



# Specialist accountancy & advisory support for built environment professionals

Helping you prosper

## Trusted advisers to the built environment

At UHY Williamson Croft, we are a North West based firm of accountants and business advisers supporting businesses across the UK construction and built environment sectors

Our clients include architects, engineers, project managers, design and build consultants, and specialist professional services firms operating within the wider construction ecosystem.

We understand that businesses in this space are not traditional “transactional” businesses.

They are project-driven, deadline-sensitive, and often operating across long contract cycles with complex billing arrangements and evolving regulatory requirements. This creates a unique set of financial and operational challenges that require more than standard compliance support.

Our role is to provide clear, commercially focused advice that helps clients improve profitability, maintain compliance, and make confident strategic decisions. We act as an extension of your team, offering both day-to-day technical support and longer-term advisory insight.

### Who we are and what we do

UHY Williamson Croft is part of the UHY network, giving us the strength and reach of a national and international organisation, combined with the accessibility and responsiveness of a local firm.

We deliver a full range of accountancy and advisory services, including statutory accounts preparation, corporation tax compliance, VAT advisory, payroll, and management reporting.

However, for construction and design-led businesses, our value often lies in the more specialist areas of support, particularly where tax rules, project accounting, and regulatory frameworks intersect.

Alongside compliance, we work closely with clients on financial planning, cash flow forecasting, and business structuring.

This is particularly important in the construction sector, where timing differences between costs incurred and revenues recognised can place significant pressure on working capital.

More information about our firm can be found at [www.williamsoncroft.co.uk](http://www.williamsoncroft.co.uk).

### How we support built environment and design-led businesses

Businesses such as architects, engineers, and consultancy firms operate in a highly competitive and regulation-heavy environment. Success is often driven not only by technical delivery but by financial discipline, margin control, and strong project-level visibility.

We work with clients to bring clarity to these areas. This includes improving visibility over work in progress, supporting accurate job costing, and ensuring that financial reporting reflects the realities of project-based operations. Many of our clients also benefit from improved forecasting and scenario planning, particularly where pipeline-driven revenue models are used.

Our approach is practical and commercially grounded. Rather than simply reporting historical performance, we help businesses understand what is driving profitability and how decisions today will impact future cash flow and capacity.

### Improving systems, processes and operational efficiency

For businesses operating across the built environment, effective systems and processes are critical to maintaining control, accuracy, and efficiency, particularly in project-driven environments.

We work with clients to optimise their finance function by advising on best practice systems, improving reporting processes, and integrating accounting platforms with project management and other operational software. This helps ensure that financial information is accurate, accessible, and aligned with how the business operates.

We also support clients in navigating complex accounting areas such as revenue recognition, helping to implement robust processes that ensure income is recorded accurately across project lifecycles and in line with relevant standards.

Where system changes are required, we provide fully managed migrations to new accounting platforms, including integration with existing tools. Our approach minimises disruption and ensures a smooth transition.

In addition, our fully managed payroll service reduces administrative burden while improving compliance. For new clients, we carry out a detailed payroll audit and provide advice on areas such as salary sacrifice pension schemes and employee benefits, helping to support staff retention and overall efficiency.

### Specialist financial and tax support for the sector

The construction and built environment sector is subject to some of the most complex tax and regulatory frameworks in the UK. We provide specialist support across the key areas that most commonly affect our clients.

