



ARCHITECTURAL
STONEMASONRY

STAMFORD
STONE CO. 





Architecture should speak of
its time and place, but yearn
for timelessness.

FRANK GEHRY

INTRODUCTION

Natural stone has been an intrinsic part of building history for thousands of years. While man-made materials have risen in popularity over recent generations, no other material offers as many benefits as natural stone. With high thermal capacitance, durability, sustainability, green attributes supporting LEED, and great design flexibility, it's easy to see why natural stone is enjoying a renaissance with builders, architects and specifiers.

Stone has been our family's passion since 1997. As stone specialists, we are committed to supplying the finest quality limestone to suit your design, brief and budget.

PROVENANCE, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

We're proud of the way we operate. We don't just supply limestone, we own the quarries too, and we're dedicated to environmentally friendly policies and sustainable development.

- 95% of our block stone never travels more than 20 miles to our production site
- We harvest and recycle rainwater
- We reduce waste by reusing our by-products as aggregate and agricultural lime
- We have full replanting and re-landscaping plans for our quarries

As owners and operators of the Clipsham Medwells and Clipsham Bidwells quarries, we are the exclusive global supplier of Clipsham limestone. With reserves of over 1,800 acres and our sustainable quarrying practices, we can guarantee supplies of this beautiful natural material for over 900 years. This allows us to protect our heritage while ensuring quality, provenance and consistency for every customer.



OUR PRODUCTION FACILITIES

Quarrying raw material and preparing it for commercial use takes skill.

Blending innovation with traditional craftsmanship, we have invested in some of the most advanced stone cutting technology on the market. Our CNC machine interprets design data and cuts stone automatically, resulting in better efficiency, greater productivity and less waste.

To boost our flooring range, we have installed a fully automated Donatoni tile line. Combined with our Lincolnshire quarries, this means that we have capacity to produce approximately 1,000 m² of limestone tiles per week.

Every year, we:

- Quarry 40,000 tonnes of premium-grade masonry block from our Clipsham quarries
- Excavate 145,000 tonnes of block stone for walling, flooring and aggregate
- Produce up to 40,000 m² of walling stone and 26,000 m² of flooring stone at Swaddywell

