



Chris Lea (left), a director of Stoford Developments and David Welsford, director-general of the Camping and Caravanning Club, view the start of work on the club's new headquarters at Westwood Business Park, Coventry

Coventry is seeing the start of work on a new £6 million headquarters for the Camping and Caravanning Club – a project that will create more than 40 new jobs and make the city a centre for national training courses.

Britain's top club for all forms of camping called on Birmingham-based Stoford Developments to develop and fit-out its new 30,000 sq ft high-tech HQ and training centre at Westwood Business Park on land bought from the city council.

The development, which is due for completion by spring 2004, will be three times the size of the club's previous site on

the same business park where it has been based since its move from London 13 years ago.

The eco-friendly building will incorporate rainwater harvesting, whereby processed rainwater will be used to flush lavatories, in line with a new Green campaign that the club is pursuing at its 93 campsites.

It will be Stoford's second scheme at Westwood Business Park, having also been responsible for the new TUI headquarters, and brings to 200,000 sq ft the amount of development it has completed in the city over the past two years. Project

management will be undertaken by Birmingham-based Fusion Building Consultancy.

David Welsford, director-general of the Camping and Caravanning Club, said: "With staff numbers having risen to over 100, and another 40 required, we are now too big for our present HQ. Our new site will enable us to accommodate and train our staff and members and expand our Carefree travel service that sends 70,000 people to 17 countries on holiday each year, as well as serve our 92 local branches even better."

John McGuigan, strategic director of

city development for Coventry City Council, said: "This is more great news for Coventry. Not only will it create new jobs for local people, but it also demonstrates the way that Coventry is developing as the premier headquarters location for national organisations."

Chris Lea, a director of Stoford Developments, said: "We are delighted to be handling the development of such a prestigious project with the Camping and Caravanning Club.

"We are again providing a complete solution that includes the fit-out to the building."