

LONDON STONE CONSERVATION LTD

STONE CARVERS, STONE CONSERVATORS, STONE MASONS

Unit 25 Enterprise Row
Rangemoor Industrial Area
London N15 4 LU
TEL: 0845 500 2501

Tower of London Exterior Step Survey

Between 26th April and 2nd May 2012 a survey of all stone steps accessible to the public was undertaken. It was decided to concentrate on all exterior areas as they were considered to have the highest slip potential due to exposure to weather. The purpose of the survey was to establish the slip potential of each area of steps in order to meet Health and Safety Executive (HSE) requirements. High risk areas are to be treated with adequate anti-slip measures.

A Surtronic Duo surface microroughness meter was used to carry out the survey.

Notes on results

The only area that was found to have a high slip potential was on one Portland limestone step to the right of the Medieval Palace Shop. There were 5 other steps in this group that resulted in moderate slip potential readings.

A single granite step near the Bloody Tower was the only other to have produced a moderate slip potential reading.

None of the Yorkstone steps had high or moderate readings.

As an experiment readings were taken on wet steps then retaken in drier conditions. The difference in the final readings between wet and dry conditions was minimal and the meter, therefore, does not appear to be affected greatly by differing weather conditions.

Remains of anti-slip gripping strips were observed on some Yorkstone steps. None of the readings were taken on these strips but on the exposed stone.