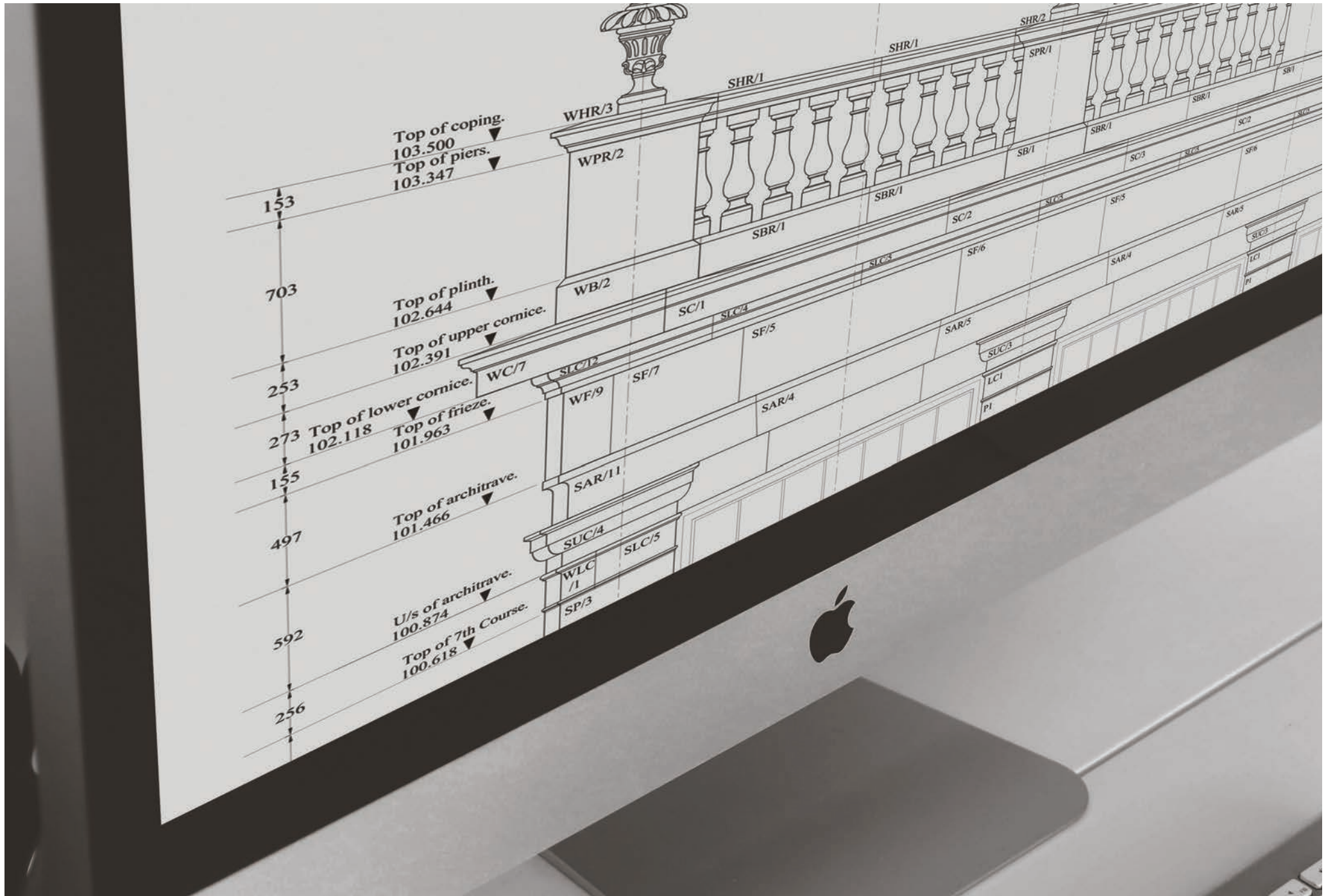
STONE DETAILING & CAD DESIGN

Our team is highly experienced at working closely with architects to ensure that every concept is realised as a successful building, allowing it to be constructed with minimal problems while remaining as faithful as possible to the original design. This applies to any project, whether residential or commercial, from a single window to high-end prestige developments. We are even able to design stone stairs, with single or multiple flights, to fit into a variety of stairwell outlines.

You're in safe hands with Stamford Stone. We can advise on the jointing layout and any structural or secondary steel requirements, as well as more aesthetic considerations involved in facades, such as mouldings. Whatever the size of the project, we provide a range of drawings as required, producing everything from basic hand-drawn sketches to fully detailed construction drawings showing all dimensions, stone joints, datums, stone numbers and fixing details.

Our approach is guided by cost factors, aiming to deliver the maximum possible impact while reducing or keeping down costs where feasible.

Stone is an extremely versatile material and can be shaped or fixed to suit most design briefs. Our practical understanding of its capabilities enables us to act as an interface between your vision and the final build. We can support you as much or as little as you need, whether that's providing a consultancy service, drawing up designs, or fixing the stone on site.

