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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NORTH STAFFS BUSINESS PARK IS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED!

Northern Trust has officially opened its new industrial/workshop development, North Staffs Business Park at Stoke on Trent.

The 27,687 sq ft scheme was formally unveiled at a breakfast reception on the 25th March when Northern Trust welcomed local dignitaries, council representatives, and members of the business community to the new development.

North Staffs Business Park is located at Chatterley Valley and forms part of the Company's new £11 million investment which also includes a state of the art serviced office centre, due for completion in July.

North Staffs Business Park comprises of 17 individual units ranging from 1,099 to 3,672 sq ft. Jonathan Houghton, Development Surveyor at Northern Trust, commented "North Staffs Business Park is another welcome addition to the Northern Trust portfolio. Designed to cater for the requirements of the small and medium enterprise market, as well as local start up businesses, the units will be available on easy-in, easy-out tenancy agreements. We are confident that the high quality scheme and flexible terms will prove a huge success in attracting existing and start up businesses to the area."

The North Staffordshire Regeneration Partnership (NSRP), whose partners include regional development agency Advantage West Midlands (AWM) and Stoke on Trent City Council, launched a competition to find a developer to build and run the scheme. They selected Northern Trust Company Ltd based on the quality of their proposals. The NSRP's key role is to bring together all regeneration activity in the North Staffordshire area.

Henriette Lyttle, Partnerships Director at AWM said "It is fantastic to see the transformation of the former derelict colliery site into the £40 million business park we see at Chatterley Valley today. The North Staffordshire Business Park is a perfect example of how the partnership between public sector and private sector investment will play a key role in boosting the region's economy.

Part of AWM's total investment to the site includes £1.7 million of gap funding towards the Northern Trust's recently launched industrial/workshop facilities.

Business start up is low in the region, so these facilities have been specifically tailored to meet the needs of small/medium sized and young businesses. After many discussions with various businesses across the region, the need for flexible tenancy terms was echoed as a way of helping businesses survive the economic downturn."

Councillor Adrian Knapper, Stoke-on-Trent City Council portfolio holder for regeneration and economic development and North Staffordshire Regeneration Partnership board member, said "The North Staffs Business Park is a state-of-the-art enterprise centre set in Chatterley Valley. The over all aim of the project is to provide an innovative industrial park which embraces the latest thinking in sustainability.

The whole Chatterley Valley project is expected to create around 1,000 jobs in North Staffordshire by 2030. In the current climate it is important that the city council works with its partners to try and encourage employment in the area."

North Staffs Business Park is strategically located on the junction of Chatterley Road and Reginald Mitchell Way at Chatterley Valley, on the northern fringe of Stoke-on-Trent. The business park is conveniently situated adjacent to the A500 dual carriageway providing easy direct access to junction 16 of the M6, which lies 5 miles west of the site, and the City Centre 5 miles to the south. The local amenities of Tunstall are readily accessible being less than a mile from the business park whilst Kidsgrove is just over 2 miles away.

The industrial/workshop units are available 'To Let' by way of an 'easy in – easy out' flexible internal repairing tenancy agreement.

Joint agents for the scheme are Daniel & Hulme (01782 213344) and Whittle Jones, Midlands (0121 523 2929).

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Notes to Editors:

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Northern Trust was established in 1962 and is now one of the UK's largest and most successful privately owned property investment, development and land regeneration companies. Northern Trust's existing property portfolio is in excess of 8 million sq ft of industrial/trade and office parks and has more than 2,000 acres of land under ownership, throughout the Midlands and North of England. More than 1.5 million sq ft has now been developed in over 35 locations since 2000, and Northern Trust continues to expand through all three areas if its property business.

Northern Trust has extensive experience of working with the public sector, with a large proportion of the portfolio originally acquired from the Regional Development Agencies. In addition, new development partnerships have been entered into with various public bodies, to provide employment premises for both Small and Medium Enterprises and larger occupiers, throughout the Midlands and North.

Northern Trust has substantial funds available for new investment, development, and regeneration initiatives throughout the UK.

For further information on Northern Trust please visit our website at www.northerntrust.co.uk