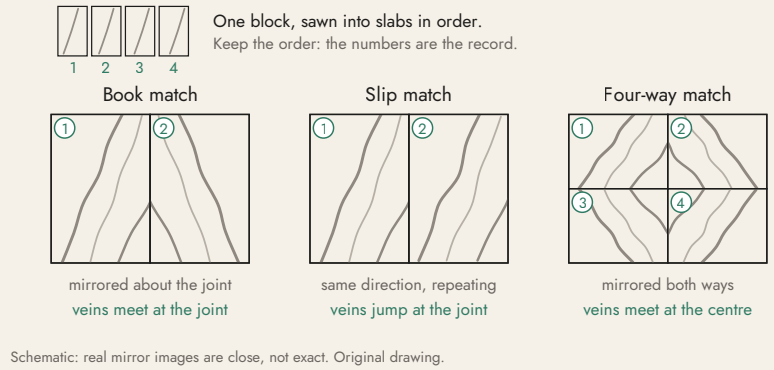
Stone *sample*, slab and book-match approval: variation, range panels and substitution

Approve natural stone as a range, not a point: label the samples, agree a range report, number the slabs in the order they were cut, draw the match, and write down what counts as a change. Figures are Stone Federation GB's for larger projects; general industry practice, not a studio service.

AT A GLANCE

Step	What is approved	What it shows	What it leaves open
1. Indicative sample	About 150 x 150 mm, labelled with name, quarry, country, family, reference and finish (grit size)	General colour, tone, texture and finish	The range, or the slab you will get
2. Range or control samples	About 10 large stones, at least 600 x 400 mm or the sizes of the common stones on the project	The typical variation in the bed: colour, texture, veining, grain, fills	Which slab goes where
3. Range report	A document, often in the specification, by an independent stone consultant	Features accepted and rejected: the written benchmark	Layout and matching
4. Visit and slab selection	Quarry, mine or factory; final selection photographed	The stone in the ground and in stock	Cutting, fixing, damage
5. Match and layout	Slabs numbered in sequence; match type and joints on the drawing (common practice)	Which leaf goes where, and how the pattern runs	Fit to the site
6. Dry lay	Finished pieces laid out at the works and inspected	Cutting and match before delivery	Installation and fixing
7. Installed work	Viewed from 2 m, in daylight, by the same people who approved the stone	Compliance with drawing, specification and samples	Damage by others

Sizes and wording are Stone Federation GB's (SS 01, 2010; snagging guide, August 2022) for larger projects. Step 5 is common practice. General industry practice, not a studio service.



Schematic: real mirror images are close, not exact. Original drawing.

A block sawn into numbered slabs, and three ways to lay consecutive leaves: book match, slip match and four-way match. Schematic: real mirror images are close, not exact. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

STONE AND INDICATIVE SAMPLE

Stone: [traditional name], petrographic name to BS EN 12407 [ ], denomination to BS EN 12440 [ ], quarry or mine [ ], bed [ ], country [ ]. Finish [honed, grit [ ]]. Indicative sample [ref], [about 150 x 150] mm, labelled with traditional name, quarry location, country of origin, petrological family, sample reference and finish, is approved for general colour, tone and texture only.

RANGE AND NATURAL VARIATION

Range or control samples [ref]: [about 10] stones not smaller than [600 x 400] mm, or the sizes of the common stones on the project, selected by [the quarry or mine / the stone consultant] from blocks of the chosen bed, showing the typical variation in colour, texture, veining, [shell content, grain size] and any fills, held at [location]. A range report by [independent stone consultant] lists the features accepted and rejected and is the benchmark for the delivered and the installed stone. Features within the range are not defects unless their concentration becomes excessive and the typical character of the stone is lost. Fills are declared by the processor and included in the range samples.

SLAB SELECTION, MATCHING AND DRY LAY

Slabs for [areas] are selected by [designer] at [the quarry / processing works] on [date], in [daylight / light like the project's], photographed at 1:1 with a scale, and numbered in the order cut from block [ref]. Match: [book / slip / four-way] as layout drawing [ref], which shows the block, the leaf numbers, the direction of the veins and the joint positions and widths. Main veins to meet at joints within [ ] mm, as agreed on dry lay [ref]. Unused leaves from the same block are reserved for replacement until [handover]. Before delivery the stone is dry laid at the works and inspected against the drawing and the range report, viewed from [2] m in light like the project's (from the centre of a small room, no closer than [1] m), by the people who approved the samples; faults are photographed at 1:1 with a scale.

SUBSTITUTION AND CHANGE CONTROL

No change of stone, quarry, bed, block, finish, thickness or processor without the designer's written approval. A different block or finish is submitted against the range report as a new sample. Each delivery carries a Declaration of Performance and the denomination to BS EN 12440 for the stone supplied, matching the approved sample [ref].

TERMS USED

Indicative sample

A small sample, typically about 150 x 150 mm, showing the general colour, tone and texture of a stone but not the range of geological features it contains (Stone Federation GB).

Range report

A project document, often part of the specification, in which an independent stone consultant records the expected appearance of the stone with the features accepted and rejected. It is the benchmark for delivered and installed stone (Stone Federation GB).

Book match, slip match

Book match: consecutive leaves mirrored about the joint. Slip match: consecutive leaves laid side by side, same direction. Names vary, so define them on the drawing.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- Stone Federation GB, Selecting the Correct Stone (SS 01, April 2010): read in full; lists BS 5385-5, withdrawn 30 May 2024.
- Stone Federation GB, Inspection and snagging of finished internal works using natural stone (Aug 2022): read in full.
- Federation sample-panels page; Designing Buildings wiki; Stone Specialist column: read via a fetch summary.
- BS EN 12440:2017, 12407:2019, 12670:2019, 12058:2015, 12057:2015: BSI listings read, all current; texts not read.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/stone-sample-slab-and-book-match-approval. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.