

## YEW TREE FARM STONE CLEANING METHOD STATEMENT

### 1. Introduction

This Method Statement outlines the proposed approach for the cleaning of external stonework at the site, in accordance with the following planning condition:

*"No stone cleaning shall take place until full details of the specification of cleaning methods has first been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. A 1 square metre sample panel of cleaning shall be prepared on site and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority before stone cleaning commences. Thereafter any stone cleaning undertaken shall be in accordance with the agreed methods."*

### 2. Objective

To carefully clean the stone surfaces using a combination of low-pressure water and light chemical agents, ensuring a delicate, non-abrasive treatment that protects the integrity and historic value of the Stone.

### 3. Proposed Cleaning Method

The following method will be used for stone cleaning:

1. Step 1 - Pre-wetting:  
Stone will be pre-wetted using clean, low-pressure water (maximum 0.5 bar) applied via a handheld spray or misting nozzle to reduce surface absorption of cleaning agents.
2. Step 2 - Application of Light Chemical Cleaner:  
A non-acidic, pH-neutral, biodegradable cleaning gel or solution, specifically formulated for natural stone will be applied by brush or low-pressure spray.
  - Contact time: 60 minutes depending on manufacturer guidelines and on-site testing.
  - The cleaner is designed to gently break down atmospheric pollutants, algae, and general grime without damaging the stone.
3. Step 3 - Manual Agitation:  
Soft natural bristle brushes will be used to lightly agitate the surface where necessary, avoiding abrasion or dislodging of the stone's surface.

#### 4. Step 4 – Rinse:

The surface will then be thoroughly rinsed with low-pressure, clean water to remove all chemical residues and loosened soiling.

#### 5. Step 5 – Final Rinse & Inspection:

Final rinse and visual inspection to ensure uniform results and no residue remains. If required, the process may be repeated under supervision for persistent soiling.

#### 4. Sample Panel

- A 1 square metre test panel will be cleaned on an inconspicuous area of the façade using the full cleaning method above.
- The panel will be presented for written approval by the Local Planning Authority before general stone cleaning begins.
- The approved panel will act as a benchmark standard for finish, tone, and method compliance throughout the works.
- No further stone cleaning will take place until written approval is received.

#### 5. Work Process & Sequencing

1. Install safe working access (scaffolding, edge protection, etc.)
2. Protect adjacent materials (timber, metal, glazing) with sheeting or tape
3. Carry out pre-cleaning photographic survey
4. Complete 1m<sup>2</sup> test panel and notify LPA for inspection
5. On written approval, carry out cleaning to rest of façade using same method and controls
6. Post-cleaning inspection, documentation, and sign-off

#### 6. Environmental & Health Considerations

- All chemical use will follow COSHH regulations
- PPE including gloves, goggles, and masks will be worn by operatives
- Run-off will be managed to avoid drainage contamination
- Nearby vegetation and public areas will be protected
- No cleaning will take place during unsuitable weather conditions (freezing temperatures, wind-driven rain)

#### 7. Monitoring and Quality Assurance

- Cleaning will be supervised by a conservation-trained operative
- Any change to methods will require further LPA consultation
- Daily site records and photo logs will be maintained to verify compliance

## 8. Conclusion

This method ensures a delicate and controlled approach to stone cleaning, using a light chemical formulation with low-pressure water and soft manual tools. It satisfies the planning condition by:

- Providing full method details, including product type
- Ensuring a 1m<sup>2</sup> sample panel will be completed and approved before works begin
- Committing to follow only the agreed and approved method thereafter