

Method statement for the restoration of the existing doorcase of No9 Great James Street, the reinstatement of Portland stone steps to the fronts of Nos 8 & 9, and the reinstatement of a plinth and railing between the entrances to the properties.

The existing plinths rise approximately 4" above the tiled surface of the steps, and this is a reasonably consistent dimension in the street as a whole, though it is clear that a number of plinths have been made-good in concrete, and some have been made deeper to catch the feet of railings which have rusted away.

The proposed new surface of the steps will be made of Portland stone slabs, with a depth of 2".

It will be necessary, therefore to lower the present surface by 2 ½", thereby allowing ½" for bedding the new stone slabs.

In the first instance we will undertake a pilot reduction of c.1ftsq in order to determine whether any historic material is present. The pilot excavation would take place on the No9 side, and include part of the area in which the new central plinth will be located, in order to see if any evidence of the earlier steps and plinth survive.



The tape measure represents the No8 side of the new plinth

If no evidence of particular historic material is found we would proceed to lower the whole step area by 2 ½", and the boot-scrapers would be removed, temporarily. Both No8 and 9 have occupied space below these steps, which is prone to ingress of water through existing steps and their tiled surfaces. Whilst this area is uncovered we would take opportunity to introduce a liquid/bitumen DPC.

The new railing plinth would then be set in place, being bedded on lime mortar and bolted through several holes into the remaining substructure to ensure stability.

The new Portland stone surfaces would then be laid, symmetrically for each building, and the boot-scrapers would be reinstated in their earlier positions.

The new railing would then be put in place, with the inner end fastened to the masonry. Any necessary cutting into the existing material in this area would be made good. The feet of the railings would be set into the plinth and lead poured into the holes to both seal and fasten.

As it is possible that the steps of No8 may not be restored immediately, we would restore the existing tiled surfaces, though it should be noted that the risers are concrete.

Tiles on the No9 steps and in the area of the railing would be lifted and cleaned ready for re-use.

The level of the No9 steps and railing area would then be lowered by a further 2".

The area would be damp-proofed, as above, and the new plinth installed, as above.

The existing tiled surface of the No8 steps would then be cut back 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ " in order for the border to be introduced. This would allow 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " for the small yellow, black and red composition and 4" for the large red tiles which run along the extremities presently.



The yellow, black and red detail



4" wide edge tiles

The remaining gap (perhaps $\frac{1}{4}$ ") would be pointed in lime mortar.