

Method Statement: Internal Plastering and External Render Repairs – Park Farm

Project Element: Internal Plastering and External Render Repairs

Location: Park Farm, Henfield

Prepared for: Listed Building Consent Application

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1. Objective

To repair and reinstate internal plasterwork and external render using breathable lime-based materials and traditional techniques, ensuring compatibility with the historic structure and full compliance with conservation standards.

2. Preliminary Works

- A detailed photographic record will be made of all areas of existing plaster and render to be removed.
- Condition assessments will be completed prior to commencement.
- All works will be completed by operatives experienced in heritage plastering and rendering.
- Materials and methods will be agreed with the Conservation Officer where required.
- Appropriate protection will be installed to adjacent finishes and fabric before beginning removal works.

3. Internal Masonry Walls

- Carefully remove existing internal plaster from masonry walls.
- Clean masonry substrate using hand tools and soft brushing only – avoiding abrasive or chemical cleaning where possible.
- Apply three-coat lime plaster system: haired lime base coat, unhaired lime mid coat, and lime putty finish coat.
- Allow appropriate curing time between coats with misting to prevent shrinkage.
- Maintain ventilation and humidity control as needed to assist with curing.

4. Internal Timber Partitions

- Remove old plaster, plasterboards, laths, and nails from timber partitions.
- De-nail and clean timber framework without damaging historic timbers.
- Install new plasterboard sheeting where applicable, fixed without adhesives to allow breathability. Woodwool boards to be used where appropriate.
- Apply lime putty skim coat to plasterboard to match internal finishes and maintain continuity.
- Fixings and finishes to be recessed and finished flush with surrounding surfaces.

5. External Render to Infill Panels

- Remove existing failing or inappropriate render finishes from infill panels between oak framing.
- Clean substrates using non-abrasive techniques.
- Apply two-coat lime render using St. Astier Ecomortar: base coat followed by a finishing coat.
- Traditional hand-rolled and sponge finish techniques will be used to match existing appearance.
- Care will be taken not to obscure or damage the surrounding oak framing.
- Joints between render and timber will be finished neatly to accommodate movement and avoid cracking.

6. Finishing and Making Good

- Ensure all finishes are smooth, consistent, and sympathetic to the existing building.
- All newly applied plaster and render will be protected during curing.
- Excess materials, waste, and protective coverings will be removed after completion.
- Site to be left clean and tidy.

7. Conservation Notes

- All mortars and finishes will be lime-based (NHL or hot lime and lime putty), never cement-based, to ensure vapour permeability and prevent long-term damage to the historic fabric.
- The existing character, depth, and finish of plaster and render will be preserved and replicated wherever possible.

- Lath and plaster detailing and finishes will be reinstated in a manner that respects traditional craft techniques.
- Any change in existing build-up, substrate condition, or detail discovered during works will be reported to the Conservation Officer for further instruction.
- New work will be distinguishable but harmonious with the surrounding original fabric.

8. Waste Management

- All removed materials will be carefully handled and disposed of through licensed waste carriers.
- Where possible, original materials (such as laths or lime debris) will be retained for reference or re-use.
- Waste will be kept to a minimum and segregated appropriately.