

Conservation Response.

Date: 09/06/2023.

File/Application ref: SMD/2023/0165 & SMD/2023/166.

Case Officer: Ben Hurst.

Proposal: Repair works re-pointing reinstatement and replacement of missing finials, proposed new drinking trough adjacent to remaining trough & Listed building consent for repair works re-pointing reinstatement and replacement of missing finials, proposed new drinking trough adjacent to remaining trough.

Address: Drinking Troughs, Overton Road, Biddulph Common, Biddulph, Staffordshire.

Dear Ben,

Whilst I have no issue with the reinstatement of this feature, I do not believe an NHL is an appropriate mortar. It is not traditional and not physically compatible with historic stone. It will be counterintuitive to the feature's longevity.

As the asset is a drinking trough it will be subject to levels of moisture, including that of general rainfall. A modern NHL cures and hardens further overtime and will be far too strong for the historic stone. Consequently being no better than a common cement mortar.

Traditional lime mortar is advised, achieving the correct mix will require analysis of the existing historic mortar. Photos show evidence of the pale and light limes remaining in situ. (Darker smoother mortars are indicative of modern methods).

I advise the mortar mix is investigated further to achieve a compatible mix before it is lost through the moving of the stones, and ensure the preservation of this feature.

Regards,

Miss E Holland.
Conservation Officer.