

Massive jobs boost for West Cumbria

Priority Sites could help create over 500 jobs on one of the North West's strategic employment sites, thanks to a partnership with Westlakes Properties Ltd and BNFL.

Work has begun on a £7 million development at the Westlakes Science and Technology Park near Whitehaven. It comprises two research and office buildings - a total of 55,000 sq ft. Both have been leased by BNFL plc, which operates the Sellafield nuclear site a few miles to the south. Up to

520 new jobs could be created by BNFL, helping the Park to achieve its next employment target of more than 1,000 people based there within the next two years.

Priority Sites' Projects Director, Amanda Oliver, said: "This investment is the result of a very close working

relationship with BNFL and Westlakes Properties Ltd. We have also received significant assistance from Copeland Borough Council."

Thomas Armstrong of Maryport is the contractor and Green Design Group of Cockermouth is the architect. The new buildings

should be completed by May 2005.

It's Priority Sites' second project in Cumbria - the first was a purpose built call centre for Barrow Travel, plus five business units, on its £2 million Andrew's Court scheme, at Barrow-in-Furness.



Yeomans carry on camping in Chesterfield

The 'great outdoors' moved indoors, when leading camping equipment specialist Yeomans moved to a new building in its hometown of Chesterfield.

The historic family firm, 100 years old this year, has set up its new base camp at Priority Sites' development at Barlborough Links.

Yeomans Outdoors had grown too big for its walking boots and looked to Priority Sites to help it find a larger tent. And the 21,000 sq ft unit at Barlborough fitted the bill perfectly!

We canvassed (geddit?) the opinions of managing director Peter Yeomans, on the benefits of the new 21,000 sq ft unit.

He said: "We wanted to stay in the area as this is where our heritage is - our very first shop was opened in Chesterfield 100 years ago. Our new unit is superb, with easy access to the motorway."



In 'tents' negotiations completed - Mark Bielby and Peter Yeomans

The unit is one of four at Barlborough Links, which were developed by Priority Sites in partnership with joint venture partner, Waystone Ltd. All four have been let or sold, helping to retain expanding companies who otherwise may have been forced to move out of the East Midlands region.

A second phase of development is about to start at Barlborough, which will comprise offices, hybrid units and industrial units.