

## Mark W Wilken BSC (HONS) MBA CA

### Partner

Coming from a farming background in the North East of Scotland, I originally studied for a degree in Agriculture at Aberdeen University. During my time at Aberdeen I became progressively more interested in the business aspect of agriculture and on graduating in 1988, I joined a national firm of agricultural management consultants, eventually being based in the Firm's Edinburgh office. My work at this time involved providing business and technical advice to a wide range of clients, including farmers, land agents, banks, lawyers, loss adjusters and government bodies. The majority of the work focused on helping farms and estates to improve their financial performance, using management accounts and business appraisals to aid decision making.

While in Edinburgh, I took the opportunity to study for a MBA part-time at Edinburgh University. This helped me broaden and in 1998 I was offered a position with EQ in the Forfar office, which included the opportunity to train as a CA. I had always been aware of their prominent position in relation to agriculture, finance and tax so the move seemed a logical step in my career. It also provided me with an excellent opportunity to use my past experience and at the same time obtain the widely recognised and valued CA qualification.

I qualified as a CA in 2001 and continued to develop, progressing through the ranks of Supervisor, Manager then Partner.

In addition to the normal accountancy and tax work I tend to play a leading role in relation to agricultural business consultancy assignments due to my past management consulting experience and detailed knowledge of the agricultural sector.

