors and barristers who specialise in contentious trust and probate work.

Employment

Business Transfers and TUPE

Our Employment team work closely with our Corporate department to provide business owners with complete advice on the issues and considerations surrounding Transfer of Undertakings, Protection of Employment (TUPE) regulations when acquiring a business.

Employment Disputes

Our specialist employment lawyers provide business owners and HR professionals with guidance in relation to handling the full range of employment disputes including breaches of contract, employee claims for unfair and wrongful dismissal, discrimination, bullying, harassment and work-related stress, as well as non-compete restrictions and whistleblowing. We can advise on Settlement Agreements and where litigation is unavoidable, provide representation at Employment Tribunals.

Restructuring and Redundancies

It is extremely important that business owners follow the correct procedures when considering a company restructure or staff redundancies. BHW's employment team will ensure the process is managed efficiently, with appropriate communication with employees and that legal obligations are met in order to minimise the risk of claims against the company.

Contracts, Handbooks and Policies

We assist companies to ensure they have the right contractual provisions, staff handbooks, and policies and procedures in place to meet their commercial goals and protect their business interests. Our team can assist with negotiating new contracts, varying existing contracts, and rolling out suitable policies and procedures.

HR Retainer Service

All of our services are available on an adhoc basis, however, for added peace of mind we are able to provide ongoing support for a fixed monthly fee. Our HR retainer service will ensure you have access to employment law and HR advice whenever you need it. We can provide tailored packages to meet your business needs including telephone and email support for disputes as they occur, general HR advice and onsite meetings, and contract and policy reviews.

MAIN CONTACTS



**Amanda Badley,
Partner**

amanda.badley@bhwsolicitors.com
Direct Dial: 0116 402 9019

Amanda Badley is a Partner and heads the Employment department. Amanda provides strategic advice and support to employers and senior executives in respect of all aspects of employment law including business reorganisations and redundancy, transfer of undertakings (TUPE), employment contracts and documentation, employee claims and Employment Tribunal representation.

Quality and standards

BHW operates its own industry leading client care and risk management systems which ensure our service levels are consistently high.

“This audit of the firm has produced an excellent and perfect result. The firm is congratulated on attaining the very rare achievement of recording no non-conformances. The firm’s risk management model is well designed and effectively applied to business and business continuity planning as well as to file and operational management.

Business planning and its related activities remain at a very high standard and the entire quality system is supported by effective HR management which encourages the professional development of staff at all levels.”

Independent Lexcel Assessor



Our client satisfaction
and retention profile
are second to none.

Testimonials

“We were very grateful for the professional assistance and personal dedication that Ed Nurse and his team provided in achieving our objective.”

Client Testimonial

“They’re prompt, they’re quick and they also offer the personal touch - they’re invested in what they’re doing for us.”

Client Testimonial to Chambers & Partners

“We have been using the services of BHW Solicitors for many years. We receive a high level of service from BHW and they are always willing to go that extra mile to get the job done.”

Client Testimonial

“The ‘extremely competent, thorough and diligent’ group has a growing presence in the aerospace manufacturing sector, assisting companies with mergers, acquisitions and long-term supply agreements.”

Legal 500

“We have found BHW’s knowledge and expertise to be invaluable in helping us in many aspects and BHW has made a real difference to this business. Customer service is first class and all matters are dealt with promptly and cost effectively.”

Client Testimonial

“Service levels are consistently excellent, backed by sound commercial advice and a solid understanding of the wider business picture.”

Legal 500

“If you are looking for professional, friendly, cost effective legal advice on property matters I would thoroughly recommend BHW.”

Client Testimonial

“BHW Solicitors have provided us with a friendly and reliable legal service for many years. We are always confident that they will complete the work as specified and at a fair price.”

Client Testimonial

“Matt Worsnop is ‘extremely competent in structuring IT contracts and advising on software development’.”

Legal 500

“One of the key factors for our business has been the entirely pragmatic advice and guidance offered, with the primary objective always being to reach a workable and effective solution. We would unreservedly recommend BHW.”

Client Testimonial

“Bev Merrell has consistently offered a high standard of service, is accessible and communicates in a clear manner to move projects to a prompt conclusion.”

Client Testimonial to Chambers & Partners

“BHW Solicitors is a ‘trusted business partner’, praised for its ‘strength in depth’ and for delivering ‘consistently high-quality service and advice’.”

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1 Smith Way, Grove Park
Enderby, Leicestershire LE19 1SX
Telephone: 0116 289 7000
Fax: 0116 281 6229
Email: info@bhwsolicitors.com



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