

Gun point Oxford Ltd-

Method Statement for repointing stone walls

Stone Masonry

Raking

Raking out and removal of old or degraded mortar to a minimum depth of 25-40 mm or until sound mortar is found. This will be carried out using a combination of an electric chisel, a hand pick and hand held chisel.

Depth of the joint is relative to the width between stones. Joints will be raked out to twice the width of the joint – so a 1cm wide joint should be raked out to at least 2 cm. The joint and masonry should then be moistened/washed to ensure water in the mortar is not drawn into the surrounding masonry causing the pointing to dry out too fast.

Pointing

Pointing using 1:4 hydraulic lime mortar. This will be ‘pumped’ into the joint using a mechanical mortar pump. The initial area will depend on the speed at which the mortar is ‘going off’. The mortar will be left proud of the joint so the mortar can be tempered or pressed firmly into the joint. This will be continuously monitored until the mortar is ready to be struck to the desired finish.

Finishing

Work will start at the top of the wall and the will proceed in a sequence downwards. All joints will be pre-wetted by using a low pressure hose pipe and well filled with the mortar rammed solid and left partially set. The mortar after initial set is brushed back to the arrises of the stones creating a very slight recessed joint. This joint can then be washed using low pressure water in order to rinse the brush and remove the debris and expose the aggregate.