



Realstone

The Complete Natural Stone Service

Buxton Hotel
Site visit 28th May 2015
John Coop

Initial inspection revealed that the building was demonstrating signs of major movement and is in a poor state of repair.

We were asked to give our opinion on the possibility of reusing the existing stone following demolition.

There are two major types of stone products in the building.

- Dressed smooth faced window and door surrounds

Assuming that care was taken on demolition then the window and door surrounds would be carefully removed, stored on pallets and taken off site to a yard where they could be assessed and cleaned of mortar etc. Existing fixings would need to be removed and this would require assessment once the first stones were removed as it is not possible to see fixings at this time. These would, in the main, be reusable if their integrity was intact and the design of the new building was able to incorporate these stones. The design would need to take account of the length and height of the stones. If the bed width proves to be oversized it can be cut down to accommodate the cavity etc.

- Pitch faced Wallstones

Again assuming relative care in demolition then a large proportion of these walling stones should be able to be reused. Firstly the stone would be carefully removed and taken off site to a yard where they could be assessed and inspected for cracks and damage. They will need mortar cleaning in much the same way reclaimed bricks are cleaned with a bolster and hammer. Chemical cleaning should be kept to a minimum and only used with the advice of a specialist cleaning firm. In the case of natural stone there will inevitably be a proportion of the stones that do not survive the demolition process. Experience dictates this would be in the region of 20% but every building is different and this figure may well increase.

It was noted that there was a small extension to the rear of the building and this was a medium buff sandstone similar to (if not the same as) Peakmoor Sandstone. This stone is still available. We would not consider it sensible to mix old and new stone so once all usable stone has been assessed particular elevations could be built in the reclaimed stone with other side and rear in new if there is insufficient of the reclaimed material.

Consideration given to sourcing reclaimed stone from the area from other buildings.

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