

3d Gardens and Boundary Walls

Hard Surfaces



The Conservation Value of Traditional Hard Surfaces

While the grandest halls and houses had improved carriage sweep drives and stone setted and/or flagged courtyards and service yards and farms had setted and/or/flagged farmyards, even the more modest houses and some humble workers' accommodation would had flagged rear yards enclosed by boundary walls. The presence of any original or traditional stone surfaces provides a valuable historic detail which is of a colour and texture which complements the stonework of the buildings and walls. Wherever traditional stone surfaces remain in situ, they should be retained.

Unfortunately, traditional stone surfaces have been replaced over time for modern materials or to create or extend garden areas. The other side of the coin is that increasing car ownership has led to the covering of garden space with hardstanding for parking, in most cases using unsuitable modern materials. This harms the character and appearance of the house and can impact the wider conservation area.

The Maintenance and Repair of Traditional Hard Surfaces - Best Practice

While loose flags or setts can be re-set in sand, and damaged stone replaced like-for-like (taking care to avoid personal injury and damage to the stones), any major repairs or re-laying should be carried out by someone who is experienced in re-laying setts and flags and use traditional mortars and a traditional staggered layout of flags and setts.

The Laying of New Areas of Hardstanding - Best Practice

DO...

- 4 Use traditional yorkstone flags or setts wherever possible, but if this is not practical, use a substitute which replicates the colour, texture and proportions of traditional flags and setts. Use local examples of traditional stone paving as a guide for what the substitute material should be like and how it should be laid.
- 4 Keep traditionally hard surfaces hard, and traditionally soft spaces soft by retaining the original extent and layout of driveways, pathways and garden. This will vary according to the age and type of property.

DO NOT...

- 6 Use paving of an inappropriate size, shape, colour and texture (such a clay pavoirs / bricks or square yellow concrete tiles). These materials are alien to this region and contrast with the texture and tone of the stone buildings and walls. The use of small block paving modules creates a 'busy' layout of pieces of paving which draws the eye towards it. Paving should not be visually intrusive.
- 6 Completely pave over or excessively pave traditionally 'soft' areas such as gardens. This harms the immediate setting of a house and can devalue it.

