

# LOST MARBLE

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## BUILDING CONSERVATION

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Date: 19.12.2023

### **METHOD STATEMENT #1:**

#### **DOFF™ paint removal at The Old Crown, Weston Turville**

- Scaffold erected as per specification, including Monoflex sheeting to sides (M.Miles Scaffolding to provide and erect)
- Ground protected with weed suppressing membrane to collect solid waste matter
- Windows and doors protected using self adhesive hard flooring protector and tape as necessary
- Footpath and driveway cordoned off using cones, warning signs and hazard tape
- DOFF set up as per manufacturers instructions and training
- PPE to include: safety wellington boots, waterproof salopettes, waterproof jacket, ear defenders, full-face shield, gloves.
- Driveway to be clear of owners vehicles
- Front door cordoned off and out of bounds
- Paint-Rid™ solution to be applied to wall area, allow 12 hour dwell time – 2 coats may be required for optimum efficiency and with least impact on the brick face
- Using DOFF on lowest pressure setting at 40 BAR
- Using DOFF at hottest temperature of 150°C at the nozzle
- Slowly move DOFF wand back and forth to loosen the paint – super heated water melts the paint and causes it to peel off from the brickwork sometimes in large sheets/blisters and other times in small flakes – depends upon the substrate surface or previous coatings such as limewash which may have been applied historically
- Wash down from top to bottom, removing any residue
- Collect all debris in the membrane and dispose of appropriately

## **METHOD STATEMENT #2**

### **Lime Repointing at The Old Crown, Weston Turville**

- **Do not be shocked at the mention of Power Tools!**
- **In the right hands, with the right care, power tools cause far less damage to fragile historical materials than hand tools – where the endless pounding with hammer and chisel can easily pulverise soft bricks or stone.**
- **All power tools used are connected to a powerful 110V Starmix iPulse Industrial Vacuum with up to 15m of hose.**
- PPE to include: Safety boots, P3 respirator, gloves and ear defenders worn appropriately
- It is likely that there is cement pointing underneath the plastic paint.
- Cement traps moisture within the walls, causing damp and must be removed.
  
- **To remove cement pointing** – 4 inch angle grinder with 2mm blade cuts a line along the middle point of all cement pointed joints. This allows space for the hand tools to then dislodge the cement using a minimum of force. NB- I DO NOT USE A 8-10MM MORTAR RAKING BLADE FOR THIS!
- Hand tools – such as a sharp wood chisel – are used to knock the cement away from the arris of the brickwork without causing damage. Without the use of an angle grinder this will cause untold damage to the original materials and produces widened joints and reduced brick face resulting in a detrimental change of appearance and loss of original material.
- Rake out joints to 20mm using Arbortech Allsaw using appropriate blades, leaving a 20mm void with a square cross section.
- Vacuum out the joints
- Soak joints to prevent mortar shrinkage
- Repoint using bespoke non-hydraulic lime mortar, hotmixed and left to mature
- Mortar will be bespoke to match the original and will consist of quicklime and washed sharp sand. It may include aggregate such a brick dust, wood ash and crushed limestone.
- Compact mortar once it is firm using wood batten and natural bristle brush
- Finish the joints flush, while exposing the aggregate.
- Cover with 3 or 4 layers damp or dry hessian depending upon weather conditions
- Leave covered to allow slow carbonation of the lime mortar
- Uncover at appropriate time
- Wash down the brickwork using diluted hydrochloric acid and rinse thoroughly
- Leave site clear
- Strike scaffolding
- Customer to remove bagged waste if no skip on site

## **METHOD STATEMENT #3**

### **Concrete Render Removal at The Old Crown, Weston Turville**

- **As above - do not be shocked at the mention of Power Tools!**
- **In the right hands, with the right care, power tools cause far less damage to fragile historical materials than hand tools – where the endless pounding with hammer and chisel can easily pulverise soft bricks.**
- **All power tools used are connected to a powerful 110V Starmix iPulse Industrial Vacuum**
- PPE to include: Safety boots, P3 respirator, gloves and ear defenders worn appropriately
  
- **To remove cement render** – an angle grinder must be used to break the tension in the surface of the concrete render.
- This is achieved by scoring the concrete into 1inch fingers whilst only cutting through 80-90% of the depth.
- These concrete fingers then become easy to remove from the brick face.
- Because cement adheres to the brick, sometimes there is collateral damage and the concrete damages the face of the brick.
- However, this technique lessens the damage removing concrete/cement render has.
- If lime wash has been used on the brickwork previously this will enable the concrete to be removed easier than if it hasn't been used.
- There is always a reason why buildings are rendered in cement or painted with modern plastic masonry paint. Since the 1940s this has usually been done to cover up a multitude of poor repairs and inappropriate materials - so it is not unreasonable to expect some remedial repairs to be needed to the underlying building.
- Decisions can be made once the render is removed – if there is evidence of lime wash, then one option would be to repair any damaged bricks, repoint the brickwork and re-instate the lime wash. This has been done with great success at 42-44 Trooper Road, Aldbury, Herts where 1.5tonnes of pebble dashed concrete were removed from the first floor of a Jetty House, brickwork repaired, repointed and then lime washed.
- If the concrete has pulled the face of the brickwork off, then traditional haired lime render can be applied followed by traditional lime wash. Any large holes can be filled in the traditional manner using hand made broken peg tiles and haired lime mortar.
- **NB:** leaving cement render covering up a traditional building, especially a timber framed one will have greater detrimental effect on the property than the removing of it. Once it is removed, the house can begin to dry out and a dry house is a warm house.
- Non-hydraulic haired coarse stuff will be sourced from The Old House Store, Reading and will consist of sharp sand, quicklime, water and goat hair.
- Coarse stuff scratch coat to contain hair. Second coat does not include hair.
- Leave lime render covered to allow slow carbonation of the lime mortar
- Uncover at appropriate time
- Leave site clear
- Strike scaffolding
- Customer to remove bagged waste if no skip on site

