AN 18th century bridge spanning the River Lune in the historic city of Lancaster was restored using pumpable EASIPOINT Historic Lime Mortar.

Replicating the characteristics of authentic hydrated lime mortars, but formulated for pump placement using a proprietary cartridge gun, the mortar met the need for an easy-to-apply mortar during extensive restoration of the five arches of Skerton Bridge, Lancaster.

The thixotropic qualities of the mortar were also a key advantage while repointing the archways, which involved a substantial amount of overhead work.

EASIPOINT Historic Mortar in Sandstone colour was specified following consultation between client Lancashire County Council, Lancaster City Council Conservation Officers and English Heritage.

Main contractor for the scheme was Lancashire County Engineering Services, who arranged a specialist hydraulic platform located on the bridge deck to allow pointing sub-contractors RAM Services Ltd, of Burnley, Lancashire, to access the arches below.

Sandstone EASIPOINT provided the desired colour match for the ashlar sandstone structure along with meeting the criteria for a cement-free mortar capable of providing traditional lime mortar characteristics, including the flexibility to accommodate slight movement and the ability to allow the migration of water.

Gun placement helped to speed progress of the work, which was undertaken over a six-week period during night time closures of the bridge, which carries southbound road traffic one way towards the city centre.

The repointing is part of an on-going programme to strengthen and preserve the bridge, listed as an Ancient Monument, which was first built in 1788, then modified by architect Thomas Harrison in 1849.

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