



GLOSSARY FOR STONEMWORK RECORDERS

(for mouldings and illustrations of architectural terms see [Recording a Church: An Illustrated Glossary and Inside Churches pages 3-9](#))

abacus	A flat slab forming the top of a capital
aedicule	a classical architectural surround to an opening or recess composed of columns or pilasters and a pediment. The adjective is aedicular
altarpiece	(or retable) a painting or carving above the altar
ambo	a raised stone pulpit or reading desk
angle roll	a roll moulding in the angle between two planes
apron	a decorated, shaped or plain panel below a window or at the base of a wall monument
apse	a semi-circular or polygonal end to a chancel or chapel
arcade	a series of arches supported by columns. A blind arcade is an arcade built as decoration against a wall
arch	a n arrangement of stone or brick voussoirs, supporting each other (for types of arch see Notes for stonework Recorders)
architrave	The beam that forms the lowest part of the entablature
arris	the sharp edge where two surfaces meet at an angle
ashlar	masonry of squared blocks of stone with an even face
aumbry	a cupboard within a wall. Originally for holding sacred vessels
baluster	a rounder pillar or pedestal usually in the shape of an inverted pear
beakhead	ornamentation in the form of a series of birds or beasts with beaks
billet	ornamentation using a cylindrical or rectangular blocks set at regular intervals
brattishing	ornamental cresting of leaves or flowers
bucranium	an ox skull decoration used on classical fringes
cable moulding	moulding in the form of a rope
capital	the head of a pillar or pilaster
casement moulding	wide, deep moulding on the jambs and head of windows or doorways
cavetto	concave moulding in quarter circle section

chamfer	the narrow surface when an arris of stone is cut away, usually at 45°. If the surface is concave it is a hollow chamfer . A stopped chamfer has decoration carved into it and a sunk chamfer has a recessed surface.
chevron moulding	moulding in the form of a series of 3-dimensional 'V's also called zigzag
chip carving	plain geometrical carves patterns
ciborium	a stone (or wooden) canopy over an altar
clerestory	the top storey of the church walls with windows, usually over an arcade
coade stone	an artificial stone used for carving decorative features
corbel	a stone (or wood) block projecting from the wall to support a feature, often roof timbers
cornice	uppermost member of an entablature, moulded flat-topped projection surmounting a feature
credence	a shelf for sacred vessels, often within a piscina
crown	upper element of a wall tablet, often including armorial achievements, urns etc, also the top of an arch
dentil	square blocks set into a cornice
Easter sepulchre	a recess in the north wall of the chancel, often with a tomb chest
enrichments	ornamental carvings along a moulding
entasis	the slight bulging of a column
entablature	in classical architecture the collective name for the three horizontal members (architrave, frieze, cornice) carried by a column or wall
finial	an ornament at the top of a spire, gable, vase lid , urn lid etc.
flushwork	stones and flint dressed to a flat surface to form patterns or tracery
fluting	series of concave channels, their common edges sharp (arris) or blunt (fillet)
frame	the surround to a tablet, not to be confused with the ground
fret	running ornamentation of interlocked right-angles
frieze	horizontal band, sometimes ornamented, middle member of entablature
gadrooning	ornamental border of repeating boldly convex ribs
galletting	Small stones set regularly in a course of mortar
ground	the plain sheet of stone on which a tablet is mounted
guilloche	geometrical ornamentation of two or more running, intertwined bands
impost	horizontal moulding at the springing of an arch
indent (or matrix)	the sinking for a brass in a stone slab

jamb	The upright side of an arch, doorway or window
niche	a narrow arched recess, often to hold a statue or statuette.
obelisk	tapering pillar of square or triangular section ending pyramidally
ogee	a double curved form with a concave and convex curve
ovolo	a large convex moulding in quarter-circular form
Patera	ornamentation representing a small, saucer or shallow dish, often in the form of a scallop shell
pediment	in classical architecture a formalised gable, usually above an entablature
pilaster	flat representation of a column in shallow relief against a wall
pilaster strip	similar to pilaster but lacking base or capital
return	the extension or completion of a feature (eg a cornice) around a right angle
ribbonwork	ribbon motifs, usually scrolling, often used as decoration on monuments from mid 16th to 17th centuries
soffit	underside of an arch
stele	upright slab with triangular pediment and acroteria, the form derived from ancient Greek grave markers
strapwork	ornament common in the 16/17th century consisting of intertwining bands in imitation of leather straps
tympanum	the space within a pediment of curved arch, often holding further decoration
volute	spiral scroll, especially on an Ionic capital