



MAJOR FLAGSHIP DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRE STARTS TO TAKE SHAPE AS LEISURE ANCHOR FOR COTSWOLDS DESIGNER OUTLET

- The 74,000 sq ft Dobbies Garden Centre is set to be the largest in South West England and will feature a 10,000 sq ft restaurant
- Cotswolds Designer Outlet has a catchment of 11.8 million people within 90 minutes
- It is attracting significant brand interest, spurred on by great transport links and a strong catchment

Construction has begun on a new flagship Dobbies Garden Centre at Cotswolds Designer Outlet (CDO), a premium retail and leisure destination taking shape in one of the UK's tourist hotspots.

When complete in autumn 2022, the 74,000 sq ft Dobbies Garden Centre will be the largest in South West England and is expected to serve more than 750,000 customers each year.

The centre will serve as the leisure anchor for CDO, featuring Dobbies' full range including plants and houseplants, gardening accessories and products, outdoor living, pets, gifting and toys, as well as a cookshop, home décor, and a 10,000 sq ft restaurant.

CDO, which is currently under construction, is a 180-acre mixed-use scheme by leading developer Robert Hitchins Ltd. When complete, it is expected to be a major draw in an area that benefits from a catchment that includes Bristol and Birmingham as well as the millions of tourists visiting the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty each year.

Graeme Jenkins, Chief Executive Officer of Dobbies Garden Centres, said: "At Dobbies, we are committed to delivering our growth strategy and this is an exciting milestone in our plans.

"We are focused on a customer-first approach, and those visiting will be able to enjoy a full day of shopping and dining, with the UK's latest retail destination, featuring household name premium fashion brands, just a short walk away. It will be an exceptional shopper experience."

Simon Tohill, Property and Development Director of Robert Hitchins Ltd, said:

"Cotswolds Designer Outlet, nestled in a world-famous tourist destination, will be a visitor attraction for people far and wide. We are pleased to be working with Dobbies, the UK's leading garden centre retailer. Having them as our leisure anchor is a major asset to our scheme and a reflection both of the need for a mix of uses in retail destinations and the surge in popularity of gardening. Momentum is gathering for Cotswolds Designer Outlet, which will delight guests when it opens its doors in 2023."

CDO will offer 16,000 sq ft of cafés and restaurants, as well as premium fashion, athleisure, footwear, and lifestyle brands. Its proximity to the M5 motorway and the Ashchurch for Tewkesbury railway station makes it the most accessible outlet shopping destination in

South West England – and among the most accessible in the UK. CDO will be leased and managed by Realm, one of the UK's leading specialist operators of designer outlets and retail destinations.

The first phase of CDO will provide 75 units across 140,000 sq ft, alongside leisure facilities and landscaped areas. Phase two will bring the total footprint to 90 units across 181,000 sq ft. The premium outlet shopping destination, which is taking shape alongside hundreds of new homes, is expected to open its doors in autumn 2023.

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Note to editors

About Dobbies

- Dobbies was founded in 1865 by James Dobbie and is headquartered near Edinburgh.
- It is the UK's largest garden centre retailer, with 74 stores, having bought 37 stores in 2019.
- The company employs around 4000 team members.
- It is privately owned by Midlothian Capital Partners Limited and Hattington Capital LLP.
- EBITDA for 2020-2021 was £37m.

About Robert Hitchins Limited

Robert Hitchins Limited is a major investor in and developer of land and property throughout the South West, Midlands and South Wales.

The privately-owned business has an extensive land and property portfolio with access to significant financial resources. Over the last 50 years, its team of experienced developers and project managers has delivered many high-quality retail, leisure, residential, office and industrial developments throughout the region. Having begun infrastructure works on Cotswolds Designer Outlet (<https://cotswoldsdesigneroutlet.com/>) last year, Robert Hitchins Ltd is now committed to delivering this exciting retail and leisure scheme that will provide an opportunity for some of the country's best retailers to gain representation in what will be the premier outlet centre in the region.

Further information: www.robert-hitchins.co.uk