

Briefing

Ensure all craft operatives:

- Have read and understand this method statement and the specification.
- Comply with all site health and safety procedures and relevant PPE
- Are aware of the specific risks of working with lime mortars.
- Have proven competency for the task.

Materials

St Astier Natural Hydraulic Lime 3.5

St Astier Natural Hydraulic Lime NHL 5 for exposed locations, to be agreed with conservation advisor.

Selection of sands to match the existing mortar. A buff range sharp sand and a coarser grit sand where the largest aggregate size is around 1mm should be used in varying proportions to achieve the desired mix.

Tools

- Selection of sharp masonry plugging chisels.
- Selection of hammers (different weights)
- Masons brush
- Low pressure water spray bottle.
- Protective sheeting
- Hacksaw blades

Sampling

Sample mortar in agreed locations for conservation adviser to approve the mix and technique.

Carrying out the work

With great skill, care and protecting the arises of the stone, remove the existing mortar from the masonry, using only hand tools. A hacksaw blade can be used for finer joints. All loose or damaged mortar should be removed to the required depth.

The open joint should be 25mm deep or at least twice the joint height.

Paying attention to keep the face of the stone clear, brush any loose material from the joint.

Spray low pressure water into the joint and flush out any dust. Work systematically to protect completed and face work.

Using a pointing trowel push the lime sand mortar into the wetted and prepared joints, with great care to keep the face of the masonry clean.

Once the new mortar has started to mature it should be 'tamped' back with a stiff natural bristle brush, to consolidate the mortar and expose the aggregate.

The finished pointing should be slightly recessed (c1-2 mm) from the face of the brick or stone and have a textured finish.

Protect finished work during the initial maturing (7 - 30 days) from rain and frost action.