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The demolition of Aqua House marks the start of building work for the Fletton Quays development on Peterborough's South Bank.

Work to strip out the interior of the vacant building, previously used as offices by the Environment Agency, began this week.

The demolition work will be carried out by Skanska and is expected to be complete early this summer.

It will be the first construction activity on Fletton Quays, a £120 million redevelopment that is set to include a hotel, offices and 280 homes.

The city council has also exchanged contracts unconditionally to buy the former mill building and site from Milton Estates, at a cost of £750,000, on Fletton Quays as part of the site's wider regeneration.

The council will be working with partners to explore converting the building to a new hub for arts and culture for the city, subject to identifying the funding.

It will also signify the complete acquisition of Fletton Quays to enable comprehensive regeneration of the area.

Councillor David Seaton, the city council's cabinet member for resources, said: "Aqua House has been vacant for a few years now and plans for redevelopment in this area have always involved its demolition as it will be at the gateway entrance to the new Fletton Quays site.

"Buying the former Whitworth Mill, a locally listed building, is also an important step as this was something not originally included in the Fletton Quays application.

"Maintaining the integrity of buildings that have an historic link to this area of the city is to be welcomed and we are thankful to the cooperation from Milton Estates to allow us to reach this stage."

Bricks and concrete from the Aqua House building will be reused in construction works for Fletton Quays.

The site will be taken forward by the Peterborough Investment Partnership (PIP), set up by the city council in December 2014 to take forward a number of city sites initially through the planning process, then to secure an investor to implement the physical redevelopment.