

MOULDING

Method Statement

Controlled removal and reconstruction of the East wall (and adjoining structural walls) at Littlecott Mill.

Project Description

The works comprise the careful dismantling of an existing external brick and flint wall on the East side of Littlecott Mill, which is adjacent to a minor road, and currently unstable, salvaging suitable bricks and flints for reuse, and reconstructing the wall to match the original appearance, dimensions, bond pattern, and finish. The immediate adjoining walls will also be demolished to facilitate the careful heritage-led reconstruction of this east range. The use of lime within the rebuilding, the careful salvage and re-use of the existing bricks and flints, and the employment of craftsmen with traditional techniques for bricklaying, lintel and header details, and associated areas of architectural focus, will ensure this project is undertaken sensitively and authentically. This is the client's principle focus as custodians of this building. The roof tiles have already been removed, and a scaffold is erected on the edge of the highway, as shown in the photograph below (top) taken on the 4 August 2026. The photographs below and on the following page 2 were taken on the 27 June 2023 showing the East Elevation detailing.





1. Scope of Works

The works will include:

1. Establishment of site boundaries and traffic management measures.
2. Protection of the public, adjacent properties and the highway.
3. Installation of temporary supports where required (as designed by the temporary works engineer).
4. Controlled dismantling of the existing wall.
5. Careful recovery, cleaning and storage of reusable bricks and flints.
6. Disposal of defective and unsuitable materials.
7. Reconstruction of the wall using reclaimed bricks and flints.
8. Reinstatement of all disturbed areas.
9. Final inspection and quality checks.

2. Responsibilities

Contract Manager:

1. Overall management of the works.
2. Ensure compliance with approved drawings and specifications.
3. Ensure suitable traffic and pedestrian controls are in place.
4. Coordinate inspections.

Site Manager:

1. Daily supervision of operatives.
2. Deliver task briefings and toolbox talks.
3. Monitor compliance with RAMS.

Operatives:

1. Carry out work in accordance with this method statement and design team drawings and sequencing.
2. Use PPE correctly.
3. Report defects, hazards or unexpected structural issues.

3. Plant, Tools and Equipment

It is anticipated that the following items of plant, tools and equipment will be used to complete the works:

- Independent external scaffold or internal mobile access tower.
- Acrow props and Strong boys, as specified by the temporary works engineer.
- Brick bolsters and lump hammers.
- Disc cutters with dust suppression.
- Brick cleaning tools.
- Mortar mixer.
- Bricklaying tools.
- Waste skips.
- Road barriers and cones.

- Pedestrian barriers.

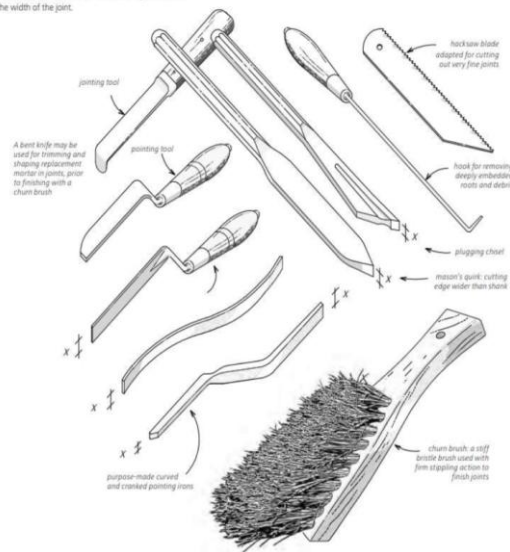
4. Materials

The list below outlines the materials that would likely be used within the construction of the rebuilt East elevation wall.

