Construction

The right legal advice when you need it most...
Our Construction team

"They know and understand our business and how we work, and they are very commercially aware."
Chambers UK 2017

Clarke Willmott boasts a large Construction team which gives advice on all aspects of construction and engineering law in both non-contentious and contentious matters.

Our specialist lawyers advise national and international clients from our offices in London and across the United Kingdom. We advise on every aspect of the procurement process and our clients include employers, developers, contractors, funders and consultants. Our construction clients are active in a wide range of different sectors including renewable energy, transport, local government, infrastructure, social housing, retail and facilities management.

We believe that a comprehensive understanding of the industry coupled with strong commercial awareness is essential to providing focussed, proactive legal advice to our construction clients.

We provide high quality advice that is supported by extensive industry experience, at competitive prices. We believe that legal costs should not be inhibitive or deprive our clients of access to the best legal advice and we pride ourselves on the fact that we are able to offer innovative fee solutions.

We are also experienced in all forms of construction dispute resolution including adjudication, mediation and litigation. Two of our partners are also practising adjudicators. We find that prevention is generally better than cure and where possible we assist our clients in managing risk and resolving issues at an early stage. We are also able to offer training and seminars on practical issues arising out of construction law.

Our lawyers enjoy strong reputations in construction law and the quality of our practice is recognised by our clients and the legal directories alike. Our partners include a quantity surveyor and a chartered engineer who each have extensive experience in those professions. We believe the diversity in our backgrounds and depth of experience in our team is unique. We find that our clients appreciate our practical and creative approach and this has enabled us to build strong relationships with a number of our key contacts over the years.

Please take the time to read the further details of our partners, lawyers and our services and find out how we can also help you or your business.
Our Construction Team

Contentious construction

Our specialist team of construction lawyers has vast experience in a range of disputes, thereby bringing flexible and practical solutions to problems, as they arise. We appreciate that choosing the right option, which best suits your business and dispute, is more than just ‘knowing the law’. This means that we can often work alongside clients to resolve the dispute before it escalates into formal proceedings. We also recognise that not all disputes can be solved at the outset, so look to provide practical, commercial advice, applying the legal tools available of alternative dispute resolution (‘without prejudice’ settlement meetings and negotiations, as well as mediation), adjudication, court proceedings, expert determination and arbitration to reach a solution.

Whether the problem involves renewable energy projects, construction of specialist facilities, sports stadia, hotel or housing construction, hospitals, roads, bridges, universities or similar, we can assist by reference to the various standards forms of contract, bespoke drafting or statutory incorporated provisions.

Our clients range from household names in the construction industry (developers, affordable housing providers, banks), to specialist contractors and sub-contractors, operating both nationally and internationally. We can tailor our advice to suit modest sized disputes and advice involving specific construction issues, as well as highly complex, technical and sizable disputes (involving millions).

Unlike other law firms, our team has hands on experience working in the construction industry and includes multi-disciplinary professionals (to include a Quantity Surveyor, Adjudicators and Mediators).

Non-Contentious construction

The non-contentious team advises on the drafting and negotiation of construction contracts. Not only do we assist with contractual issues but we are also quick to understand business needs, giving practical advice in relation to legal challenges.

In construction, we advise a healthy variety of funders, developers, contractors and sub-contractors. Projects sectors include mixed use developments, housing developments, energy and renewables, infrastructure, retail and social housing. In larger projects we assist on wider issues such as contract interfaces and the pass-thru of responsibilities and obligations, and allocation of risk to the best placed parties. We also address project-specific concerns in relation to the nature of the works, the site, restrictions and other interested parties.

As well as creating legal frameworks at the front end of a transaction or project, we also provide on-going project advice in relation to practical/commercial issues throughout the “live” period of a development. We also act as project leader on complex developments involving other legal teams within Clarke Willmott: Our combined offering often includes property/leasing; development/construction; procurement/commercial contracts; planning issues. Our contract experience includes all standard forms of contracts including; NEC3, JCT, FIDIC and Logic.
What our clients say

“He is one of the few lawyers who knows our business as well as we do. He genuinely understands construction and that makes him a very effective and efficient operator”
Commercial Director – leading national contractor on Peter O’Brien

“I consider us very fortunate to be able to draw on your legal knowledge and construction experience”
University of Bath on AnnaLiisa Blanks-Walden

“We instruct Peter immediately a dispute looks likely. His early tactical advice has positioned us to settle many disputes at an early stage, on our terms and with minimum expenditure.”
Hastie Group on Peter O’Brien

