Unit 202: Changing practices over time

# Worksheet 2: Pre-1919 construction methods (Tutor)

1. List the basic hand tools that a pre-1919 bricklayer would use.

Trowel, spirit level, string line, a range of hammers, a range of chisels, plumb-bob, batter board, any other appropriate tools.

1. Why would a stonemason’s tool kit include a range of measuring instruments such as dividers?

Carving and dressing stone to form architectural features had to be done accurately from given measurements.

1. Describe the difference between a stone wall built in coursed stone and a stone wall built in random rubble.

The stone in a coursed wall has stones cut to specified sizes with an arris laid to a string line.

A random rubble stone wall has unshaped stones that are not laid to a pattern or in specifically dimensioned courses.

1. Besides being of high quality, why was using Welsh slate in Wales on pre-1919 buildings an advantage?

Using Welsh slate in Wales would mean less costly transport of a heavy material.

1. Techniques for building masonry walls have not changed much over many years. Write down the sequence of operations for building a straight masonry wall.

* Build corners accurately or set up profiles at the end of the wall to attach a string line as a guide.
* Spread a mortar bed with the trowel.
* Lay the masonry component to the string line.
* Ensure all perpendicular joints are filled with mortar.

1. a) What does ‘breathability’ in a building mean?

b) Why is it important to retain breathability in a pre-1919 building?

1. Breathability is the movement of air by natural ventilation through the fabric of a building.
2. Natural ventilation assists in keeping the interior of a pre-1919 building dry. It reduces the potentially damaging effects of penetrating and rising damp.
3. Which brick bond, often used in pre-1919 construction, has alternating courses of headers and stretchers?

English bond

1. What is the name of the cut brick used at the corners of a Flemish bond wall to establish the correct bond?

A queen closer