



Capability statement: BGS building stone services

Core competencies

The BGS Building Stones Team provides a range of services designed to help clients concerned with conserving, repairing and maintaining stone structures, from individual buildings to entire towns. Our team of experts – comprising specialists in building stones and building conservation – has access to the full range of BGS facilities and resources, enabling us to provide a comprehensive and informed range of building stone services:

- *building stone surveys* – producing ‘stone inventories’ of individual or multiple structures to inform planning decisions
- *stone condition surveys* – recording current stone condition to inform building maintenance and repair strategies
- *stone maintenance advice* – pinpointing the causes of stone decay, and advising on repair and maintenance procedures
- *stone matching* – using geological characterisation to identify the ‘best match’ stone to use in masonry repairs
- *building stone resource assessments* – characterising stone resources, reviewing the potential for opening/re-opening or safeguarding quarries, identifying past & potential future uses of indigenous stones
- *building stone heritage assessments* – reviewing records of settlement evolution, quarry operations, developments in transport infrastructure, and masonry and architectural styles to provide information about historical building stone use within defined areas.

Past performance

BGS has provided building stone services since its inception in 1835. Recent customers include:

- English Heritage, Historic Scotland, CADW, Edinburgh World Heritage, National Trust for Scotland, Perth City Heritage Trust, Cliveden Conservation Ltd, Hirst Conservation, Dalkeith THI and CARS, Scottish Stone Liaison Group
- Glasgow City Council, Orkney Islands Council, Falkirk Council
- Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority
- Stancliffe Stone, Hutton Stone
- Network Rail, British Waterways, BRE, Duchy of Cornwall Estates, Simpson & Brown Architects, Purcell Miller Tritton, Michael Hopkins & Partners, HSBC, Halcrow Group Ltd.

Differentiators

- BGS is the United Kingdom’s premier centre for earth science information and expertise
- BGS has a team of experienced geoscientists and conservation specialists committed to providing a range of professional building stone services
- BGS has a wealth of resources to support its building stones work, including the largest reference collection of building stone samples in the UK, the BGS Database of Mines and Quarries (‘BritPits’), and detailed geological maps and reports covering the UK
- BGS laboratories provide a wide range of geological and geotechnical services in support of building stone activities.