

PICTURE SPECIAL

on the sale of Rodborough Fort



■ ABOVE: The front view of the fort which could soon be in the hands of new owners.

■ RIGHT: The view from the fort tower, looking towards Stroud and showing a courtyard.



Visitors troop to the fort

■ One of the larger rooms inside the fort with two wash hand basins. The agents handling the sale warn the rooms will need to be completely refurbished.



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BUYERS, sightseers and inquisitive neighbours are trekking around stately Rodborough Fort.

Since the grade II curiosity appeared officially on the market for just under £300,000 last weekend, Cirencester-based agents Knight Frank and Rutley have been showing a steady stream of interested visitors around.

The Victorian landmark, in the middle of Rodborough Common, dates mainly from 1869 and is for sale after its repossession by the Halifax Building Society.

Self-styled "lady of the manor" Joanne Willies-Williams and her menagerie were evicted and the fort, with its tower, cellars and chapel, was found to be in a neglected state. A further £300,000 could be needed to bring the property up to standard.

Agent Tim Lawson said "When our clients took possession it was clear that the whole property was in need of a complete tidy and a thorough clean.

"Our clients have undertaken a

Pictures: Simon Pizzey
Words: Jo Barber

maintenance programme to bring the overgrown grounds under control and have spent several thousand pounds on cleaning the interior of the house".

The general state of repair of the fort is still, however, one of neglect, and Mr Lawson said: "Any purchaser will have to allow for a complete refurbishment project.

"To assist this, the vendors have commissioned a structural survey which is available for any potential purchaser to read."

The fort was originally built in 1764 by George Hawker who designed it as a single storey with a battery of cannon, three main reception rooms, six bedrooms, and a range of outbuildings where a flourishing caravan and camping centre was once run.

It also has quite genuinely breathtaking views of the Stroud valleys and the River Severn.

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■ ABOVE: The chapel can be seen through the window of the tower.

■ RIGHT: The inside of the chapel.

