

FORSTERS

Sustainability (Environmental and Social) Credentials

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Cohesive team

Our multi-disciplinary Real Estate team is tight-knit and has a proven track record of delivering outstanding results for a wide range of high profile and sophisticated clients. Our teams are proactive and partner-led, matters and projects are supported by intelligent, commercial and highly capable associates who are passionate about the work that they do.



Track record

Forsters' Real Estate team has detailed experience across all sectors and markets. We are well known for being able to advise at any stage of the property lifecycle. Our ethos is to ensure the client receives value for money whilst accessing the top quality legal advice.



Service delivery

We are experts in the successful delivery of strategic, tactical and commercial legal advice. Our clients tell us that they value our input and as such, we are the long-term legal partners to a range of diverse clients as listed in section four.



Tech and Innovation

We harness the power of technology to assist with streamlining the delivery of our services. Our teams work on a collaborative basis to ensure that the use of technology supports the wider aims and objectives of each client. As part of our overall service we provide clients with a project extranet using HighQ. Additionally, we assess each matter and advise on the appropriate use of technology once instructed. Our approach to the use of legal tech is to continually review our processes to ensure improvements are made where necessary to increase efficiencies.



Client Commitment

We take the time to understand the needs of our clients and to build a solid relationship that is based on trust, expertise and enthusiasm. We invest heavily in developing and nurturing relationships with our clients and their wider advisory teams.



Enthusiasm

Our partners and associates are passionate about real estate and thrive on getting deals done, working closely with the client and their advisors.

“Victoria Towers is extremely personable and effective. Engaged with developing strong client relationships and understanding issues and managing outcomes.”

The Legal 500



VICTORIA TOWERS

**Partner and ESG Lead,
Commercial Real Estate**

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Victoria is a Partner in our Commercial Real Estate team and is Co-Head of our Industrial and Logistics team. With a particular focus on development work, Victoria has a well-rounded practice, leading multi-disciplinary teams advising on all aspects of a development transaction including complex forward funding's and also acting on investment acquisitions and disposals, asset management and restructuring work and the provision of real estate advice on corporate-driven transactions.

Victoria's diverse client list includes institutions, pension funds, property companies, charities and private developers. Whilst experienced in all sectors of the real estate market, Victoria has considerable knowledge of the industrial and logistics sector, acting primarily for developers and investors. She is a member of the NLA Expert Panel for the Industrial & Logistics programme focusing on the evolution of London's industrial and logistics sectors and its post COVID-recovery.

Described in The Legal 500 as “hardworking and committed”, Victoria integrates herself into clients' wider team in order to ensure that she fully understands their strategic thinking and can successfully fulfil her client's business requirements and provide clear commercial advice. She is a Ranked Lawyer in the Chambers UK Guide 2023 and The Legal 500 2023 edition. Victoria became a Partner in April 2012.

Victoria also leads our client facing ESG offering within the commercial real estate team working strategically with clients to ensure that their portfolios can achieve or exceed the targets set by the UK Government in a collaborative way.



PETER SELWYN

**Partner,
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Peter is a Partner in the Commercial Real Estate team. He has a wide range of experience in commercial real estate, including sales and acquisitions, landlord and tenant work with a focus on development agreements. The majority of his clients are institutional funds and landed estates in London.

His approach is to give direction to more complex transactions, particularly those involving elements of funding, planning and construction alongside the more traditional landlord and tenant elements of commercial real estate.

Peter was promoted to Partner in April 2023.

Peter trained at Mayer Brown and qualified in 2007 before moving to Forsters in 2010.



LOUISE IRVINE

**Senior Knowledge Development Lawyer,
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Louise is the senior knowledge development lawyer in the Commercial Real Estate group. She is responsible for ensuring that the group is kept up to date in relation to all relevant legal and market developments and general industry know how. She also maintains the group's precedent bank. Louise is particularly interested in exploring how legal technology can improve efficiency and reduce risk within the team.

Louise works closely with the Business Development and Marketing team to provide support in relation to client pitches and other business development opportunities. She also writes and reviews articles and thought pieces relating to commercial real estate.

Louise has a strong interest in ESG and provides training and curates know-how documentation for the commercial real estate team on this subject. Together with Victoria Towers, Louise leads on 'Green Lease and Sustainability Reviews' for clients to ensure their properties meet or exceed sustainability standards.

Louise trained at Taylor Wessing LLP, and qualified in 2007. She joined Forsters as a knowledge development lawyer in February 2016.

**EDWARD GLASS**

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Commercial Real Estate**

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Ed is a Senior Associate in the Commercial Real Estate team. He has experience in a broad range of commercial property work, including acquisitions/ disposals, development projects, real estate finance and leasing. He also assists with the real estate aspects of corporate transactions.