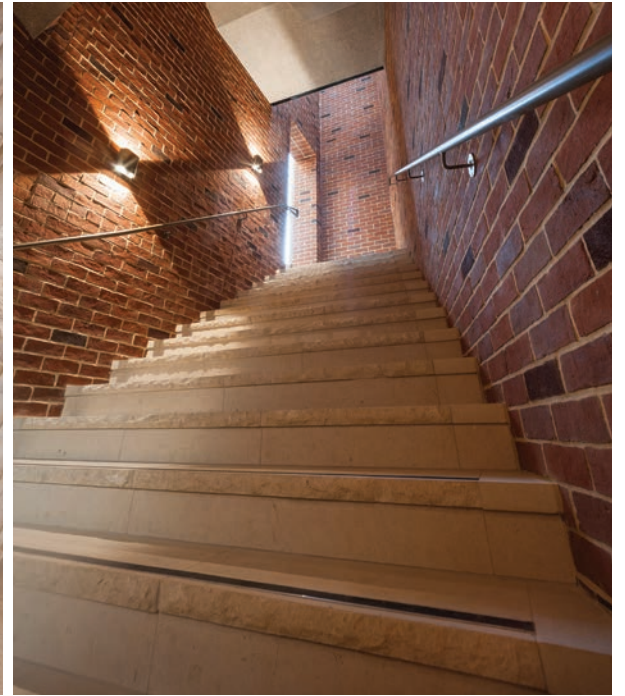
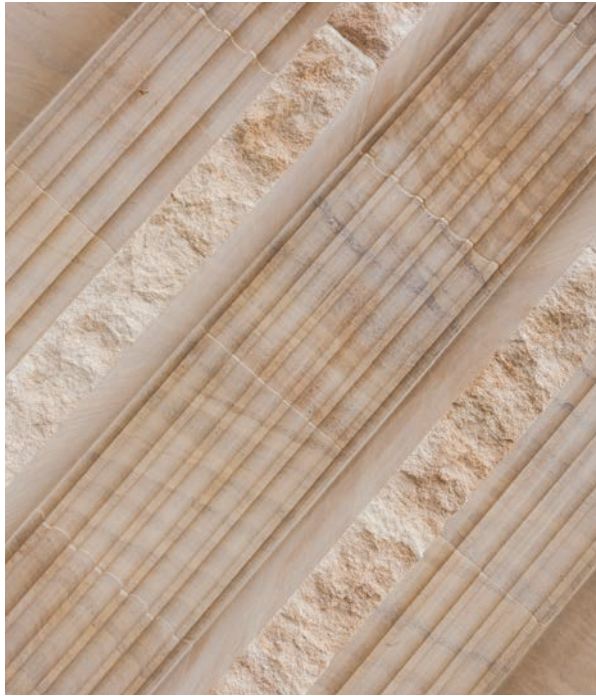


CASE STUDIES

Our Clipsham limestone has been specified for prestigious new-build and restoration projects throughout the UK, including King's College Chapel, Trinity College and Jesus College in Cambridge, Worcester College, St John's College and Magdalen College in Oxford, and renovations to the Palace of Westminster, York Minster and Windsor Castle.

It's always interesting to see how our stone has been used for different projects. Our case studies include contributions from an architect, an expert in heritage restorations, two housebuilders and two self-builders with ambitious design projects, as well as a perspective from a specialist stone contractor.





ARCHITECT: Niall McLaughlin
CONTRACTOR: Cocksedge
LOCATION: Jesus College, Cambridge
TYPE: Refurbishment and extension of
Grade II listed building

ARCHITECT

Do you think the increase in the importance of sustainability and the renaissance in building with natural stone are linked?

In our office there has always been an interest in using high-quality, sustainable, natural materials such as stone. Traditional materials that have stood the test of time are less likely to go in and out of fashion and so these give our architecture a timeless quality. With stone, we appreciate the whole-life cost benefits – it is robust, long lasting, requires minimal ongoing maintenance and ages gracefully. Building with stone involves traditional detailing and craftsmanship, and so stone buildings

are generally well built and built to last. In this way, we consider natural stone as a key contributor to sustainable building and this is enhanced by sourcing stone that is local to any project's site.

How important is longevity of supply in specifying stone?

When working with stone, we recognise and even celebrate that it is a natural material. There will be variations from piece to piece and this makes it special. We specify stone to last and detail the building accordingly with an aim to minimise the need for stone to be replaced in the future. To this end, the longevity of supply is not a key consideration for us.

Does the flexibility of design in stone excite architectural practice?

