



■ Scaffolder Brian Monteith at work on the restoration of historic Stanley Mill.

Mill restoration stops the rot

WORK has begun on a £500,000 scheme to prevent an historic grade one listed Stonehouse mill from rotting.

Stanley Mill – built in 1813 and the home of Marling Industrial Felts Ltd – is to be restored to its former glory over the next 42 weeks.

The building is one of the first generation of iron framed multi-storey buildings and one of the few surviving examples.

Peter Griffiths, chairman of Marlings, acquired the building as part of a management buy-out 10 years ago.

He said: "The mill has stood here for two centuries and still provides employment in

textiles for many local people. As a result of the work which is now being started it will hopefully fulfil that same role for the next 200 years."

The restoration work is being partly funded by grant aid from English Heritage.

Mr Griffiths said: "I am pleased the long-term decline of the building fabric is about to be reversed. The mill is a prominent reminder of the area's rich industrial heritage."

An English Heritage study of the mill concluded that it was a complex of "outstanding national importance" and a "spectacular building, of unique style and elegance amongst woollen mills."