

An artist's impression of the planned development at Apollo Park, Banbury



PLANNING permission has been granted for the development of ten small industrial units at Apollo Park near Banbury, giving small businesses a rare opportunity to purchase their own freehold premises in an area of North Oxfordshire where demand is far outstripping supply.

The scheme marks the second phase of development at Apollo Park, Wroxton, which is the headquarters of the Bentley Drivers Club.

The new units will be 148 sq m (1,600 sq ft) with the flexibility to combine them to create larger units to suit demand. They will be suitable for a wide range of uses including warehousing, light manufacturing, software development, creative industries and general office.

Robert Syngue of Apollo Business Parks LLP, which specialises in building small and mid-sized business units, said: "We reacted quickly to the well-publicised shortage

of small industrial units in Oxfordshire. Working with our agents Meeson Williams Phillips and Brown and Co, we have taken care to design units that companies want, looking carefully at issues such as size, floor loading and power supply. We have also thought about the future in the materials, modern insulation technology and PV solar panels we have chosen."

He added: "This development provides a rare opportunity for small businesses to own their own premises. Directors recognise that there is no return to be had on rent and many would prefer to own their buildings if they can."

"Cherwell District Council has been very supportive and commended the development as being exactly the sort of scheme needed to promote small business and employment opportunities in and around Banbury. There has already been a great deal of interest in the project and

we are optimistic that we will be able to sell most of the units prior to completion."

Construction is expected to start in July and the units should be ready by the end of the year.

David Williams, a director at Meeson Williams Phillips, who is marketing the scheme, said: "There are many new commercial developments being worked on around Oxfordshire, but it is exciting to have a project like this so exactly matching what businesses want."

Clive Thompson of Brown and Co added: "Banbury has been crying out for modern small units with development having been focussed more recently on the larger occupiers, and this will really help the local economy."

■ For more information about the new scheme, visit www.apollopark.uk or contact Brown & Co on 01295 273555 or Meeson Williams Phillips on 01865 349011

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BNP Paribas Real Estate and Carter Jonas have been appointed by the receivers of former Formula One team Caterham F1, to sell the team's former headquarters at Leafield, near Witney. (Pictured)

The 28-acre site includes 150,000 sq ft of buildings, a mix of modern offices, traditional Cotswold stone buildings and industrial properties. The site also provided a

testing facility for Caterham F1.

BNP Paribas Real Estate's Jonjo Lyles said: "With its mixture of property types the site lends itself to a number of different uses and will be of interest to a variety of potential occupiers."

BNP Paribas and Carter Jonas will be seeking offers in excess of £5.5m and are inviting expressions of interest from potential purchasers.