Ed is particularly interested in trends impacting the real estate sector, including developments in sustainability and the impact of technological innovation. He has published a number of articles in Estates Gazette. He is also on the advisory panel for a charity working within the sharing economy to make otherwise empty commercial property available for community use.

Ed graduated from Durham University with a first class degree in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry. He trained at Bristows LLP, joining Forsters in August 2016.

**LAURA HAWORTH**

**Senior Associate,
Commercial Real Estate**

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Laura Haworth is a Senior Associate in the Commercial Real Estate team.

She is committed to providing an efficient and practical service and delivering creative solutions to meet clients' commercial needs.

Laura advises on a wide range of commercial real estate matters including the management, re-development and financing of mixed use schemes (including shopping centres, offices and industrial parks), the acquisition, disposal and re-development of hotels, leasing and management of commercial office space as well as, the acquisition, disposal, development and financing of renewable energy projects.

Laura has a keen interest in ESG matters and renewable energy.

Before joining the firm, Laura was a Managing Associate at Orrick's London office. She joined Forsters in 2020.

**ANDREW MCEWAN**

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Andrew is a Senior Associate in the Commercial Real Estate team.

He acts on a variety of commercial real estate transactions involving office, retail, mixed use developments, industrial and hotels.

Andrew has a particular interest in matters relating to sustainability, more specifically in relation to electric vehicles and the implementation of renewable energy solutions.

This includes negotiations on lettings, acquisitions and disposals, development agreements and a variety of financing structures primarily for institutional landlords, property investors, developers and large owner-occupiers.

Andrew read Law at the University of Warwick and completed the LPC at the University of Law before completing his training contract and qualifying into the Commercial Real Estate team at Forsters in 2014.

**SARAH BOOL**

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Sarah is a Senior Associate in the Commercial Real Estate team.

She deals with a wide range of commercial property work including acquisitions, disposals, financings and general landlord and tenant matters with a particular focus on office, retail, mixed use and industrial properties. She also has an interest in trends impacting the real estate sector around sustainability with a particular focus on electric vehicles and renewable energy sources. She acts for a variety of clients including developers, institutional investors and property companies.

Sarah trained at Clifford Chance LLP and qualified as a Solicitor there in 2014. She spent some time in-house at Battersea Power Station (Battersea Power Station Development Company Limited) advising on commercial property and other matters before joining Forsters in 2017.

She has spoken at various International Bar Association conferences, including in Amsterdam, Miami and Chile, and has been appointed as Young Lawyers Liaison Officer of the Real Estate Section of the International Bar Association for 2023/2024.

Sarah graduated from Oxford University with a MA (Hons) in History before completing the GDL and LPC at the College of Law (now University of Law), London.



RICHARD SPRING

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Richard is Counsel in the Construction team, specialising in non-contentious matters.

With a particular interest in sustainable construction, Richard is part of the Commercial Real Estate team's client-facing ESG offering. He has extensive experience negotiating construction documentation under various methods of procurement and across a range of industry sectors including hotels and leisure, retail, student accommodation, retirement living, residential and commercial offices. He regularly advises on the negotiation of building contracts, professional team appointments, collateral warranties and security documentation.

Richard also provides strategic advice in relation issues which commonly arise on construction projects, including main contractor insolvency and disputes with respect to payment and delay.

He graduated with Honours in Law and French Law from University College London and Université Paul Cézanne (Aix-Marseille III). He trained and qualified as a solicitor at Dentons before joining Forsters in 2012. Richard was promoted to Counsel in 2023.

Richard was ranked in Chambers UK Guide 2023 as an 'Associate to Watch'.

"Richard is responsive, practical and he gets it done right."

Chambers UK Guide



SOPHIE SMITH

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Sophie is an Associate in the Planning team.

Sophie advises a range of developers, investors and occupiers on section 106 agreements and highways related matters including section 278 and 38 agreements.

She regularly undertakes planning due diligence for commercial developments, including complex phased development schemes to be delivered over extended periods of time. Sophie is experienced in acting for both lenders and borrowers on financing transactions, providing commercially focused planning advice.

She advises regularly on rural property transactions and heritage matters including listed buildings. Sophie has a particular interest in the provisions of the Environment Act 2021 and the associated planning requirements to deliver biodiversity net gain.



“Lawyers at Forsters thrive on playing an integral part in such a rapidly changing market. We are all encouraged to be real estate professionals; immersed in our markets and not just “processors” of legal work. Trends around ESG are as much as part of the real estate market as any other micro or macro-economic trend.