### Value Added Tax (VAT)

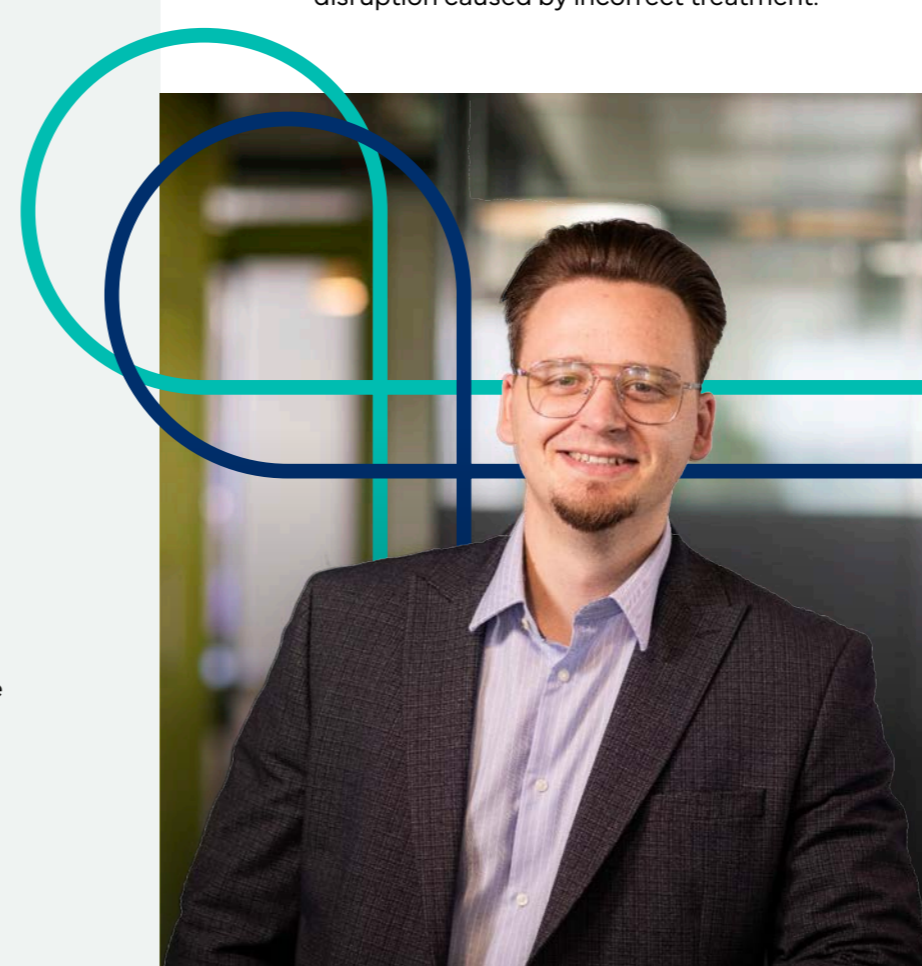
VAT is a particular area of complexity, especially following the introduction of the domestic reverse charge mechanism. This has fundamentally changed how VAT is accounted for on many construction services, often shifting the responsibility for accounting for VAT from supplier to customer. We support clients in determining where the rules apply, ensuring invoicing is structured correctly, and avoiding cash flow disruption caused by incorrect treatment.

### Construction Industry Scheme (CIS)

We also provide comprehensive support in relation to the Construction Industry Scheme (CIS), assisting both contractors and subcontractors with registration, monthly compliance, and ongoing reporting obligations. CIS regulations can be complex, and it is not always clear which services are within scope, hence expert knowledge is essential to ensuring compliance. We also assist clients to fully integrate CIS into payroll and accounting systems as this is critical to avoiding penalties and maintaining smooth project delivery.

### Research & Development (R&D)

R&D tax relief is another significant opportunity for businesses operating in the wider construction ecosystem. While many firms do not immediately associate themselves with innovation, we frequently identify qualifying activity within architectural design, engineering solutions, and the development of new processes or digital construction methods such as BIM. These claims can generate valuable tax savings or cash repayments, improve liquidity and support reinvestment.



### Insight from Pavel Stupin, R&D Tax Director

A significant amount of qualifying innovation exists within construction and design-led businesses that often goes unrecognised. Our role is to work closely with technical teams to understand the detail of project work and translate that into robust, compliant R&D claims that deliver real financial benefit.

## Client Example – Structural Engineering Innovation

We recently supported a structural engineering client in preparing an R&D claim relating to the development of a bespoke design and verification methodology for post-tensioned flat slabs within a high-rise residential tower.

The project required the business to go beyond standard design approaches to address extreme load scenarios, including the potential removal of a supporting column. With no established UK or Eurocode-based methodology available, the client developed a new analytical approach to ensure structural robustness and compliance with regulatory expectations.

Our role was to work alongside the technical team to identify the qualifying aspects of this work, document the underlying uncertainties, and prepare a comprehensive R&D claim aligned with HMRC requirements.

As a result, the client was able to secure valuable tax relief on work that would otherwise have gone unclaimed, improving cash flow and recognising the innovation within their core service offering.

### UHY Williamson Croft – a long-term partner for your business

Our team has extensive experience working with businesses that operate in project-driven environments, where financial clarity and proactive advice are essential to success.

