



PRESS RELEASE

SWINDON'S CHURCHWARD – NEXT STAGE

Work on the final section of the old railway engineering yards at Churchward, Swindon will start later this year. Thomas Homes completed the purchase of the 8 acre site last month and have planning permission for apartments, offices and a hotel – a £50m development.

The last locomotive to be built at the GWR works in Swindon was in 1962 and since then the yards fell into disuse but have gradually been redeveloped as part of Swindon's regeneration scheme. The original site now houses the head quarters of The National Trust, The National Monuments Records Office and Europe's largest covered designer outlet centre. To date, the site offers no residential accommodation or smaller office units.

Thomas Homes are creating 245 new-build flats on the site, with competitive sale prices producing affordable housing aimed at the first time buyer. Two engineering sheds will be converted into flexible office space. These buildings are Grade II listed and have some lovely Brunel features reminiscent of their glory days. Thomas Homes specialises in renovating historic buildings and has prided itself on the sympathetic treatment of old sites, breathing new life into them whilst preserving the character and stature of a former landmark.

The hotel site will be sold on to a hotel group and interest in this project is already extremely keen.

The Churchward site is in a marvellous location for residents and office workers alike. The railway station is minutes away and this has fast regular links to London and the South West. The main shopping area is minutes from the railway station and Swindon as a whole is going through a whole regeneration process, improving culture and leisure facilities in the town centre, as well as providing more workplaces for inward investment into the town.

Swindon is already home to top employers such as Nationwide, Honda, Motorola, WH Smith, Intel and Zurich Insurance. The population of 180,000 provides a good workforce and Swindon already outperforms the UK GVA by 44%.

The Churchward scheme is taking Thomas Homes full circle from their origins converting historic buildings into offices. The Company progressed into conversions for residential use; converting single buildings such as manor houses into flats, to larger schemes including conversion and new build. They are developing eight Edwardian buildings at the former Park Prewett hospital at Limes Park, Basingstoke into 81 houses and apartments plus building 58 new homes. They currently await planning permission on the Fairmile site in Cholsey, Oxon which will be another large development mixing conversion and new build.

More information on Thomas Homes' new developments is available at www.thomashomes.co.uk.

For further information or photos contact:

PR Office:

Jane Collett
Collett & Co
01672 541147
0787 6591605
jane.collett@btinternet.com

Thomas Homes:

Alison Pike
Marketing Manager
01488 649820
alison.pike@thomashomes.co.uk