SITE PRACTICE, HANDLING & INSTALLATION GUIDE

Loading and unloading

- Palletised deliveries of the Cast Stone should preferably be offloaded by a forklift.
- A grab may be used but this should grip the pallet and not the product.
- Slings and scaffold poles etc should not be used to offload the pallets.
- Off-loading is always the responsibility of the customer.

Site Storage

All units are delivered shrink wrapped on wooden pallets. This shrink wrapping not only keeps the units secure but also provides full weather protection until the time of installation.

This shrink wrapping should be left in place until such time that the units are to be installed. All units will have protective packaging between them.

Palletised stones should be stored on flat, level, dry ground at a safe distance from other trades and passing site traffic etc. Where pallets are stored on uneven ground, runners should be used to support the pallets and distribute the load.

Pallets of units should never be stacked on top of each other, under any circumstances.

Site Handling

When unpacking the product the shrink wrapping should be cut from the pallet with a suitable knife, not pulled and ripped.

Once opened it is important that the pallets of Cast Stone are covered to prevent any ingress of water, dirt or dust.

A manual handling assessment should be carried out before any units are removed from the pallets.

Long and slender units should be handled in the plane in which they are designed to be installed.

Where lifting sockets have been cast into the units these should always be used for movement and installation. Unprotected ropes and chains must not be used for lifting or movement of the units.

When handling or re-palletising, individual units should not be stacked face to face without appropriate packing placed between. Units should always be supported by two bearers positioned at quarter points in from each end.

Fixings

The installation of Cast Stone units should always be in accordance with BS 5628. In some instances the fixing design will be detailed on our Vobster working drawings and details. In other instances guidance should be sought from the contract Engineer and/or Architect.

Heads

During movement and installation, Heads should be handled in the upright plane in which they are designed to be installed. Where Heads are used over openings in external cavity walls, a suitable stepped cavity tray (with stop ends) projecting a minimum of 150mm beyond the opening should be installed. This will direct the water outwards through weepholes which are to be installed over the Heads.

Cills & Thresholds

Single piece Cills and Thresholds should be bedded with mortar only below the ends or stoolings. This will prevent fracture of the Cill in the event of differential movement or settlement taking place. The open bed joint should then be pointed with mortar on completion. DPC should be installed for the full length and width of the Cill, turned vertically upwards to cover the inside of the Cill. Alternatively a suitable cavity tray including stop ends can be used.

Band/String/Cornice

To reduce the effects of differential movement between two differing materials, it is recommended that a slip plane is used to separate them. This should be designed to allow parts of the construction to slide, one in relation to the other, and so reducing the sheer stresses in adjacent materials. The slip plane should contain two layers of incompressible material such as DPC one above and one below the Cast Stone units. Further information and guidance is available from Vobster Cast Stone Company.

Protection

Once installed units should be suitably protected from mortar spillages and accidental damage from other trades. Protection of projecting elements such as Cornice and Cills should be made, preferably with timber coverings.

Cleaning

Guidance from Vobster Cast Stone should be made prior to attempting any cleaning. Permanent and irreversible damage can be caused to the product should the wrong method be used.

Repair

Please contact Vobster Cast Stone for relevant repair guidance. Please specify the type of material used (e.g. wet-cast or semi-dry) as the method statements etc which are available, are specific to each material type.