

MY FORT IS A LITTLE GEM!

9/6/95.



■ Ella Lamplough with her son Peter at Rodborough Fort. "The whole place is entrancing," says Mrs Lamplough. Picture by Gavin Crilly

THE Citizen can today reveal the identity of the new owner of Rodborough Fort.

The historic mansion is currently at the centre of a major refurbishment programme following its purchase by local woman, Ella Lamplough.

Mrs Lamplough, from Woodchester, bought the building, which she describes as 'a little gem', from the National Trust for an estimated £190,000 but it is expected to cost at least twice that to rebuild.

Entrancing

The main occupant will be her son, Peter, currently of Rooksmoor House in South Gloucestershire.

Mrs Lamplough said the decision to buy the fort came 'out of the blue'.

She added: "I had been up to the site twice when I was younger and I hated it.

"But when I heard it was up for sale I went back up there and had a look.

"The whole place is entrancing. It is a little gem with views second to none and despite its dilapidated state it will make the most wonderful home."

Building work is expected to be completed in September and the family hopes to move in by the end of the year.

EXCLUSIVE

by Jo Makosinski

Mrs Lamplough said: "The place is in a dreadful state. At the moment we are having the whole place treated and then there will need to be structural and electrical repairs. We have also got to install a new water supply as there is currently no connection at the fort.

"But when we have finished it will hopefully look stunning."

Mrs Lamplough said the main plan was to use the fort for residential purposes only but that the family were considering using out-buildings to create holiday flats.

The house was put on the market after former owner, ex-top model Joanne Willies-Williams, was evicted. It was then purchased by the National Trust but failed to reach its £147,500 holding price at auction earlier this year and was put back on the market.

Several bids were received with Mrs Lamplough's being finally accepted.

A spokesman for the National Trust said: "The fort has been sold and will be used as a residential property. The National Trust will retain the Rights of Way over the Common.

"We hope this deal will see the regeneration of this ancient monument."