Laying Cobbles & Setts



Relaying Cobbles

It is assumed that the original cobble floor is bedded in earth or hoggin. This can only be seen when some of the cobbles are removed.

Carefully remove the existing stones and set to one side for reuse. Cleaning and wash the cobbles to remove all dirt and set aside to dry.
All weeds and other unwanted organic matter, along with any topsoil should be removed. Any soft spots should be excavated and filled with compacted sub-base material. If the area of the path is troubled with weeds, the excavated sub-grade can be treated with a general weedkiller such as Sodium Chlorate, but it is unlikely any weed will be able to penetrate the upper layers.

Pay careful attention to which way up the stones are laid i.e. with their longer dimensions vertically as noted in the Historic Fabric Survey.
If any stones are missing, identify a suitable source and obtain new stones to match existing. A local gravel pit or washed river stones may be a suitable source. Clear out the existing base down to a level sufficient to accommodate the new build up which, as a general specification, will be as follows:

- Compacted sub-base excavated to a minimum depth of 75mm below the underside of the cobbles.
- Fill and compact any soft spots.
- Use an eminently hydraulic lime wet mix for bedding cobble stones.
- Lay mortar and place stones in lime mortar as work proceeds.
- Allow the eminently hydraulic lime to set.
- Pour over a semi-dry mix of eminently hydraulic lime and "butter" it off.
- Finish off with clean sawdust and brush down when the lime has begun to set.

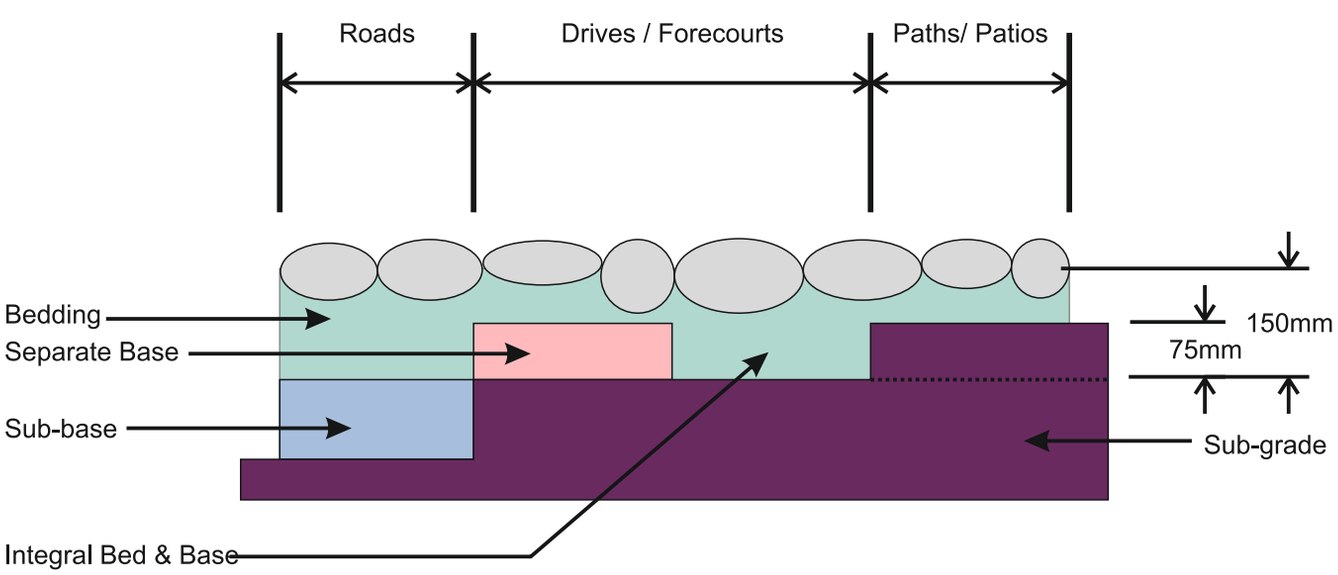


FIGURE 1 - Installation of cobbles.