

Landmark store's new lease of life



STONE ME Steve Norman of Stenor (above) on site where the rubble from David Evans is being processed, and the store in its former glory (right).

SWANSEA'S David Evans store is going to live on!

It might not be quite in the form so many Swansea shoppers fondly remember, but thousands of tons of its hardcore are going to be used in the building of the giant new distribution warehouse being built for on-line retailer Amazon at Jersey Marine.

The landmark store has vanished in recent weeks, razed to the ground by giant masonry-munching machines.

But while the building has been dismantled, its constituent parts — all 10,000 tons — remain in close contact, lying in a massive heap on King's Dock.

The rubble from the demolition operation has been transported the short distance to the Graigola Wharf yard of Stenor Environmental Services Ltd.

It has been processed, and the resulting hardcore is set for a new role in the world of

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retailing. It will make up a small part of the 150,000 tons of hardcore which Stenor is delivering to the new Amazon site.

There it will be used to build up the level of the site ahead of construction.

"It's nice to know that the David Evans store will, in a sense, live on," said Stenor boss Steve Norman.

"So many people have such affection for the old building.

"I'm 47 now and I must have been going in and out of that store more than 40 or so of those years, dragged around there by my mother and, more recently, by my wife.

"I always thought it had a touch of Are You Being Served about it.

"It had such character, and it really is sad to see

it gone. That bit of history has disappeared, but you could say it will live on.

"We are recycling it, and 4,000 tons have already gone onto the Amazon site."

The demolition teams finished tearing down the last vestiges of the building a couple of weeks ago, and archaeologists are now inspecting the site.

Their work should be complete by the end of June, when contractors will be looking to start work on building a new three-storey shopping complex.

International fashion retailers Zara and Slater's Menswear will be moving in, along with Swansea department store J T Morgan.

It is hoped the complex could be open to shoppers by next summer.

Work on the Amazon warehouse is expected to be completed by October, and it should be posting out its first deliveries before Christmas. The warehouse is expected to create as many as 2,700 jobs.