



## Repointing Exposed Slate Paving in Devon

### Case Study

This prestige holiday home overlooking the beautiful River Avon estuary, near Bantham, in South Devon, underwent major refurbishment in 2018, including the slate terraces, which were repointed using traditional pointing. However, this also had to be replaced and repointed in areas every year since, and by 2025, the pointing was breaking up in all the joints. The owners turned to Gorah Stone, specialist stone contractors, to try and find a more durable and permanent pointing system. The random sized, original thick slate slabs presented several critical issues for successful paving jointing:

- Firstly, the joints between the slabs were extremely varied in width and depth, plus for most of the joint lengths, the joint edges and sides were also variable and not parallel, giving joint dimensions with a very high risk of failure for many materials e.g., cement-based mortars, due to unavoidably high levels of differential shrinkage cracking during cement hydration, hardening, plus thermal movement in service.
- Secondly, as the property is heavily booked, the repointing works had to be carried out and completed quickly during a short closure in October, ready for guests arriving the next week. The forecast showed wet-weather for this exposed coastal location, and all cement- and 'resin'-based jointing compounds can only be applied in dry conditions e.g., with no residual water in the joints, and allowed to harden before exposure to rainfall. Otherwise, premature failure is inevitable.

Gorah Stone contacted NCC Streetscape, the paving jointing specialists, for expert advice, and fortunately, NCC had the ideal solution, using GftK vdw 850 plus, a unique, reaction hardening mortar, free of physical shrinkage, and the only truly wet-weather paving jointing. Variable joint dimensions are therefore no problem, and it can even be used in the rain! NCC Streetscape also supported Gorah on site to quickly and efficiently complete all the necessary preparation and repointing in good time, despite the weather.

### Patios & Pathways

**Client:**

Private Residence

**GftK Products Used:**

GftK vdw 850plus Natural Sand

**Paving Contractor:**

Gorah Stone

**Call NCC Streetscape**

**01257 266696**

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