



## The Grand Clitheroe, Lancashire

The Grand at Clitheroe is a Grade II listed natural stone masonry building, that was originally built as the Civil Hall in 1874. Today the building is privately owned and is in the process of being converted to a live music venue. There will be an integral recording studio and a cyber-café as part of the development.

Specialist UK Restorations (SUKR) were asked to carry out a detailed Condition Survey of the external stone fabric of the building, including laboratory analysis of the existing in-situ joint and bedding mortar material. It was found that the hard, dense cement-rich mortar was actually accelerating the deterioration of the surrounding stonework, through winter exfoliation of the stone, resulting in a substandard external appearance of the building.

The hard, dense OPC mortar had restricted the natural movement

of the stone structure, imparting unnecessary stress. Its high shrinkage had led to cracks, allowing increased water ingress. The high density had also reduced the vapour permeability, which therefore increased the stone moisture content, leading to exfoliation from freeze thaw damage in the winter months.

Following these survey results and in detailed consultation with the owners and the local authorities, SUKR produced complete remedial and conservation specifications and working procedures. SUKR were then instructed to carry out these works. They included removal of the damaged areas, raking out and removing the incompatible jointing material, followed by full restoration and repointing with lime based mortar. Excessively damaged stone was removed and new stone sourced and inserted using traditional techniques.

### Project Summary

**Problem:** Previous cement rich pointing of stone masonry

**Requirement:** Replacement pointing and stone restoration

**Solution:** Raking out and pointing with lime mortar, and stone restoration

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### Project Details:

**Client:**  
Trinity Community Partnership  
and Lancaster Foundation

**Materials Supplier:**  
NCC Limited (Chorley Depot)

**Materials Manufacturer:**  
St Astier Limited and  
Remmers (UK) Limited

*For professional support on your project contact:*

Specialist **UK** Restorations

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Stone Restoration and Conservation



External Wall Insulation



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**Specialist UK Restorations Ltd**

Hanover House

Hanover Street

Liverpool

L1 3DZ