

# Glastonbury's pioneering approach to sustainable renovation

Products - Claypaint

Project - Northover Mill, Glastonbury.

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A former medieval water mill, fundamental to Glastonbury's industrial heritage, has been restored and once more houses a thriving business.



The Grade II listed Northover Mill<sup>1</sup> was the first building to be renovated by a pioneering charity which aims to promote employment by bringing derelict, listed buildings back into use as new workplaces.

Archaeologist Nancy Hollinrake, a trustee of the Beckery Island Regeneration Trust, explains: "Northover Mill was part of the Morland Sheepskin factory, a major employer in Glastonbury for many years, famous for its sheepskin rugs, coats and boots, but when the factory closed in the 1980s, many buildings on the site fell into decay.

"A number of historically important buildings on the site have been saved from demolition and the Trust was formed to renovate them in order to encourage new economic development. Northover Mill was the first to be completed and it is now leased to a natural cosmetics manufacturing company which is growing successfully.

"We believe that renovating an old building in this way is a fundamental principle of sustainability. It was only natural for us to use sustainable materials throughout the project, such as Earthborn's Claypaint."

Claypaint was specified by restoration contractor John Tucker who said: "Northover Mill was lime plastered throughout, so it was vital to apply a breathable paint. If water gets trapped behind impervious materials such as conventional paints, it can cause issues within the wall and lead to plaster failure and peeling paint. Claypaint enables moisture to evaporate from within the walls while remaining stable itself."

Claypaint is a unique clay based emulsion that covers exceptionally well, leaving you with a distinctive, ultra



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matt finish. The lack of oils and acrylics also makes it highly breathable. As it carries the EU Ecolabel, you are reassured that you are using a certified environmentally friendly paint.

John added: "The decorators had not used Claypaint before but are now converted, having seen how well it performed on both the original lime plaster and the newly plastered sections."

Celina Wilson of Wholesale Mineral Make Up, who recently moved into Northover Mill, said: "We manufacture exclusive handcrafted mineral makeup cosmetics that are 100% pure and natural so it is important that the paint is hygienic and performs well. Earthborn's eco credentials complement our business ethics and principles and Claypaint's rich, matt finish really enhances the prestigious look of our building."

The breathability of Claypaint has an additional benefit for the company's manufacturing facilities as it absorbs moisture, which reduces the likelihood of condensation. Balancing out the humidity of a room in this way also creates a healthier, more comfortable environment for the building's occupants.

The Claypaint colours specified at Northover Mill were Ballet Shoe, Straw and Marbles, and the paint was supplied by Earthborn stockist Earthfare of Glastonbury.

For further information visit  
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<sup>1</sup> Northover Mill was built as Glastonbury Abbey's fulling mill in the 15th Century. In the late 19th Century it was the first building occupied by Morland. The mill was given to Beckery Island Regeneration Trust by the South West Regional Development Agency in 2011, and the Trust obtained various grants, including the Architectural Heritage Fund, to finance its restoration. The project has received a commendation from English Heritage's Heritage Angels scheme.

**Front page (top)** - Northover Mill, once again providing employment in Glastonbury.

**Front page (bottom)** - The welcoming reception area of Wholesale Mineral Make Up.

**This page (left)** - Before and after painting with Claypaint's Ballet Shoe shade on walls and Marble on ceilings.

**This page (below)** - Claypaint Straw maximises light in the reception (left) and packing area (right).

(Photos courtesy Wholesale Mineral Make Up)



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