

**Consultation Response from KC, Conservation & Design****2024/92145 Railway Viaduct MDL1/27, Union Mill, Mill Lane/Grange Road, Batley****Discharge conditions 3 (OLE brackets), 4 (mortar specification), 5 (masonry repairs) on previous permission 2022/90276 for Listed Building Consent for installation of four overhead electric line equipment portals on piers 3, 7, 11 & 15 with supporting wall brackets****Date Responded: 08.08.2024****Responding Officer: S Pickles****Responding Ref:****Condition 3 – OLE Brackets**

Having reviewed the submitted details for the OLE brackets we are generally satisfied with the submitted details, but we offer the following comments.

The principle of the OLE brackets was established under the main application and there is now sufficient detail provided for the brackets and method of fixing them into place.

We note that with the brackets there will be a need for areas of the stonework to be flattened off to create the required surface for the bracket plate. We note that this is either to be done using hand tools or if considered necessary to be undertaken using rotary tools. This is accepted as necessary however, care should be taken to ensure that the area affected is kept to the absolute minimum and that no additional harm is incurred to the surrounding stonework. The use of cold chisels may incur greater damage to the stonework and surrounding stonework, and we would advise that their use is entirely avoided. Precision chisels should be used if undertaken by hand.

We also acknowledge that Webercem Grout Eco is to be used. We understand why this is specified for use as opposed to lime, however, we have some concerns about the long-term impacts in terms of whether the grout given it is cementitious will de-bond itself from the stonework, however, we appreciate this is in addition to the bolts/ anchors.

**Condition 4 – Mortar**

On the basis of the information provided, we are satisfied with the submitted detail in relation to the mortar specifications. We would however comment that where repointing is to be undertaken, the areas should be sufficient soaked prior to repointing works. The mortar should ensure that it is forced into the mortar joints and compressed back. We would not expect it to be brushed back, however, the finish of the pointing should be considered ensuring that it is accurate the historic pointing.

As set out above, we recognise that the mortar for the anchors for the OLE brackets will differ from the mortar used for repairs and repointing.

**Condition 5 – Masonry Repairs**

On review of the submitted information, we are satisfied with the details for the masonry repairs. The initial approach appears to be light touch and only repairs where necessary, especially around the placement of the OLE brackets.

We do however appreciate that on further inspection of the structure, it may be found that additional repairs and possible replacement may be required. If this arises and areas are considered necessary to be replaced, we would request that the agent re-engage with Conservation to ensure that the replacement stonework is acceptable.