“Zoe has provided a very responsive service to our business, giving prompt advice on a major contract and assisting us with understanding the complexities of the multiple schedules contained therein. Very pleasant to deal with and with the ability to communicate the legal structure of the contract in plain English. Zoe recognises the importance of meeting deadlines and always strived to deliver required information accurately and on time to us during the difficult contract negotiations.”
Blom UK on Zoe Stollard

“Zoe picked up quickly on our business needs and was able to advise us effectively and with precision.”
International Logistics Company on Zoe Stollard

“He [Peter] is a very savvy and streetwise litigator”
Leading Construction Counsel on Peter O’Brien

“We are very pleased with the work that you [AnnaLiisa Blanks-Walden] did for us. Not least as you guided us through a very complex area of law and achieved an excellent result. I am happy to recommend you as a lawyer specialised in construction”
Peter Merchant, Managing Director Special Projects, Paradigm Housing Group on AnnaLiisa Blanks-Walden

“Peter is the best - I wouldn’t instruct anyone else. Not only does he have an extraordinary knowledge of construction law but his tactical acumen means he can apply pressure where it hurts most bringing us the right result time after time.”
International Specialist Contractor – The Designer Group on Peter O’Brien

“Zoe took the lead legal position on a recent project - which had many hurdles, jurisdictional nuances, and often frustrating negotiations. She demonstrated both management and leadership in this process, and very quickly gained the absolute confidence of her internal stakeholders - including myself. Zoe brings a refreshing perspective to a deal, and remains both focused and light hearted; even when the light at the end of the tunnel looks dim during very protracted negotiations! A pleasure to work with.”
Lend Lease on Zoe Stollard

clarkewillmott.com
Meet our Construction team

**Priscilla Hall, Partner**  
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e: priscilla.hall@clarkewillmott.com

Priscilla specialises in non-contentious advice to a range of clients. She also heads up the Renewable Energy Sector at Clarke Willmott. As well as having extensive and wide ranging experience in general commercial construction projects she also has particular expertise in projects spanning various renewable energy mediums such as wind, biogas, waste and solar.

She has an MSc in Construction Law and Arbitration from Kings College, London and is a member of Renewable UK, Regen South West, Renewable Energy Association, Society of Construction Law and is a Fellow of the Built Environment.

**Peter O’Brien, Partner**  
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Peter specialises in construction dispute resolution, representing clients in all types of dispute forums both in the UK and overseas. He represents employers, contractors and sub-contractors alike across a wide range of sectors, including power generation and renewables contracts through to road, rail, infrastructure and more traditional building projects.

Peter is a dual qualified solicitor and quantity surveyor. His industry experience makes him uniquely placed to provide clients with commercially-focused advice.

Peter has co-authored "Payment in Construction Contracts – A Practical Guide" published by RICS Books.

**Zoe Stollard, Partner**  
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Zoe specialises in non-contentious advice to various stakeholders on a variety of public and private, domestic and international projects. Her core commercial experience includes construction and infrastructure, property, commercial projects, corporate and finance. On the front end, transactional work, Zoe is experienced in creating legal frameworks for complex commercial deals and developments, including construction interfaces with funding, property / leasing issues, mergers and acquisitions, and agreements with interested third parties.

Zoe has an MSc in Construction Law from King’s College, London and has spent five years in practice in Asia.

Directory feedback:

“One of the most ambitious of the next generation of national firms” and ‘an unashamedly client-facing law firm’. Legal Business

“They know and understand our business and how we work, and they are very commercially aware.”  
Chambers UK 2017

“Clients of Clarke Willmott LLP praise its ‘excellent level of service and approachable team’.”  
Legal 500 2016

“They’re all very impressive in the team.”  
Chambers UK 2017
Meet our Construction team

Anna-Liisa Blanks-Walden, Partner
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Anna-Liisa is a partner who specialises in resolving construction disputes. She has experience in court proceedings, Pre-Action Protocol for Construction and Engineering Disputes, mediation, adjudication (including enforcing adjudicators’ decisions), and arbitration.

She advises employers and developers (including multi-national companies, supermarket retailers, household name sports clients, housing associations), contractors and specialist sub-contractors alike in resolving building disputes; including professional negligence claims.

Michael Craik, Partner
t: 0345 209 1409
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“Michael has for the past 25 years advised clients in respect of construction projects. He now specialises in resolving construction disputes (buildings and civils) including professional negligence claims against consultants. He also advises in respect of party wall disputes. He has particular expertise in the education (including R&D), health (PFI and LIFT), nuclear and renewables (solar and energy efficiency) sectors.

