

Jobs boost as £14.5 million project begins

Construction of a £14.5 million industrial and warehouse development at Thame in Oxfordshire is now underway, leading commercial property developer Stoford announced today.

The Cotmore Park development will see two high specification units of 83,000 sq ft and 48,480 sq ft built on the site, off Howland Road, after the project gained planning consent from South Oxfordshire District Council.

The units will be occupied by high quality print company Windles Group and the UK's leading distributor of haberdashery, Groves. Both companies have pledged significant investment into the new facilities and up to 80 new jobs could be created over the next five years.

For Groves, a family run and owned business with around 100 staff currently based at Long Crendon, the move to the new facility forms part of its ambitious expansion plans. Also based at Long Crendon, Windles Group, which has won awards for recycling and green innovation, currently has around 70 staff and plans to create 30 new jobs.

Contractor Benniman Construction has been appointed to deliver the BREEAM Very Good, low carbon, energy efficient buildings which will have an EPC B rating. Work has started on site and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

The site is an allocated employment site under the Thame Town Plan. New accesses to Howland Road, links to the Phoenix Trail, cycle facilities for staff and new bus stops also form part of the project.

Matt Burgin, joint managing director of Birmingham-based Stoford, said: "Our Cotmore Park development at Thame will provide two successful local companies with high quality accommodation and the perfect base from which to expand their operations. We have now started on the construction of the two warehouse units and we expect Groves and Windles Group to be in a position to move staff into their new bases before the end of the year."

Andrew Groves, managing director of Groves, said: "We are excited about this new development and delighted that we have been able to build suitable new premises in Thame to facilitate our growth plans."

Bruce Podmore, managing director of Windles Group, said: "Being able to keep the business local to where it is and has evolved is of significant importance to us. When we move to our new purpose built environmentally sustainable building we look forward to having the additional space to prosper further and welcome new employees to our team."

Stoford is a leading specialist in warehouse and distribution development. It has delivered over 10 million sq ft of pre-let development and in 2012 to 2014 had more than 1.5 million sq ft of pre-let space under construction throughout the UK.

CAPTION: (from left) Steven Smith, of Benniman Construction, Matt Burgin, of Stoford, Andrew Groves, of Groves, and Bruce Podmore, of Windles Group, at the site in Thame, Oxfordshire.

Note to editors:

_Stoford is a privately owned company established in 1996 to specialise in occupier-led property solutions for business. The company is involved in a diverse range of commercial property developments across the UK. The company's innovative approach to procurement ensures that it is highly competitive, delivering a quality product on time and on budget. For more information visit www.stoford.com.