For centuries, stone has been used on a wide range of building types, from heavy, solid monolithic structures to light, delicate forms. History has proven its flexibility as a construction material. We aim to design exceptional buildings and have not found stone to be a constraint on realising the architectural vision. When proposing stone, we have in mind the limitations that it might present but, in combination with more modern construction technologies, it has always been possible to push the boundaries architecturally. It is an exciting material to work with.

CONTRACTOR: Szerelmey Conservation
LOCATION: Grove Building,
Magdalen College, Oxford
TYPE: Heritage restoration

EXPERT IN HERITAGE RESTORATIONS

What do you think is the importance of English stone to the heritage market?

The impact of natural stone on our culture and heritage is hugely important in defining the distinctive character and 'sense of place' that distinguishes different parts of the UK from one another. To the national heritage built environment, continued supply is essential for conserving our most important secular, ecclesiastical and industrial buildings for public benefit. We also need to provide future generations with an enviable number of well-maintained and conserved heritage properties to visit and become better educated on the value of our stone-built heritage so that they renew their own interest in using natural stone on future building projects. Finally, we must ensure future availability of locally sourced stone with the correct geology, genealogy, performance and appearance required for maintaining our heritage buildings.

What are the advantages of using natural stone in heritage restorations?

Sourced locally and from a known or reliable supplier, natural stone provides a high-quality product with a proven track record and versatility. Natural stone is a material that meets the demands of listed building and monument consent for appearance, weathering properties, durability and locally recognised distinctiveness, and is one that offers a lower impact on the environment than modern man-made alternatives.

Why did you choose Stamford Stone to supply the stone for the restoration of Magdalen College?

The Ketton stone used previously proved to be less readily available as a dimensional stone. When approached to help find a viable alternative, the team at Stamford Stone proved enthusiastic and capable on all fronts. The result was an order placed

for ashlar and Clipsham Brown copings from Medwells Quarry, which met the demands of this most exacting client.

The project ran to a very strict time frame. Were there any benefits or disadvantages to using Stamford Stone?

With the scale of the quarry's supply, in-house sawing and banker masonry, continuity of a quality supply and the capability to accommodate stringent BRE material testing in production, Stamford Stone met all the demands that were asked of them. You can't ask for more than that!





CONSERVATION NEW BUILD

Surrounded by 25 acres of grounds with a lake, Rushton Hall is one of the finest hotels in Northamptonshire.

With buildings dating from the 16th century, the decision to extend the facilities at Rushton Hall with a beautiful orangery wasn't taken lightly. It took just over a decade to be approved after going through several planning processes, including getting the green light from Historic England.

Maintaining the style of existing buildings was especially important for this project. It was vital to preserve the aesthetic appeal of the stunning architecture, and so we offered a number of limestones to Historic England and the client, who eventually decided on our beautiful Clipsham limestone.

As well as supplying the stone, we also supported the project by providing detailed technical drawings and putting together a fixing team at the client's request.

With five stages of construction, this was a complex yet rewarding project that required a great deal of teamwork and collaboration – and perhaps a little patience! We worked closely with the team on site, making regular visits and co-ordinating the programme of works and deliveries using our own fleet of vehicles.

All bespoke stonework was quarried at our Clipsham quarry, manufactured at our stone processing centre at Helpston, and crafted by a team of master stonemasons facilitated by our state-of-the art 6-axis Marchetti CNC machine. We also went on to supply stone flooring, tiles and landscaping products for the orangery.

Tom Gilbert, Head of Sales & Marketing at Rushton Hall, was enthusiastic about the new addition:

“We are already very proud of what Rushton Hall has to offer our guests but the purpose-built Orangery with its latest audiovisual system and high-speed WiFi means it is ideal for 21st century events. With the input from Historic England, The Orangery will keep the feel and grandeur of the original 15th century hall.”

PROJECT SUMMARY

CONTRACTOR: Szerelmey

LOCATION: Nazrin Shah Building,

Worcester College, Oxford

TYPE: Auditorium and Conference Centre

SPECIALIST STONE CONTRACTOR

How did you first come across Stamford Stone?

