

## UNDERSTANDING

# BRUTON LIMESTONE

Bruton Limestone is a truly unique material within our collection. With a character that feels equally at home in the landscapes of the West Country as it does beside a Mediterranean farmhouse, it has a wonderfully rustic, organic quality that sets it apart from more uniform paving materials.

Sourced from a small, family-run quarry in Europe, Bruton is a rare limestone produced using traditional methods that celebrate the natural formation of the stone. Its varied tones, riven surfaces and irregular formats create a paving surface full of movement, texture and character.

Because of the way this stone is formed and produced, every piece is different. Understanding these natural variations is key to achieving the best possible result, so we have put together a few important points to consider before installation.

### Production Process

Unlike many limestone products, which are sawn from large blocks into regular slabs, Bruton Limestone is naturally split from the quarry bed.

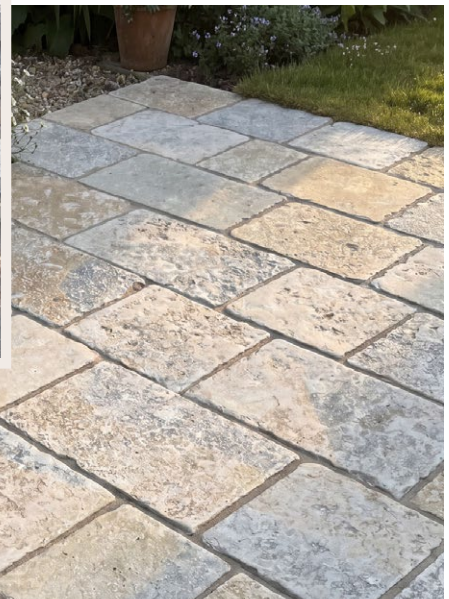
The quarry is located in an area with a highly stratified and fractured geological formation, meaning the layers of stone naturally separate along their own bedding planes. These layers are extracted individually, with thicknesses naturally varying from approximately 40mm to 300mm.

Once extracted, the stone is manually graded by thickness and size before being processed. Each piece is then passed through a calibration machine to create a more consistent underside, making installation easier while retaining the natural, riven surface that gives Bruton its distinctive character.

Larger pieces are often cut into specific formats, such as the pavers, where the stone is trimmed into bands and squared off to create the random-length laying pattern. Other pieces, such as copings, are cut to size before the edges are cropped, helping the finished pieces blend naturally with the surface texture of the stone.

All Bruton products are also tumbled, softening naturally sharp edges and creating a more aged, weathered appearance. This enhances the rustic character of the stone and helps each piece sit naturally within a landscape.

Due to the naturally riven nature of the material, Bruton Limestone is not suitable for production as large-format slabs.



## UNDERSTANDING BRUTON LIMESTONE

### Variation

Bruton Limestone is designed to celebrate natural variation. No two pieces will be identical, and this variation is an essential part of its charm.

You can expect natural variation in:

- Colour
- Surface texture
- Thickness
- Size and shape

The overall colour palette is predominantly warm beige, with areas of soft grey, subtle tonal movement, and occasional pieces where beige and grey tones appear together within the same stone.

Thickness variation is particularly noticeable in formats such as the Pitchers, where the naturally split layers of stone create a more varied profile. This is part of the traditional character of the product and should be embraced during installation.

The Cobble and Pitcher formats also have naturally varying widths, meaning the finished installation requires a more considered, creative approach than a standard calibrated paving product.

For the best results, we recommend mixing pieces from different crates and laying out areas before fixing, allowing the natural variation to flow throughout the installation.



### Applications

Bruton Limestone is a versatile natural stone with a character that works beautifully across both traditional and contemporary landscapes.

- The **Pitcher format** can also be used as walling stone, creating a traditional, dry-stone-inspired appearance with the naturally riven faces providing texture and depth. We would recommend these are used in combination with mortar, not as dry stone walling.
- The **Cobble format** can be used as wall cladding, adding a tactile, rustic finish to walls, planters, steps and architectural features.
- Bruton Limestone can also be used internally, although the substantial thickness variation must be carefully considered during planning and installation.
- Bruton Limestone is not suitable for driveways. If you have a specific requirement for vehicular use, please contact our team, as alternative formats may be available as a special order.

## UNDERSTANDING BRUTON LIMESTONE

### Installation

Bruton Limestone is a natural, rustic paving product and should be installed with the same approach as traditional stone paving.

Please follow our 'Slab Paving' installation guidelines within our exterior installation guide.

A few important points to consider:

#### 1. Thickness variation

Because Bruton is naturally riven, some pieces will be thicker or thinner than others. This is unavoidable and forms part of the character of the product.

During installation, thinner pieces should be accommodated by adjusting the bedding layer rather than attempting to create a perfectly uniform finished thickness.

