



W. J. Cove – Building Conservation
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Dear Helen, Chris, Simon and Martyn,

It was great to meet earlier this week (11/02/26) to discuss the upcoming repair works. Off the back of our discussions here are my suggestions and proposals for working methods and materials;

Mortar:

Non-hydraulic lime and aggregates used at a ratio of **1 Lime : 2.5 aggregate.**

The North elevation we will use two measures of sharp sand and half a measure of 20mm stone to match the larger stone used in the original mortar.

On the other three elevations we will use two measures of sharp sand and half a measure of 10mm stone.

Mortar will be finished with a flush finish, slightly recessed from the face of the masonry.

Stone:

We currently have six samples on site. The Fittleworth is definitely usable the other five have not been using in the original construction but they may all be usable in small quantities;

Fittleworth – Fittleworth stone has been used in the Salt House walls.

Tumbled York – Some of the stones in the Salt House match the colour and texture quite nicely.

Purbeck – Very hard randomly shaped stone, the colours will blend in quite nicely but the texture is quite different to the existing.

Bargate - Very hard randomly shaped stone, the colours will blend in quite nicely but the texture is quite different to the existing.

Unknown quarry labelled as '1' – The texture of 1 is a nice match to the existing sand stones but the colour is a lot darker.

Unknown quarry labelled as '2' – The colour of this stone will blend in to the existing walls.

I have ordered some more samples to try see if we can find anything more suitable, also Martyn is going to see if he can find details of a substitute for 'Bognor Rock' which may have been used on another local project.

Flint:

There is a small amount of knapped flint faces and also cobbles. Both of these are easily sourced if we need more than Chris and Helen have already collected from their property.

Brick:

Chris and Helen have a collection of bricks found on their property which will fit in well on the Salt House. If we do require extra bricks, H.G. Matthews Woodfired bricks will be used as we can clearly see the blue scorch marks on the original bricks that is only obtained by the wood firing process.

Methods of work:

We will be looking to remove as much of the cement mortar as possible, this will be assessed on an area by area basis. Where the cement is affecting the soft masonry units, or timber it will be removed, but areas such as the left hand side of the doorway may not need to be work on as it has been rebuilt with hard wearing materials (flint and modern brick) which are currently in good order.

Where we do decide to remove the cement, a range of hand tools and small power tools will be used to best remove the cement without damaging the soft stone. This may include drilling relief holes into the mortar or using a four inch angle grinder to make relief cuts before using hammers and chisels to remove it. From the small area of investigation carried out, lots of this cement mortar is very deep which will likely result in small areas of rebuilding to enable its complete removal.

Other notes;

Tiles may be used to fill small voids, but large areas of tiles are to be avoided.