

NATURAL STONE SURFACING - GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE - 2nd Edition – December 2004

FOREWORD

The use of natural stone materials in high quality streetscapes has made a major contribution to the current move to regenerate our town and city centres. Natural materials have a quality and longevity that greatly enhances the attractiveness and aesthetic appeal of these centres which in turn can lead to greater economic activity.

The use of natural stone in pavements has not been without problems and many of the pavements have not performed as expected, resulting in a loss of confidence in the use of stone. Recognising this problem the Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS) in conjunction with the Scottish Enterprise Network and the Scottish Executive promoted a programme to study, research, evaluate and understand the issues inherent in the use of natural stone in pavements. The First Edition of this document was one outcome of that programme and gave guidance to practitioners working in this field.

The studies drew together UK and European knowledge of the various issues and new research was carried out. This led to the development of a better understanding of the fundamental issues controlling how natural stone pavements resist traffic loading coupled with the need for good workmanship and aftercare. Natural stone pavements depend on good workmanship and the finished product is highly dependent upon the skill and experience of the labour force. Because natural stone pavements had been out of favour in the UK for more than 70 years we had lost the necessary skills and experience which now need to be re-acquired. It is therefore essential that clients demonstrate to industry that they are serious about natural stone and that it is not merely the latest fashion. This should give industry the stimulus to train their workforce.

Concurrently with the research programme a British Standard BS 7533 – Pavements constructed with Clay, Natural Stone and Concrete Pavers was being drafted, with specific parts related to the use of natural stone materials. The First Edition of this guide published in October 2000 generated a broad discussion during the drafting of BS 7533. In particular the design approaches, guidance on product selection and construction techniques that have now been refined and revised in this Second Edition of the Guide. It is intended to be read in conjunction with BS 7533 to assist in ensuring the integrity of natural stone streetscapes and to encourage their ongoing use

Following on from publication of the First Edition it was realised that there now needs to be a greater emphasis on maintenance and aftercare of natural stone streetscapes and so SCOTS, in conjunction with the Scottish Enterprise Network and the Scottish Executive commissioned further research into a selection of completed natural stone streetscapes to evaluate their technical, economic and aesthetic performance. The resulting reports; 1) A Technical Evaluation of Natural Stone Streetscape Schemes in Scotland, 2) Whole Life Costing for Natural Stone Streetscape Works and 3) Street Cleansing Practice in Natural Stone Streetscape Areas in Scotland can be downloaded from the SCOTS web site along with a selection of Frequently Asked Questions.

This Second Edition will primarily be available as an e-document posted on the SCOTS web page. This will allow easy access to any further updates resulting from future research, testing and debate.

The web page can be found at www.scotsnet.org.uk/nss. Go to the home page and then click on “publications” and the click on the button for the guide to open the document. The document can be downloaded from there.

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