- The salvage and re-use of existing bricks and flint will be key to the success of the reconstruction of principally the east wall as well as remaining walls and their architectural features. It is proposed to undertake a Photographic Evidence Report (PER) under BS 5964-3:1996 Guidelines, which would accurately record each brick and flint stone for the main architectural details, and ensure correct replacement. For the remainder of the walls, these will be formed of the remaining salvaged and/or matched new brick - see below. Mortar to match existing colour and strength. (Mortar samples can be taken prior to demolition for analysis)
- Use of Lime: New wall construction should include lime within either the core reconstruction or at a minimum the pointing of the re-built wall. This is to ensure the brick face weathers accurately and authentically over time. For pointing in lime, the mix should be a 1:3 mix (NHL 3.5 : aggregate). The aggregate will be locally sourced sand but the exact sand choice will be determined by carrying out sample panels on site. Other traditional crushed aggregates, such as chalk, wood and coal ash may be added to provide a pleasing aesthetic finish to match other remaining elevations. The mortar should be sticky but not wet. A suitable mortar should stick to the underside of an inverted hawk (or trowel). An appropriate pointing tool should be chosen to suit the width of the joint, thus preventing spreading of mortar or staining on the masonry faces. The mortar should be firmly pressed into the depth of the joint with the pointing tool. In general, when mortar has stiffened up, it should be firmly compacted into the joints by beating with a stiff bristle brush. This will help eliminate any initial shrinkage cracking and ensure that the mortar is fully compacted into the joint with a good bond to the surrounding bricks. The surface should then be lightly scraped back with the edge of the pointing tool or similar, to provide a rough, open-textured surface which is ideal for carbonation and curing, and for maximum evaporation of moisture from the joints once fully cured. Overworking the surface of the mortar will result in surface laitance caused by lime particles being 'worked' to the surface, and forming an outer crust which may restrict carbonation of the mortar behind. This can also result in lime leaching if subjected to rainfall before the mortar has sufficiently cured. Sample panels of pointing should always be produced at an early stage, as these will serve to clarify final details of specification, define the standards of workmanship and finish, and provide control samples for guidance of the contract work. The hardened mortar should have a vapour-permeability similar to, or greater than, that of adjacent historic materials, and be visually compatible with surviving mortars and/or with the original appearance of the building.

See below image of traditional tools that would be used in conjunction with the above.

The correct tools are essential for good pointing. This diagram shows a range that would be suitable for most situations; the 'X' dimensions need to be just less than the width of the joint.



- Wall ties.
- Damp proof course materials.
- Insulation materials (where required as specified within design drawings).
- Temporary protection materials to assist with curing.

5. Personal Protective Equipment

All operatives will wear:

- Safety helmet.
- High visibility clothing.
- Safety footwear.
- Gloves.
- Safety glasses.
- Hearing protection during cutting operations.
- FFP3 dust mask when generating dust.

6. Traffic and Public Protection Measures

The wall is adjacent to a minor road, and a scaffold has already been erected for the removal of roof tiles, with appropriate permission from the Highway Authority, including all lighting and signage, and this includes Heras fencing at ground level.

Debris netting will need to be added to the scaffolding to prevent the risk of materials falling into the highway.

A banksman to be present during deliveries and waste removal.

7. Pre-Start Activities

Prior to commencement of work:

1. Structural assessment by MLDE to be completed.
2. Temporary works design by MLDE to be approved.

3. The existing wall will be photographed in detail.
4. Bricks will be numbered to the jambs and arched brick lintels on all openings, and any other features found in the wall, to enable the same bricks to be reinstalled in the reconstructed wall.
5. The location of all openings and architectural features will be recorded in a detailed survey of the wall, including the brick arch to the blocked doorway, and the locations of the flint banding in the wall.
6. The existing mortar has already been identified as natural hydraulic lime, and we will create samples with a variety of sand blends to match the existing mortar.
7. Workforce briefed on RAMS.
8. Emergency procedures communicated.

8. Method of Work

Phase 1 - Site Set-Up

1. The main site has already been set-up in accordance with the site layout plan for the works.
2. Install additional warning signage for the dismantling of the wall.
3. Install debris netting on the existing scaffolding.
4. Install additional boarding to the first lift of the scaffold.

Phase 2 - Temporary Structural Support

Where the wall is load bearing or supports other structural elements:

5. Temporary reinforcement shall be installed to the existing spine walls in accordance with the Temporary Works Engineer design.
6. Acrow props and Strongboys shall be fitted as specified by the Temporary Works engineer.
7. The support arrangement shall be inspected before demolition begins.
8. No demolition shall commence until supports have been checked and signed off.

