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Thwaites cooks up innovative new partnership

Thwaites has joined forces with industry experts Ribble Valley Inns, run by renowned operators Nigel Haworth and Craig Bancroft, to form a partnership between the two companies at the Highwayman pub in Nether Burrow, Kirkby Lonsdale.

Thwaites purchased the Highwayman around four years ago, and retail director Paul Howarth revealed that the brewer has been waiting for the right opportunity to help the pub fulfil its true potential.

He said: 'We knew that the Highwayman was a great site and it has been in our tenanted estate and doing well, but it was always our intention to invest heavily in the site when the times was right.'

'We have made it clear that we are prepared to look at new opportunities in our pub estate, and will help, support and, in cases like this, join forces with entrepreneurs, providing they are the right partners.'

Thwaites has demonstrated that commitment at the Highwayman by investing half of the estimated £1million budget required for the extensive project, and Paul Howarth believes it could be the start of a long-running link between the two companies.

'We also believe there is a great deal we can learn from having people of the calibre of Nigel and Craig involved in the business – they have a very clear vision and know exactly where they want to go in the pub food business.'

When talking about food, Nigel said: 'What we create is food with roots. This region boasts some of the best artisan food producers in the world, plus a fine tradition of classic dishes. We simply bring them together with the freshest ingredients and a menu designed to offer a new and delicious twist to our local favourites.'