Walls, mortar and stone

Wall construction (solid stone, rubble core, brick, cob, timber frame)	
Wall thickness (mm)	
Stone type and likely source	
Brick type and bond	
Mortar: lime type (hot-mixed, putty, NHL 2 / 3.5 / 5) or cement	
Mix used for repointing (by volume, e.g. 1 lime : 2.5 sand, or as your mason specifies after mortar analysis)	
Sand / aggregate and supplier	
Pointing finish (flush, slightly recessed, brushed)	
Render or harl: type and mix	
Limewash or masonry paint: product and colour	
Internal plaster: lime, gypsum, clay	
Areas already in cement (to watch)	

Notes

Free sample. The full Old House Logbook has 42 pages across ten sections, from house history to the handover page: buyinganoldhouse.co.uk/logbook

Seasonal checklist: autumn and winter

Autumn

- [ ] Clear leaves from gutters, hoppers and gullies
- [ ] Check downpipes run freely in heavy rain
- [ ] Check roof and valleys after first storms
- [ ] Clear drains and inspection chambers
- [ ] Check windows and doors close and seal
- [ ] Lag exposed pipes and outside taps
- [ ] Check heating and bleed radiators
- [ ] Sweep chimneys before first fires
- [ ] Check ventilation is open, not blocked for warmth

Winter

- [ ] Watch gutters during heavy rain or thaw
- [ ] Check loft after storms and snow
- [ ] Look for condensation and mould; ventilate daily
- [ ] Keep a little heat on in empty rooms
- [ ] Check for ice damage to pointing and copings
- [ ] Know where the stopcock is
- [ ] Note damp readings in the log
- [ ] Watch for frost on exposed stone
- [ ] Plan next year's jobs and get quotes

Notes and dates done

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