I first met Stamford Stone in August 2014 after working on a project requiring Clipsham stone. I found out that they had just finalised planning for extending their quarry and knew that they had excellent-quality stone. I was able to visit the quarry first hand and was impressed by their professional approach and their commitment to investment. I have since recommended using Clipsham limestone in at least four major projects.

Why do you enjoy working with Stamford Stone?

Stamford Stone is a very professional and organised company. They have invested well with the correct equipment to both quarry and produce high-quality finished stone.

What do you think is the importance of English stone to the UK construction market?

UK stone is vitally important for our country. We need to have the skills to produce it and to ensure that it continues

to be used in the heritage market for maintaining and conserving our buildings, as the majority of our heritage stock is made from UK stone. In new construction, our UK stone enhances the area it is built in and can effectively match up with where existing stone has been used. UK stone is durable, can withstand our Great British weather when used correctly, and makes economic sense as well as helping our carbon footprint compared with foreign imports.





SELF-BUILDER

Did the local planners make you use natural stone for your project?

No, they didn't. Originally my house was going to be built in reconstituted material (concrete made to look like natural stone) but after doing a little homework, we realised reconstituted material wasn't the right product for us.

We looked locally at houses built 5 – 10 years ago and it became obvious which were not natural stone. By comparison, the reconstituted builds looked lifeless and dreary, on occasion showing aggregate as the material wore. In contrast, the homes built in natural stone seemed to weather much better, blending with their surroundings. After we decided on natural stone, our architects pointed us in the direction of Stamford Stone, with whom they'd previously worked.

Your property has many detailed features. Was this part of your vision?

We knew from the start that we wanted nice door surrounds and a feature balcony but we leaned on the technical team at Stamford Stone to come up with designs that we were happy with. We had originally thought about having a large free-standing stone portico. The team came up with a more elegant version, totally in keeping with our property. We were delighted with their approach.

Were there any cost or lead time implications with using natural stone?

There was a small cost difference for the building stone, which was more expensive than the concrete product, but this was definitely not a factor once we had witnessed the visual difference between the two products after a period of time.

I don't really know how the more detailed features, such as the door and window surrounds, would have compared with the reconstituted product as it was not like-for-like.

One thing we noted when visiting Stamford Stone was the large amount of stock that they kept, which meant there were no delays to starting the work as soon as we had planning permission approved. This was a big bonus for us.

We are very pleased with our investment in natural stone and wouldn't hesitate to recommend it as a building material, and Stamford Stone as a supplier.

SELF-BUILDER

What was your design concept?

My goal was to create an Edwardian house with the highest environmental standards – a period eco-house. The starting point was the house that existed on the site. It was built in 1907 and consequently had significant heat loss issues. The best way to address this was to insulate the brick fabric of the existing building externally and render over. This also meant that we could seamlessly integrate it with the new-build, which doubled the size of the original house. I have long been an admirer of the Arts and Crafts architect C.F.A. Voysey, who practised in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and is regarded as a ‘pioneer of Modernism’. Emulating his design cues allowed us to build a house that was both environmentally sustainable and also true to the era of its original construction.

Why did you choose natural stone?

Voysey used rough-cast render with stone window and door surrounds and metal

windows on the majority of the country houses he designed. At first we didn’t think we could afford to use natural stone and so reluctantly specified cast stone.

I found Stamford Stone completely by chance. I discussed the design and showed the cast stone samples to an old friend who happens to have a weekend home in Stamford. He told me about Stamford Stone and I found to my surprise that the cost was comparable to the quotes I had for cast stone. I found the stone itself to be incomparably better than any cast stone alternative.

