

## Onward Holdings Ltd

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Ref: F7a Narrow Aisle Racking

### RACKING UP PALLET CAPACITY CAN FREE UP WAREHOUSE SPACE

**Neil Storey has over 37 years' experience in the logistics sector and is a director of commercial property specialist Onward Holdings Ltd, a fourth-generation family business operating industrial warehousing in the North of England. The company has sites across Yorkshire including Castleford, Normanton, Featherstone and South Kirkby.**

Quality warehouse space continues to be at a premium in the UK as the shadow of Brexit extends into 2020 and online retailers' muscle in on the big available units in order to cater for more of us turning to the internet to purchase goods rather than trudge around the high street.

Driven by the e-commerce boom, growth of the discount grocery chains and third-party logistics, there has been a huge surge in demand for high quality warehousing, but there are competing land uses, particularly in the south east where industrial property developers are reportedly frustrated by housing developments being given preference over potential warehousing sites.

Despite a recent easing off in demand compared to 2018, Yorkshire and the Humber also continues to have a shortage of high-quality commercial units, according to property services and investment business CBRE. \*

However, premium space comes at a premium price and while land values are increasing all over the country, there are many operating reasons why businesses planning their supply chain strategy should consider facilities with narrow aisle pallet racking.

Increasing pallet capacity is a great solution when the storage floor space is limited. Narrow aisle racking allows quick order picking and fast access to any section of the system. Considering greater storage efficiency through high density, narrow aisle racking may prove to be good value for your investment.

Narrow aisle pallet racking is effective space management that can maximise operational efficiency, whether clients require a bespoke facility or distribution centre. We have to try and ensure that no space is wasted. Investing in narrow aisle racking maximises the number of pallets warehouses can take for customers and by using specialised forklifts, narrow aisle racking can make the most of the space available.

The UK logistics property market needs millions more square feet of new warehouse space in the north of England, especially in the middle size market (below 100,000sqft) which is of less interest to the big institutional players, to accommodate the growing demand for storage, distribution and fulfilment hubs to satisfy the need for speed to the consumer by delivering goods on a 24/7 basis.

North-shoring – the buzzword for moving southern operations to the north – is boosting the need for more logistics hubs north of the East Midlands as companies see the economic benefits for their supply chains of lower operating costs, a higher availability of labour and less congestion on the roads, resulting in faster transport links.

## **Onward Holdings F7 Narrow Aisle Racking continued:**

Some warehouse providers are being very savvy to overcome the potential shortage of new sites by investing in extending facilities to meet tenants' internal growth requirements to prevent them moving on, or alternatively maximising facilities through narrow aisle pallet racking.

Quality warehousing in Yorkshire, especially close to excellent transport links, is lagging behind demand due to stockpiling for Brexit and a proliferation of e-commerce and discount retailers taking up available space. The requirement for flexible logistics facilities in this vital economic hub has never been greater.

The switch from high street shopping to internet purchasing is here to stay so we need to continue finding locations for logistics facilities. We need to create the high quality and strategic logistics and warehousing sites that the country is crying out for, which will bring long-term benefits and thousands of jobs to the region that in turn can help increase affordable homes provision.

There has been significant investment in Yorkshire warehouse facilities over the years – including our recent completion of a flexible high-quality building in Featherstone complete with narrow aisle pallet racking trucks and double handlers – which has attracted a wide range of companies to occupy space, bringing a much-needed employment boost and business to the local area.

With continued demand from industrial occupiers in the marketplace, expanding on-site pallet capacity through narrow aisle racking can play a crucial role in warehouse productivity. It not only gives businesses room to stockpile and grow in future, but also has the potential to improve operations and distribution processes.

**END**

\* <https://www.thebusinessdesk.com/yorkshire/news/2045658-uncertainty-fails-to-stem-demand-for-good-quality-commercial-property>

## **Onward Holdings F7 Narrow Aisle Racking continued:**

### **Background**

Onward Holdings is a fourth-generation family-run business founded in 1930 which is renowned for developing and operating warehousing and industrial units. This includes the provision of bespoke or shared multi-sized warehouse facilities and managed 3PL warehousing in the M62/M1/A1 corridor of West Yorkshire. Sites include Castleford, Normanton, Featherstone and South Kirkby.

In addition to offering warehousing and fulfilment services at its sites, the business has developed a former coal mine near Barnsley into a gleaming new retail park. ONYX Retail Park, comprising 17,500 square feet of retail space, is based in Wath-Upon-Dearne and is located at the former Manvers main colliery, an area of major regeneration. Other retail sites operated by the business are located in Scunthorpe.

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