

Contact Person: Rosalyn Godsmark
Company Name: Northern Trust
Address: Lynton House, Ackhurst Park, Foxhole Road, Chorley, PR7 1NY
Telephone No: 01257 238555
Email Address: rosalyngodsmark@northerntrust.co.uk



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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MILNERS SOLICITORS MAKE IT A FULL HOUSE AT HOUNDGATE OFFICES

Northern Trust Company Limited is pleased to welcome Milners Solicitors to their Houndgate office development in Darlington. Yorkshire based law firm Milners Solicitors have leased the 1,467 sq ft office suite on a 5-year lease agreement following their acquisition of Close Thornton Solicitors in Darlington which will now trade under the Milners Group.

Close Thornton is a Darlington law firm with particular strength in wills and probate, residential conveyancing, commercial property and family law. Milners Solicitors specialise in commercial litigation, personal injury, employment, agricultural law, commercial disputes, commercial mediation and property disputes along with the same services currently offered by Close Thornton.

Giles Ward, Milners Solicitors' Senior Partner said "We are delighted to have Close Thornton join the Milners group. At Milners we are always focused on providing expert, jargon-free legal advice from friendly solicitors. We offer affordable expertise and our values align closely with Close Thornton who have highly talented people and outstanding client relationships. We have aligned approaches and values, offering huge benefits to our clients in the areas that matter most. Combining our expertise will strengthen our market offering, with true operational excellence and the agility to respond rapidly to the changing needs of the market."

Iain Robson, Senior Partner at Close Thornton, says: "The culture of Milners is very similar to Close Thornton, making it the natural home for our business. We are very happy to join the Milners Group and are looking forward to the opportunities combining both firms will bring for our people and our clients. We will work closely across all locations to provide the very best service to the people of County Durham, Yorkshire and beyond."

For more details please visit the Milners Group website at <https://www.milnerslaw.co.uk/>

Houndgate is an office development in the town centre of Darlington consisting of 11 self-contained office suites covering a total of 8,799 sq ft.

Steven Porter, Regional Portfolio Manager at Northern Trust added "I am delighted we were able to facilitate Milners Solicitors occupational requirements following their acquisition of Close Thornton Solicitors. Houndgate which is now fully occupied is home to 10 different businesses which in turn support approximately 50 jobs."

For more details on availability of business units to let in County Durham, please contact the North East team on 0191 221 1999 or via email at northeast@northerntrust.co.uk

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Notes to Editors:

Press Enquiries; Northern Trust: Rosalyn Godsmark, 01257 238555 or rosalyngodsmark@northerntrust.co.uk

Northern Trust is a family owned private company, established in 1962, with a successful track record in property investment, development and strategic land regeneration.

The existing property portfolio extends to over 8.5 million sq ft of industrial, trade counter and office parks, together with more than 5,000 acres of land throughout the UK, with circa 1,500 acres currently being promoted through the planning process for mixed use development.

The Industrial and Office portfolio contains more than 4,000 individual units with industrial unit sizes ranging from as little as 285 sq ft up to c 50,000 sq ft and office suites from as little as 1 person upwards. Premises are situated in over 200 separate locations and the portfolio extends from the South Midlands to the central belt of Scotland. Through recent acquisitions and new development almost 1 million sq ft has been added to the portfolio within the last 2 years. The portfolio is actively managed by Northern Trust's regional teams with offices in the North West, North East, Yorkshire, Midlands and Scotland.

New and existing customers looking for industrial and office accommodation can search the www.NTProperties.co.uk website.

In addition, **Northern Trust** has developed over 3 million sq ft of commercial space in over 50 locations with over 625,000 sq ft currently under construction or in the development pipeline.

Northern Trust has also secured planning for circa 4,500 new homes over the last two years, and with the current projects covering more than 50 sites where there is potential to bring forward more than 10,000 new homes. The company works closely with house builders, local authorities and special purchasers in bringing forward strategic land regeneration opportunities

Northern Trust has substantial funds available for new investment, development, and strategic land acquisitions throughout the UK. For more information please visit the website at www.northerntrust.co.uk