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Environment Department  
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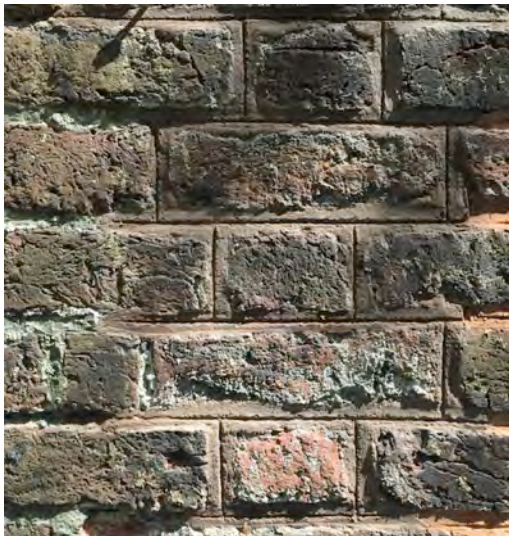
Dear Sir/ Madam,

## 4 THE GROVE, LONDON N6 6JU

### Internal and external alterations and structural repairs **Pointing sample**

Pointing samples have now been prepared at 4 The Grove, as approved under listed building consent 2015/6817/L, and are herein submitted as part of current listed building consent 2016/1393L.

With reference to the photographs below and Paye documents, pointing mix sample no. 4, below, is proposed for approval.



*Pointing sample 4*

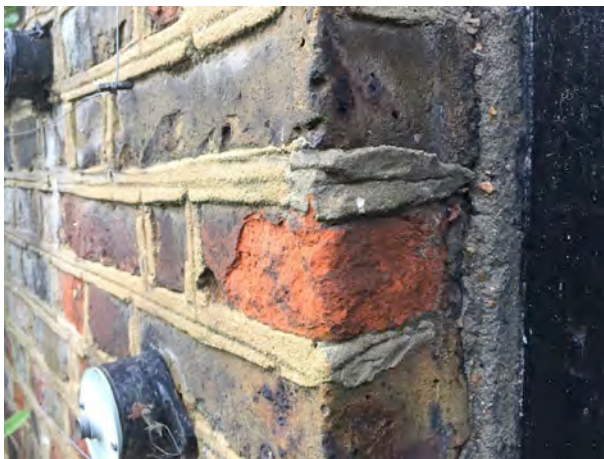
Sample 1 was carried out beyond the front chimney stack to the flank elevation as previously approved. The existing sand and cement 'penny struck' pointing was removed with the use of a fine angle grinder to bed joints only, and a tungsten tipped chisel. The process of removal in some cases removed loose material from the brick face, but generally of a thickness of only 1-2mm and so did very little damage to the brick arrises. However, the removal of the pointing revealed that previous rounds of heavy-handed raking out had in fact caused damage, which was then concealed by the inappropriately wide pointing that we see today. The

historic loss of arrises means that, even if the replacement lime mix mortar is recessed from the faces, the joints appear overly wide, resulting in too high a proportion of mortar to brick. This undesirable affect is exacerbated by the contrasting colour of the natural lime mix against the dark sooted or rich red bricks.



*Pointing sample 1*

Despite the disappointing visual results the use of a lime mix is of great benefit to the health of the softer bricks, which are degrading in a number of locations due to the impervious nature of the existing cement mix. And the removal of the existing pointing causes minimal loss of material.



*Degrading brick at 4 The Grove*

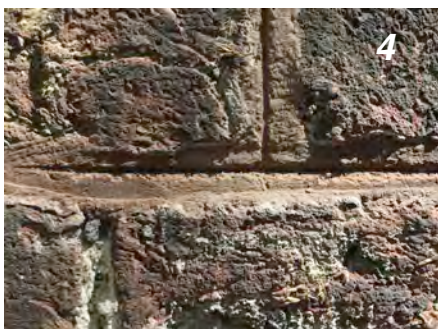
There is some evidence of historic tuck pointing to the front elevation which will probably date from the mid to late C18, see below left.



*Example of tuck pointing*

This pointing technique, above right, was developed to disguise the irregularities in hand made bricks, and to replicate much more expensive gauged brickwork. A 'stopping' mortar with a small particle size is carefully coloured to match a subtly colour-washed brick and set flush with the face of the wall, after which a very precise, narrow and contrasting pointing is set into narrow grooves, sometimes quite unrelated to the uneven coursing of the brickwork. But such a technique is not historically appropriate to C17 brickwork.

A similar technique is prepared in samples 2a, 3 and 4, involving different coloured mortars to conceal the historic loss of arrises, and 'jointed', (also known as 'penny struck' or penny round) whereby a groove is pressed into the fresh mortar to introduce a more precise and high quality joint. Sample 4 achieves the most successful match. However these samples were prepared to a section of garden wall which is of more consistently aged and dirty appearance. In order to even out the greater variety of colour to the brickwork with the walls to the house, it is proposed to apply out a subtle 'dirt wash', using the earth from the garden.



The proposed technique will provide the following benefits:

- Improve health and longevity of the bricks;
- Reduce risk of retained dampness to brickwork and subsequent rot damage to structural timbers;
- Restore the brickwork to a more historically authentic appearance and so improve the aspect of other elements of the house;
- Reduce the contrast in appearance between no.s 3 and 4 The Grove, and so improve the understanding of the houses as a semi-detached pair.

Please let me know if you would like to visit the house to inspect the samples discussed.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Shell', with a stylized, cursive script.

Lisa Shell  
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