Design and Access

Method Statement for Removal of Render and Repointing Stonework Using Hydraulic Lime Mortar

1. Scope of Works

The works involve the careful removal of existing cement or lime-based render from stone masonry and repointing the exposed stonework with a compatible hydraulic lime mortar.

2. Materials

- Hydraulic Lime: NHL 2 or NHL 3.5 (as appropriate for exposure)
- Washed Sharp Sand: Graded and color-matched
- Clean Water
- Tools & Equipment:
- Cold chisels, club hammers
- Hand wire brushes
- Pointing irons, trowels
- Mortar rakes
- Small handheld power tools (e.g. 115mm angle grinder with mortar raking blade or oscillating multi-tool) – used selectively
- Buckets, mixing boards or mechanical mixer
- Fine mist water sprayer
- PPE: Safety goggles, gloves, FFP2 dust mask, hearing protection, hi-vis, hard hat

3. Sequence of Work

A. Removal of Render

1. Site Preparation
- Erect scaffolding or access platforms as required.
- Protect surrounding areas and ensure proper signage and barriers.
- Ensure all operatives are equipped with PPE.
2. Render Removal
- Begin with hand tools (chisels and mallets) to gently remove render.
- Where render or mortar proves too dense or strong for manual removal, small handheld power tools (small breakers) may be used sparingly and with great care, especially around vulnerable masonry features.
- Avoid excessive use of power tools to prevent damaging the stone substrate.
- Remove all render to reveal original stone face and clear joints of cement residues.
3. Cleaning Down
- Clean joints and stone faces with hand brushes.
- Lightly dampen the area with a mist sprayer to reduce dust and assist bond.

B. Repointing Stonework

1. Raking Out Joints
- Rake out old mortar to minimum 25mm depth or 2x the joint width.
- Use hand tools; if cementitious mortar is too hard, carefully employ small handheld power tools, avoiding vibration damage or overcutting.

2. Preparing the Surface
- Brush joints to remove dust and lightly dampen with clean water.

3. Mixing Hydraulic Lime Mortar
- Mix at approx. 1:2.5–3 (lime to sand), adjusting for workability and exposure.
- Mix to a cohesive, slightly stiff consistency.

4. Pointing
- Fill joints tightly in layers using a pointing trowel or iron.
- Slightly overfill and compact well to prevent shrinkage.

5. Finishing
- Once mortar is thumbprint-hard, brush back gently to expose texture and match historic finish.

6. Curing
- Protect from rapid drying, rain, and frost.
- Cover with damp hessian or breathable sheeting and mist lightly as needed for 3–7 days.

4. Waste Management

- Collect all render, mortar, and dust.
- Dispose of non-hazardous waste in skips or as per local regulations.

5. Health & Safety

- Risk assessment and method statement briefing to be held before work.
- Lime is caustic – PPE essential.
- Dust and noise from power tools must be managed – use masks and hearing protection.
- Secure all work at height areas and inspect scaffolding daily.

6. Quality Control

- Sample area to be agreed with client/conservation officer if applicable.
- Mortar and finish to match original appearance and be compatible with masonry.
- Work to be regularly checked for joint depth, cleanliness, and mortar finish.

Access to property for North East walls via Number 2’s garden (they’re aware of this proposal) and via rear of property which is accessed through the back garden of number 4 through a right of access.