His education expertise extends to having been a governor for a Further Education College where he was primarily responsible for delivering a new build campus.

Michael is praised for his “open, frank and realistic advice” and his “responsiveness.” (Chambers UK)

Natalie Read, Senior Associate
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Natalie practices both contentious construction law. She has experience in litigation, the Pre-Action Protocol process, arbitration, mediation, adjudication and expert determination. She has acted for employers, developers, contractors and sub-contractors as both claimant and defendant on matters relating to defective workmanship, negligence, disputed applications for payment and applications for extensions of time.

Eileen Leonard, Senior Associate
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Eileen specialises in non-contentious construction law. Since joining Clarke Willmott she has worked on a range of construction projects and has experience of acting on behalf of a variety of clients. Prior to joining Clarke Willmott, Eileen worked in-house for the UK’s largest Architects’ Professional Indemnity Insurance Mutual advising on PII and risk management, in private practice for a large city firm where she acted on behalf of private and public sector clients and Registered Providers, and in-house for a major multi-disciplinary consultancy company as Assistant Company Secretary. She trained at a well-known niche West End firm specialising in construction, going on separate secondments to the legal departments of two large multi-disciplinary consultancy companies.
Matthew Phipps, Associate  
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Matthew specialises in contentious construction. The breadth of his experience includes litigation in the Technology and Construction Court (including reported cases concerning the enforcement of adjudicator’s decisions) mediation, arbitration, adjudication and expert determination.

Matthew’s expertise includes complex and high-value construction disputes working with employers, developers, funders, contractors and professionals. His recent experience includes payment disputes, delay and disruption claims, professional negligence actions and final account disputes.

Kate Lister, Associate  
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Kate specialises contentious construction law and dispute resolution. Kate has experience with court proceedings in the Technology and Construction Court, the Pre-Action Protocol for Construction and Engineering Disputes, and adjudication. Her experience also includes acting on behalf of administrators and liquidators in the recovery of construction contract debts. Kate has experience working on social housing, retail, leisure and energy projects.

Caitlin Gallagher, Solicitor  
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Caitlin specialises primarily in construction dispute resolution. She has experience in litigation in the Technology and Construction Court, adjudication, arbitration, mediation and resolving disputes pre-action. Caitlin has acted for employers, contractors and sub-contractors in respect of payment disputes, defect claims and professional negligence actions. She also has experience in insurance law. Caitlin also has experience in drafting bespoke terms and conditions, advising on a range of documents, including building contracts, collateral warranties and consultancy agreements.

Caitlin joined Clarke Willmott in 2016 after training at a Bristol firm and specialising in construction law. Caitlin graduated from Cardiff University and is a fluent Welsh speaker.

Mark Scotney, Associate  
t: 0345 209 1066  
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Mark specialises in contentious construction law and is an accredited mediator. He acts for main contractors, sub-contractors, engineers, architects, employers and domestic home owners.

His experience is broad and includes regularly representing clients in adjudication proceedings, court proceedings and mediations. He is heavily involved in professional negligence and breach of contract claims against surveyors, engineers and architects.
Meet our Construction team

Bill Bullivant, Consultant
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Bill has extensive experience leading the legal teams advising on a substantial number of completed PFI projects, including acting for the senior lenders, contracting authorities bid consortia and subcontractors.

He specialises in the law and procurement procedures governing the formation and management of large scale commercial relationships between the public and private sectors, with an emphasis on major projects.

His related experience includes acting as Consultant Editor and contributor to Knight’s Guide to Best Value and Public Procurement.

Emma Gonzalez, Solicitor
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Emma is a solicitor in the construction team sitting in non-contentious and assisting in the drafting and negotiation of construction contracts on a range of developments on behalf of Employers, Funders and Contractors.

Prior to joining Clarke Willmott Emma worked at a large international law firm. She is also experienced in contentious construction and dispute resolution including Technology and Construction Court litigation, large scale e-disclosure, mediation and resolving disputes pre-action.

Peter McHugh, Partner
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Peter is a construction law specialist, acting on behalf of contractors, sub-contractors and employers in construction disputes of all sizes and types. He specialises in construction and property dispute resolution, acting for parties in litigation arbitration, adjudication and mediation. He also advises in professional negligence claims.

Peter has over 20 years’ experience acting in multi-party disputes of high value. Peter is an experienced Accredited Mediator with grade A status with the ADR Group as well as a Chartered Arbitrator within dispute resolution. Described in the legal 500 publication as “giving straight forward advice” and “Professional yet very approachable”.

