



# Designing Commercial Buildings

## Office Extension: Aldford, Nr Chester



### Project Profile

**Client :** Private Client  
**Value:** circa £1.8 million  
**On site:** March 2012  
**Programme:** 28 Weeks  
**Contractor:** Read Construction Ltd.

Woodhouse Farm on the Eaton Estate at Aldford has been occupied for some years by a thriving specialist legal consultancy. Their business has been expanding steadily together with the number of employees. In 2011 they agreed with the landlord that rather than move they would prefer to stay in their existing accommodation if it was possible to add a significant extension to the farmhouse. After an initial feasibility study and encouraging discussion with the Local Planning Authority this strategy was agreed and we designed a new suite of offices and staff amenities, linked to the old farmhouse. This scheme delivered over 930sqm of additional accommodation.

The historical setting was the most challenging constraint of the project. The new building, whilst providing thoroughly contemporary office space, had to integrate seamlessly with a handsome composition of nineteenth century model farm buildings and farmhouse, the latter building attributed to architect Edward Hodkinson who later joined architect John Douglas in practice. The new office extension also had to blend comfortably into the very special surrounding landscape and the village conservation area.