We are more than compliance accountants. We are long-term advisers who support businesses through every stage of their lifecycle, from early growth and scaling, through to restructuring and exit.

Whether you require support with VAT, CIS, R&D, or wider strategic planning, we provide advice that is grounded in experience and focused on outcomes.

## Strategic support and collaboration with La Salle Corporate

Beyond compliance and tax advisory, we also support clients with strategic and transactional advice designed to help them grow, restructure, or ultimately exit their businesses.

Through our collaboration with La Salle Corporate, a specialist sell-side M&A advisory firm, we can offer clients access to experienced transaction support tailored to owner-managed and entrepreneurial businesses within the construction and professional services sectors.

La Salle works closely with business owners who are considering a sale, succession, or strategic investment opportunity. Their focus is on preparing businesses for market, identifying suitable buyers, and helping owners maximise value through structured, well-managed transaction processes.

This collaboration is particularly relevant for construction-related professional services firms where consolidation is increasingly common and where timing, positioning, and preparation can have a significant impact on valuation outcomes.

Together, we provide a joined-up service that aligns financial reporting, tax structuring, and exit strategy planning.



### La Salle Corporate

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Didsbury, M20 6RD  
(by appointment only)

Tel: 0161 975 1521  
Email: [info@lasallecorporate.com](mailto:info@lasallecorporate.com)  
Web: [www.lasallecorporate.com](http://www.lasallecorporate.com)

## Client Testimonials

We pride ourselves on building long-term relationships with our clients, acting as trusted advisers rather than just service providers.

The following examples highlight how we have supported businesses across the built environment with practical, results-driven advice.



**Jon Matthews**  
Jon Matthews Architects

Damien and his team took over our accounts in 2023 and brought an energy and professionalism. UHY Williamson Croft overhauled our bookkeeping, advising on the correct and most efficient platforms to use. They provided the necessary training required to up skill our team.

As a busy, growing business, we needed simplification of our reporting to aid in developing to our next phase.

In addition to this, they have also advised on personal tax and carry out our payroll services, all of which are faultless.

UHY Williamson Croft are always friendly and helpful and have given us a faultless service.



**Jonathan Shaw**  
Edge Consulting Engineers

We are very pleased with UHY Williamson Croft, and we would like to give a special shoutout to the payroll team.

They always deal with our queries expertly, patiently and in a timely manner.

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## Team profiles



**Damien Loughran, FCCA**  
Partner  
d.loughran@uhy-williamsoncroft.com

Damien's all about support. Whether that's supporting clients to grow their businesses. Supporting his team to grow their own talents. Or supporting day-to-day operations at Williamson & Croft with creative new thinking.

And he's not short of support to share – with a wealth of experience in the built environment, clients within Damien's portfolio include award-winning architects, structural engineers and MEP consultants.



**Taylor Rogers, FCCA**  
Partner  
t.rogers@uhy-williamsoncroft.com

Very much a people person, with a clear understanding of the tax and accounting challenges clients face, Taylor is quick to build strong relationships with clients in the built environment.

Taylor has delivered educational presentations to our clients in the sector, ensuring they are aware of all available areas of tax relief such as land remediation and capital allowances. He also runs our Professional Partners Network, and attends industry events such as MIPIM & UK REiif, allowing him to make worthwhile, value adding introductions to his clients.



**James Pope**  
Director  
j.pope@uhy-williamsoncroft.com

James has over 25 years of experience working in tax, advising on all aspects of personal and corporate tax, particularly specialising in Share Schemes (EMI, EIS, Growth Shares, EOT's), Company Reconstructions and Research & Development claims.

He is effective in developing long-term relationships and communicating effectively with clients to provide high quality tax planning, advice, and guidance. Recent projects include preparing a property management outfit for exit and implementing a growth share scheme for a firm of Civil Engineers.



**Pavel Stupin**  
Director  
p.stupin@uhy-williamsoncroft.com

Pavel joined UHY Williamson Croft to grow and develop the R&D Tax Credit service line, provide full R&D tax advice, support clients in-house, and diversify the service offering. With in-depth knowledge of the R&D legislation and extensive experience, Pavel is able to support R&D claims for all industries and company sizes but specifically likes working with project driven companies in the built environment.

Pavel has managed several successful teams at R&D boutique firms and accountancy practices for the last 5 years and has completed and overseen hundreds of successful R&D claims, as well as handled HMRC compliance.

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