Our core Real Estate team work closely with our dedicated Planning, Construction and Finance teams as well as colleagues in our Rural Estates groups, who specialise in large-scale sustainability projects including on-shore wind and solar farms. This ensures we can deliver ‘joined-up’, commercial advice to clients at all stages of their ESG journey.”

Developments/Transactions

We are privileged to work for a number of blue chip investment and development clients such as abrdn, BlackRock, Fiera Real Estate, General Projects, LaSalle, PLP and Wrenbridge to name but a few. With this stellar client base, we are experienced in advising our clients (and their funding partners) on the sustainability aspects of a deal from heads of terms stage through until completion.

This has also included working with a nationwide restaurant operator in relation to the roll-out of EV charging point infrastructure across their >1,300 property portfolio and advising a number of lenders in relation to a variety of ‘green loans’ and ‘sustainability-linked lending’ criteria.

Our work for various development clients in the mixed-use and BTR sectors (including Knight Dragon and Notting Hill Genesis) has also included advising on ambitious social-value and wellbeing making initiatives such as The Tide, London’s first elevated riverside ‘linear park’ situated on the Greenwich Peninsula.



Media and Publications

Lawyers from across the team make regular appearances in respected industry publications discussing a range of matters relating to ESG. This has included interviews and comment-pieces for Property Week, PlaceTech, LexisNexis, Estates Gazette and The Times (as well as on our own Podcast series, [More Than Law](#), and blogs on our cross-industry [Sustainability Hub](#)).



Green Lease and Sustainability Reviews

We have been working with a number of stakeholders (including Fiera, Norges Bank, Patrizia, Brockton and Barwood) to prepare, review and advise on bespoke drafting packages relating to sustainability and green leases. This has also included the provision of training and Q&A sessions for various clients’ directors and surveyors.

Sector Events

We continue to leverage discussions with our network of agents, surveyors and other real estate professionals, including the hosting of a sector-wide sustainability-focussed panel discussion re: ‘Sustainability and Central London Estates’ with Cadogan Estates in December 2022.

‘Walking the Walk’

Forsters have been a carbon neutral business since 2007 and in 2021 became the first law firm among its peer group to make a formal commitment to a [‘science-based emission reduction target’](#), working with the Achilles Carbon Reduce Programme and the ‘Business Declares’ movement. This is alongside our ongoing work with the Legal Sustainability Alliance and Sustainable Recruitment Alliance which saw us shortlisted for the LexisNexis Sustainability Award in 2020.

Sustainability has also been at the heart of [our forthcoming office relocation in late 2023 to newly refurbished premises at 22 Baker Street](#). A range of challenging sustainability benchmarks have been set for the project based on the BREEAM, NABERS and WELL Building Standards metrics.

The firm is also a member of a number of networks and organisations aimed at promoting ED&I goals at all levels of the business. This includes the ‘NOTICED’ inter-firm diversity network and the ‘Halo Code’ as well as running an active programme of staff-led support networks covering Faith, Gender Equality, LGBTQ+, Race, Disability, Social Mobility and Working Parents and Carers.

The firm also undertakes a number of pro-bono initiatives including working with local Law Clinics as well as working with local food redistribution charities, river clean up organisations, hosting weekly free lunches for refugees and providing mentoring assistance. via the Social Mobility Foundation, GROW Mentoring, Brightside, Pathways to Law and the Access Project.





LEGAL 500

16 Partners ranked in The Legal 500 2023 edition and three Partners identified as 'Next Gen'



TWO REAL ESTATE LITIGATION PARTNERS

included in the "Hall of Fame" Legal 500



Forsters Residential Property Team of the Year

HIGH NET WORTH IN CHAMBERS 2022

Residential Property Team of the Year in Chambers 2022



RANKED IN BOTH THE LEGAL 500 AND CHAMBERS

for all our real estate teams including property litigation, planning, residential and construction



CITYWEALTH MAGIC CIRCLE AWARDS

Shortlisted Property Law Firm of the Year 2022



THE RESIAWARDS

Highly Commended for Legal Team and Professional Team of the Year



THE BRITISH LEGAL AWARDS AND LEGAL BUSINESS AWARDS

Winner for Property team of the Year



CHAMBERS UK GUIDE 2023

Top ranked for Real Estate



'BEST LAW FIRMS'

Recognised in the Times Top Law Firms 2023 guide for commercial property and landlord and tenant work



'LEADING INDIVIDUALS'

Nine of our real estate partners are ranked as 'Leading Individuals' by Chambers UK 2022



EG AWARDS 2022

Finalist for Legal team of the Year

Victoria Towers

PARTNER AND ESG LEAD
COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

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