Josh Roberts, Solicitor
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Josh is a solicitor in the Construction team specialising primarily in contentious construction law and dispute resolution. Josh is frequently involved with adjudication and proceedings in the Technology and Construction Court as well as matters at an earlier stage; progressing them through the Pre-Action Protocol for Construction and Engineering Disputes.

Josh’s experience includes working with a range of employers, contractors and specialist subcontractors. Josh has worked on complex, high-value construction disputes on both a regional and national level for clients across a variety of sectors.
Meet our Construction team

Dan Cudlipp, Trainee Solicitor
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Dan specialises in non-contentious construction. He has been frequently and heavily involved in the preparation of EPC and other contracts for a biogas technology provider. This has included drafting plant upgrade and service and maintenance agreements and the collation, preparation and review of ancillary and technical documents.

Among other things, Dan also has also significant experience in the negotiation of complex contractor and consultant framework agreements on behalf of a household retailer, which has included frequent client liaison and excellent project co-ordination.

Carys Sherwood, Trainee Solicitor
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Carys is a paralegal in the non-contentious construction department. She has assisted with drafting and negotiating construction contracts (including standard form JCT and NEC3) relating to the development of a variety of developments including commercial property and project infrastructure.

Carys has particular experience acting on behalf of funders providing development finance projects and suppliers on high value infrastructure projects.

Jack Golpin, Paralegal
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Jack is a paralegal in the non-contentious construction department. He has experience drafting and negotiating construction contracts acting for developers, contractors and sub-contractors. His experience includes JCT, NEC and FIDIC-based contracts. He also has wider experience of related construction documents such as warranties, novations, appointments and sub-contracts.

Prior to joining Clarke Willmott, Jack worked in Germany for a multi-national power company where he assisted in drafting and negotiating construction contracts using the FIDIC standard form. This secondment has proved a valuable experience, increasing Jack’s understanding of practical market issues and his ability to give clear commercial advice.

Some of our construction clients:
Bouygues UK, Bristol City FC, Britannia Construction, Charles Church, East Devon New Community Partnership, Eco2 Ltd, EG Carter Ltd, EnviTec Biogas UK Ltd, Fred Olsen Renewables Ltd, Guinness Hermitage, Isle of Wight Council, J B Leadbitter & Co Ltd, Lorne Stewart, Mace, Midas Construction Ltd, MITIE Built Environment Ltd, Morgan Sindall, Motability, New Earth Solutions Group Ltd, Persimmon Homes Ltd, Radian Group Ltd, Raven Housing Trust Ltd, Rotary Group, Silverstone Circuits Ltd, Somerset Cricket Club, Trane, Velocita Developments Ltd
About Clarke Willmott

Clarke Willmott LLP is a national law firm with seven offices across England and Wales. We invest time in developing relationships with our clients and are known for our high level of service, straightforward manner and transparent fee solutions.

Recognising that our clients prefer working with lawyers who understand the climate in which they operate and how their business actually works day-to-day, we decided a number of years ago to adopt a sector-led approach.

The success of this strategy can be evidenced by our reputation in a number of key industry areas. These include our 100-strong Real Estate and Construction group, nationally renowned 40-strong Social Housing group, and specialist Retail group. We also have leading teams advising on Private Client, Commercial services, Agriculture, Renewable Energy and Sport.

We work with an extensive client base of private businesses, sole traders, public bodies, high net worth individuals and charitable organisations, and they advise on almost every aspect of the law.

Working closely with the local communities in which we operate is important to Clarke Willmott LLP. Our active Corporate Social Responsibility policy encourages our staff to give something back through volunteering, fundraising and pro-bono work. As a member of the Legal Sustainability Alliance, we are also strongly committed to reducing our carbon footprint through investing in greener ways to do business.

Clarke Willmott has offices in Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, London, Manchester, Southampton and Taunton. The firm was established in the South West in 1888 and we are proud of our strong heritage. We now have over 500 lawyers and support staff, including over 100 partners, and have been awarded the Law Society’s Lexcel quality mark in recognition of our compliance and care standards.

What the directories say about us:

“Well-rounded practice, known for its infrastructure, renewable energy and housing focus.” Chambers

‘provides an excellent service to clients in the field’ Legal 500

“This friendly, approachable practice is applauded for taking a commercial approach to its work and acknowledged for balancing legal advice with the wider picture”. Chambers

“exceptional” team Legal 500
Contact us for more information on how we can help you:

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**clarkewillmott.com**

Great service... Great people...

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