

Top corporate finance firms in the UK's high-growth ecosystem



Professional services firms are increasingly looking to the growth capital space in search of new clients; from IPOs, mergers and acquisitions (M&A) to management buy-outs (MBOs), buy-ins (MBIs), and private equity and venture capital deals. We recently ranked the UK's top legal advisers for ambitious startups and scaleups. But which corporate finance firms are best supporting the UK's high-growth landscape?

The Beauhurst platform has data on every equity fundraising in the UK market, and tracks private businesses through their stages of evolution, from seed to exit. This report maps out which corporate finance advisory firms are most active at each stage — by spotlighting some of the biggest equity deals, acquisitions and IPOs of 2022, where advisers were disclosed to the press. Read on to see who made the list.



Using up to 40 different criteria, our Data team manually assigns stages of evolution to explain where a company is in its growth journey.

Seed:

- Young company with a small team
- Low valuation and funding received (relative to sector)
- Uncertain productmarket fit
- Funding so far likely to have come from grant-awarding bodies or private friends and family rounds

Venture:

- Active for a few years
- Product or technology showing significant traction in its market
- Investment secured (likely from VC firms) and valuation in the millions

Growth:

- Usually active for 5+ years with multiple offices
- Substantial revenues and some profit
- Investment secured and valuation in the millions
- Source of funding most likely to be VC or asset management firms and corporates

Established:

- Household names with multiples offices (often worldwide)
- Active for 15+ years
 OR active for 3-15
 years, with a three-year
 consecutive profit of at
 least £5m OR turnover
 of £20m+

Exited:

 Has exited the private market, by listing on a stock exchange or being acquired

Seed-stage fundraisings





Biorelate

Date 29/11/22

In November, Biorelate raised £6.50m from Manchester Tech Trust Angels, Maven VCT, NPIF Equity Finance, Triple Point Ventures, and YFM Equity Partners. Biorelate is a Manchester-based artificial intelligence company that produces curated databases of biomedical knowledge from scientific literature. Its latest fundraising will be used to expand into the US, and to grow its commercial and technical teams. There were numerous advisory teams involved in the deal, including Craig Corporate.



Craig Corporate

Financial services firm Craig Corporate helps businesses of all sizes to maximise shareholder value, by advising across a wide range of areas. These include capital raising, corporate acquisitions, building effective boards, strategic planning, corporate restructuring, financial due diligence, and shareholder exit planning. Headquartered in Glasgow, the corporate advisory firm operates worldwide and has additional offices in London and Dubai.

£1.50m

PsycApps Date 01/09/22

PsycApps (also trading as eQuoo) develops a mobile app that educates users about mental disorders, and provides tools for self-screening and symptom monitoring. The London-based edtech startup raised £1.50m from US fund Morningside Group, to expand its team and continue developing its platform. Kinetix Critchleys Corporate Finance advised on the deal.



Kinetix Critchleys Corporate Finance

As its name suggests, Kinetix Critchleys
Corporate Finance LLP offers extensive
corporate finance services. Founded in
2010, the corporate advisory boutique
provides strategic and M&A advice, business
planning, valuations, and fundraising
services. It specialises in the sustainability
and cleantech, hard and soft tech, financial
services (including fintech), and healthcare
sectors.



Ro&Zo

Date 07/11/22

Ro&Zo designs and sells a women's fashion range, aiming to produce clothes from sustainable materials. The female-founded company raised its first equity funding round in November, with venture capital trust Pembroke VCT. finnCap advised on the £1.50m deal, which is intended to increase brand awareness, develop Ro&Zo's operations capability and scale the business in the UK.



finnCap Cavendish

Founded in 1988 and headquartered in London, finnCap Cavendish is one of the UK's leading mid-market M&A advisers. It offers capital raising, buy-side and sell-side M&A, ESG, debt advisory and strategic advisory services to growth companies. The corporate finance team operates across multiple sectors, including financial services, healthcare, media, and technology.

Venture-stage fundraisings





Zapp

Date 28/01/22

Zapp is a London-based venture that provides delivery services for groceries, snacks and other essential products. Back in January, with the help of JPMorgan Chase, it secured £149m from funds including Atomico, BroadLight Capital, and Lightspeed Venture Partners, plus several other foreign backers. The deal will help Zapp to expand globally, further develop its technology, and to achieve profitability within its existing markets.



