

Introducing our

Agriculture and Estates Service

Advising individuals and business owners on farming, food and land



We’re your kind of people

Our specialist Agriculture and Estates team work with farmers, landowners, estates and other advisers to the agriculture industry, day-in, day-out. We’re your kind of people:

- We understand your world - our team are immersed in agriculture and many of us are connected to the sector in our personal lives
- We have genuine passion for our clients - we care about their success and we care about them as people
- We love the challenges the job brings - even though we’ve been working in the sector for decades, as an industry subject to constant change, there are always new issues and opportunities for our clients
- Where we can, we come to you - to walk the land with you, and better understand your business and family dynamics
- We’re recognised for our work through industry awards and panel status. We’re on the NFU legal panel - they trust us, and so can you.

Find out more about what makes us tick. **Get in touch when you’re ready to talk.**

Rory Hutchings, Partner, Head of Agriculture and Estates

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Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Norfolk

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INVESTORS IN PEOPLE® We invest in people Standard

Sheep, pictured at Little Wyford Farm

Agricultural regulatory

We help you navigate complex regulations and ensure you uphold your responsibilities and minimise risk to you and your business.

We work with farmers, food companies and processors, livestock markets and waste businesses. We help clients understand the liabilities associated with livestock including animal movement, and animal welfare or public safety issues. We regularly help clients handle issues relating to pollution incidents.

“Very knowledgeable about the subject matter and local idiosyncrasies. Personable, with a great eye for detail. In our case, they protected our position with vigour and demonstrated excellent commercial acumen.”

- Client quote, Legal 500 2024

Bryn Thomas

Agricultural disputes

No-one wants to end up in a dispute but when that happens, choose us to be on your side, and you'll be glad you did. We are commercial and pragmatic in our advice and will always seek to help you move forward.

We advise on supply contract disputes, agricultural tenancies and succession claims, and issues with family partnerships. The team's breadth of knowledge means we can also support you with environmental matters, livestock disputes, health and safety, boundary disputes, fisheries and firearms licenses.

Charlotte Nutting

Agricultural finance

When you need funding, for example for debt restructuring, raising working capital or business acquisition, we can help you raise finance using your land and other assets as security. We fully understand the pressures of your industry which means we can advise on what's right for you. We will tell you how the lending can be best structured and assist with risk management.

We also work with banks and lenders, so know the processes and requirements from all angles. We ensure clients are compliant with their lending arrangements and carry out debt and security reviews.

"Thank you for believing in us and our goals!"

- Agricultural finance client quote

Denise Wilkinson, pictured at Handley Barn

Agricultural tenancies

Our expert team of agriculture and estates lawyers deal with all sorts of tenancy agreements including use of land or farm buildings, advising on Agricultural Holdings Act (AHA) tenancies, mineral extraction, cottages, sporting rights and general landlord and tenant issues.

We'll help ensure the terms of the agreement reflect what is needed now and for the long-term, and help you iron out any issues.

"The team are all professional and accessible and when contacted we found them to be knowledgeable and up to speed. You give clients the confidence that they are being listened to and understood, and that they are in the best possible hands. I would certainly recommend."

- Client quote, Legal 500 2024

Matthew Hayes, pictured at Handley Barn

Buying and selling a rural property

If you're buying or selling a rural home, farm or property from your farming business we can help. We're agile in tight timescales and have the expertise
and experience to navigate complex transactions. We advise on the situations that occur with rural properties, such as septic tanks, access issues, and private water supply, and we can advise on registered and unregistered property.

There's nothing we haven't seen before. Our personal service will help make your sale or purchase as smooth as possible.

Gareth Williams, pictured at Handley Barn

Development of agricultural land

Our aim is to help you realise the development potential of your land, whilst ensuring any potential development fits with your existing business and family succession plans.

Complex and high value development can be high risk - we help you reduce the risk and ensure all aspects of the transaction are considered, including tax efficiency and future wealth protection.

It makes sense for you to have a specialist team by your side and our expert property development solicitors work exclusively for landowners and property portfolio owners of all shapes and sizes.

“Professionals grounded in their respective disciplines with coherent, accurate advice.”

- Legal 500 2026

Emily Pumfrey

Estate planning, business structures and succession

Our specialist team can help you protect your wealth and assets now and for future generations. We work with farming families, landed estates and trustees, and rural businesses. We can advise on wills and inheritance tax, preparing trusts, preparing partnership agreements and business structures, working closely with your accountants and tax advisers.

Green energy for landowners

If a developer is looking to put renewable energy sources on your land, we'll guide you through the complex development documentation. If you are developing it yourself, our experts work with you to ensure plans can be realised; negotiating documents and advising on potential issues, as well as working with other experts, such as tax advisers, to make sure you're in the best possible position.

Stephanie Dennis, pictured at Handley Barn

Landed estates

We've been advising landed estates since the mid-19th century and have supported some trusts and families for generations.

We help develop strategies and provide advice, support and understanding when it's most needed, to ensure the future and protect the finances of the estate.

"They have excellent knowledge of this market sector and are willing to work with other parties to achieve the best result for the mutual client."

- Client quote, Legal 500 2025

Tractor, pictured at Handley Barn

Natural capital and environment

Agriculture means more than food production. It's about managing the environment around you and this aspect is becoming increasingly important. The Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) and other natural capital schemes or services which require farmers to create or restore wildlife-rich habitats, will bolster rural incomes and land returns.

Our team of experts are at the forefront of advice in gaining the most from these new opportunities.

hcrlaw

Our team reaches across the country advising farmers and rural business owners. Find out more about our experience and how we can support you by visiting our website.

www.hcrlaw.com