

CASE STUDY – *Palace of Westminster*

Client:

Parliamentary Work Services
Directorate

Principal Contractor:

Stonewest Ltd

Date: 2005



Description

From 2005, Stonewest have had an informal Framework Agreement with the Parliamentary Work Services Directorate, whereby our ongoing maintenance work has included cleaning and restoration work, conservation and new build work to the fabric of the buildings.

In 2006, following previous successful trials the company was awarded the contract to repair the historic Westminster Hall. This involved the careful removal and salvage of the paving and steps, to allow strengthening of the foundations.

Whilst in 2004, Stonewest completed the cleaning and restoration work of to the Commons Inner Courtyard and the Commons Courtyard. Repairs included extensive tracery window repairs. Cleaning was carried out using the Hodge Clemco wet abrasive system and works were conducted outside normal working hours and during Parliamentary recesses to minimise disruption.

Between 2000-2004, Stonewest carried out works to the subway Development at the Palace of Westminster. Following the Jubilee line extension works there was a requirement to develop the existing Palace subway network. This included the formation of an enlarged tunnel running underneath Big Ben to Portcullis House. The original 150 year old access tunnel, running approximately 1m beneath the main road, rendered unsafe from the effects of high volumes of traffic. Stonewest utilised surplus materials previously used on other aspects of the Palace and which had been in long term outdoor storage. These salvaged Ketton stones were cleaned, re-worked and then assembled, like pieces from a large jigsaw, to form the basis of the new vaulted ceiling. A delicate operational process followed.

Stonewest are currently undertaking a £200k contract for the lime rendering at Westminster Hall and Commons Inner Courtyard.