#### 2. Joint width

Bruton is intentionally irregular, and we do not recommend using spacers or aiming for a fixed joint width.

The paving should be spaced by eye, allowing the natural variation in each piece to guide the final layout. Wider joints are essential, particularly with Cobble and Pitcher formats, to accommodate the variation in size and shape.

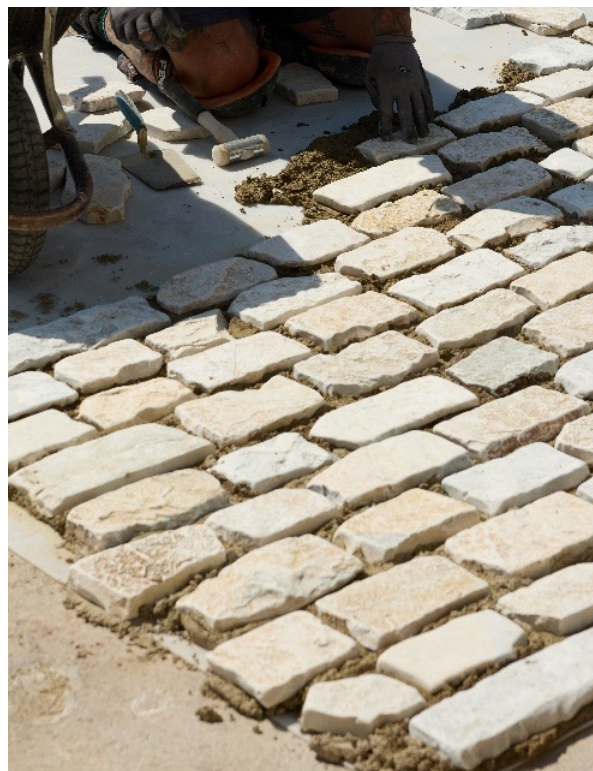
The finished surface should feel organic and relaxed rather than rigid or geometric. Allowing the stone to find its own rhythm is key to achieving the traditional character of Bruton Limestone.

#### 3. Jointing

The choice of jointing material can significantly influence the final appearance of Bruton Limestone.

Suitable options include:

- Traditional sand and cement pointing
- Grout
- Wash-in jointing compounds
- Fine gravel joints (useful in schemes which need to be permeable for rainwater drainage)



## UNDERSTANDING BRUTON LIMESTONE

### Sealing & Maintenance

Bruton Limestone is a natural stone that will weather beautifully over time, developing additional character as it ages.

We recommend sealing Bruton Limestone after installation to help protect the stone from staining and make ongoing maintenance easier. The choice of sealer will depend on the desired final appearance, from maintaining the natural colour of the stone to enhancing its warmer tones.

We stock a spirit-based sealant, Stain Block, and have two options for water-based sealants- Stain Block Eco, or the more economical and easier to use Stone Paving Sealant.

As with all natural stone products, regular maintenance will help preserve the appearance of the paving. External environments naturally introduce dirt, organic matter and weathering, so occasional cleaning may be required depending on location and use.

As with all stone pavings, we do not recommend pressure washing, which can open the stones' pores. A chemical cleaner, such as our Paving Deep Clean is much more effective, but in areas with heavy planting or ponds, a hard brushing with the assistance of water, or a low-pressure power cleaner, are much safer options as chemical cleaners can be dangerous to plant and aquatic life.

For full guidance on sealing, cleaning and long-term care, please refer to our Natural Stone Aftercare Guide.



## UNDERSTANDING BRUTON LIMESTONE

### Product notes and handling

#### 1. Crate quantities

The Cobble and Pitcher formats are sold in full crate quantities only.

The quantities stated are approximate and do not account for the additional spacing required during installation. Due to the irregular nature of these products, we recommend allowing for approximately 5% variation from the quoted coverage figures.

#### 2. Handling and breakages

Although Bruton Limestone is an unusually hard limestone, its natural structure means it can also be brittle. The riven nature of the stone creates its unique appearance, but it also means that impact resistance is lower than more homogeneous stone materials.

Movement and transport can occasionally result in breakages, so careful handling is essential and a small allowance for breakages should be considered during installation.

Any broken pieces can often be incorporated creatively as cuts, helping to maintain the natural appearance of the finished area.

#### 3. Solid steps

Bruton solid steps are extremely heavy, weighing approximately 145kg each.

A forklift or telehandler will be required on site for unloading and positioning. These pieces must not be lifted manually.

#### Bringing out the best in Bruton

Bruton Limestone is not designed to look perfectly uniform. Its beauty lies in the natural variation created by millions of years of geological formation and a traditional production process.

With thoughtful installation, allowing the stone's natural movement, tone and texture to shine through, Bruton creates a surface that feels timeless, established and full of character.

If you have any questions about installation, suitability or ongoing care, our team is always happy to help.