JPMorgan Chase & Co

JPMorgan Chase & Co is a major global investment bank and financial services firm. With offices across the globe, the firm's corporate finance advisory team provides multi-disciplinary solutions to a range of industries, specialising in structured M&A and capital markets.



Connected Kerb Date 26/09/22

Connected Kerb manufactures and installs electric vehicle (EV) charging points in urban environments. The cleantech company was founded in London in 2017. Its latest equity fundraising was completed in September, with Aviva Investors contributing £110m to help deliver 190k EV chargers, and expand the company into European and American markets. Cameron Barney advised Connected Kerb on the deal.



Cameron Barney

Independent merchant bank Cameron
Barney offers financing and M&A advice to
clients in the infrastructure and technology
sectors, or 'infra-tech'. Headquartered in
London, the specialist corporate finance firm
also co-manages the Digital Infrastructure
Investment Partnership (DIIP) which backs
fibre broadband infrastructure projects
across the UK.

£25.0m

Lothian Broadband Date 05/01/22

Based in Edinburgh, Lothian Broadband develops existing wireless broadband networks, currently focusing its operations in East Lothian. At the start of the year, Lothian Broadband secured £25.0m in funding, from the Scottish National Investment Bank and undisclosed investors, to extend its network. The company was supported by Acuity Advisors.



Acuity Advisors

Acuity Advisors offers specialised corporate finance services to tech companies, covering M&A, private equity and debt advisory. It operates across six focus sectors: semiconductor and photonics; deep tech; industrial technology; telecoms, cloud and managed services; software; tech-enabled services. The firm was established in 2006 and currently has offices in London, Vienna, San Francisco and Shanghai.

Growth-stage fundraisings



£264m

Cera

Date 03/08/22

eHealth company Cera provides on-demand virtual appointments, consultations, and prescription services, which can all be managed through a mobile app. It secured an impressive £264m in an equity and loan round in August. The deal saw participation from a long list of investors, including Kairos HQ, Schroders and Vanderbilt University. Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan Securities acted as placement agents for the equity side of the round.



Goldman Sachs

Established in 1869, Goldman Sachs is another major investment bank, headquartered in New York but operating

and serving clients across the globe. Its corporate finance team provides M&A advisory and financing services to businesses.



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£200m

GRIDSERVE Date 08/08/22

GRISERVE develops sustainable energy technology for solar storage, with applications such as EV charging, and also provides an EV leasing service. The cleantech providers raised £200m from Infracapital, to expand its infrastructure and support the development of its sun-to-wheel model. Nomura Greentech and RBC Capital Markets both advised on the deal.

NOMURA greentech

Nomura Greentech

Acting as financial adviser to GRIDSERVE, Nomura Greentech is a specialist investment bank, focused on

sustainable tech and infrastructure. The firm has offices in New York, Chicago, San Francisco and Zurich, and offers both capital raising and M&A transaction services.

FUND SIDE



RBC Capital Markets

Advising Infracapital was Toronto-based corporate finance firm RBC Capital Markets. The firm has 63 offices, spread

across 18 countries in North America, Europe and the Asia Pacific region. It offers expertise in accessing markets, mitigating risk, and capital raising, from bank lending to debt and equity capital markets.



Puttshack Date 11/10/22

Puttshack operates an indoor mini golf course that uses ball tracking and score recording technology. The company recently raised £137m from BlackRock and Promethean Investments, to expand in the US by purchasing more real estate, and to improve customer experiences with new tech. Ernst & Young Capital Advisors oversaw the deal for Puttshack.



Ernst & Young (EY)

Ernst & Young Capital Advisors offers investment banking services, with a focus on the middle market. The corporate finance team provides support services and deal advice on mid-market M&A, debt, and equity capital market transitions.

Established-stage fundraisings



£142m*

GoCardless Date 08/02/22

GoCardless is a London-based fintech company that develops a platform for businesses to make and receive online payments. Back in February, it raised £142m from BlackRock and Permira, to expand across the open banking industry (both geographically and with new products). Goldman Sachs advised Permira in the transaction, while J.P. Morgan Securities acted as sole placement agent.

