

LIST OF QUESTIONS AND MEMORANDA SUGGESTED  
BY THE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE OF THE ROYAL  
INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.

N.B.—In all cases the most important objects required after photographs of the work have been obtained are accurate plans and sections, plotted to scale if possible on the spot, with the dimensions clearly figured on all the drawings.

1. Name of spot in Arabic (if possible written by a native), and general description.

2. What is the bearing of the structure in relation to the compass?

*Masonry*.—3. What is the geological nature of the stone—especially of the wrought stone? Can it be identified with any local stone?

4. Are there any marks of fire on the same, or any evidence of its having been under water?

5. Describe the character and material of the mortar, and state the thickness of the joints.

6. Joints to be noted when superficial, and depth of joints figured. Is the jointing rectangular? and are the horizontal joints continuous or broken?

7. How is the ashlar work bonded? and of what thickness?

8. How is the rubble work laid? Dry? or with little mortar? (N.B.—It is desirable to procure photographs showing different specimens of this work.)

9. What is the character of the masonry? Show it in detail drawings, carefully measured, and note especially “draft” or “bevelled margins.”

10. Describe the nature of all tool-marks, masons’ marks, &c., and procure rubbings of the same if possible.

11. Is there any mark of a Lewis or other means of raising?

*Arches*.—12. Note and accurately plot the direction of the joints in arches. State whether the arch is crowned by a keystone, or whether it has a vertical joint in the crown.

13. Is there any indication of skew-arches?

14. In cases of a brick structure, describe the size of bricks, the thickness of the joints, and the nature of the mortar.

*General Description of the Structure*.—15. Is the pavement level throughout or raised in any part? (N.B.—If pavement be destroyed, its level may often be identified by marks left in the wall.)

16. Are there any traces of vaults or subterranean chambers?

17. Are there any traces of an apsidal plan, whether circular or polygonal?

18. Are there any remains of windows? If so, give their height, position, &c.

19. Give the same information respecting any door or doors.

20. Give the same information respecting any pillar or pillars.

21. Are there any remains of roofs? If so, describe whether they are flat, barrel-vaulted, groined, or domical.

22. In case of domical vaulting, describe pendentive and springing.

23. As extensive remains will probably be those of a temple, synagogue, a church or mosque, particular search should be made for any remains of altars, inscriptions, monograms, &c.

*Cromlechs*.—1. What is the number of stones supporting the top slab? and in case of one or more sides being open, to which point of the compass is the opening directed?

2. Are there any holes pierced through either of the stones?

3. Are there any signs of the stones having been squared, or otherwise worked with a tool?

4. Are there any remains of stone circles, stone pillars, tumuli, or other monuments near? If so, show the general plan.

5. Are there any signs of burial in the tumuli or within the cromlechs? If so, describe the exact position of body, and carefully preserve any remains of skulls. If it be not possible to remove them, take their exact contour.

Most of the above questions have been attended to by Captain Wilson and Captain Warren, whose series of photographs are very admirable. They are, however, generally of too small a size to give the information required as to the details of the architecture, and in some of the most interesting photographs of the masonry there does not appear to be anything to give an idea of the scale. We would suggest that the plan used by Monsieur Viollet-le-Duc be adopted, of having a measuring rod put against the work to be drawn or photographed. It is, however, in respect of the details that further information is more particularly required. Unless the observer be thoroughly acquainted with the various phases which the mouldings, ornaments, &c., have assumed at different times and under different influences, a mere description of them will be of little value. The column of a building, for example, described as Ionic, might be of the date of the immediate descendants of Alexander, or of the Romans, or their descendants, the Italians, at any period for several centuries, or of the Byzantines—or it might have been carved by Greek architects under Roman influence. In order to obtain information sufficient to indicate the date, &c., of any work, the following would be required in addition to what is above mentioned:—Sections of mouldings full size (as the contour of these varied very much at different periods and in different styles, they should, when possible, be drawn by means of the cymograph); large photographs, or squeezes of portions of the ornaments, so as to show the precise way in which they were carved—as both the method of carving, and the general design, varied as much as the form of the mouldings. All traces of pointed architecture should be particularly noted, and the mouldings and ornaments should be copied with great care. The above memorandum will also apply with great force to any sarcophagi, or to the tombs, ornaments, &c., whether rock-cut or otherwise. In all cases careful search should be made for fragments of mouldings built into the walls, and for different kinds of masonry, as these would indicate an earlier structure, and give a clue to its date.