Phase 3 - Controlled Demolition of Existing Wall

9. Remove the roof structure from the top of the wall, as specified by the Temporary Works Engineer, MDLE.
10. Demolition shall proceed manually from the top down.
11. Mechanical breaking shall be avoided wherever possible to maximise brick and flint recovery.
12. Bricks shall be removed individually and lowered safely.
13. Dust suppression shall be used during all cutting activities.
14. Debris shall be cleared regularly to prevent excessive loading.
15. Regular inspections shall be undertaken throughout demolition.

Salvage Operations: -

- i. Suitable bricks and flints shall be separated immediately, including bricks that have been numbered around apertures.
- ii. Bricks and flints shall be cleaned of mortar using hand tools.
- iii. Reclaimed bricks and flints shall be stacked on pallets.
- iv. Damaged or unsuitable bricks shall be discarded.
- v. Bricks shall be protected from contamination and excessive weather exposure.

Phase 4 - Preparation for Reconstruction

16. Remaining structure shall be checked for damage.
17. New foundations shall be installed, as designed by the Permanent Works Structural Engineer.
18. DPCs and cavity components shall be installed as specified by the architect.
19. Construction lines shall be established to ensure alignment with existing building.

Phase 5 - Reconstruction Using Reclaimed Bricks

20. Reclaimed bricks and flints shall be inspected prior to use.
21. Wall construction shall replicate the original wall including the following items, and with reference to the photographic and measured survey of the wall:
 - Brick bond pattern.
 - Flint banding.
 - Course heights.
 - Mortar joint profile.
 - Colour and appearance.
- 21.1 New matching bricks shall only be incorporated where sufficient reclaimed bricks are unavailable.
- 21.2 Mortar shall match the existing wall as closely as practicable.
- 21.3 Walls shall be constructed level, plumb and true.
- 21.4 Work shall comply with engineer's requirements and current Building Regulations.
- 21.5 Wall ties and cavity insulation shall be installed, as specified by the architect.

Phase 6 - Pointing and Finishing

22. Mortar joints shall be finished to match existing profiles.
23. Brickwork shall be cleaned as construction progresses.
24. Any staining shall be removed using approved cleaning methods.
25. Existing architectural details shall be replicated.
26. The completed wall shall blend with adjacent retained brickwork.

Phase 7 - Removal of Temporary Supports

27. Mortar curing period shall be observed, including allowances for high or low temperatures.
28. Temporary supports shall only be removed following approval from the Temporary and Structural Works Engineer and Site Manager.
29. Supports shall be removed progressively and in a controlled manner in accordance with Temporary works design/sequencing.
30. Final inspection shall be completed.

9. Quality Control

The following inspections shall be undertaken:

1. Existing brick bond and flint banding recorded before demolition.
2. Salvaged brick and flint quality assessed.
3. Mortar colour approved before commencement.
4. Wall alignment checked regularly.
5. Structural inspections completed.
6. Finished appearance compared with original photographs.

Acceptance criteria:

1. Wall structurally sound.
2. Appearance consistent with existing property.
3. No significant visual distinction between reclaimed and retained brickwork (In accordance with brick matching and against variety of brickworks currently present).
4. Works completed in accordance with drawings and specifications.

10. Environmental Controls

1. Dust suppression to be used throughout demolition.
2. Noise minimised by use of hand tools where practicable.
3. Reclaimed materials reused wherever possible.
4. Public highway kept clean and free from debris. (Regular inspections made to assess)
5. Mud and dust tracked onto the road shall be removed immediately.

11. Emergency Procedures

Structural Movement

1. Stop work immediately.
2. Evacuate area.
3. Secure public access.
4. Contact Structural Engineer.

Vehicle Impact

1. Stop work.
2. Make area safe.
3. Report to Site Manager.
4. Inspect structural integrity before resuming works.

Injury

1. Stop work.
2. Provide first aid.
3. Contact emergency services if required.
4. Record and report incident.

12. Completion

Upon completion:

1. All temporary works removed.
2. Wall inspected and approved.
3. Road and pavement cleaned.
4. Waste removed from site.
5. Photographic completion records produced.
6. Area handed back in a safe condition.