*While the first close of this round is complete, the remainder is subject to regulatory approvals, and would take the total deal size to \$312m.



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FUND SIDE



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Foster Denovo Date 28/02/22

Founded in 2006, Foster Denovo is itself a financial advisory firm, which offers a range of financial services to individuals, businesses and charitable organisations. In February, the firm secured £100m from Crestline Investors, to help fund acquisitions. Canaccord Genuity advised Foster Denovo in the fundraising.



Canaccord Genuity

Canaccord Genuity is a global financial services firm and investment bank. It offers specialist global capital markets, investor relations, and wealth management teams, as well as fund management services in the UK.



Nexeon

Date 02/08/22

Nexeon develops silicon anodes for lithium-ion batteries, which enable the creation of lighter batteries with more power and longer lifetime between charges. Spun-out of Imperial College London in 2006, the company is now based in Oxfordshire. In August, it secured a £74.1m equity round with Ingevity, Daishin Private Equity, GLY Capital Management and Shinhan Investment Private Equity. Nexeon was advised by HSBC Commercial.



HSBC

HSBC is a UK-based bank and financial services firm. Alongside its high street banking offering, HSBC provides corporate advisory services across equity and debt capital markets, leveraged and acquisition finance, M&A, asset finance, and more.

IPOs





Clean Power Hydrogen Date 16/02/22

Doncaster-based Clean Power Hydrogen develops a range of hydrogen-based technologies. The green energy company listed on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) of the London Stock Exchange in February, raising £30.0m, at a market cap of £119m. Cenkos Securities was the Nominated Adviser (Nomad) and broker for Clean Power Hydrogen's IPO.



Cenkos Securities

The corporate finance team at Cenkos
Securities offers a range of services to
ambitious businesses looking to scale
or exit. These include nominated adviser
services, fundraising strategy advice on
public markets, M&A support, ESG planning,
and corporate governance guidance.

£10.0m

Equipmake

Date 22/07/22

Equipmake is a Norfolk-based automotive firm that develops power electronic control systems and high performance motors, with applications in EVs. In July, it listed on the Aquis Stock Exchange in London, with a market cap of £3.50b. Panmure Gordon acted as corporate adviser and broker to Equipmake in the £10.0m IPO.

COMPANY SIDE

Panmure Gordon

Panmure Gordon

Panmure Gordon is a UK-based investment bank. It provides a range of financial services, including capital raising, corporate broking and corporate advisory, investor relations, research and sales. The firm has amassed 100 corporate clients so far and, since 2020, it's helped them secure a total of £2.5b in capital.

Acquisitions



SELL SIDE

£420m

ReViralDate **09/06/22**

ReViral is a biotech company that develops drugs for combating diseases caused by RSV (respiratory syncytial virus). In June, the Hertfordshire-based firm was acquired by US pharmaceuticals giant Pfizer, for £420m. The acquisition forms part of Pfizer's plans to expand its anti-infective pipeline. BofA Securities and Centerview Partners acted as ReViral's financial advisers in the deal.



BofA Securities

BofA Securities (formerly Bank of America Merrill Lynch) is a global investment bank, headquartered in the US but with

operations in 35 countries across the world. It provides corporate finance advisory services, including M&A, equity and debt capital markets, research and analysis.



Centerview Partners

With offices in the US, France and the UK, Centerview Partners is another global investment bank and corporate

advisory firm. Since its founding in 2006, it has advised on nearly \$3t worth of transactions, and claims to work with 20% of the 50 largest companies in the world (by market cap). Centerview's advisory services include M&A, financial restructuring, and valuations.



SELL SIDE



tombola

Date 10/01/22

tombola operates a bingo website and mobile app, with offices across Sunderland, Gibraltar, Milan, Madrid and Copenhagen. The company was acquired in January by Irish entertainment firm Flutter, which provides services such as sports betting and gambling. GCA Altium advised tombola on the £402m deal.



GCA Altium (Houlihan Lokey)

GCA Altium is a global investment bank and corporate financial advisor that was acquired by Houlihan Lokey in 2021. It has offices across America, Europe and Asia, providing strategic M&A and capital markets advisory services to growth companies across the world.

■ Beauhurst