

METHOD STATEMENTS

PLASTER REPAIRS

All metal elements associated with previous museum shelving to be carefully removed. Carefully remove modern plaster infill finishes.

Ensure existing laths are trimmed back and fixed to end on a timber stud.

Fix new timber replacement laths spaced approximately 6-8mm apart to allow enough space for the haired plaster to be pushed up between them, and to form good nibs or keys. Laths to be fixed parallel to one another by nailing them to every stud that they cross. Replacement laths to be trimmed to length so that they end on a stud. A gap of 3mm to be allowed between butt ends of laths. Joints in laths to be staggered every 12th lath. Where laths pass over joists, beams, posts or studs wider than 75mm, counter lathing should be used to form a space behind the laths to accommodate plaster nibs. All new metal fixings to be non-ferrous or stainless steel.

A new 3 coat non-hydraulic lime plaster finish to be applied consisting of:

- 1) Pricking up coat- 1 part mature lime putty, 2.5 parts well-graded sand, 5kg hair per m³ of coarse stuff.
- 2) Floating coat- 1 part mature lime putty, 2.5 parts well-graded sand, 3-5kg hair per m³ of coarse stuff.
- 3) Setting coat plaster- 1 part mature lime putty, 1 part fine sand.

New lime plaster finish to finish flush with existing adjacent plasterwork.

Repair all intrusive investigations in walls with lime plaster as above.

DECORATIVE PLASTERWORK

Surfaces to be dusted down and any loose debris removed. New thin paint coating to be applied using water soluble soft destemper or water thinned alkyd resin paints to ensure decorative detail is not lost. Water thinned contract grade emulsion may be acceptable. Suggested trial area for inspection. Applies to full extent of cornices in principal spaces at ground and first floor levels.

Where small areas of decorative cornice have been identified as damaged, a cast detail is to be undertaken using traditional techniques and materials compatible with the historic fabric.

RENEWAL OF RUN MOULDINGS

To be carried out in stages using a zinc template cut to match the profile of the original moulding. The template is fitted with a series of muffles that reduce the profile so that the plaster or render can be built up in layers. The base coat (approximately 10-12mm thick) is applied to the support and the muffled running mould run along the moulding. Keying, curing and application of the next coat are carried out in the same way as for flat work. The final coat is applied (typically up to 3mm thick) and moulded using the unmuffled running mould, and mitres are finished by hand using steel rules and small tools. (with reference to 'English Heritage: Practical Building Conservation-Mortars renders and plasters')

CHIMNEYS / FIREPLACES

Existing chimney flues to be swept and new ventilated terracotta caps to be fitted to all existing chimney pots.

A flue balloon is to be installed at the base of the flues that are not being used.

Take care not to block the base of the flue entirely.

'A balloon and cap is the simplest solution. However, some warm air will continue to be lost up the flue and draughts and wind noise will not be completely eliminated.' (ref: Historic England: Energy Efficiency and Historic Buildings-Open fires, chimneys and Flues)

Existing fireplaces are in a good condition. Care is to be taken to protect them whilst works are carried out in close proximity.

Remove any loose dirt and debris using a dry dust mop or clean towel. Use plain water or neutral cleaner and let sit on surface for several minutes to dissolve dirt. Rinse surfaces thoroughly with clean water, or use a wet vacuum or squeegee to remove the dirty water. When dry, buff with non abrasive machine or clean towels to restore shine.