MORTAR ANALYSIS REPORT

JOB REFERENCE	**India House**	SAMPLE	**4**	PAGE **1**

ANALYSIS DATE	**June 2026**
SITE	**India House**
CLIENT	**Recclesia**
DATE/ TAKEN RECEIVED	**June 2026**
CLIENT REQUIREMENTS	**Mortar analysis**
LOCATION/ FUNCTION IN BUILDING	**Pointing mortar from turret no. 3**
CONDITION OF SAMPLE RECEIVED/ COLLECTED	**Bound sample**

GENERAL COMMENTS/ SUMMARY

The nature of the binding matrix of the mortar sample and information gained from the analysis suggest that the mortar was probably made by volume from 1 part OPC cement, 1 part hydrated lime (including a substantial amount of inert lime), and 2 ½ parts of a silty quartz.

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ANALYTICAL PROCEDURES

The selected material sample was dried, weighed, and examined by eye and under a binocular microscope at x 20 and x 35 magnification. The sample was crushed, and the binder was separated from the aggregate by dissolution in dilute hydrochloric acid. The relative proportions of binder (lime, cement, and gypsum) to aggregate were determined. Aggregate (and other acid-insoluble materials) characterisation was undertaken utilising sieve separation and further microscopic examination. The analysis and interpretation provide information on the composition and characteristics of the mortar sample(s) received. Assuming that the sample was generally representative of the mortar, the analysis will give a reasonable indication of the original materials and provide a basis for the specification of repair or replacement mortars.
If more detailed information is required (for example, for historical research purposes), more sophisticated analytical procedures can be undertaken to determine chemistry and mineralogical composition.

MORTAR EXAMINATION AND ANALYSIS

PROCEDURE	**DESCRIPTION / COMMENTS**	
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION OF SAMPLE BY EYE	A fine-grained, brown-earth coloured mortar with visible lime inclusions.	
EXAMINATION OF PREPARED SAMPLE BY BINOCULAR MICROSCOPE x20 MAG	The fine-grained binder-rich mortar has an open texture. The rich cream binder contains inert lime, quartz, and clinker ash.	

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ACID DISSOLUTION

PROCEDURE	DESCRIPTION ~ COMMENTS
10% HCL ACID DISSOLUTION	It is easy to crush. There was a very vigorous reaction upon dissolution.
FILTER GRADE (PORE SIZE) & TYPE	Whatman Type 1

AGGREGATE SEPARATION

BS SIEVE Mesh Size	Residue Retained in g's	Undissolved binder %	Aggregate excluding undissolved binder – gs*	Aggregate weight %	Comments	
4.75 mm	0					
2.36 mm	0.23	30	0.16	n/a	Iron-stained, clear quartz and clinker. Platelets of alite binder.	
1.18 mm	0.58	50	0.29	n/a	Iron-stained, clear quartz and clinker. Platelets of alite binder	

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0.60 mm (600 µm)	0.56	50	0.28	n/a	Iron-stained, clear quartz and clinker. Platelets of alite binder	
300 µm	9.17	10	8.25	n/a	Iron-stained, clear quartz and clinker. Platelets of alite binder	
150 µm	0.43	30	0.30	n/a	Iron-stained, clear quartz and clinker. Alite and Belite binder residues.	
< 150 µm, including filter residue	5.22	50	2.61	n/a	Iron-stained, clear quartz and clinker. Alite and Belite binder residues.	

The quartz aggregate is all sub-rounded

*The aggregate weight is a proportion of the combined weight of lime and aggregate, the lime being lighter.

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AGGREGATE CHARACTERISTICS

The primary aggregates are very fine, silty quartz sand and inert lime.
Because sand and gravel aggregates are ultimately derived from the weathering of solid rock, most aggregates contain coarse-grained rock fragments and finer mineral grains. Weathering breaks down the rock fragments within the aggregate into the constituent minerals, resulting in smaller and rounder particles; chemical weathering breaks down unstable minerals, such as feldspars, into clays that may be washed away. Both processes eventually result in quartz-rich sand.

CONSTITUENTS OF ANALYSIS SAMPLE

MATERIAL	***WEIGHT (g)***	**COMMENTS**
A: DRY WEIGHT OF ANALYSIS SAMPLE	20.7	
B: DRY WEIGHT OF ALL INSOLUBLE	16.19	
C: DRY WEIGHT OF INSOLUBLE BINDER	4.3	
D: (B-C) DRY WEIGHT OF AGGREGATE	11.89	
E: (A-B+C)) DRY WEIGHT OF LIME & BINDERS	8.81	
F: DRY WEIGHT OF LIME	4.51	
OTHER		

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PROPORTIONS OF ANALYSIS SAMPLE

The sample proportions give the aggregate and carbonated or set lime relative volumes, based on the recorded weights for each sieve collection.

CEMENTITIOUS RESIDUES: FREE LIME: AGGREGATE

1: 1: 2.8

PROBABLE ORIGINAL MIX

The nature of the binding matrix of the mortar sample and information gained from the analysis suggest that the mortar was probably made by volume from

1 part OPC cement, 1 part hydrated lime (including a substantial amount of inert lime), and 2 ½ parts of a silty quartz.

Sample analysis, interpretation and report carried out by: Dr Mark Womersley.
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