Most important for me was the way Stamford Stone guided me through the design process. Modern building regulations require that window and door surrounds are thermally broken to prevent thermal bridging. There has to be insulation separating the external stone from the internal stone. We managed to achieve

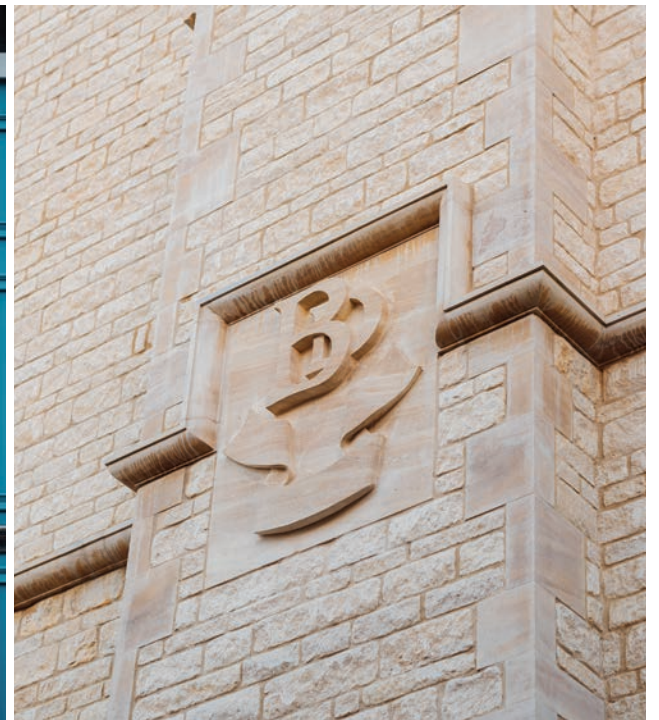
this by replicating the external stone on the inside and covering the insulation with the metal window frames. Nobody would realise that the stone isn’t continuous from outside to inside. You can imagine that this required very careful design and very accurate stone masonry. We have over 100 window casements and each casement uses 10 individual pieces of stone.

We’re very happy with the result and have received many compliments.

Any advice to self-builders looking to build with natural stone?

My advice to self-builders is to be prepared for a long haul – it will take longer than you think! The best way to mitigate this is by careful scheduling. Lead times for window frames in particular are very long. The sooner the openings are created so that the exact sizes of the windows are known, the quicker the building will be weather tight.





CLIENT: Burghley Developments
LOCATION: Marshall's Yard, Stamford
TYPE: 4 and 5 bedroom luxury townhouses

DEVELOPER

When the town you're building in is renowned for its stone, using this wonderful material for new properties makes perfect sense.

Created by local housebuilders Burghley Developments, Marshall's Yard is an exclusive development comprising just eight 4 and 5 bedroom luxury townhouses with double garages, and a private courtyard offering additional off-road parking.

We were delighted to design all the stonework, porticos and chimney stacks to blend in with existing Georgian architecture and reflect the heritage and character of the beautiful town of Stamford.

Formerly a car garage with different semi-industrial buildings, all reusable materials were salvaged from the development site, including local Collyweston limestone roof slates. We also supplied Clipsham walling stone, which mixed in beautifully with reclaimed walling and slate from the original site.

Stone continues to find favour with housebuilders across the UK, not simply in historic locations like Stamford. We've enjoyed working closely with Taylor Wimpey, Linden Homes, Persimmon, McCarthy & Stone, Hereward Homes, Francis Jackson, Taylor Woodrow and Kier to bring the next generation of stone homes to communities everywhere.

PROJECT SUMMARY

CONTRACTOR: Taylor Wimpey
LOCATION: Exeter Fields, Stamford,
Lincolnshire
TYPE: 2, 3, 4 and 5 bedroom homes

HOUSEBUILDER

Why are major housebuilders now choosing natural stone in place of reconstituted stone products?

