



International Course on Stone Conservation SC13

SESSION: Introduction to cleaning, cleaning systems, and the cleaning of sandstone and limestone

INSTRUCTOR: David Odgers, Jamie Fairchild

TIME: Tuesday, 4th June/ all day

SESSION OUTLINE

ABSTRACT

Cleaning is one of the most interventive of all conservation processes and must only be carried out after careful consideration of the type of soiling, the surface, the substrate and the effect of the cleaning process on all of them. As well as these practical factors, the ethical basis for cleaning must be accurately assessed.

Cleaning methods are many and various and the choice can usually only be established through cleaning trials. The full range of methods will be discussed including new developments in laser cleaning, poulticing with latex and use of innovative abrasives such as dry ice, sponge, glass spheres and crushed nuts.

OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of these sessions (and some associated practical sessions), participants should:

- be aware of the full range of cleaning options available for stone architecture and artefacts.
- be able to make judgments on the suitability of any method and its compatibility with a particular substrate.

CONTENT OUTLINE

- Identifying the surface and type of soiling;
- assessing the need for cleaning;
- cleaning trials and methods of testing;
- range of cleaning methods – advantages and drawbacks of each;
- selection of cleaning process.
- Detailed consideration of different cleaning methods –
 - mechanical cleaning,
 - water based cleaning,
 - cleaning with chemicals,
 - poultices,
 - radiation techniques (especially laser).
- Case studies of cleaning sandstone and limestone.
- Some demonstrations and practical work may be possible.
- Potential negative impacts (disasters).



SESSION OUTLINE CONT'D

READINGS

 = Essential reading material

 = Available online

 Ashurst, John, and Francis G. Dimes, ed. 1990. Chapter 8. In *Conservation of Building and Decorative Stone*, Butterworth-Heinemann Series in Conservation and Museology. London and Boston: Butterworth-Heinemann.

Ashurst, Nicola. 1994. *Cleaning historic buildings*. London: Donhead.

Webster, Robin G. M., ed. 1992. *Stone Cleaning and the Nature, Soiling and Decay Mechanisms of Stone: Proceedings of the International Conference Held in Edinburgh, Uk, 14-16 April 1992*. London: Donhead.

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