

£5m revamp for factory site

Nov 6 2007 By Peter McCusker, *The Journal*

QUALITY office and industrial space is to be created in a £5m development at the site of a former factory that once employed 1,000 workers.



Hartlepool-based Arlington, a financial services and property investment specialist, has bought part of Spennymoor's former Black & Decker site. The 12.5-acre site, on the northern side of the Green Lane industrial estate, was formerly the Sedgefield Enterprise Centre and before that it was Black & Decker's design headquarters and despatch centre.

Arlington plans to refurbish the existing buildings, develop new units and landscape the site to provide high quality industrial and office space.

Allan Cook, director of Arlington, said: "This area of Spennymoor has a long history of manufacturing and light industry and the planned redevelopment will ensure this continues by attracting business back on to this disused site.

"Sedgefield Borough Council has taken a proactive and dynamic approach to this redevelopment and its positive support convinced me to make this investment and begin the process of renewal. The location is ideal, with Durham City and its East Coast Main Line station only four miles away, the A167 running along its boundary, the A1 only a short distance to the east and two airports under one hour's drive away. The ports of Teesside are also within easy travelling distance.

"Spennymoor is an area which has seen its fair share of jobs heartache and the potential workforce is hungry for investment that will provide employment," added Mr Cook.

The site was acquired from regional development agency One NorthEast by Arlington, which says it is in the process of developing its property portfolio.

This includes sites at Wynyard, Barnard Castle, Wilton, Newcastle and Washington, as well as others as far afield as Worcester and London.

Almost 1,000 workers lost their jobs at Black & Decker in 2002 when part of the factory was closed and the work transferred to eastern Europe.

Black & Decker continues to operate from an adjacent site where it employs around 500 people.