This is mainly due to the area of build and planning approval. As sustainability has become so important, there's a drive from planning authorities to encourage and push the use of natural stone. It improves with age and is often viewed as offering a higher-quality, more long-term option than reconstituted stone, which can fade and show aggregate with age. For a bespoke project, natural stone can offer more flexibility than the standard measurement option of reconstituted stone, which is a fixed size. Although it is

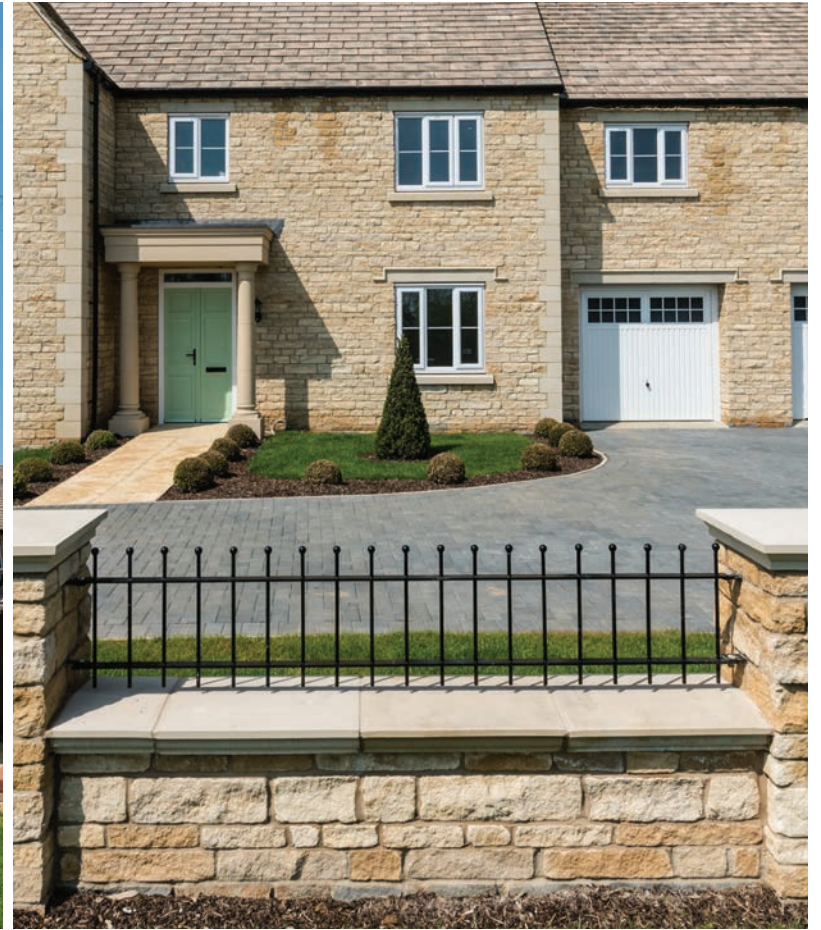
more expensive to build a property out of natural stone than brick or render, the subtle tones and colour variations result in a wonderful appearance that sits beautifully with the existing landscape.

What do you think is the importance of natural stone to the UK housebuilding market?

Using natural stone is important for maintaining consistency and keeping in line with surrounding areas, particularly as local planning authorities like new developments in more rural areas to harmonise with the countryside. Natural stone is both durable and weather resistant, making it a sensible choice for external walls.

How important is it to national housebuilders to use local firms?

At Taylor Wimpey, it is very important to us to use companies close to our region for environmental reasons. This helps with transport costs and also positively affects the carbon footprint of our company. Building relationships, as well as houses, also matters to us. We enjoy working with Stamford Stone because they are very friendly, reliable and we can always speak to someone when we need them.







With thanks to Tom McGlynn of Niall McLaughlin Architects, Mr Lancaster, Mr Thomas, Vikki Martin from Taylor Wimpey, Rushton Hall, Linden Homes, Meister Masonry, Andrew Bonner, Szerelmey Conservation and Bernard Burns, Szerelmey Ltd.

DISCOVER THE POSSIBILITIES OF NATURAL STONE

Contact us on 01780 740970 - sales@stamfordstone.co.uk - www.stamfordstone.co.uk

Visit Swaddywell Quarry, Stamford Road, Helpston, PE6 7EL