

## Ditherington Flax Mill

In April it was announced that the world's first iron framed building and ancestor of the modern skyscraper had been bought by English Heritage. Despite its global importance, the mill has been lying empty since 1987 and has fallen into a state of dangerous neglect and decay. The purchase will at long last secure its future, putting an end to more than a decade of gradual decline.

English Heritage, Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council and Advantage West Midlands will be working together to establish what conservation work is needed. At the same time, a developer will be sought to take forward the regeneration of the site which is likely to include a mix of residential, business, community and heritage uses. The Trust seeks, and looks forward to, the reinstatement of the canal, on whose bank the building opened in the same year as the canal (1797), as part of the development. The canal can be seen in the bottom right of this photo:

