ROOFING TODAY

The trade magazine for UK roofing, cladding and insulation professionals

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Dr Claire Griffiths, Editor

As we go to press with this edition, the UN Environment Programme warns that unless carbon emission reduction actions are strengthened at this month's COP 27 in Egypt, the world is set to exceed its global warming temperature rise limit of 1.5°C by 2030. No one knows what that would look like, but Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP commented, "Only a root and branch transformation of our economies and societies can save us."

Our industry has a huge part to play in the rapid transformation of buildings, energy efficiency and generation, manufacturing and transport. And, as Ingar Anderson adds, "We've got to take climate change with us wherever we go."

This edition explores how businesses in our industry are going about the transition to sustainability. Not least is Carlisle, and Allen Coldrake explores the path from sustainability to circularity and describes how a scheme in the Netherlands provides an exciting model of how to achieve more. Russell Roof Tiles meanwhile, discusses how sustainability is being practiced and measured in the company.

With so many more functional requirements for roofs, Ross Finnie discusses the growing demand for multifunctional roofs and the design planning that's needed.

Staying with flat roofing as well as facades, Brian Mack explains why EJOT UK is on a mission to change best practice to include seal testing, arguing it's just as necessary to ensure performance quality as existing tests for air and water tightness.

The energy crisis as well as climate change has meant that calls for a retrofit strategy are increasingly vocal, and Simon Blackham adds his voice, pointing out that the Code for Construction Products should help to spread knowledge amongst installers, avoiding the performance gap and making retrofit even more effective.

A big pat on the back goes to LRWA members who have recently completed their Charity Team Challenge. We celebrate their laps, maps and snaps, announcing the top teams and wins!

Our contractor feature focuses on Derbyshire based, Dalton Roofing and its characterful owner Phil Dalton whose success in creating a strong domestic roofing brand was inspired by Disney.

Many have followed the restoration of Shrewsbury's Flaxmill Maltings's slate roofs and now the project is complete, Welsh Slate relates its role in conserving the world's first iron-framed building.

Regular contributor, John Mercer talks us through the correct construction of low pitch roofs; while there's exciting news in the North West with a new roof training centre opening in Warrington in the new year.

Other features discuss roofing contractors entering the solar market and what services one merchant is offering contractors buying roof and floor timbers.

Lastly, there's several interesting case studies focusing on individual products – from European Slate replacing woodpecker attacked cedar shingles, to quality Blue Diamond batten and a step-by-step photo guide to installing gutters.

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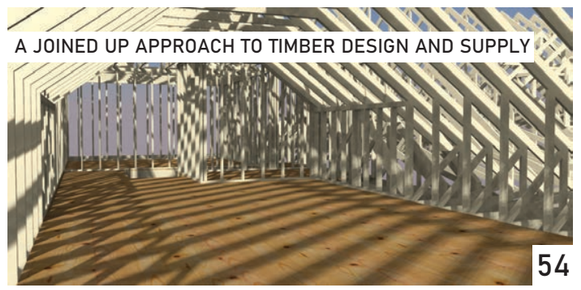

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Guidance for the Use of Building Boards with A1 or A2 Reaction to Fire Classifications in Flat Roofing

Following an industry consultation period, a joint SPRA—LRWA—NFRC technical guidance document has been published: Guidance for the Use of Building Boards with A1 or A2 Reaction to Fire Classifications in Flat Roofing.

Within the flat roofing industry, there is a growing demand for products with A1 or A2 reaction to fire classifications (formerly referred to as non-combustible and of limited combustibility, respectively) to be used as alternatives to OSB3 and plywood. This is due to the apparent drive of Approved Document B towards the increased use of less combustible flat roof decks and the fluctuation in prices and supply of building materials. These factors have increased enquiries to SPRA, LRWA, NFRC, and their members about the use of such products in flat roofing applications. Some of the materials being considered, however, do not have relevant third-party approvals.

With the input of relevant manufacturers and suppliers, the document offers guidance for the use of Calcium Silicate, Cement-Bonded Particleboard, Fibre Cement, Gypsum (mat-reinforced), and Magnesium Oxide building boards as structural flat roof decks; structural abutment wall upstands (including parapets); acoustic mass layers; thermal barriers; cover boards; and/or recovery boards in flat roof overlays.

The document, along with many SPRA Technical Guidance documents, is available via the SPRA website www.spra.co.uk/technical/downloads/.

Facades Firm Trials Four Day Working Week

Condensing its working hours, BTS Facades and Fabrications is working towards implementing a four day week.

The Newton Aycliffe based manufacturing business, which supplies facade and rainscreen products nationally, has moved from a 40-hour working week to a 37-hour working week, without its employees' pay being affected.

The new working pattern has taken six months to plan and implement, after the initiative was first suggested by staff as a way to improve employee satisfaction. The new contracted hours mean BTS' office staff can leave at 1pm on Fridays.

BTS' operations director Nigel Freeman is evaluating the impact on productivity.

He said: "If the new working pattern proves to be a success and not hinder the productivity of each team, and all targets are met, it will prove we can move towards an 8-day fortnight.

"We're already working on productivity improvements for each department and making steps to take out nonvalue added activity within the organisation using project management styles like the LEAN principles."

Complete Roofing Systems Acquires Allied Roofing

Complete Roofing Systems – the Warrington-based roofing and cladding contractor – has acquired Allied Roofing of Stockport in a seven figure deal.

This first acquisition by Complete Roofing Systems (CRS) will enable it to build its presence in the social housing sector. CRS employs over 100 staff and operates nationally for major clients such as Aldi, AstraZeneca, Warner Leisure, and the Ministry of Defence.

Established in 2010 by father and son, Stuart and Jamie Lennon, the company is led by CEO Mike Wharton, a former fund manager who is well-known in the roofing industry. Since his appointment in 2019, revenue has more than doubled to almost £20 million.

Allied Roofing was started in 1989 by Mark Threlfall, joined 10 years ago by business partner Neil Higson. The company specialises in pitched roofing and employs 30 staff primarily working on public sector and social housing projects across the North. The company will continue to operate under the Allied Roofing brand.

Mike Wharton, CEO of Complete Roofing Systems, said: "This is an exciting development for CRS. Allied Roofing's skills and clients

are complementary to ours and the acquisition provides many avenues for growth. We look forward to working with Mark, Neil and the team to further develop the company.

"At the same time we will continue to pursue opportunities to build the CRS business. As the roofing industry is very fragmented, we see potential to make strategic acquisitions alongside organic growth."

Housing Association Appoints Contractors to £38m Deals

An Oldham housing association has appointed two providers to two, four-year investment contracts, worth a combined £38 million.

First Choice Homes Oldham (FCHO) awarded Wigan family run builders, Connolly Ltd the external investment work, including new roofing, windows and doors.

The internal works deal, including new kitchens, bathrooms and rewires, was awarded to Wates Property Services.

Simon Harrison, Managing Director of Connolly Ltd said: "The success is a fantastic achievement for our family business and outlines the passion, commitment and drive of our people, who are committed to delivering an outstanding service for our customers.

"We look forward to working closely with the First Choice Homes Oldham team, building on our existing relationships and delivering great results for their residents."

The appointments follow a tendering process in which both contractors delivered bids with a focus on providing high quality customer service and creating social value through their work.

Social value will be generated by working with Oldham College to create training opportunities such as apprenticeships, work placements and T-level placements for local people over the life of the contract, and adding further value through wider community engagement.

The contracts started in September and are for an initial four years, with the option to extend for a further year.

Steve Mather, FCHO Director of Assets and Sustainability said: "These long-term contracts will ensure customers' homes are high quality, safe and sustainable long into the future, and will help us add greater value to the communities in which we work."

The Connolly team has already started a programme of new roofing in Sholver.

Langley Reorganises into Three Core Units

Langley has completed a major restructuring and transformation programme following a period of rapid growth.

The Langley Group will now operate three core business units: Roofing Solutions, Eco Solutions and Regeneration to deliver a more holistic and integrated service to customers across roofing, green-infrastructure and rooftop development and extension services.

Langley Roofing Solutions and Langley Regeneration will be led by MD Dean Wincott.

Langley Roofing Solutions delivers waterproofing and safety systems for refurbishment and new build developments across the public and private sectors.

Langley Regeneration provides feasibility, design, planning and installation of rooftop developments.

Langley Eco Solutions offers green-infrastructure and design, including sustainable roofing, water management, solar energy, decarbonisation and biodiversity. The business unit, led by MD Mike Brogan, provides green, blue and bio-solar roofs, green walls and podium landscaping.

Tony Silvestri will remain Group CEO for Langley. He said, "Langley has been through a transformational period of growth in recent years and I'm incredibly proud to share the future vision and structure of the business with our customers, colleagues and partners as we enter a new era.

"We're committed to our vision of For Better Living, innovating in everything we do, improving the lives of everyone we work with and having a positive impact on the world around us."

Charity Night a Blinder for Good Causes

Roof tile manufacturer, Russell Roof Tiles (RRT), has raised £4,500 from its first ever charity "Peaky Blinders" themed race night, held at the Pirelli Football Stadium in Burton.

The RRT team along with friends, family and customers dug out their flat caps and flapper frocks as they enjoyed a night of betting and boogying for a good cause, hosted by Paul McLoughlin.

Horse Racing was the main attraction of the night, with prizes for each race winner as well as the best dressed Peaky Blinders - who were Martyn Clarke and Jessica Wadsworth.

The money was added to Russell Roof Tiles Give 4 Good charity pot, which now stands at £39,500. It will be distributed at the end of the year to 10 charities chosen by Russell Roof Tiles' employees.

Avonside Group Services Ltd Goes Into Administration Owing £32 Million to Suppliers, Bank, HMRC and Employees

When Roofing Today broke the news of Avonside Group Services Ltd going into administration on 5 September, 2022 it confirmed the worst fears of many who had heard rumours over the preceding weeks.

An official announcement on 7 September verified Begbies Traynor appointment as administrators and the loss of 350 jobs. In all, 28 branches of 4 Avonside Group firms collapsed: Avonside Roofing, Bracknell Roofing, Taylor Roofing and SM Roofing Contracts.

Avonside Group's solar and insulation company, Avonside Energy was bought out by directors led by Bill Rumble and funded by investment from RCapital, saving 78 jobs. A further 9 branches of Avonside Group companies were sold on 7 September as a pre-pack deal for £437,500 to Andrew Morley Business Consultancy. Andrew Morley was Chief Operating Office at Avonside Group and he – with former Avonside Commercial Development Director, Vincent Hughes – are both directors of the Consultancy with Jayne Pointon.

Andrew Morley

Monies Owed to Avonside

The administrator's report shows that when Avonside folded it was owed £15.5m in debts and a further £6.2m in retentions. A deal has been done with Andrew Morley to help recover some of these outstanding amounts. The administrators say that valuing stock and work in progress has been difficult. They have sold stock from Avonside Roofing and Bracknell Roofing to Morley at a valuation of £100,000 with more to be recovered. Avonside Group's stocks were valued at £6.5m in the last filed accounts.

Avonside and Bracknell Roofing employees were owed £89,374 in wages and holiday pay and have a preferential claim that administrators say will be paid. However, employees say that pensions deducted from them since June's pay packets, were not paid over to the pension companies. Likewise, subcontractors who were owed end of the month payments or retentions, or had paid for materials for work that will now not be paid, are unlikely to see any of the £98,574 owed to them.

Unsecured creditors throughout the supply chain are owed £17.3m, with the largest creditor, SIG owed more than £7.2m. A total of £4.7m is owed in PAYE, national insurance and CIS to HMRC, which is treated as a preferential creditor after the Group's banker, NatWest, and will be paid before unsecured creditors. In all, a total of £32m of debts were left when Avonside folded.

Construction Model to Blame

Explanations of why Avonside failed have come from several sources. Former CEO of Avonside Group, Eddie Stanton wrote a post blaming structural problems in the supply chain. He posted on LinkedIn on 8 September, saying: "Today is the saddest of days," adding that the Avonside collapse should make people in the industry "reflect on their business model and its implications." Inferring the company was caught out by the rising materials inflation of the past two years, Eddie points the finger at Avonside's developer and house builder clients who refused to pay the cost rises. He also implies Avonside were pressured to over order materials "based upon spurious programme forecasts", which, he says tied up working capital in stock and work in progress.

Avonside Group Board, 2019

The post attracted mainly sympathetic responses, although in a characteristically blunt comment, former MD of multi-million M&J Group, Peter Henrickson, said, "I can't believe the crock of self pitying bilge I'm reading in both the post and the comments." Peter asserts, "Times like this come around regularly and well run, well managed business always outlast them - time to look more inward as to the reasons for failure."

Inaccurate Financial Data

The Administrator's, Begbies Traynor identified several causes

Eddie Stanton

Kyle Burke

of Avonside Groups Services Ltd failure. One, key reason involved the introduction of a new accounting model in 2019 in the form of an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. Kyle Burke, a director of parent company, Burke Investments since 2017, was apparently responsible for the system's incorporation into the company. According to the administrators, the Group experienced "severe difficulties" following the implementation of the new ERP system. It led to the production of inaccurate financial management information based on unreliable data.

That meant Avonside staff found it difficult to operate day to day creating a strain on resources, and led to concerns over billing – causing cash flow difficulties, working capital funding issues, and margin erosion. Ultimately, it led to the Group's financial records being considered to be "materially inaccurate" and meant that sources of new capital investment were refused for lack of accurate financial data.

AVONSIDE
Group Services

The administrators said, "At the time of our initial engagement, there were materially inaccuracies due to a number of mis-postings and large unallocated cash balances posted against the general ledger, and other issues with the ERP system." Begbies Traynor had first been brought into the company in March 2022 and by June, it was clear that the ERP problems could not be resolved, triggering exploration of sale options.

Tony Burke, Chair of the Board

Board Relationships

Other causes for the Group's collapse are said to stem from the instability of internal structures and relationships between directors breaking down as various investors were brought in to rescue the business. Certain members of the board were said to have been excluded from knowledge of "key information" earlier this year. This was after Soho Square Capital director Stephen Edwards, brought in as an equity investor to fuel Avonside's growth, had resigned in March 2022 and was replaced by fellow Soho director Stephen Ferris, who is said to have deployed more aggressive tactics in seeking to turnaround the company's finances.

According to a senior source, at least one member of Avonside's board had disagreed with the methods employed by Stephen Ferris, seeing his actions as amounting to a takeover of board control.

While a lack of accounting visibility continued to hamper the company, a rescue bid for the whole group had apparently been formulated to supply the £3.5m identified as needed from one of the shareholders. However, the bid needed the bank to accept a dilution of its existing security guarantees on Avonside's £5m bank loan and £9.75m operational facility.

Additionally, during the summer, discussions were held between shareholders, the Bank and one of the Group's largest suppliers to explore providing support to avoid liquidation, but these proved inconclusive.

By the end of August, the directors concluded the company was insolvent and on 3 September, the sales of nine of the Group's branches and Avonside Energy were agreed.

SPRA Golf Day & Dinner Declared a Perfect Golfing Day

Over 100 Single Ply Roofing Association (SPRA) members and their guests took part in the SPRA Golf Day and Dinner at Carden Park Golf Course in September 2022.

Golfers taking part in the competition were joined in the afternoon by non-golfing attendees to watch 'Trick Shot' entertainment provided by PGA professional golfer, Jeremy Dale. The afternoon's entertainment was followed by an evening drinks reception and awards dinner.

Ronan Brunton, SPRA CEO said, "All clearly enjoyed the competition, evening meal and entertainment. It was a chance for SPRA members and guests to meet again at a wonderful venue where the weather was perfect for a golfing day and evening out.

"A big thank you to all our members and their guests for making the day such a memorable occasion and congratulations to all the competition winners."

SPRA will be announcing details of SPRA Golf Day 2023 soon.

LRWA Reveals Headline Sponsor for 2023 Awards and Gala Dinner

The Liquid Roofing and Waterproofing Association (LRWA) has named Proteus Waterproofing as the headline sponsor for its Awards & Gala Dinner 2023.

Offering solutions for new builds and refurbishments, the waterproofing specialist is headquartered in Essex, and following rapid expansion, delivers projects across the UK.

Returning for the fifth time, the LRWA Awards & Gala Dinner will take place at the Titanic Hotel on 22 March 2023 in Liverpool. Following the success of the 2022 event, the celebration is expected to attract more than 300 people.

Jordan Bailey, director at Proteus Waterproofing, said: "The liquid roofing and waterproofing industry has a lot to be proud of, and the LRWA Awards & Gala Dinner is the perfect opportunity to demonstrate that. We are looking forward to being part of the celebration and recognising the impressive skills and strengths of all those who work in the sector."

Sarah Spink, CEO of the LRWA, added: "Although the entire construction industry continues to face change and challenge, many of our members have achieved growth over the past year. This is testament to their skills, professionalism, and dedication. Our event is a great platform to, once again, shout about these successes, and bring together the contractors, clients, manufacturers, and suppliers which are helping our sector to thrive."

Brickability Group Acquires ET Clay Products

Brickability Group plc, the construction materials distributor, has acquired ET Clay Products for £11.6 million.

Brickability purchased 100% of the share capital of ET Clay Products Limited and Heritage Clay Tiles Limited.

Established 25 years ago, ET Clay Products is a specialist supplier of UK and imported clay facing bricks and handmade clay roof tiles. Operating out of three yards, the businesses will bring new customers to the Group, particularly in the merchants channel, Brickability says.

In the year to 30 July 2022, ET Clay Products generated unaudited revenues of £44.3 million and adjusted EBITDA of circa £3 million.

The purchase is being completed with an initial cash payment of £8.1 million and a deferred payment of £3.5 million, payable in cash over the next three years, subject to performance.

The cash purchase is being funded from the Group's existing cash resources and is expected to generate an immediate return.

Alan Simpson, CEO, Brickability Group plc, said: "The acquisition of ET Clay Products provides another important step in the growth of our Import Division by further expanding the supply base of the Group through new access to a range of overseas manufacturers."

Beesley & Fildes Opens £2m Distribution Centre

Beesley & Fildes, a family-owned independent builders' merchant has opened a new £2m distribution centre in Widnes.

Situated near the M56, M62 and M57, the facility will support the business's 11 north-west branches and its online click and collect customers.

The 4.2-acre distribution centre is part of Beesley & Fildes' wider £3.2m expansion plans, enabling it to purchase and house more stock across the building, civils, and drainage market.

To service all 11 branches, the centre is now home to an automated bagging machine for stone and sand, along with a batching plant which will enable on-site manufacturing of various concrete products.

James Beesley, commercial director at Beesley & Fildes, said: "As we see the demand for building products continually increasing, it was vital that we broadened our in-house capabilities and operations. Plus, with our click and collect service now rolled out across each of our branches, we have an additional route to purchase.

"Through our wider expansion and distribution centre, we're able to provide our customers with a guarantee that products will be available and delivered on time, causing zero distribution to their projects."

LCB Invests in New Rigs as 2022 Roofing Successes are Celebrated

Leeds College of Building (LCB) Roofing Department has "significantly invested" in its apprentice training by replacing all the roofing rigs in its workshop area at a cost of £40,000.

The roofing rigs were rebuilt ready for the new intake of roofing apprentices starting their courses this September.

The new intake will join a total of over 100 roofing apprentices currently training at the college's South Bank campus on Cudbear Street, Leeds.

The college donated the original rigs to Simian Risk which plans to add pitched roof training to its current flat roofing courses in London and Warrington and Optimum Skills in Gateshead starting to offer roofing training courses this autumn.

Lee Bogg, Curriculum Manager in the Faculty of Construction Crafts at LCB said, "We are more than happy to help the growth of roofing training across the country. The donations also helped us to reduce our carbon footprint and work sustainably, ensuring that we didn't dispose of the rigs into waste and that they were recycled for future use.

"The renewed roofing rigs shows how our roofing provision is going from strength to strength, so much so, that we are now bolstering our team by recruiting another full time roofing tutor to support our delivery aims."

Lee added that the new roofing tutor will join the highly experienced roofing team of Dave Mallory and Dale Yates, replacing Chris Messenger who is moving into delivering Roofing Apprenticeship Standard end point assessments.

North East Roof Training Group AGM

The NERTG AGM will be held on Tuesday 22 November at the Riverside Stadium in Middlesbrough. In addition to updates from local roof training providers and CITB, the NERTG is delighted to have the Lighthouse Club attending to raise awareness of the mental health services they offer.

The Lighthouse Construction Industry Charity is the only charity that provides emotional, physical and financial wellbeing support to the construction community and their families.

They offer a variety of free construction focussed training programmes, ranging from hour long interactive wellbeing sessions, through to the MHFA England approved Mental Health First Aider courses.

Their latest campaign: Help Inside the Hard Hat aims to raise awareness of mental health issues in the construction industry.

If you or anyone you know is struggling, you can reach out for 24/7 free and confidential support via the Construction Industry Helplines: 0345 605 1956, (UK) 1800 939 122 (ROI) or text HARDHAT to 85258 (UK) 50808 (ROI).

Anyone wishing to attend the meeting, please register at nertg@btconnect.com.

One to Watch

Yorkshire Independent Roof Training Group (YIRTG) Officer, Denise Cherry recently went to meet with G Smith Roofing Ltd, a family firm specialising in loft conversion work in Leeds.

Director, Geoff Smith - known on YouTube as the Roofing Outlaw - has made sure his teams are well trained, including putting his son through an apprenticeship at Leeds College of Building. Denise also met Geoff's daughter, Bobby Mae who is following in her brother's footsteps and starts college shortly. Bobby Mae has spent quite a lot of time on roofs already and particularly likes doing decorative slate work.

YIRTG will be supporting Bobby Mae and following her progress through her apprenticeship.

Bobby Mae Smith from G Smith Roofing Ltd, who starts her roofing apprenticeship at Leeds College of Building in the near future.

A First for Preston College

It's a first for Preston College, as training for 19 first-year roofing apprentices is well underway in the Construction & the Built Environment area of Preston College, reports the North West Roof Training Group (NWRTG). Following a block-release pattern, students are attending College for one week in four, spending the other three weeks with their employers. Their first year will end with the June 2023 block, and it's likely that another cohort will start in the new year. Working to standards, this will meet the long-term skills needs of the employers. Plans are underway for a wide variety of activities which aim to develop stronger links with local schools and communities to encourage and promote interest in the programme.

Marley's lorry-load of sponsored tiles arrived right on cue and will serve the department well over the coming months. Meanwhile, the NWRTG is delighted that Burlington Stone is to supply the College with slate, which is quarried in the Kirkby Quarry, in the heart of the Lake District, Cumbria. It has operated for over 400 years and offers exceptional quality roofing slates to clients and their projects throughout the world.

The Group is even more committed to supporting the development of apprentices as part of its long-term strategy. Plans are already being made for visits to the quarry by the apprentices for them to see the production process, which uses a mix of time-honoured techniques and cutting-edge technology.

Simian's foray into roof slating/tiling apprenticeships is to start in January 2023. Lead Tutor, Luke O' Gorman, formerly of Bolton College, has recently announced that training will take place in a brand-new roof training facility in Warrington town centre. Read more on page 40.

There's still time for those of you with businesses in the Liverpool area (Liverpool, the Wirral, Sefton, Knowsley, Rainford, Halton), or if looking for labour in the area, to be involved in the initiative with the DWP and Liverpool College. If you will consider employing anyone currently unemployed, we can provide basic training, whether roof slating/tiling or RBM plus health and safety training, all at no cost to you. This offer is open to all, regardless of membership of our Group. Please contact us on nwrooftraining@gmail/07801 278282.

Construction Product Competence in Single Ply Roofing

Anthony Hogan, Technical Manager, Single Ply Roofing Association (SPRA)

In September, the Construction Products Association (CPA) published the *Built Environment – Proposed Construction Product Competence Standard* white paper on behalf of Working Group 12 (WG12) of the Competence Steering Group. WG12 Construction Products Competence was tasked to create a solution that ensures all those using construction products are competent to do so and can demonstrate their competence to others. The white paper has been developed to outline proposals for an industry agreed standard on construction product competence and give the built environment sector the earliest opportunity to consider these proposals and ready itself.

The Built Environment – Proposed Construction Product Competence Standard white paper can be downloaded from the Construction Products Association at www.constructionproducts.org.uk.

The requirements of each core level criteria of construction product competence (as outlined in the white paper) apply to many of the functions performed by members of the Single Ply Roofing Association (SPRA). Amongst others, these include designing, marketing or selling construction products; providing technical support for construction products; specifying construction products or designing with construction products; procuring construction products or services that provide/use construction products; handling or installing construction products; supervising, managing, inspecting or verifying other functions around construction products; and exchanging information about construction products.

Functions are listed deliberately, as roles are not standardised, meaning individuals with different roles can carry out similar functions. All SPRA members – Membrane Manufacturers, Associates and Contractors alike – perform one or more of the functions listed above, despite employing a variety of roles.

Construction product competence lays at the core of SPRA's raison d'être. The SPRA Design Guide has been the go-to technical guidance document for single ply roofing for almost 30 years. Several other technical guidance documents and component quality standards have been published in the meantime. And in more recent years, SPRA has collaborated with other trade associations to publish guidance for the benefit of the entire flat roofing industry.

SPRA Membrane Manufacturer Members must provide a comprehensive design guide for the application of single ply products in the UK based upon the requirements of the SPRA Design Guide and relevant, current British and European Standards. They must provide a structured health and safety and technical induction for technical representatives, whether engaged in sales or site support. Products and systems must be supplied only to contractors whose installers have passed a product-specific training course. Training must be offered to contractors' technical personnel, such as estimators and supervisors. A documented system of quality control through site visits before warranties are supplied to clients must also be operated.

SPRA Associate Members, too, must provide design guidance and technical support for SPRA Membrane Manufacturer and Contractor members.

> *The white paper has been developed to outline proposals for an industry agreed standard on construction product competence and give the built environment sector the earliest opportunity to consider these proposals and ready itself.*

SPRA Contractor Members must be registered with the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) and demonstrate a commitment to recognised training methods, such as National or Scottish Vocational Qualifications and those provided by SPRA Membrane Manufacturer Members, as outlined above. A detailed register of relevant training undertaken by employees must be maintained.

Clearly, much is being done by the single ply roofing industry via SPRA to drive construction product competence. The challenge now is for the industry to come together collectively to agree how its key functions will demonstrate construction product competence and publish construction product competence profiles for the use of the entire built environment sector.

As ever, the wider challenge for all trade associations – not just SPRA – is to appeal to manufacturers and contractors who fall outside of their reach and encourage them to become members. The construction industry, and the many sectors within it, are only as strong as their weakest links.

The Built Environment – Proposed Construction Product Competence Standard white paper is available to download from the CPA website (under Publications, Technical and Regulatory). At the time of writing, SPRA is convening a working group for the creation and management of construction product competence profiles and how those within the single ply roofing industry demonstrate construction product competence. All SPRA members are welcome to participate.

Further information about SPRA membership is available on the SPRA website: www.spra.co.uk.

Why Single Ply Roofing Remains the Top Market Choice

Single-ply roofing has been the go-to solution for flat roof systems for decades, following a move away from the traditional mixture of asphalt and tar in a built-up roofing system (BUR). As technology and manufacturing has progressed, the benefits of single ply have led the system to dominate the market and between 2019 and 2024 it's expected to see a compound annual growth rate of 9% worldwide. Sunny Lotay, National Commercial Manager at PermaRoof Commercial, part of PermaGroup discusses.

It's hard to believe there was a time before the use of single ply roofing when we consider just how well-used it is across the industry. Following the passing of the Occupational Safety and Health Act and the Passage of Clean Air Amendment Act in the 1970s, the negative impact of asphalt led to the introduction of single ply roofing systems to fill the gap. These roofing membranes have also proven their worth as a long-term solution, especially when it is used in a complete system.

Single ply products, such as EPDM, are made from synthetic rubber compounds and come in large sheets that don't require many seams or high temperatures to install. Its affordability, ease of installation and no-fuss maintenance alongside its longstanding protection make it an industry leader. While we still see the occasional instance of BUR, single ply roofing combines all the elements of the multi-layered approach into a single sheet of waterproofing material, that is easily laid and adhered to just about any flat roof.

For smaller roofs and spaces, some installations only require a single sheet of membrane reducing those slightly weaker areas at seams and joins, which further increases the strength and durability of the system. In certain brands, sizes reach up to 15.25m x 30.5m.

Come Rain or Shine

Part of the issue with other flat roofing materials is they can be at risk of deterioration through high exposure to UV rays – this causes the loss of beneficial properties within the solution. Changes in temperature through the UK's seasonal transitions can degrade materials, resulting in cracking and tearing particularly at weaker points.

In contrast, single ply roofing solutions have a high tensile strength, so even in extreme temperature fluctuations, it can provide superior waterproofing and is much more resistant to damage. The elasticity within single ply membranes allows the building to move through changing weather conditions, and this is retained at extreme low temperatures, up to –45oC in some cases, such as EPDM rubber roofs.

In addition, the design of single ply makes it superior for weatherproofing, due to its availability in large sheets. This means for smaller roofs and spaces, some installations only require a single sheet of membrane reducing those slightly weaker areas at seams and joins, which further increases the strength and durability of the system. In certain brands, sizes reach up to 15.25m x 30.5m, allowing for maximum coverage and longevity.

Working in Synergy

Another reason why more contractors are using singly-ply roof systems is the versatility it offers. It can be used on a variety of commercial and residential projects including extensions, terraces, sheds and larger buildings. It's also a great option for repairing metal roofs and

supporting green roofs, which have become increasingly common in the drive for more eco-friendly architecture.

A full system approach is best when it comes to roofing and consists of a membrane, adhesives, tapes, primer, insulation and AVCL. Single ply products are designed to work in synergy with a range of layers resulting in a high performing, reliable roof.

On projects where there are challenges or tight timescales, single ply systems make jobs easier due to their quick installation process, with the large sheets making for faster coverage. No specialist tools, heat or flames are needed, meaning teams spend less time onsite.

What improves the lifespan of single ply systems, is the ability to adapt them to feature new additions such as roof lights or vent pipe. Customers can be safe in the knowledge they can keep up with trends, or their changing needs.

Clifford Tower Case Study

In November 2021, PermaRoof Commercial was brought on to a renovation project at Clifford Tower in York. After centuries of degradation from weathering the elements, English Heritage sanctioned a full rebuilding of the historic landmark's roof with modern materials to secure it for decades yet to come.

Adding difficulty to the refurbishment was the worldwide materials shortages meaning strong communication and feedback in the logistics chain were vital to have the required materials available when they were needed, and for the project to be completed. PermaRoof Commercial, Firestone, and Leicester based contractor Modern Roofs worked together to ensure a successful installation.

At the beginning of the project, the tower was little more than a few walls. Once beams had been installed, the roof was ready to be laid. When choosing the right roofing system, the team knew that longevity and durability were needed. After meeting with the architects, the team suggested and ultimately used RubberGard EPDM singly ply roofing.

Modern Roofs installed the chosen Firestone RubberGard EPDM system, covering approximately 300m^2 which ensured protection from the elements that would last for decades.

Sunny Lotay, National Commercial Manager at PermaRoof Commercial, said: "The York Clifford Tower is a site of historical importance that's regeneration was entrusted into our hands. We wanted this new iteration of the tower to be a landmark sight in York and so needed to make sure the materials used, and installation process, was of the highest quality to improve longevity.

"The single ply system used worked in synergy with the other products required and did not require specialist circumstances like high temperature to install, meaning other trades were able to continue their work on the site simultaneously."

Standing the Test of Time

When looking for a long-term solution, single ply roofing offers an exceptional life expectancy – as much as 40 years and potentially longer. We know the first Firestone rubber EPDM roofs were laid in the States by Firestone in the 1980s and are still successfully protecting these roofs today.

An added bonus, and what improves the lifespan of single ply systems, is the ability to adapt them to feature new additions such as roof lights or vent pipe. Customers can be safe in the knowledge they can keep up with trends, or their changing needs. With high-quality single ply systems, the colour and finish is an aesthetically pleasing shade of black that looks more natural and won't show dirt easily. The smooth, clean texture should stay looking smart for years, as unlike the more traditional systems, moss is not able to grow.

Furthermore, choosing a full system from a reputable brand will usually mean the inclusion of a warranty. For example, Firestone offers a membrane warranty up to 20 years with every installation by a licensed or authorised installer, so the roof is set for the future.

Find out more about PermaRoof solutions at www.permaroof.co.uk/commercial.

Multifunctional Roofs

Extreme heat in summer, combined with soaring winter heating costs, is focusing attention on innovative solutions to keep buildings comfortable and energy efficient. Ross Finnie, Sales Director at SIG Design & Technology (SIG D&T) explains a new, multifunctional solution.

The concept of green roofs is not new. Advocates have for years pointed to the benefits of reducing surface water run-off and increasing bio-diversity in urban areas. Add to that list the fact that the thermal mass of a green roof provides an effective barrier to solar heat gain and there is a compelling argument in its favour.

And then there is renewable energy. Solar PV panels are enjoying a resurgence in popularity as building owners look to reduce energy bills and move towards the goal of zero carbon buildings.

Partnership Solution

Until now the choice between these solutions has been seen as just that: a choice. PV panels, even surface mounted, have typically been located too close to the surface of a roof to allow for vegetation to flourish around and under the panels.

SIG, with its growing portfolio of sustainable products, has found a solution in the form of a partnership between SIG Design and Technology and Eco Green Roof (EGR). The SolarNature system lifts the panel clear of the roof, allowing light and rain to reach the planted surface.

In this system, PV panels are mounted above the roof substrate, with the front edge of each panel at around 300 mm. This not only allows the vegetation to have the right conditions to grow, but also helps with the orientation of the PV panels.

The optimum angle for maximum output from south facing PV in the UK is generally between 35 and 45 degrees from horizontal (although the precise angle will vary depending on the latitude of the installation).

The proximity of vegetation to the panels is also positive for power output. The roof's vegetation, combined with the evaporation of rainwater held within the green roof system helps to reduce the temperature at the roof's surface, which in turn reduces the ambient temperature close to the PV panels, further increasing their electrical output.

In this system the PV panels are supported by the green roof build-up eliminating the need to penetrate the waterproof membrane. Instead, a steel mounting system is incorporated into the green roof reservoir board at the base of the green roof build up.

The reservoir board is deeply recessed to capture rainwater which will then support the vegetation by keeping soil moist. It is important to make sure that the board has sufficient capacity to fill and hold water even when it is in the rain shadow of the PV panels. Excess rainwater is directed to the roof perimeter where gullies and outlets allow for runaway.

With panels mounted above the roofline, wind uplift is always a consideration - and particularly at the perimeter of the roof and at the corners where the wind vortex is generally at its strongest. Ballast for the system is provided by the growing substrate and wind mapping is required to calculate the volume of ballast required at a specific location.

It all amounts to a relative complex design and installation process requiring multiple products and materials. For the installer, the benefit of the SolarNature system is that it is supplied as a complete roofing system, with a single point of contact for the waterproof layer, the green roof build-up and the integrated solar panels.

The D&T team at SIG steps in to help with the optimum design for the system which will be bespoke for each individual building. The total area of PV panels, the number, size and installation angle of the system will all be dictated by the peak kilowatt output requirement.

Panels will need to be situated to allow for maintenance access and the bio-solar design will also need to integrate with other roof-mounted services such as: soil and vent pipes, HVAC plant, pipe and cable runs and even maintenance tracks and turntables.

Planning Stage Calculations

At the planning stage for each project, SIG D&T and EGR will work with the PV provider to produce a roof layout which will then be used to run a wind mapping analysis and work out minimum ballast requirements.

Ballast weights will be calculated on the dry weight of the growing medium to ensure adequate loading in dry conditions. However, to design the supporting structure it is the increased weight of the growing medium and reservoir when saturated with water which is used.

A bird's eye (or drone) view of most UK city skylines shows the increasing popularity of green roofs. We think this is a trend that will continue and that the ability to combine this roof type with active energy generation will allow contractors to add significant value to a new roof installation or replacement roof project.

Upgrading our Roofing Goals from Sustainability to Circularity

Allen Coldrake, from Carlisle Construction Materials, discusses the need for a circular approach to sustainability and highlights the best practice approaches in the Netherlands that can inform enhanced environmental performance in UK construction.

Greater awareness of the climate crisis means that 'green' buildings are no longer just for the eco-conscious; environmental responsibility has been elevated from a nice-to-have to a need-to-have. Alongside legislative requirements to construct greener buildings, the whole subject of sustainability has become much more than a casual conversation, littered with greenwash and empty promises; sustainability is now monitored as an accountable element of the procurement process.

But sustainability is always a work in progress. As a commercial discipline, it needs to be approached with the principles of continuous improvement, which means taking opportunities to learn from best practice. In addition to selecting products that last longer, the roofing sector also needs to consider what happens to construction materials at the end of their service life. Can they be recycled or re-used? How can they be given a second life? Who will be responsible for ensuring that reincarnation?

Building materials can only be re-used or recycled cost-effectively if they can be removed cleanly from the building at the end of their service life.

Carlisle's Hertalan EPDM roofing system is a case in point. With a 50+ year service life expectancy, EPDM is already known as an environmentally beneficial roofing technology. The system enhances these baseline green credentials by enabling roofing contractors to install the EPDM membrane using an induction system, allowing the material to be stripped cleanly from the roof at the end of its service life for recycling or re-use.

What is Circular Sustainability?

Circular sustainability is a methodology that puts a cradle-to-cradle approach to selecting materials at the heart of the procurement process. This means selecting products that have reduced embedded carbon emissions, extended performance and the ability to be returned to the value chain at the end of their initial service life. It is a philosophy that is seeing the drive for greener construction come of age, and Carlisle is at the vanguard of adopting those goals in the roofing sector.

Circularity in Action: the Netherlands

In the Netherlands, to boost a culture of circularity in the construction sector, a Dutch Government initiative is enabling developers or building owners to recoup up to 12% of the cost of both building materials and labour. To enable the client to qualify for these financial measures, the product supplier must promise to take back the materials at the end of their service life and recycle them or reprocess them so that they can be re-used.

Structuring the scheme in this way incentivises the whole supply chain to get on board with the concept of circularity. For the developer or building owner, it not only potentially provides substantial cost savings on the final account, but also delivers an incentive to become actively involved in the specification strategy, which could deliver quality and service life benefits, along with sustainability credentials. For the contractor, the incentive scheme enables due diligence in dealings with the supply chain and puts the onus on the supplier to facilitate circularity. And for building products suppliers, there is an incentive to step up efforts to achieve cradle-to-cradle lifecycles during the product development process.

While the UK does not have a government-led scheme to drive this approach, the UK construction industry can still learn from the best practice we're seeing in the Netherlands. Building materials can only be re-used or recycled cost-effectively if they can be removed cleanly from the building at the end of their service life. Consequently, ancillary materials and installation techniques should be factored into specification choices in order to reduce waste and optimise circularity potential. This is why using our induction system with Hertalan EPDM membranes epitomises the principles of circularity - because it means the material can be fully separated from the insulation without contamination due to adhesives or primers. As a result, the amount of product that can be reprocessed to recover and reuse the component compounds can be maximised.

Long Term Sustainability Strategies

The benefits of circularity may not be felt for a while – when it comes to EPDM roofing membranes, for example, there is an anticipated service life of 50 years – but making the right choices are still critical now. The devastating effects of this year's summer heatwaves have reiterated that there really is a climate crisis and the roofing industry has a responsibility to consider long-term strategies to reduce its carbon footprint that it shouldn't ignore.

Avoiding Costly Consequences with Seal Certainty

Brian Mack MIoR, Technical Business Development Manager at EJOT UK.

When was the last time you checked the tyre pressures in your car? It may seem like an odd question, but it has parallels with something that many roofing contractors do day in, day out.

If you drive a modern car, it is likely to have tyre pressure sensors, so the car tells you when your tyres need attention. This could be a simple top up of air, or an indication that you have a puncture. The good news is, however, that built-in technology tells you when there is a problem, giving you the chance to take action before it causes you a real headache.

If your car is not enabled with tyres sensors, then visual inspection or noticeable changes in the car's driving performance are the only ways you will know you have a problem. In these situations, by the time you realise you have a tyre problem it could be too late to fix easily, with cost and inconvenience resulting.

Despite being a relatively easy thing to do, the vast majority of us probably never check our tyre pressures before a long journey.

Like many aspects of life, other things take over so if there isn't an obvious problem it is unlikely to get our attention.

This scenario is similar to what we see on construction sites every day – and it is another situation where airtightness is key!

Good washer compression but not over-driven is the ideal.

In a survey recently conducted by EJOT UK, virtually no roofing and cladding installers said they regard self-drilling fastener seal testing as the priority when working on building envelope installations.

How do we ensure self-drilling fasteners are working as they should, set correctly to ensure air and watertight performance is achieved from day one of installation?

Imagine if the self-drilling fasteners securing our roofs or facades had technology built in to give us information that they needed attention to stop air leakage or water ingress and prevent major maintenance or roof replacement. If they did, our buildings would be far better protected – like most of our modern cars. Unfortunately, even if the technology was available, it would be extremely costly.

So how do we ensure self-drilling fasteners are working as they should, set correctly to ensure air and watertight performance is achieved from day one of installation? And why does it matter?

Problems Caused by Inadequate Fastener Seals

How often have you seen inside relatively new buildings a bucket standing in the middle of the floor collecting dripping water from the roof above? Clearly this could be caused by many things, but one is a result of water ingress through an incorrectly installed outer sheet. It is an obvious sign of what can happen if we don't get the seal right during installation and can prove extremely costly. To fix the problem, the building owner or client will need to address the situation, resulting in the original roofing installer having to return to site to rectify the issue.

Think of the cost involved in this process. There is time and travel to/from the site for meetings and remediation work. Then there is the cost of all the necessary access and safety equipment. But that's just the start – the client may make a claim for loss of revenue or business interruption caused by the roofing repairs, and that could be significantly greater than everything else.

The problem is not just sealing against water/moisture. The statutory requirement for air performance testing of the complete building means the building's airtightness performance is also of prime importance. Therefore, seal testing of fasteners within the liner of a built up system also require to be seal tested, in the same manner as the external weather face.

Where the air-tightness testing does not detect a problem – and there is no sign of water ingress –long term heating costs for the building could be far greater than anticipated as warm air simply escapes through leaky seals. Here the building is never going to be as energy efficient as it was designed to be, something that is at odds with the objectives of Part L of the Building Regulations and the need to reduce CO_2 emissions.

For something that is easily avoidable, the costs of an incorrectly installed roofing system for the client and roofing installers could be huge. But it comes back to the car tyres scenario – why check if there is no obvious sign of a problem?

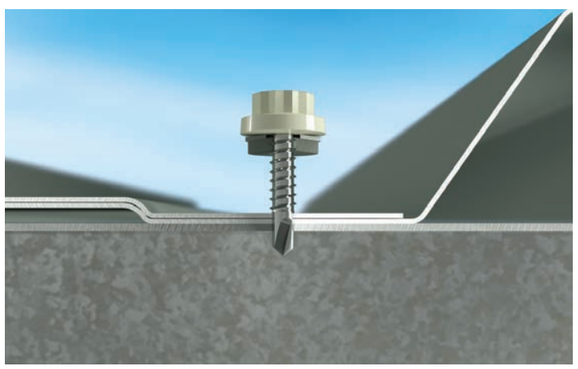
Incorporating regular seal testing within the day to day work schedule may take some getting used to, but it will eventually become second nature and installers will quickly be able to switch to cruise control.

With VACUtest the pressure guage makes it easy to assess whether the seal is a pass or fail.

What does Best Practice Look Like?

Productivity, sustainability, competency, and quality of the installed products are all aspects that the construction industry is rightfully focused on. These are areas that associations such as the NFRC and MCRMA are helping to promote within our professional industry, and they are making a big difference. But again, how do we bolt on these aspects in our overcrowded hectic working lives. Are there any small changes we can introduce to give maximum benefit?

With every project presenting different and numerous possible combinations of screws and panels, not to mention the variety of power tools used by different installers, it is difficult for leading lights like the NFRC to provide a 'one size fits all' approach to using self-drilling fasteners.



EJOT's ***Best Practice Guide: VACUtest*** addresses aspects from correct installation speeds to washer compression.

However, fundamentally, achieving an effective self-drilling fastener seal requires a focus on the installation process. Choose a screw gun with the right speed setting and a nosepiece that can be precisely set to the requirements of the job, and take care with every fastener as it is driven into place. But, even with great care, experienced installers will want to confirm that the seal is good.

The answer lies with seal testing. Whilst this is a remarkably simple process, we know it is low down the priority list for just about every installer. In a survey recently conducted by EJOT UK, virtually no roofing and cladding installers said they regard self-drilling fastener seal testing as the priority when working on building envelope installations.

It is understandable when productivity is paramount with tighter and tighter work programmes, but it should not be at the expense of installation quality. Little cultural changes can give enhanced build quality with a minimal amount of time and effort from the installation team.

All Hands to the Pump

Testing a fastener seal is easier than pumping up the tyre on a bike. Everything you need is in a seal testing kit, like the EJOT VACUtest.

This is an easy to use air pressure testing kit that works by creating a vacuum around the fastener head via a suction cup attached to a hose and a hand pump. Pump the air out of the suction cup and you get a reading which tells you if it is a 'pass' or a 'fail'.

Incorporating regular seal testing within the day to day work schedule may take some getting used to, but it will eventually become second nature and installers will quickly be able to switch to cruise control.

What fits one person's routine may, however, not work with the next person. So it may be that the preferred method is to check the first couple of installs at the start of the day or after a comfort break or at the end of each period. Alternatively, it may be more adaptable between changes of fastener, say from main fix to stitcher or panel fastener to rooflight fastener.

The benefits really do outweigh the added testing process. Just like checking your tyres periodically perhaps? But it's much more than that – it is like that periodic checking of your satnav and your speed. None of us want that unexpected speeding ticket that arrives days after our journey or a problematic roof where we have to go back and check the install after the event.

Find out more at www.ejot.co.uk.

Roofing Industry Goes the Distance to Put Roofs Over the Heads of the Most Vulnerable

The results are in. This year's Charity Team Challenge, organised by the Liquid Roofing and Waterproofing Association (LRWA), has been the biggest yet. Raising £11K across the four-week challenge, 140 participants walked, ran, cycled and swam as far as they could in 30 minutes – covering more than 900km in total.

Industry-wide Competition

"This is one of the biggest challenges in the roofing sector where industry competitors come together to raise money for charity," said Sarah Spink, CEO of the LRWA.

"We have raised more than £30K in the last five years for much-needed organisations, and for the past two years, we have chosen to support LandAid."

The charity invests more £2 million every year in projects working to end youth homelessness. LandAid is focussed on providing safe, secure and affordable accommodation for young people across the UK who would otherwise be living on the streets.

Team 'Sika Wolf Pack' won gold after recording the longest distances out of all 14 teams. 'WestWood Warriors' took silver and 'Axter Allstars' won bronze. Proteus Spartans raised the most amount for charity, and David Morrison from WestWood Liquid Technologies won the prize for his photograph taken in the most original location at Gateshead Quayside in Newcastle.

Raising the Profile of Roofing

The challenge was seen on a global scale across social media – with more than 45,000 views on the LRWA accounts alone, with personal posts reaching an estimated 1.8 million people on LinkedIn, in just one month.

Sarah says the event has helped to raise the profile of the association and the liquid roofing sector as a whole, as the LRWA continues to work hard to maintain the highest of standards across the industry.

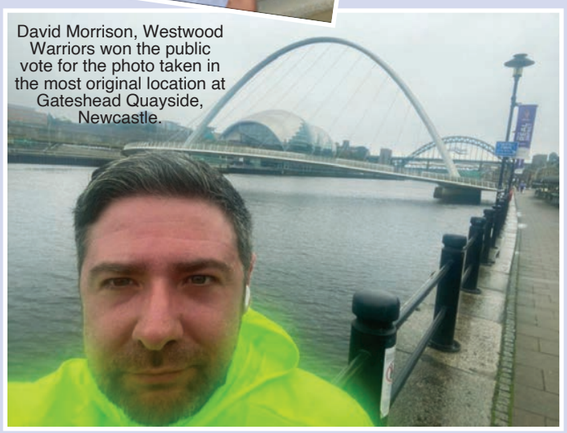
Sarah added: "A huge congratulations to the winners, and to all the teams that took part. The challenge this year has been the biggest we've seen, and I'm so proud of what we've achieved together. Our target was £6K, but we've raised more than £10K for such a fantastic charity.

"The challenge is fun and we've all had a good time; sharing photos and getting the competitive spirit going. But in all seriousness, together, the liquid roofing industry has helped to put a roof over the heads of some of the most vulnerable in the UK, and we should all be really proud of our efforts. The challenge will return again!"

The winner will be presented with the trophy at the LRWA Awards and Gala in March 2023.


Sam Kidd from the gold winning Sika Wolf Pack team, took part in style in Florence, Italy.


Eric Young, ICB Waterproofing - the 'Icy Bees' team - completed his challenge at home... with a little help!


David Morrison, Westwood Warriors won the public vote for the photo taken in the most original location at Gateshead Quayside, Newcastle.

Kara Doble photobombing the Triflex Tri-Athletes team!

Alistair Puddick from the IKO-NICS looking the business with his bike!

Aman Chahal and TaperedPlus's TP Tornadoes team at Roseberry Topping, N Yorks.

Jim Corleys from the Proteus Spartans team who raised the most money for charity LandAid. Jim cycled around the grounds of the iconic 16th century Layer Marney Tower, Colchester which has the tallest gatehouse in Britain at 80ft. Lucky Jim wasn't abseiling!

Andy Houghton showing off his MOY Magic at the Angel of the North near Gateshead.

Could Product Information Help Address UK Housing Stock's Lagging Insulation?

Simon Blackham, Senior Technical Manager at Recticel Insulation

Poorly insulated homes continue to afflict the UK, costing householders dear with no end in sight to increasing energy prices. It's long been known that domestic energy output makes a significant contribution to overall greenhouse gas emissions – not to mention domestic expenditure – so why does the UK's housing stock continue to lag behind its European neighbours when it comes to energy efficiency?

Properties not living up to design expectations is a significant part of UK housing stock falling short of energy standards. The resulting performance gap could provide a challenge to the government's 2050 net zero pledge, particularly as a 2021 National Housing Federation report revealed poor insulation was a contributor to England's homes producing more carbon emissions each year than is emitted by all of the country's cars.

So, whom or what is responsible for the UK's energy deficient housing stock and what is being done to tackle the issue? A failure to maintain consistent best building practice at crucial stages of the construction process remains an industry concern. The 'swapping out' of specified products mid-construction, for example, not only increases the risk of a costly retrofit requirement to bring a property in line with regulation energy standards, it could compromise a building's structural integrity and the occupants' safety. Initiatives such as the Building Regulator will help to police such practices, but is yet to come into full operation. It will encourage a much-needed layer of transparency to the build process and fulfills Dame Judith Hackitt's call for a 'golden thread' of information as part of her post-Grenfell report into the fire safety of buildings.

Following industry wide consultation, the Code for Construction Product Information is designed to ensure building product information is clear, accurate, current, accessible and unambiguous.

Code for Construction Product Information

Dame Judith's much-vaunted report has also led to the development of the Code for Construction Product Information (CCPI), which is being introduced to encourage manufacturers to provide transparent and accessible information on what their products are designed to achieve and how they are used.

Initiated by the Construction Products Association's Marketing Integrity Group following industry-wide consultation, the Code is designed to ensure building product information is clear, accurate, current, accessible and unambiguous. It is hoped that by applying these well defined tenets to the way data is set out, specifiers, architects, consultants and contractors will be able to make more informed decisions when it comes to the product specification process. In turn, property owners will be in possession of buildings constructed to higher standards, dependent on the suitable materials being correctly installed and monitored during the build process.

The Code could also have a key role to play in supporting the next generation of construction workers. A report by the Construction Skills Network (CSN) estimated the UK construction industry needs to recruit an additional 217,000 employees by 2025 in order to meet the country's building demands. The skills shortfall, which has blighted the building sector for a number of years, has been heightened by a post-Brexit exodus of EU workers. This, along with the global building materials shortage, threatens to jeopardise the government's pledge to build the 300,000 homes per year to curb the country's property crisis.

A new workforce takes time to fully acquire the skills and experience gained by seasoned colleagues. Therefore, additional support provided by initiatives such as the CCPI, which make clear a product's intended use and outcomes, can only bolster a new recruits' confidence in terms of the specification and installation decision-making process. Ideally, the far-reaching benefit of such action is a maintaining of building standards whilst a new generation of construction workers learn their trade.

Supply Chain Collaboration

Aside from improving the way their product data is presented, manufacturers can play a significant role in helping to educate the next generation of construction workers. For example, at Recticel and our tapered insulation division, Gradient, we have a technical team whose expertise is readily available to customers, as well as a series of RIBA approved CPDs which are designed for all building professionals – from architects to contractors - to stay up-to-date and compliant with building regulations. This has particular relevance to the Part L changes to Building Regulations relating to insulation – which came into force in June 2022.

Manufacturers are only one link in the building supply chain, however. There's an equal onus on each sector of the construction industry to help boost the skills of the sector's incoming workforce if 'built as intended' is to become a phrase more readily applied to our future housing stock. To this end, the Code could prove to be one of the most vital responses to Dame Judith's post Grenfell strategy.

Pride, Disney, and Going for the Domestic USP at Dalton Roofing

The owner of Dalton Roofing in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, Phil Dalton exudes a fervent enthusiasm for roofing. It's been his lifelong passion from the moment Phil, 52, first stood on a roof at 15 years old.

"I found it exciting going up scaffolding", he says, "I thought it was almost like a different world up there on a roof. My parents didn't have a car - and you'd get picked up in a van. I grew up in a council house - and we'd work on some fantastic properties; I'd never seen anything like it. I was in awe of it. You get on a roof and it really is like a different world and I just took to it straight away."

"I'm just so passionate about what I do, I love my job and I love roofing. I think everyone's like me but they're not - I just like work. I am different to other roofers because I always knew from being young that I wanted to work for myself."

Phil's determination to work hard in his own roofing firm meant he set up in business in 1990 at just 20 years old. Starting with one apprentice and a van, Phil and team have been re-roofing, repairing, and maintaining roofs in Chesterfield, Sheffield, Rotherham, and the Peak District ever since. Eager to learn about business, he says, "I went on loads of courses about selling, marketing, advertising, so I really learnt about that side."

"One of the things I learnt was about Disney because Disney 'sell happiness', which I took into roofing. So every survey I do, I try to make it a really positive customer experience, like Disney. I try to make it special so that we're memorable and even if the customer doesn't choose us, I want them to use us as a benchmark."

The company's focus on customer experience follows through to communicating with them at every stage of the job, in person, by phone and text – and it pays off, as the company's 96% satisfaction rating from hundreds of Google reviews shows.

Rachel Griffiths, Dalton's Office Manager, explains: "You want the experience to be a good one from start to finish. When you've got a customer ringing up anxious about their roof, we want their experience to be reassuring, from that first phone call, to seeing the site manager conducting a risk assessment before work starts, to paying for the job and following up afterwards - the whole experience needs to be right."

> *One of the things I learnt was about Disney because Disney 'sell happiness', which I took into roofing.*

Fostering such strong relationships with customers, Phil tells how much of their business flows from recommendations and from people seeing their distinctive, navy liveried vans working in a locality.

Dalton's USP

Rejecting the concerns of some tradespeople that repair work can be messy and complicated, Dalton Roofing has made a USP of specialising in domestic work. Phil says "I'll tell people the truth if someone's got unachievable expectations. Roofing to me is not just about award-winning roofs, it's about everyday roofs. It's about being an everyday roofing contractor where you deal with everyday issues.

"You can't make something that's been on a building over a hundred years perfect, but you can get it a lot better and almost perfect. We've made domestic repairs into an art form where it's just what we do."

Although the company also works on schools, businesses and churches, about 60% of their £1.5m turnover comes from domestic work. The company remains busier than ever, with Phil completing an average of a dozen or so roof surveys every day and on these alone he's booked up at least six weeks ahead. "Demand is that great", says Phil. "But this brand is so strong that people want to wait for us."

Phil's person-centric approach extends beyond his customers to managing his 25-strong team of roofers, alongside his wife, Helen, daughter Olivia Thompson working with Rachel and son, William Thompson as Foreman. Gradually increasing his workforce, Phil has followed a format where he'd recruit an apprentice and train them up in-house. That trained roofer would then be put with their own apprentice who they'd train and so on.

A significant turning point for the company, and Phil personally, was when Paul Root joined the business. This expert roofer took charge of Phil's growing team and helped to foster a company culture of taking pride in your work and being the best you can be. Paul's death last year was clearly a huge blow to Phil: "We were best friends, in and out of work. At his funeral, his wish was to be buried in his work uniform. Paul was a master roofer, he came and made a massive difference, Paul trained virtually them all."

> *You've got to make them be the best they can. It's all about belief. If you don't feel good in yourself, you're not going to be good at anything.*

Since joining, in the past two years, with the help of Denise Cherry at the Yorkshire Independent Roof Training Group (YIRTG), Dalton Roofing has put its team through formal training, achieving not only Level 2 NVQs, but 11 staff have also passed RoofCERT, with another 6 about to follow.

"We want to recognise their work. Some of our roofers, they're absolutely amazing but they've never had that opportunity to become qualified. Now they've actually got a qualification with RoofCERT. They were proud to be chosen, they're proud to do it. They feel they are on a journey with us, which builds trust and loyalty, so we're hoping they'll stay with us."

Being the Best You Can Be

Now, Phil has recruited another Paul – Paul Stevenson, who is also hugely experienced with 37 years in the industry, and he's helping to maintain the training and personal development ethos.

Phil explains, "As site manager Paul visits all the sites and checks on the men on a daily basis and he'll spend time with each one. Paul's a perfectionist so if he doesn't like something he'll get them to change it, he's meticulous, which is what you want.

"Customers see on his uniform 'Paul, Site Manager', they see it on his van and like that. It's back to the Disney concept of a really strong brand."

An essential part of his commitment to providing an excellent service, Phil is a big fan of the NFRC, valuing the updates, training days, talks and newsletters you get as a member.

Rachel explains how Phil will help the lads joining the company, encouraging them, giving them pride in themselves and their work, and even helping them in their personal lives.

"You've got to make them be the best they can. It's all about belief. If you don't feel good in yourself, you're not going to be good at anything," Phil adds.

The pride in roofing Phil fosters in his workforce is also something he would like to see recognised beyond the industry.

"I think I've got a moral responsibility to get people into it, to make it people's first choice, to think 'I want to be a roofer'."

To help achieve this, Phil explains they're visiting 18 schools, borrowing mini roofing rigs off the YIRTG for schoolchildren to get a fun taste of roofing. Phil is keen that no one is excluded and supports recruiting a diverse workforce – "why can't we have 'Rachel the roofer'?"

However, he cautions that the industry has to be careful of not playing to the stereotypical images of roofing. He says, "I'm not a lover of that phrase 'on the tools' because I think it makes roofing sound lesser than what it is. I think it's more of a craft.

"If I go to a job and someone has messed it up, I never slag anyone else's work off. You've got to think of the bigger picture because ultimately it gives roofers a bad name.

"I think your one-man-and-a-van roofers are underrated and a lot of them do a fantastic job. They are what this industry needs, you need that one man and a van to pass on their skills."

"I just want to get more people into the industry. I want to get the one man and a van and upskill them. The industry is full of people like me, good tradesmen in their fifties, but we're a dying breed. We have a lifetime of skills and we need to pass them on to the next generation."

Dalton Roofing has also recently built its own roofing rigs to additionally train apprentices and upskill other roofers joining the company to the latest standards and building regulations. It reflects Phil's philosophy of looking after and developing every one of his employees.

Dalton Roofing was delighted to recently play a major part in the restoration of Maltby School in Rotherham. The work to restore the 25 roof elevations and clock tower was part of a £4.5 million government funded project to restore the school.

The restoration of Shrewsbury's Flaxmill Maltings involved re-roofing in Welsh Slate's Penrhyn Heather Blues.

The Regeneration of a Flagship World-First Heritage Roofing Project

The world's first iron-framed building, the forerunner of the modern skyscraper, is now enjoying a new lease of life in Shrewsbury, as a visitor attraction and workplace.

Historic England, who took over the site in 2005, have redeveloped the complex over an 8-year restoration project, into a show piece of sustainable development.

The five-storey iron-framed Main Mill at Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings, was first built in 1797 to house workers spinning linen cloth from flax and is one of 8 listed buildings within the site. A century later, the main mill was converted for use as a malt house, where barley was prepared for use in brewing.

The internationally significant site closed, when it was being used as a maltings, in 1987 and vandalism and neglect took their toll to such an extent that it was placed on the Heritage at Risk register.

Now, with funding from Historic England and roofing materials from Welsh Slate, it is completely refurbished, at a cost of £28 million. The County-grade Penrhyn Heather Blue slates from Welsh Slate are protecting the Grade I listed Main Mill, South Engine House, Grade I listed Cross Mill and Grade II listed Kiln for more than a century to come.

Show Piece Development

Historic England, who took over the site in 2005, have redeveloped the complex over an 8-year restoration project, into a show piece of sustainable development. They have achieved the sensitive recycling of a historic landmark and an inspirational place to visit.

The now fully restored and re-roofed Main Mill and Kiln opened in September 2022 for the first time as a visitor destination, with a new exhibition, an independent café, shop and workspace, where people can come to celebrate and explore the site's story.

The restoration of these two buildings at the Flaxmill Maltings is taking place supported by a £20.7 million grant through The National Lottery Heritage Fund, combined with additional funding from the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership, and from project partners, Historic England and Shropshire Council.

As well as its iron frame construction, the flax mill was famed for its 'fireproof construction' and was entirely steam powered. Coal was transported to the site via the Shrewsbury and Newport Canal which completed in the same year. The building was first lit by gas provided by its own on-site gas works in 1811, some 9 years before the town's first gas lights.

With all these accolades to its name, it was appropriate that roofing slates widely regarded as the world's finest were used on its regeneration. Welsh Slate's 500mm x 300mm Penrhyn Heather Blues were installed, along with random diminishing 900mm to 450mm lengths, by building conservation specialists, Croft Building and Conservation who worked on a total of almost 1,500m² of roofs.

The roof pitch variation between 28º to 63º and the saw tooth design of the main mill were particular challenges in restoring the 1,500m² of slate roofs.

Shrewsbury's Flaxmill Maltings site lay derelict as a city centre eyesore for more than three decades before the Historic England restoration project started.

The Main Mill roof was 200 years old. Its last major overhaul was in the 1960s, with a mix of re-used original new (thin) slate laid to a minimal spec. When the building became redundant in 1987 it was held together with turnerising and flash band for the next 20 years.

In addition, a series of invasive investigations had revealed the Kiln roof particularly was at an advanced stage of decay due to its former intensive use as a maltings and the subsequent years of dereliction.

Croft Building and Conservation director Ollie Chance said: "Restoring the roofs on this project was a challenge, partly due to steep roof pitches which rose from 28° up to 63°, and the roof of the Main Mill being of a saw tooth design comprising a series of ridges with dual pitches either side. However, our skilled workforce rose to the challenge admirably, helped along by the high quality of the Welsh Slate used for the tiles."

Tim Greensmith, associate at architects Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios, said: "We used traditional crafts and local materials where possible to repair the Main Mill, drawing on the history of the building and ensuring its longevity into the future."

FCB Studios, who have acted as strategic advisors and architect to Historic England on the project since 2003, have used Welsh Slate extensively before, but in this case, it was also recommended by The Stone Roof Association.

The architects' proposals were designed to provide an exemplar of how modern technology and engineering innovation can be applied to such prototype heritage buildings, complementing and preserving their special character.

> *The original roof was of Welsh slate, so it was vital to ensure the same material was used for the replacement roofing. The new roofs look fantastic and will help to keep these buildings safe for many decades to come."*

Nick Hill, national conservation projects manager for Historic England, said: "Throughout the restoration of Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings it has been important to Historic England that we retained as many of the original features of these internationally-significant buildings as possible.

"Where we have had to replace elements, as with the roofs, we strived to obtain appropriate materials from high-quality sources and local suppliers where we could. The original roof was of Welsh slate, so it was vital to ensure the same material was used for the replacement roofing.

The new roofs look fantastic and will help to keep these buildings safe from the degradations of time for many decades to come." |||

For the full story on Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings, Historic England's flagship project, go to www.shrewsburyflaxmillmaltings.org.uk/.

Working Towards Positive Wellbeing in the Roofing Workplace

Denise Cherry, Chair of the National Roof Training Group (NRTG) and Group Training Officer of the Yorkshire Independent Roof Training Group

The people within a business are the foundations of its success. Everyone has skills, experience and knowledge, and each individual has a part to play in the development of the business. However, when this is not recognised, it can lead to stresses within the workplace, and head towards a toxic environment which has a negative effect on the workforce

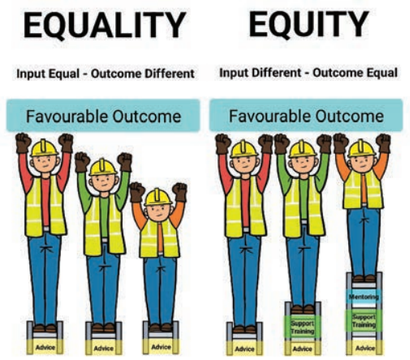
What's the Problem?

Roofing work can involve long days and working away from home. When workers feel compelled to work long hours and there's little down time with family and friends, it can create a situation in which poor mental health can become more likely. Added to the mix is the industry's historically macho culture, making it hard for workers to speak out and ask for help. With the increasing stresses on health, finance, and relationships caused by a possible recession, winter illness and life generally, what steps can a business take to make things better for their workforce?

What Can be Done to Protect the Roofing Workforce?

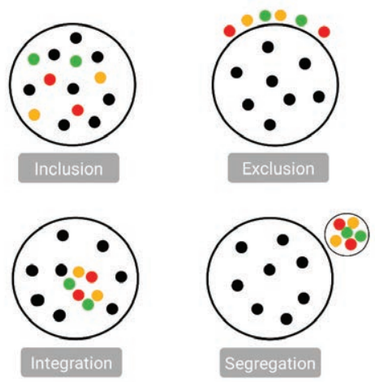
Companies should ensure a positive and inclusive workplace culture. A poor culture can be caused a range of circumstances so it's important to develop an honest and open culture. If open conversations don't happen, this can increase feelings of stress. The workplace should become a place of trust, compassion and openness so that people can ask for help and support without feeling embarrassed or stigmatised.

Adopting a modern leadership approach means focusing on understanding and mentoring employees. Getting to know people as individuals, providing an 'open door' policy and connecting people together, not only in the workplace, but also socially and emotionally will all help establish an open culture. Employees should have access to a safe space in which to unload and speak freely.



Signs of a Healthy Inclusive Business

Great Leadership	Offering Opportunities
Great leaders create a shared purpose for their teams, they inspire and empower their employees to do great work. Developing support systems such as mentoring, coaching, and training will allow individuals, teams, and, ultimately, the business to succeed.	Opportunity is more than the promise of promotions and pay increases. It's about preparing and empowering employees to make decisions, inviting them to the table, and offering them projects that will expand their skills, knowledge and confidence.
Shared Success	**Showing Appreciation**
Employees should be encouraged to recognise success at the individual, team, and business levels, and success should be nurtured and publicly celebrated. The thrill of accomplishment, innovation, breaking barriers, playing on a winning team, and experiencing victories encourages more of the same.	Appreciation is essential to employees—people need to know their managers and colleagues notice and are grateful for their efforts and contributions. Appreciation is most effective when it's delivered in timely, personal, and meaningful ways.
Promoting Wellbeing	**Positive Communication**
Caring about the employee as a whole—their physical, emotional, social, and financial health. A comprehensive approach to wellbeing requires leaders to create an environment of inclusivity, work/life integration, and connection.	Transparent, proactive communication thrives in a healthy environment. Recognizing the responsibilities, objectives, opinions, and values of employees is essential for effective communication. Regular bulletins, newsletters, and team talks can make a real difference to bringing a company together.



By prioritising staff wellbeing through promoting communications, appreciation and recognition of works carried out, this will also help to elevate workers' self-worth, engagement levels and 'sense of belonging', all of which are linked to better mental health.

Changing Workplace Culture

By calling out poor cultures and proactively making improvements, roofing companies have a chance of tackling an escalating burnout and mental health crisis. It's time to turn macho and controlling cultures on their head, instead nurturing organisational cultures in which acceptance, openness, understanding and positive communications are fostered.

A toxic workplace can damage employee engagement, and there is evidence to suggest that poor engagement equals lower productivity – so it's a bottom line business issue too.

Poor workplace culture is likely to be damaging for employee retention, potentially leading to valued employees choosing to walk away from a business.

Replacing employees in the current recruitment market may present genuine challenges, and of course is very expensive in terms of HR time and interview costs.

New North West Roofing Training Centre Set to Open in New Year

In an exciting development for the roofing industry, Simian is preparing the central Warrington Construction Training Centre ready to open its doors to flat and pitched roofing apprentices on 30 January 2023.

The 5,000 sq. ft centre offers state-of-the-art roofing rigs and training facilities, and is being led by expert roofing tutor, Luke O'Gorman.

Luke has over 20 years' experience as a roofer and roofing lecturer at Bolton College where he spearheaded the expansion of roofing to become a thriving and award-winning department.

Now in his new role, Luke is attracting first-class roofing candidates and is ready to work with employers to set apprentices on successful, professional roofing careers.

We won't just be ensuring all basic standards are attained, we will be enthusing and supporting candidates to extend their roofing knowledge and skills.

Hub of Roofing Excellence

With a vision to build the new Warrington training facility into a hub of roofing excellence, Luke is committed to achieving the highest possible standards. He says: "We are going to create an environment where we are always encouraging the learners to exceed the requirements of the standard. We won't just be ensuring all basic standards are attained, we will be enthusing and supporting candidates to extend their roofing knowledge and skills. For example, when a student has completed a key roofing task, such as a valley, we will be looking to advance their skills to the next stage, such as a mitred valley."

Assisting with getting the Warrington Construction Training Centre fully equipped with the latest and best roofing materials, Luke has already taken delivery of products from BMI UK & Ireland, Hambleside Danelaw, Velux and Midland Lead. Technical and product support has also been provided by Langley Waterproofing Systems.

Ready to partner with other manufacturers, Luke says, "I'm looking to forge relationships for the long term. It's important learners know best practice and standards for products they'll be installing every day."

As the biggest independent scaffold trainer in the UK, Simian already offers roof training at its London Academy of Sustainable Construction (LASC). Operating with Waltham Forest Council, LASC focuses on promoting diversity and inclusion in its sustainable construction training. The LASC has built an excellent reputation over recent years for its flat roofing training. Luke hopes that the new centre for north west England will act as a prototype to be replicated in a similar nationwide network of roofing training centres.

Dave Randles, Operations Director at Simian says, "We feel that there's room for a roofing training centre in every major city – demand is there. Our plan is to set up along the same lines as our current successful hub and spoke model for scaffolding training."

Luke will be offering both flat and pitched roofing training. Apprentices will qualify to the Level 2 Waterproof Membrane Installer or Roofing Slating and Tiling Standard.

Training will be delivered as 1 week in every 5 blocks, with a total of 16 weeks completed between a flexible period of 1-2 years, depending on individual student's progress assessment.

People who have not yet found a roofing apprenticeship can be matched to an employer by the Centre, and employers looking to recruit can also be helped to find a suitable candidate.

Next Steps

For anyone who might be interested in a roofing career, the Warrington Construction Training Centre is offering regular Assessment Days this autumn to find out more information and choose whether to take the next step.

Luke adds, "I would encourage anyone, no matter what qualifications they got at school, or their age or previous experience to come and find out more and decide if they think roofing could be for them.

"Roofing is a brilliant industry and offers well-paid, life-long careers that can progress as far as people want to take it."

Located next to the Warrington Central railway station – the new Roofing Training Centre is easily accessible, with Warrington itself just off junction 9 of the M62.

Get in touch on tel: 0345 6022 418 or email: hello@simian-risk.com.

Getting Low Pitch Roof Construction Right

John Mercer, Roofing Consultant and expert witness, explains how a low pitch needn't be a barrier to achieving a watertight roof if certain changes are made to aspects of its construction.

Of the many enquiries I receive, one of the most popular topics relates to low pitch roof construction. Long experience has taught us that the ideal range of roof pitches for roof tiles and slates is anywhere between 30 to 50 degrees.

During rainfall or wind-driven rain spells, water is shed from one double lapped tile or slate course to the next one below, the tiles and slates having sufficient lap and pitch to prevent any sideways or upwards 'creep' of the water through capillary action from penetrating the roof covering. Single lapped tiles perform the same function by virtue of their lap over the course below and side laps which can be either simple overlaps or more sophisticated interlocks with water bars and troughs.

Although the trend in recent years is to build homes with steeper pitch roofs to provide living spaces within the roof, there are many tiles and slated roofs constructed at low pitches to, for example, reduce construction costs, or reduce a building's impact on the horizon, or very commonly, to enable the building of a home extension to fit below the upstairs windows.

Roof tile manufacturers have developed and continue to develop roof tiles and associated systems that are suitable for use at low pitches. However, under certain weather conditions, water may be driven through the slating or tiling and must be captured by the underlay system and drained away to the gutter.

Certainly, at low roof pitches, the risk of water ingress increases through or around the tiling, simply because everything is working closer to its limits. For example, though the individual components have been thoroughly tested and perform fine at the stated minimum roof pitch, constructing the roof with the same accuracy as that used under test conditions can be difficult. It only takes a small gap or two in the tiling where it passes over a flashing and the risk of water ingress is increased.

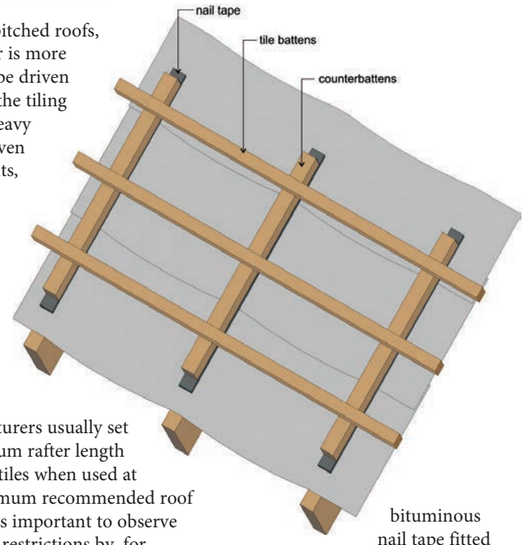
Certainly, at low roof pitches, the risk of water ingress increases through or around the tiling, simply because everything is working closer to its limits.

Underlay

BS 5534 states that the underlay layer should provide a continuous under-roof barrier to water, snow, and dust and should be capable of draining any moisture that might be deposited onto the surface of the underlay to the roof drainage system. Although BS 5534 does not provide specific design details on how to construct a waterproof underlay system, it does recommend that consideration be given to sealing any penetrations through the underlay, such as nail holes, with suitable tapes or sealants.

The design recommendations provided in BS 5534 are an acknowledgement that there will be occasions when rainwater finds its way through the tiling and onto the underlay, so the roof should be regarded as a system, rather than simply a collection of individual components.

It is important to follow the installation recommendations given in BS 5534 and BS 8000-6 for the underlay. Underlay laid unsupported, directly over the rafters or counterbattens, must be laid with a sufficient drape to enable water to run freely into the underlay troughs and under the tile battens towards the gutters. If the underlay is laid too tight, without a drape, water on the underlay will be trapped behind the tile battens and will eventually find its way through the batten nail holes in the underlay and leak into the roof structure.



On low pitched roofs, rainwater is more likely to be driven through the tiling during heavy wind-driven rain events, though roof design should also consider other factors. For example, manufacturers usually set a maximum rafter length for their tiles when used at the minimum recommended roof pitch. It is important to observe any such restrictions by, for instance, raising the roof pitch if possible, or dividing the roof into shorter sections with a gutter partway down the slope. On single storey extensions, care should be taken to avoid draining a higher roof onto the low pitch extension roof via a valley or through a gutter downpipe. Even dormer windows can pose a risk if the rainwater from the dormer roof is drained directly onto the low pitch roof. It is equally important to detail all junctions correctly when installing the underlay, with the correct turn ups at abutments and suitable sealing around penetrations such as pipes and roof windows.

There are no special measures or variations to sub-roof designs that relate to roof pitch in BS 5534. However, there are methods that can be adopted to ensure the underlay is watertight. For example, consider using counterbattens between the underlay and tile battens, with a bituminous nail tape fitted between each counterbatten and the underlay. The counterbattens will ensure that there is a path for water to reach the gutters without the need for a drape, and the nail tape will seal the batten and counterbatten nail holes through the underlay.

Summary

- Observe the tile manufacturer's recommendations on minimum roof pitch and maximum rafter length.
- Avoid draining water from higher roof slopes onto a low-pitched extension roof.
- Ensure the underlay is detailed correctly at junctions such as abutments and properly sealed around penetrations such as pipes and roof windows. Use adhesive tapes where necessary.
- Consider using counterbattens with nail tape between the counterbattens and underlay to seal the nail holes through the underlay.

Measuring Sustainability on the Path to Net Zero

Daniel Hancox, Business Support Manager at Russell Roof Tiles discusses the company's path to net zero and the important issue of measuring progress.

It is 12 months since the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26 in Glasgow) and an appropriate time to take stock of our green ambitions.

Since the UK Government announced its net zero 2050 goal there has been a surge in the number of businesses making green commitments. But for many working in construction sustainability has taken a back seat, while the uncertainty of the supply chain, rising costs of raw materials, energy, wages, and utility bills have taken precedence. Plus, there is concern about a lack of understanding of sustainability - how businesses can implement changes and how to measure efforts accurately.

Nearly 40% of global greenhouse gas emissions produced every year, are generated by the construction industry, the equivalent weight of 10,000 fully loaded U.S. aircraft carriers. And undoubtedly there's growing concern that the lack of progress on climate warming could ultimately result in the cost of the planet, causing alarming and irreversible damage.

However, there are some positive signs of change with an increasing number of developers and contractors choosing to deliver energy-efficient, sustainable projects to meet the modern-day needs of their consumers and tenants. Over half of 25-40 year-olds state that they would like their next home to be built using sustainable materials, according to a recent UK survey.

The Path to Net Zero

Although there has been a rush towards green investment in some industries, further education in the construction sector is urgently needed to tackle the climate crisis and support businesses on their path to net zero.

The starting point is a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) which looks at the environmental impacts of a product, process or service throughout all stages of its life cycle. In construction, this process involves calculating the whole life carbon of a development at every stage of a building's life, including its demolition and disposal.

Measuring sustainability may sound complicated but with the right support and understanding, it can be made simple. Companies, such as external sustainability assessors Planet Mark, are dedicated to supporting businesses to set out goals, measure their impact and certify their achievements. Their certification involves a simple three-step process that will help businesses to accelerate their actions, excite their employees and amplify their voice.

The first step to a greener future is to measure and analyse greenhouse gas emissions that are caused by extraction, manufacturing, transportation, deconstruction, disposal and end-of-life.

It's also key to measure energy, water, waste and carbon as they're absolutely necessary for companies to be setting targets and progress against.

Once businesses have established these metrics, it's time to focus efforts on comparing the data to the benchmark statistics that are established for the construction industry. This will help to recognise what areas need further attention as well as identifying what is working well.

Pitched roof tile manufacturer, Russell Roof Tiles started measuring its carbon footprint at the beginning of 2022, with the guidance of Planet Mark and set its first climate target that same year. The firm has embedded sustainability processes into its operations, community impact, and supply chain to ensure end-to-end visibility of carbon emissions and opportunities for reductions.

They also set several goals, including a commitment to tracking the company's carbon footprint, transitioning to a zero-waste organisation and becoming carbon neutral by 2040 – 10 years ahead of the UK Government's plan.

So far, the carbon footprint reports show that Russell Roof Tiles' direct emissions have decreased by 9%. The reduction is a result of their complete removal of LPG as a fuel source, the closure and removal of older less energy-efficient equipment, and energy efficiency gains.

Social Responsibility

But sustainability goes beyond environmental metrics; social and governance are also areas businesses should measure. Socially responsible companies should be dedicated to community outreach and sharing their sustainability stories to encourage as many people as possible to be aware of carbon emission reductions.

This is an incredibly important topic for our customers and suppliers right now. They want to know what you're doing in the area, and how you're giving back to the community where you do business.

Sustainable cities and communities are one of the United Nations' 17 sustainability goals, that look at ending poverty and other deprivations as well as strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth - all while tackling climate change.

If the construction sector businesses follow the sustainability model by measuring their impact, analysing and comparing the data and working on investing in employees and communities, there will be a much greener future ahead for the construction industry.

European Slate Selected for Award Winning Vineyard

After the existing cedar shingle roof had been attacked by woodpeckers, which were making large holes on a daily basis, the owners of an award winning vineyard in Hampshire were faced with re-roofing their property.

After much research, the owners were advised that the woodpeckers were not selective as to whether the shingles were old or new! It was explained that the hungry birds were seeking the tiny insects which can be found living in shingles, so if they were to replace the roof like for like, the same problem would occur again.

With that in mind, the owners started to explore alternative roof coverings. Because of the large roof span there was a concern about what other material could be used due to the weight of the product. The owners employed the expertise of an engineer to investigate the options available to them and it was decided that natural roofing slate would work. They investigated using Westmorland Green slate from the Lake District, as this is an area they enjoy visiting - however this being a thicker natural slate, the weight became an issue. But now the owners had their hearts set on natural slate.

The owners are personal friends with the Hampshire churches architects and it was they who recommended SDS Roofing Contractors of Botley in Hampshire as a possible contractor to take on the job. SDS Roofing Services is a friendly, family run business based in Botley and operates around Hampshire, West Sussex and surrounding areas. With a team of skilled craftsmen they cover all aspects of roofing, from carpentry packages, cutting and pitching the roof, to slating and tiling. They have worked on a number of heritage and listed buildings around the Hampshire area, including churches and schools.

Stuart Harris - Contracts Manager for SDS was quick to suggest the owners look at the wide range of Spanish slate options available from European Slate. Stuart explained that European Slate is always his first choice for natural slate due to the range, competitive pricing and exemplary service which he always receives. Sam Skinner, Managing Director of SDS Roofing Services added, "It's another great addition to our ever growing portfolio."

The owners selected European Slate's ESCO17 Spanish, first quality slate. Esco17 is a smooth slate and they loved its appearance, which they felt would enhance the finished look of their stunning property. Not only did it appeal aesthetically to them, with a consistent 4-5mm thickness, it also ticked the box regarding the weight issue. As with all of European Slate's first quality slates - Esco17 is backed by their 75 year guarantee.

Having recently presented the guarantee to the owners they commented that they continue to enjoy the view of the house 'newly dressed', as the roof is so much in the eyeline. They are delighted with both the quality of the product and the installation. Everyone at European Slate, too, is delighted as the project shows what can be achieved with their slates when fixed with this level of care and detail.

As well as a wide range of Spanish slate options, European Slate can also offer slates from Brazil and all the major UK quarries, including Welsh Slate. They are also able to offer a wide range of accessories to supplement their slate range, including concrete ridges, inline slate ventilators, slate hooks and nails. They have access to most commonly used fixings so if there is anything you need let European Slate know and they will endeavor to source it for you.

A Step-by-Step Guide to Installing Marley Alutec's Traditional Guttering Systems

Marley Alutec has three traditional guttering ranges in its portfolio: Half Round, Victorian Ogee, and Moulded Ogee. Manufactured from highly durable marine-grade aluminium, they are lightweight and easy to install, requiring no specialist training or equipment.

Offering design flexibility, they are available in 19 polyester powder coated (PPC) colour options and are compatible with a range of downpipes. What's more, they can be specified as a direct replacement for cast iron systems thanks to the Heritage Black PPC option, which mimics the aesthetic of traditional black cast iron systems – yet is 65% lighter.

Post installation, Marley Alutec Traditional gutter systems require minimal maintenance during their 50+ year life span, making them extremely cost-effective in the long run. Thanks to a naturally occurring oxide layer, which forms should the surface ever become damaged, marine-grade aluminium products are also incredibly corrosion resistant.

When it comes to performance, they have flow rates of up to 5.5 litres per second (dependant on profile) and 263m² per downpipe. Finally,

at the end of their long life, these systems can be completely recycled because they are made from aluminium.

How to Install a Marley Alutec Traditional Half Round Guttering System

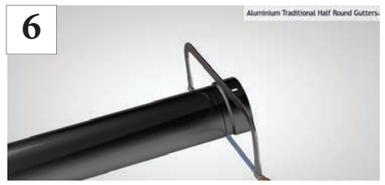
Set the gutter height by laying a straight batten on the lowest profile of the roof. Place the fascia bracket under the batten so that they are touching and mark the necessary position of the screw holes.

Fix the fascia bracket in place using Alutec 32mm roundhead screws or 15mm countersunk screws if fixing to an Alutec aluminium composite fascia. Drilling a pilot hole first is recommended. Continue to fix the brackets to a fall of 1:600 along the length of the fascia at 915mm intervals.

Alternatively, if rafter arms are required, these can be site bent at the cradle to suit the roof pitch and installed using 32mm roundhead screws. In this case it is recommended best practice to secure the gutter lengths to every second rafter arm.

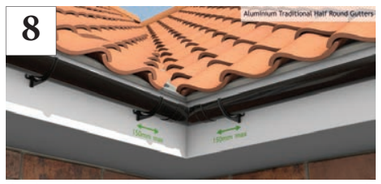
For a bracketed installation, next clip the gutter length into the pre-installed fascia brackets. Ensure that the gutter socket is clean using a cloth and solvent cleaner and then apply two 8mm beads of Alutec Joint Sealant down each side and around the bolt hole.

Place the second gutter length into the socket, and bed it into the sealant. Secure using a Marley Alutec powder coated gutter bolt, mill finish washer and nut. Tighten until almost secure, then adjust to ensure there is a 3mm expansion gap within the socket. Continue to tighten by hand until secure.



For corners, outlets and stop ends, cut the gutter socket from the end of the adjoining gutter length. Use the union or corner for reference and mark the bolt position, before drilling a hole 7mm into the cut gutter length. Place the cut gutter length into its fascia brackets.

Take the corner union and apply two 8mm parallel beads of Alutec sealant to both edges of the gutter socket and around the bolt hole. Press the corner union up onto the cut gutter length to create a seal. Fix with a nut and bolt ensuring a 3mm expansion gap.



Apply sealant to the corner union's other socket and insert a second cut gutter length as before. Gutter angles should always be supported by fixing fascia brackets a maximum of 150mm for either side of the angle.

Repeat steps 4-8 along the length of the guttering – jointing each gutter length to one previously fixed. Complete with stop ends.

Installation is simple and the performance of each traditional guttering range will ensure properties are finished and protected by a high quality solution. Traditional Half Round guttering products in Heritage Black are currently available with only a two-day lead time.

Find out more about Marley Alutec's aluminium guttering systems at: www.marleyalutec.co.uk/products/traditional-gutter-systems/

Timloc Building Products -InVentive Roof Tile and Slate Vents

Timloc Building Products has expanded its extensive roofline product offering with the launch of InVentive roof tile and slate vents.

The East Yorkshire based manufacturer is one of the UK's leading experts in passive ventilation for the built environment, providing ventilation solutions for the roof space from the eaves up to the roof ridge and everything in between.

InVentive Roof Tile and Slate Vents

Following significant investment, the building products manufacturer has developed a high-quality, comprehensive range of tile and slate vents manufactured onsite at their production facility, along with over 90% of the vast Timloc product range.

InVentive roof tile and slate vents provide ventilation either directly into the roof space or onwards via a ducted ventilation system. The range has been designed to suit profiled, plain, small profiled and non-profiled roof tiles and slates. There is also a universal tile vent option available that incorporates a self-adhesive alternative lead flashing to fit any tile or slate type.

Climate Change

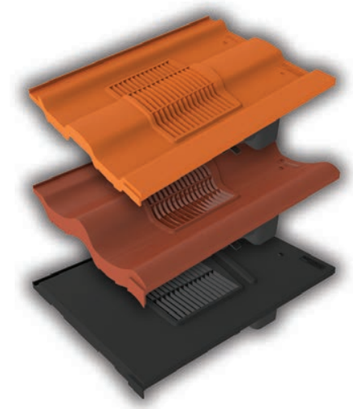
The impact of a changing climate means the energy-efficiency and indoor air quality of new build and existing homes is of paramount importance. To achieve this, efficient ventilation of the roof space is essential.

The 2021 revision to BS 5250: *Management of Moisture in Buildings – Code of Practice* takes on a whole building approach to managing moisture by taking into account the variable interactions of the building fabric, occupants and services used and their combined impact in order to achieve a better understanding of real-world scenarios due to the changing ways that buildings are being constructed and used.

BS 5250:2021

Timloc's whole-roof offering, which alongside the new InVentive range includes over fascia, eaves and soffit vents and dry ridge and hip systems, prevents excessive humidity in the roof construction and helps to achieve compliance with BS 5250:2021.

The InVentive range has been designed with all types of merchants in mind. Each roof vent is available in single, multi or pallet quantities so anyone from specialist roofing merchants to smaller general builders' merchants can order the exact quantity and type they require.



Sam Bishop, Product Development Engineer at Timloc Building Products, said: "Our experience in the industry enables us to develop a product offering that suits our customers, from the logistical advantage of various pack quantities for merchants to the technical assurance and support for roofing contractors."

Timloc products are independently tested where required to ensure they meet relevant standards and accreditations. The entire product range is designed to comply with all relevant building regulations and NHBC requirements.

The InVentive range is compatible with all major tile and slate manufacturers including Marley, Redland, Sandtoft, Russell and Lagan. There is a comprehensive compatibility chart available from Timloc Building Products and their experienced Technical team is on hand to advise on the compatibility of any tile or slate not listed.

For more information please scan the QR code below or email: sales@timloc.co.uk

The Importance of Specifying and Installing Quality Dry Verge Systems

When BS 8612 was published, the UK roofing industry finally got a British Standard for its dry fix roofing products. Prior to this, dry fix products had been used in the UK for over 40 years, but their design, manufacture and installation had been largely unregulated.

There are many advantages to dry fix, such as being essentially maintenance-free. No matter how well mortar is laid it will eventually succumb to the elements, sooner if it rains or there is a frost before it fully sets. By contrast, as soon as a dry fix system is installed it is ready to face the elements and can cope with settlement of a building by allowing for movement in the surrounding materials.

Requirements of Dry Verge

BS 8612 sets out specific requirements for dry verge systems, such as providing methods for uplift testing to ensure they resist predicted wind loads and act as a secondary fixing for the roof covering.

For verge systems to be compliant, they must also prevent rainwater from draining directly onto the gable wall which can lead to staining and mould growth.

Manthorpe Expertise

Manthorpe Building Products specialises in dry fix roofing, developing innovative solutions for the construction industry for over 35 years and having invested heavily in new technologies to continue to manufacture virtually all its products in-house to the highest quality.

All Manthorpe dry verge products have been independently tested at the Building Research Establishment (BRE) to ensure they fully comply with and, in many cases, go beyond the requirements of the relevant British Standards.

BS 8612 sets out specific requirements for dry verge systems, such as providing methods for uplift testing.

Dry Verge Products

Manthorpe offers several systems in its SmartVerge® range, the Linear System provides a secure mechanical fixing solution for many types of roof coverings requiring a straight, continuous finish: including Fibre Cement and Natural Slates. For a stepped appearance to the verge, the SmartVerge Handed and Ambidextrous systems provide an attractive finish to roofs fitted with interlocking tiles of various size formats, capping one per tile course. The ambidextrous system allows the units to be used on either side of the verge, making it ideal for roofers and stockists wishing to minimise their stock holdings.

The new SmartVerge Interlocking Plain Tile Verge system includes the ambidextrous design and is manufactured from UV stabilised polypropylene in a range of colours to complement any roof finish. The unique split plate fixing of the verge units means that the upper flange always lays perfectly flat on the roof tile, eliminating any potential tile 'kick up' in the tile course above and improving the rate of water runoff from the verge and away from the wall.

For all Manthorpe systems, angled or round end caps are available to protect the end of the ridge and eaves closures secure the first verge unit while preventing access for birds and large insects.

Further information

For further information please visit www.manthorpebp.co.uk or contact our sales and technical support advisors on 01773 303 000 or email us at mbp.care@manthorpebp.co.uk.

Sustainability is Not Enough

With more than 25 years' experience and expertise in rooflight design, manufacture and supply, Whitesales has long been at the heart of a developing industry. Keeping pace with the changes that are happening in the market right now and looking at the likely future direction, it is obvious that sustainability will continue to be a key driver right across manufacture, supply and lifecycle costings.

We are already seeing a switch to more sustainable packaging and the introduction of more sustainable materials in windows, doors, rooflights, weatherproofing products and now upstands.

We are already seeing a switch to more sustainable packaging and the introduction of more sustainable materials in windows, doors, rooflights, weatherproofing products and now upstands. In response, Whitesales has just launched a new Timber Sloping Upstand which works hard to bring carbon emissions down, not just in the material choices but in the construction itself, and with no compromise on performance.

Whitesales is offering a new Timber Upstand fully assembled in 18 standard sizes from stock to match with its complete em.glaze aluminium rooflight range in both fixed and concealed motor options. All the sizes meet the standard requirement for upstands to be at least 150mm at the lowest part of the flat roof and all have a 5° pitch to ensure adequate water run-off. They are constructed from FSC Certified C16 grade CLS timber battens and studs and marine grade plywood, with an insulating foam sandwich layer to give the necessary thermal performance and an A1 fire rated plasterboard lining.

Why FSC?

The worlds most trusted timber-centric certification body, The Forest Stewardship Council are the police of the timber and lumber world. They give their accreditation to only the best quality timber, which is not only sustainable, but economically viable, benefiting the installer and end-user. The FSC runs as a 'transparent, democratic model - inclusive of economic, social and environmental stakeholders – all under the same umbrella, and all with equal authority.'

The standard of FSC lumber is carefully quality checked, so the end-user – whether they are buying timber building products or even paper or packaging, is assured that they are only paying for the best. They take a truly holistic approach to sustainability.

The Industry

Of course, the construction industry doesn't simply accept the sustainable proposition as a reason to purchase any product – including a timber upstand. To really impress, there are lots of boxes to tick in the concept and design stages of bringing a product to market. Installers demand simplicity, merchants need new business opportunities (and sustainable credentials don't hurt) and end-users want a trouble-free product they can enjoy for years to come. Tackling this challenge for Whitesales was a great team, among them was Glen Dickson, Product Manager. We asked him what he set his sights on within the concept and design period for his Timber Sloping Upstand. "To begin we knew we had to tick the boxes that were legally part of any upstand proposition. The updated Part L regulations introduced in June 2022 prescribe that 'upstands built on site, either new build or refurbishment projects meet 0.35W/(m²·K)' a notoriously difficult feat for a timber upstand.

We collaborated with many different members of our internal design and manufacturing team and external design and product teams to come up with a solution, and what we came up with was rather ingenious. We simplified the installer journey by designing our upstand as proprietary, meaning the upstand arrives pre-built, already complying to Part L [and Part B] regulations. The world is changing to allow for little movement in terms of safety, and we came up with a solution that not only gives excellent thermal conductivity ratings, contributing to improved property insulation, but also gives A1 interior fire-resistance- as good as it gets!".

With so many rapidly changing requirements to juggle – from sustainability to legislative compliance and above all quality, companies can probably be forgiven for taking a little longer to bring a product to market. The tick list is getting longer, and the challenges are getting bigger and, while customers have 100 different forums for feedback, there remains no room for compromise on any of them.

Efficient Cladding Systems by Design

Silverstone Park in Northamptonshire is a global engineering and technology park offering a unique industrial space for innovative and high-tech businesses. Located opposite the Silverstone Grand Prix Circuit, it aspires to become the biggest tech hub in the UK and it is already attracting businesses from around the world with its first class facilities and location. The park is currently being developed in phases by owners MEPC. On completion, it will provide over 2 million square feet of prime industrial floorspace for technology and advanced engineering companies. Phase 3 of Silverstone Park saw work start on the park's biggest buildings to date, with the largest of the 4 new buildings measuring 97,956 square feet.

Euroclad worked with MEPC to deliver roof and wall systems for Phase 3, the largest on-site to date.

The buildings in Phase 3 needed good acoustic and thermal performances to manage the greater sound and environmental management challenges they faced.

Sustainability lies at the heart of Silverstone Park. From actively minimizing their own impact on the environment to helping their customers make the most sustainable choices, sustainability is always front of mind, so it was vital to ensure the buildings were as efficient as possible.

Choice, Performance and an Entire System Guarantee

Euroclad Elite roof and wall systems are recyclable, making them the ideal eco-friendly solution, especially for a scheme of this size and nature. The systems offer proven fire, thermal and acoustic performance.

The lightweight 'Elite Plus 2' roof system was chosen in an 'Anthracite Grey' to cover 22,000 m^2 of roof space, creating a sleek, modern look in keeping with the park's innovative ethos.

With up to a 30-year system guarantee, Elite Plus 2 is a high quality trapezoidal roofing system with a finished roof pitch and a Class B non-fragile, walkable liner. It offers good acoustic performance, making it ideal for industrial buildings and warehouses. For this scheme, it was specified to achieve a U Value of 0.15 Wm^2k.

For the walls, 7,377m^2 of the Elite Plus 57 wall system was used in both 'Anthracite Grey' and 'Metallic Silver' to striking effect.

This horizontal, sinusoidal system is a fast, sustainable and economical cladding solution that can be guaranteed for up to 30 years.

It is also an attractive alternative to traditional industrial cladding options, giving a building a more contemporary and eye-catching appearance. This was ideal for Silverstone Park which wanted the park's appearance to reflect its innovative and dynamic foundations in order to attract like-minded businesses. The system also delivered good acoustic performance and a U Value of 0.23 W/m^2k.

To complement the roof and wall systems a package of flashings, including fabricated corners, cappings and project specific bespoke features, was supplied in three key colours: RAL7016/RAL9006 and RAL3020 meeting the exacting design specification. Internal liner and galvanised flashings were also supplied, along with colour matching gutters.

Like all Euroclad products, the systems are manufactured under a Quality Management System accredited to ISO 9001 and an Environmental Management System accredited to ISO 14001, which is crucial for a forward-thinking, environmentally-aware client.

Modern Aesthetics for the Park of Tomorrow

Working with installer ABS Elbrow, Euroclad's products were delivered and installed on time and within budget. The systems delivered a high quality, modern appearance that instantly attracted tenants to the park. Main contractors, Barnwood Limited, worked closely with the client and project team to ensure the units were built to a high standard and to the client's requirements.

The systems' recyclability contributed to the 'A' rated Energy Performance Certification achieved on these buildings.

Client MEPC was so pleased with the products' performances and finish that they have already specified the same Euroclad products for the next two exciting new phases of Silverstone Park.

A Joined Up Approach to Timber Design and Supply

James Beesley, Commercial Director at independent builder's merchant, Beesley & Fildes, discusses the benefits of providing a complete, integrated design and supply solution for roofing and flooring timbers and how it helps customers achieve speed and ease of installation, and even a smoother sign off from building control.

The structural timber components used by housebuilders in the floor and roof build ups of residential properties are often seen as commodity products, and it's perfectly possible to achieve sales on that basis. But our remit as a builder's merchant is not simply to offer our customers what they need to complete their project, but to look for ways in which we can assist them in making it the best that it can be. With added value services, we not only elevate the product beyond the 'commodity' label and differentiate Beesley & Fildes from other potential suppliers, we also develop long-term relationships, built on trust and opportunities to upsell, cross sell and earn word of mouth referrals to new potential customers.

The differentiation in engineered timber products for roofs and floors is in their design. Enabling customers to buy engineered timber floor and roof build-ups as a complete, bespoke, fully designed and engineered solution means improved integrity, better consistency and smoother installation, which provides a catalyst for repeat business and boosts our reputation amongst the housebuilder and contractor market.

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The member components that support the floor or the roof are usually achieved using I-joists or posi-joists, and part of our role is to explain the different benefits of the two systems.

The 'I' shape 'i' beam end on.

Engineered Timber Components

The engineered timber components required for a build will vary, depending on the architectural design and the preferences of the construction company or housebuilder. The member components that support the floor or the roof are usually achieved using I-joists or posi-joists, and part of our role is to explain the different benefits of the two systems allowing the customer to make their choice for their specific project. With both I-joists and posi-joists having similar capacities and both with a varying range of joist widths and depths available they are ideal for not only domestic situations but also for commercial projects where larger spans and loadings may be required. We also discuss the relative buildability benefits of I-joists and posi-joists with customers to ensure they factor other elements in, such as labour costs and follow-on trades into their decision making.

One of the key benefits of our design service is that we can provide an optimised design to deliver a structure with simple details, efficient use of materials and the required load bearing performance for the structure. Working with this expertise means that housebuilders benefit from enhanced quality and a best value approach to pricing, which considers installed costs, not just the cost of materials.

At Beesley and Fildes, we use Metsawood's product specific, bespoke design software to provide a full design service for the I-joists and similarly Mitek software for the posi-joists and roof trusses. Both systems can provide a complete design, which will include all joists, ancillary timbers and metalwork required for the whole installation. We provide this as a free of charge service to help customers specify the correct engineered timber components for a complete and compliant installation, with a one-stop-shop approach.

Using the dimensions of the property, provided by the customer or the architect's data, we will design the most practical and cost-efficient floor joist layout while ensuring that all current regulations are met.

We will create a 2D installation drawing detailing all components to ensure that both procurement and installation are made as clear and simple as possible. This means that everything can be delivered straight to site, with every item needed for the installation listed on the delivery note for verification against the design drawings.

In this way, the housebuilder can be confident of faster turnaround of fabrication and delivery of products to site, along with a reduced margin for error.

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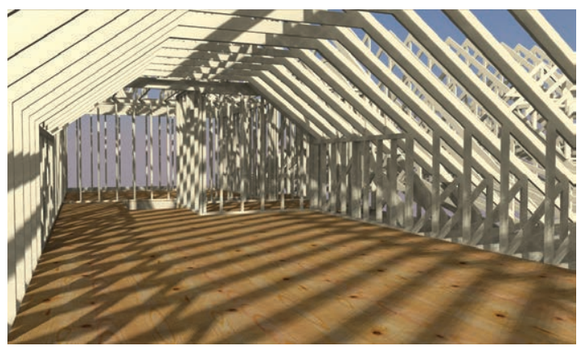


Consistency and Compliance

This type of joined up approach not only improves site efficiency, it also underpins supply chain accountability. If something is missing from the consignment or is not consistent with the design that has been signed off, our customers have a single contact to deal with and a paper trail of the data provided, and the design agreed.

This co-ordination also means that dimensions are correct and installation requirements are clear, so the customer avoids any potential site issues and subsequently costly delays. The detail in the drawing enhances consistency too, ensuring that assembly is the same for the roof or floor structures for site teams across all properties of the same type, at any development, regardless of the team the customer deploys. Indeed, at Beesley & Fildes, we store designs for customers, so a housebuilder that has multiple sites with the same property types can draw down an existing design and achieve complete consistency with a roof or floor structure on a different development. In effect, it creates a full flooring or roofing 'kit', that can provide valuable time savings on site.

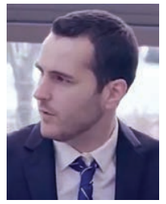
And the time savings don't just relate to installation times, but also to sign off of each completed property by the local authority's building control department. With all the data and calculations for the roof or floor build-up contained within the layout drawing, it is simple for the building control officer to assess compliance and approve the completed installation, leveraging even more value from our service for the customer.

Quality and Partnership

The partnership approach between our engineered timber department and our customers continues throughout the build until completion. Sometimes, site teams may need support with the installation, perhaps because the fixings specified are unfamiliar to them or because site measurements differ from design measures, so we offer troubleshooting support throughout the project.

Integrating design and supply ensures our customers are never in a situation where any installation queries are disputed between the design and supply partners, enabling smoother, outcome-focused delivery of a quality assured project and strong relationships between Beesley & Fildes and our customers.

Four Myths About Roofers Entering the Solar Industry



As energy prices have risen, so has demand for solar installations. However, there is a scarcity of skilled labour, and installation wait times are around 10 months. Eugene Lucarelli, Marketing Manager at GoodWe UK, dispels some common myths about solar and discusses how roofing contractors can add solar installations to their portfolio.

The solar industry is booming right now, with prices for energy skyrocketing and more people looking to adopt renewable energy. However, many non-PV (photovoltaic) installers are hesitant to get on board because of myths and misconceptions about the industry. It is time to take a look at some of the most common problems facing the industry today – and offer solutions to help non-PV installers transition into the booming solar PV market.

The biggest barrier to growth is the lack of trained installers. The demand for solar continues to increase as the price of electricity shoots up, creating a huge opportunity for those willing to train as solar installers.

Myth #1: Solar installations are too expensive and out of reach for most consumers, so why enter a niche market?

False.

Solar sales are truly skyrocketing right now, and in 2021, the UK solar market showed the strongest growth in 6 years. With the price of energy continuing to rise, becoming energy self-sufficient is top of the consumers' list, so it makes sense to enter the market now.

PV systems are becoming more affordable every year. As the technology advances, the cost of materials and components is reducing and, at the same time, electricity from the grid is becoming more expensive. While the initial outlay for a complete solar solution may be in the region of £8,000 - £10,000, the cost of energy puts the average payback period of a residential photovoltaic system at just 6-7 years.

Myth #2: Installing a solar system is a complicated process that requires prohibitively specialised training

False.

While there is training required in order to properly install PV systems, the process for acquiring that training is actually quite straightforward and experienced contractors can earn a qualification faster than they might assume. A foundation of good maths skills is helpful for determining how many solar panels are needed to harvest enough energy to meet the expected use. It is also useful for estimating costs and payback periods for prospective customers.

Understanding specifications is another vital skill because there are already many products available and success depends on choosing the right ones for different applications. Look for an established supplier with many years of experience and a track record of quality installations.

It is important that manufacturers contribute to the upskilling of existing and new installers, which is why GoodWe provides training without charge. After passing the modules a number of advantages become available, including extended warranties on specific items and certification as a GoodWe PLUS+ installer.

Myth #3: Traditional solar installations are only for homeowners

False.

Solar panels, inverters and batteries can be installed on any type of property, including businesses, schools, and farms. Many businesses are starting to make the shift to solar as a way of reducing their operating costs and protecting the environment.

Solar systems are currently used to power everything from factories to retail spaces right here in the UK. With businesses under pressure to reduce carbon emissions, it is expected that the commercial and industrial demand for solar installers will only increase.

Hap Seng Star is the main distributor of Mercedes-Benz's vehicles in Malaysia. In order to meet their sustainable development goals and save operational costs, a 1.7 MW PV system was installed, saving 73,541 kg of carbon dioxide, equivalent to taking off the road 15.8 cars for a year.

Myth #4: Solar installations require a lot of maintenance

False.

Maintaining a PV system is actually very simple – unlike with traditional energy sources, there are no moving parts in a PV system. This means that customers do not have to concern themselves with cleaning their system or replacing parts on a regular basis.

Fact: The UK needs more solar installers

Renewable energy is on the rise, and solar PV is leading the field. Solar power is becoming more affordable, more popular and - as the UK aims for net zero – more necessary.

A 3kw or 4kw domestic solar panel system will be enough to supply energy to that home, generating around 3,400kWh of electricity per year. That's 97,000 hours of a fridge switched on, 5,000 hours of a washing machine, 1,880 hours of boiling the kettle and 1,417 hours of oven usage.

The biggest barrier to growth is the lack of trained installers. The demand for solar continues to increase as the price of electricity shoots up, creating a huge opportunity for those willing to train as solar installers.

There is also plenty of scope to specialise in particular areas, such as building integrated photovoltaics (BIPV), inverter installations or solar batteries. But most importantly, there has never been a better time to enter this growing sector as more and more people are making the switch to solar.

To find out more and to sign up to the training, visit: https://emea.goodwe.com/goodwe-plus-customer-program.

Diamond Blue – a Gem of Premium Roofing Batten Development

A diamond's quality is priceless, and Landguard Point's Diamond Blue roofing batten is evidence of this - a product designed around quality, with no page unturned in its development.

For over a decade Landguard Point Group (LGP) has been offering imported timber roofing products to the UK market, with a focus particularly on graded roofing batten. With continual dedication to sourcing only the best products, our procurement team has gained exclusive access to one of the Baltic's best producers of BS5534 2014+A2:2018 batten to the UK. This superior graded roofing batten is identifiable through its Diamond Blue branding on every pack.

Many people will already be familiar with our graded BS roofing batten with its stand-out branding, we want to make sure they also understand that the LGP Diamond Blue brand is a high-quality product that demonstrates our commitment as a ***trusted British timber importer*** supplying batten to the UK roofing market.

In 2020, the pandemic year, there was a surge in demand for roofing batten and due to this pressure there have been instances of sub-standard battens entering the market, endangering the health and safety of roofers on site. Not all coloured batten is created equal.

In response, Landguard Point noted how crucial it was to make sure a premium choice was accessible on the UK market, and Diamond Blue provides this excellence. That's why we have increased our production and supply, across all lengths and sizes, in order to guarantee that this product is always available in large quantities.

DIAMOND BLUE
Landguard Point Group

The LGP Diamond Blue brand is a high quality product that demonstrates our commitment as a trusted British timber importer supplying batten to the UK roofing market.

With our partner sawmill providing the greatest possible product quality, every length meets every requirement of BS5534 2014+A2:2018. The highest calibre equipment is used throughout its operation, from the forest to the port. Every process adheres to mechanical and technical guidelines, which, combined with our staff's exceptional training, ensures that there are no exceptions, allowing us to guarantee the greatest possible quality for our finished product.

We are also dedicated to offering the UK market environmentally friendly timber products. As a result, we have made sure that all Diamond Blue batten comes from forests that support the FSC and PEFC. We at Landguard Point, are devoted to these rigorous certification schemes because we understand how crucial it is to use wood sustainably around the world.

All UK roofing and builders' merchants can take advantage of Landguard Point Group's nationwide service, which supplies goods from the country's deep south to its far north, giving contractors everywhere the chance to buy from our trustworthy suppliers.

Master Roofers UK

Supporting the UK roofing sector is important to us and that's why we have recently committed to the becoming sponsors of Master Roofers UK.

We believe that roofers' future is crucial to our business, so we saw this sponsorship as essential to supporting roofers. Master Roofers UK is committed to providing resources, support, and education to the future generation of roofers. They provide essential instruction and support for all aspects of roofers' professional growth. We appreciate the significant job they accomplish and are pleased to contribute to their progress.

So, when you visit your roofing merchant make sure you ask for LGP Diamond Blue batten and not just BS Blue or any other colour. Only battens that have been pre- or factory-graded to BS5534 2014+A2:2018 can be referred to as roofing batten, so make sure you check for an irremovable BS 5534 stamp on the batten.

Our aim is to support our customers with the best quality products, and we are confident our BSS554 Diamond Blue Batten will be just the gem roofers have been looking for!

For further information visit www.landguardpoint.com.

Landguard Point GROUP
TRUSTED BRITISH TIMBER IMPORTER

Make a Difference this Christmas

Francesca Roberts, CEO of CRASH

CRASH, the UK construction industry's charity, unites to channel the professional expertise, construction products and donations of our Corporate Patrons and supporters to transform hostels, day centres and homes for homeless people. CRASH also creates caring environments where children and adults, who need end of life care in a hospice, can spend precious time with the people they love.

Throughout the economic and social turmoil of recent years, one thing that has remained consistent is the kindness and generosity of our friends in the construction industry.

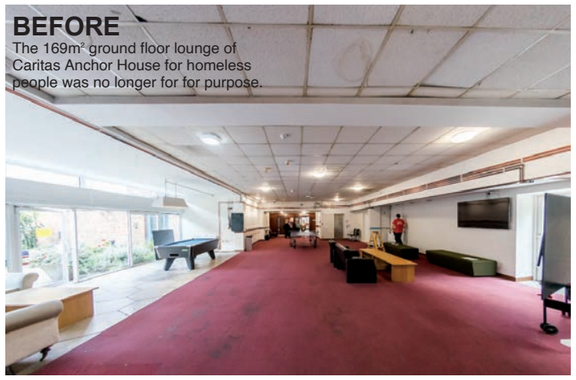
At CRASH we help homelessness charities and hospices with construction projects - and we couldn't do that without the backing of some of the best companies in the industry.

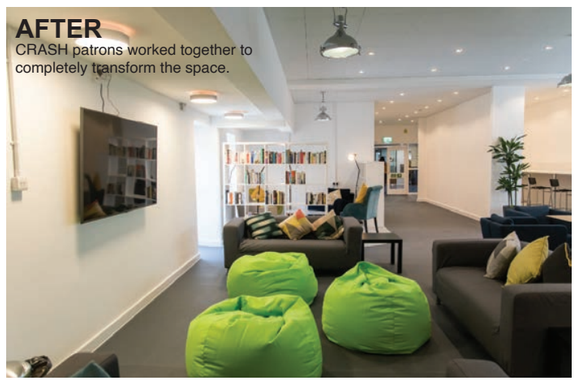
We believe that people who are homeless need the chance to find a way off the street and into a place they can call home. We also believe that children and adults who require hospice care deserve buildings that offer dignity and peace.

Refurbish Charity Projects

CRASH helps homelessness charities and hospices by bringing together construction companies to share their skills and products to refurbish vital buildings. Last year we were able to help 31 charity construction projects across the UK.

One example of our work was with Caritas Anchor House - a homelessness charity in the London Borough of Newham, which has the highest levels of homelessness in the country. The 169 m² ground floor lounge was no longer fit for purpose and CRASH patrons worked together to completely transform the space. This involved a full strip-out of all existing fixtures and fittings followed by redecoration throughout and the supply of new furnishings.





The total value of support given by patrons and supporters came to £135,602 and CRASH awarded a £20,000 cash grant.

One resident at Caritas Anchor House said that she had been living on the street before she was given a room. She said she planned to take some photos of the new space for her son because she felt so proud of her home.

Another recent example of our work was at Ashgate Hospicecare – which provides specialist palliative and end of life care to the people of north Derbyshire.

Overcrowding and lack of privacy in the cramped, shared bays was having a negative impact on the lives of patients and their families.

Corporate Patrons helped to transform the busy three-bedded bays into spacious individual bedrooms all with private access to an external terrace. This created nine individual rooms which offer patients privacy in a beautiful, dignified environment.

CRASH awarded a £30,000 cash grant and the value of professional expertise and construction products donated from CRASH patrons and supporters came to £30,253.

CRASH... unites to channel the professional expertise, construction products and donations of our Corporate Patrons and supporters to transform hostels, day centres and homes for homeless people.

Alison Ward-Foster, Partnerships Manager at Ashgate Hospicecare said: "£30,253 is an incredible saving and could pay for a nurse for a year. We cannot thank CRASH and their patron companies enough for all their help on the project."

We Need Your Help

CRASH constructs places that care for people when they are at their most vulnerable and we need your help to do that.

For the 2022 'Help keep the lights on' appeal, companies can donate £600, £1,200 or £2,000 in the lead up to Christmas in return for an animated e-card.

With a pledge of £600, you receive an animated e-card that you can send to your network. The company name will also be included on CRASH's 'thank you' communications.

For donations of £1,200 the company logo will also be included in these communications and, for a £2,000 donation the company will become a 'Christmas Champion' with pride of place on 'thank you' messages.

To join the prestigious list of donors and support the Christmas card appeal, donate at www.crash.org.uk/christmas/

To become a supporter or Corporate Patron or to find out more about our work see www.crash.org.uk.

When we work together, we can make a real difference to people's lives.

Bilco UK Sets the Standard for Safety at Glasgow Housing Development

Glasgow's latest redevelopment project consists of a housing development including 413 flats, offices and retail space. As part of the construction process, Bilco UK was commissioned to supply six ESW-50REM Smoke Vents and seven E-50TB Roof Access Hatches. Installed onto the roof areas of four blocks of flats by Scottish contractors, Procladd Small Works Ltd, Bilco's Smoke Vents were specified to provide essential ventilation in the event of a fire. Featuring a linear actuator operating mechanism that opens the cover to 140 degrees within 60 seconds, the smoke vents comply with Building Regulations Approved Document B, BS9999 and EN12101-2. The built-in wind deflector also provides protection against smoke being blown back into the vent, whilst the closed-cell EPDM sponge gasket helps to provide a better seal of the cover to the curb.

Bilco's Roof Access Hatches were also installed to provide engineers with access to the roof to conduct essential maintenance. Engineered with compression spring operators to provide one-hand operation, the roof access hatch meets the requirements of Manual Handling Regulations, whilst the automatic hold-open arm locks the cover in the open position to ensure safe egress. Visit www.bilcouk.co.uk or call 01284 701696.

27

Bespoke Rooflight Key to £850,000 Library Refurb

The new roof at Minehead's refurbished library showcased Whitesales' ability to design bespoke rooflight solutions. Somerset County Council proposed a design for a contemporary, inverted pitch ridge light with a bespoke gutter detail to the centre. In order to meet the key aesthetic criteria they wanted, the main contractor Harris Bros & Collard turned to Whitesales for help. The Whitesales design team scoped the project using a bespoke 10 degree em.glaze dual pitch gable ended lantern light. The framework and glazing bars were all in polyester powder coated aluminium and the double-glazed sealed units featured non-fragile toughened glass on the outside and low E laminated glass on the inside. The design ensured that the layout of the glazing bars in the rooflight corresponded with the glulam beam structure inside to give a consistent look, and included vertical sides with electric opening vents to provide adequate ventilation. The 7676mm x 7676mm rooflight is finished in Yellow Grey (RAL7034) and matches the triple glazed aluminium windows installed at the library entrance.

Following the £850,000 refurbishment, Minehead Library has become Somerset County Council's first decarbonised library building. Alongside the new rooflight, the roof of the original building has been replaced and number of energy efficient measures have been installed. More info at: https://www.whitesales.co.uk/

29

Makita Pushes Performance Even Further with its New BL4080F 40VMax 8.0Ah XGT Battery

Makita has launched its largest capacity battery with 288 watt-hours of energy. The 8.0Ah BL4080F offers the longest runtime for its XGT products meaning less downtime, and improved productivity. Especially useful when used on higher drain XGT machines, this battery pushes performance even harder. The 40VMax XGT BL4080F 8.0Ah battery was designed to be robust and highly intelligent. Equipped with 20 cells, it has a higher power output that enables Makita's XGT tools to be pushed even harder and perform heavy-duty, continuous operation over extended periods. Thanks to its heavy-duty and durable outer and cell casing, this product has a significantly improved impact resistance.

The BL4080F is also IPX4 rated with a water and dust-resistant triple layer structure and an enhanced terminal structure to handle any job site condition. The battery has been designed with Makita's digital communication function between the tool, battery and charger to optimise the charging process, reduce charge times and protect the battery from damage. This real-time digital communication actively monitors heat, overload, and over-discharge as well as delivering up to 2X longer sustained power during demanding applications.

For more information visit: www.makitauk.com.

28

The Snickers Workwear 'Head to Toe' Layering System

Suit up in layers for consistent comfort and protection in cold and wet weather. You'll get head to toe functionality and protection with Snickers Workwear's ergonomic base layers, insulating mid layers and weather-protective outer layer clothing. They not only allow craftsmen and craftswomen to quickly adjust to changing weather conditions, but also give them the opportunity to make sustainable choices about the clothes they wear on site.

This winter's new jackets, trousers and topwear feature high-tech, breathable fabrics that not only deliver dryness and warmth, but also advanced ventilation for controlling body heat - so you can always work effectively, whatever the weather. Advanced fabrics like these are integral to every part of Snickers Workwear's 'Head to Toe' layering system. They combine perfectly with the brand's hallmarks of best-in-class durability, comfort, ergonomics and sustainability.

22

A. Proctor Group RIBA Approved CPD Seminar Collection

The A. Proctor Group has extended its RIBA Approved CPD seminar collection. Aimed at architects, specifiers and contractors, attendees will receive technical advice from A. Proctor Group technical experts, providing the latest guidance on British and European Standards, compliance with Building Regulations, and learning on how to maximise performance and avoid potential failures.

Each seminar is available as an in-person seminar provided within practice or as in-depth Online Learning material to support individuals with their Continuing Professional Development.

- Pitched Roof Design Considerations: Energy, Moisture & Air Permeability
- Physics and Applications of Construction Membranes
- Passive House and Low Energy Housing Design
- Building Refurbishment: Systems for Retrofit and Conservation
- Air Leakage and Fire Performance in Façade Systems

Get in touch with the sales department for more information, or to book a CPD visit: www.proctorgroup.com/riba-cpd-seminars

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Glidevale Protect Proves the Ideal Choice for Housing Refurbishment Project

Glidevale Protect delivered a combination of roofing underlay and accessory products including its Protect Viking Air air and vapour permeable roofing membrane, as part of a re-roofing refurbishment programme for Choice Housing in Lisburn City. The contract saw Glidevale work with the housing association to re-roof 116 homes at its Pond Park development. Working with Choice Housing's Assets Department and appointed roofing contractors, Glidevale provided a complete solution. Viking Air was specified and installed to improve roof ventilation, minimise the risk of condensation and offer reduced labour time during installation.

The Protect Viking Air roofing underlay specified boasts superior air and vapour permeability in both warm and cold pitch roofing applications, and can be wrapped over ridges rather than cut short of the roof apex. It is easy to handle on site, requiring no additional ventilation in cold roofs as permitted by NHBC. Fully third party certified, Viking Air helps avoid the risk of harmful condensation in accordance with BS 5250 and NHBC requirements. Visit www.glidevaleprotect.com, email info@glidevaleprotect.com or call +44 (0)161 905 5700.

26

UK Production Provides a Platform for IKO's All-Round Sustainability

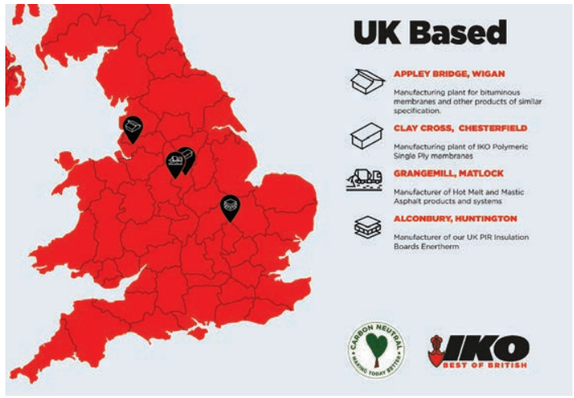
Meeting environmental targets has become an important part of building project delivery. It is also crucial to the UK government's net-zero ambition and the overall effort to tackle the effects of climate change. As a UK manufacturer of high-quality roofing membranes and PIR insulation that are renowned for their excellent performance, IKO is committed to innovating smarter, 'cleaner' building practices.

As a responsible manufacturer, a sustainable culture is embedded throughout all levels of IKO's business. This is evident with the measures introduced across its production sites and offices as part of the company's greater environmental goal.

Speaking of IKO's environmental principles, Group Managing Director, Anthony Carlyle, said: "We believe that every company within our industry has a responsibility to operate more sustainably. At IKO, we're recycling all of our product packaging, which now contains a minimum of 30 per cent recyclable materials. We're also looking to minimise our plastic packaging by investing in a machine that stretches the material during the wrapping process to reduce the amount of plastic we use. We manufacture a product where the plastic wrapping actually melts when the product's installed, which helps to save a lot of on-site waste. Our zero-waste-to-landfill target has resulted in 98% of all of our waste being diverted from landfill."

In respect of additional sustainable in-house initiatives, Anthony continued: "To limit energy usage, we're installing solar PV panels throughout our sites. Hybrid cars are issued to staff as part of our company car scheme, and we've increased our support for sustainable community projects. As part of our 'Fix that Hut' campaign we donate waterproofing materials to help local groups or charities with roof repairs to preserve their valuable meeting places."

IKO is also committed to an in-house education programme to increase employees' awareness of the company's sustainable programme. The IKO Green Team comprises of staff recruited from all areas of the business to provide unique perspectives on where and how the company's low-carbon initiatives should be implemented, recorded and monitored in the short, medium and long-term.



From product development to improving the working environment, the Green Team's input is part of a structured approach that is outlined in a 10-year roadmap that points the way to safeguarding IKO's long-term sustainability.

UK Manufacturing

With four British-based manufacturing plants, engaging with IKO represents a significantly more sustainable option than importing roofing, waterproofing and insulation products. A traceability exercise revealed that the locality of these facilities incurred an average of 263 miles during product deliveries from IKO production plants to site and distribution depots, a fraction of the distance it would take to procure the products from Europe or countries further afield.

IKO's sustainable credentials are enhanced by its use of raw materials in the production process, approximately 80% of which are sourced locally.

Carbon Offsetting Investment

A carbon offsetting programme initiated in 2008 has seen IKO go above and beyond to operate more sustainably. The company engages with CO2balance, a carbon management organisation which runs carbon-saving projects, primarily in Africa. IKO's investment has included its support of an energy-efficient stove project in Kenya and a borehole rehabilitation project in Uganda, activities which reduce CO_2 emissions from the burning of firewood. As a measure of the CO2balance programme's success, IKO offset 8,892 tonnes of CO_2 in 2021.

IKO's Strategic Development Director, Kerry Parker-Wray was able to see for herself how IKO's offsetting programme benefitted communities in Uganda when she visited the country in 2019. "I was amazed at how the energy-efficient cooking stoves had improved people's lives," she said. "It means they no longer have to spend hours a day collecting wood and cooking over an open fire, which itself has a negative effect on the environment and potentially, people's health. The additional freedom has enabled people to spend more time in education, as well as growing and tending to their crops, which they can later sell."

With a UK manufacturing base, sustainable construction materials and a roadmap that points the way to a significant reduction in its long-term carbon impact, engaging with IKO represents a vital first step for product specifiers looking to meet environmental targets. As a supplier of roofing, waterproofing and insulation solutions that improve building performance whilst limiting CO_2 outcomes, IKO is the very best of British manufacturers.

For more details on how IKO's sustainability programme can increase the environmental credentials of your next building project, visit: https://ikogroup.co.uk/sectors

Glidevale Protect Provides Complete Roofing Ventilation Solution for New Build Housing Development

Glidevale Protect has supplied its Protect Viking Air pitched roofing underlay across a new build development in Dorset. The air and vapour permeable underlay was installed by contractor Ford Roofing at Pennyfarthing Homes' Potters Wood housing scheme, a development featuring a mix of new build semi-detached and detached homes. The underlay helps avoid the risk of harmful condensation and achieves superior air permeability, meaning it can be used in cold roof construction without additional roof space ventilation. The premium underlay is independently certified by BM TRADA and has the strongest wind uplift resistance of its type, making it able to be used in wind zones 1-4 at 345mm batten gauge, without the need for additional counter battens or integral tape. Used in both cold and warm roof construction, Viking Air can also be wrapped over the ridge, ensuring good ventilation and water tightness, and saving installation time. Its unique grid design also makes it easy to cut onsite. Visit www.glidevaleprotect.com, email info@glidevaleprotect.com or call +44 (0)161 905 5700.

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Survey Reveals 'Quick Win' Opportunity for Envelope Quality Improvements through Seal Testing Focus

The results of a survey by EJOT UK reveal just 4% of respondents ranked regular seal testing as the most important factor when thinking about installing a roof or facade. The survey supports EJOT's goal to provide easier to access best practice and training for the use of self-drilling fasteners. Brian Mack, Technical Business Development Manager at EJOT UK said: "Not only is seal testing easy to do, but it is really effective at picking up quality issues that could prove costly down the line. We can help by giving you the right kit through our VACUtest - an easy to use air pressure testing kit that works by creating a vacuum around the fastener head via a suction cup attached to a hose and a hand pump. And we've now produced a short video which shows exactly how easy it is to use." EJOT's new 'how to' video provides recommendations that underline the value of regular and correct seal testing. The video covers basics such as marrying the correct suction cup to the right fastener and washer, through to what the correct gauge reading results should be. Visit www.ejot.co.uk, call 01977 687040 or email info@ejot.co.uk.

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Pura Facades Appointed as Sole UK Distributor of Tonality Terracotta

Pura Facades, supplier of natural, non-combustible cladding products, has been appointed as the exclusive distributor of Tonality terracotta tiles in the UK. Pura designs, engineers, fabricates and delivers on a just-in-time basis to construction projects across the UK. The addition of Tonality to Pura's portfolio will provide UK contractors with a consistent supply of high-quality terracotta tiles. Tonality tiles are made from Westerwald clay and manufactured using the Kerlis sinter kiln method in Germany. Available in more than 50 standard colours (and in seven surface finishes), the Tonality range provides architects and developers with a huge range of aesthetic possibilities for their projects. Tiles are available in sizes up to 600m x 2m. Tonality is also available in lamella, baguette and brise soleil shapes. Given the aesthetic possibilities, A1 safety rating, sustainability and relatively low cost of the Tonality range, Pura is predicting strong demand for this product choice as the UK economy emerges from the dampening effects of the coronavirus. To find out more about the Tonality range of terracotta products, please visit: https://bit.ly/3GCFg9V.

35

Cradle to Cradle Flat Roofing Design

Working to achieve net zero in the built environment is now a top priority for specifiers and suppliers. Early engagement with supply chains during building design is important when developing sustainable specifications to incorporate cradle-to-cradle (C2C) strategy. In order to achieve greener credentials in flat roofing design, architects should select manufacturers who create products awarded with C2C certifications, like Soprema's DuO HT 4 AGR/F C180 FC membrane, awarded a bronze certificate by the C2C Products Innovation Institute. Soprema's bituminous flat roofing products fit the bill when it comes to C2C specification such as its bituminous membrane solution, comprised of a double bitumen coating with fire-retardant additives and a composite polyester reinforcement. Additionally, when it comes to responsible sourcing, it's important to use products made from recycled materials such as Soprema's XPS recyclable insulation, produced from recycled polystyrene with climate-friendly CO_2 technology. Soprema also offers natural insulation materials – such as Pavatex – made from sawmill wood residues, reducing environmental impact. With the target to achieve net zero by 2050 outlined last year, partnering with a trusted manufacturer is one step that specifiers can take towards a sound and sustainable product selection.

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Marley Alutec's Rainwater Gutter, Fascia and Soffit Selected for Lanarkshire Self-Build Property

Marley Alutec's Evolve Deepflow, Tudor downpipes and Evoke fascia and soffit products were selected for a self-build residential property in Lanarkshire, and fitted by the homeowners themselves. Marley Alutec Evolve Deepflow gutter and 76 mm Tudor downpipes were selected to meet the drainage requirements of the property's 400sqm roof area. The Evolve Deepflow achieves flow rates of 4.9 litres per second meaning it can serve 232sqm of roof area per downpipe. All Marley Alutec products are manufactured from marine grade aluminium and finished in an architectural grade PPC paint which will maintain its colour and gloss level for longer, and have a functional life expectancy of 50 years. The selected fascia and soffit products are manufactured from 4 mm thick aluminium composite material and benefit from an architectural grade PVDF fluorocarbon paint. Designed for simple installation, the aluminium gutter system is over 65% lighter than the cast iron alternative. This was an important factor on the project as Vicky's partner, a joiner by profession, was able to install the products himself. To find out more, visit: www.marleyalutec.co.uk.

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Glidevale Protect's New Roofing Underlay Keeps Condensation Under Control

Strengthening its range of pitched roofing underlays, Glidevale Protect has launched Protect VP200 – a type LR, vapour permeable and airtight roofing membrane with a vapour resistance that exceeds the requirements of BS 5250, helping to avoid the risk of harmful condensation. Protect VP200 is a medium weight, highly durable and waterproof underlay, suitable for use on all pitched roofs in wind uplift zones 1 and 2 at 345mm batten gauge. Achieving a resistance to wind pressure of 1022 Pa when tested to Annex A of BS 5534, VP200 is suitable for use as a secondary line of defence against wind driven rain and snow across all pitched cold and warm roofs. Independently certified by BM TRADA, the underlay's high-performance and competitive technical characteristics make it an ideal choice for new build and re-roofing projects. For a complete cold roof solution, VP200 can be combined with Glidevale Protect's dry fix universal ventilated ridge and hip systems, Protect Fulmetal UniRoll or RediRoll, ensuring both condensation control and water penetration resistance within the roof space. Visit www.glidevaleprotect.com, email info@glidevaleprotect.com or call +44 (0)161 905 5700.

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Cedral Slates: Product Benefits and Customer Case Studies

Tough and resilient, beautiful and timeless, use Cedral slates to give a property enduring and long-lasting appeal – whatever the requirements or specifications. Find out why industry professionals choose Cedral and get inspiration for your own building projects from our customer case studies.

Why choose Cedral slates?

High performance strength and safety: With a high density of cement fibres and fixings per square meter, Cedral slates are designed to perform in the toughest weather conditions and have an excellent fire classification of A2-s1, d0.

Easy installation: Fibre cement slates are not only strong and versatile, they are also lightweight and easy to work with, and can be placed on lighter trusses or frames without any additional reinforcement.

Stylish kerb appeal: A range of attractive colours and finishes are available to suit a variety of projects and developments – go to www.cedral.world/en-gb/roofing/projects for inspiration.

Accessories to finish the job: Fittings and fixings for pitched roofs, ventilations, verges, ridges and hips are designed to perfectly complement our slates. Find out more about the range at www.cedral.world/en-gb/roofing.

Combining slates with other building materials – ideas and inspiration

Cedral slates work well with a range of building materials and are designed for optimum performance on both new builds and renovations.

Project 1: The natural textured finish of Thrutone Textured slates perfectly offsets the clean white walls and attractive wood detail on this new build in Grimsby.

Project 2: With its smooth surfaces and dressed edges, Birkdale has been successfully used with a range of building materials to create series of interlinked buildings for the Greater Manchester Army Cadet Force.

Project 3: Using the Thrutone Smooth range with its square cut edges on both roofs and walls has created a striking home with bags of visual appeal in Northern Ireland.

Free Sample

You can request a free sample to be sent to you of the Rivendale, Birkdale, Thrutone Textured and Thrutone Smooth ranges. Just visit: www.cedral.world/en-gb/roofing/fibre-cement-slates/

and click on the Request Your FREE Sample button in the top right corner of the screen.

Cedral slates: benefits at a glance

- One of the strongest fibre cement slates on the market
- Low pitch options down to 20°
- Only 40 fixings per m^2
- Perfect for volatile weather conditions
- Low maintenance
- Low carbon footprint of 16 $CO2e/m^2$
- A+ Green Guide Rating
- Fire performance classification A2-s1, d0 to EN 13501-1:2018

Contact Cedral

Visit Cedral.world for more information, email us at infouk@etexgroup.com or phone: +44 (0) 1283 501 555

Suit Up for Work with Snickers Workwear Mid-Layer Clothing

Snickers Workwear's mid-layer clothing has excellent breathability for body-temperature management when you're working hard. The body-mapping designs and sustainable fabrics keep you ventilated as the heat from your body is regulated to give you winter warmth and cooling comfort when you need it. The new autumn-winter styles include the FlexiWork High-Vis Hoodie made from a two-layer mesh fabric and recycled polyester fibres, with glow-in-the-dark and flashes. Use FlexiWork Jacket underneath an outer layer on cold days, or on its own in milder conditions. It's made from a functional fabric with a high content of recycled polyester fibres and an ergonomic design for flexibility. Additionally, for freedom of movement on chilly workdays, the FlexiWork Fleece Hoodie is ideal. The recycled polyester fleece fabric offers great insulation, while long cuffs with thumb grip provide extra protection against cold air.

Cement Cutting Sorted with Makita

Makita has a released a new 18V cement shear designed to make cement board cutting quick and dust-free. The DJS800 LXT Brushless Cement Shear benefits from solid steel blades that cut clean, straight and contour lines in fibre cement sheets and boards with maximum cutting capacity of 13mm. Weighing 2.5kg, this tool is powered by Makita's 18V brushless motor to provide a powerful no load speed of 3,000spm. The new model has been optimised for cutting cement board with a 360o rotatable swivel shear head with 12 adjustable positions. It features a soft grip handle, variable speed control, and a Trigger lock button for comfortable operation during extending cutting. The DJS800 comes with a tool hook and a built-in LED job light with afterglow function for improved visibility in low light.

Kevin Brannigan, Marketing Manager at Makita, said: "The DJS800 Cement Shear has been designed to make the job easier for contractors working on cement board cutting applications. We are positive that this tool will prove to be invaluable on the job site and are looking forward to our customers' feedback." For more information, visit: www.makitauk.com.

From Forest to Warehouse - How SterlingOSB Zero is Made

SterlingOSB Zero, from West Fraser, is the first and only OSB produced in the UK to be free from formaldehyde added during the manufacturing process.

To begin the manufacturing process, trees are harvested and delivered as green timber to the factory. The bark is removed, while the green timber goes on to the cyclones to separate the steam and strands. Moisture is reduced in rotary drum dryers before the material is then passed into a ring strander which shreds the wood chips. Screening determines the core and surface layers, while the strands are then coated with wax and resins before being arranged. The panels are trimmed, dated and certification stamped. Then a continuous, heated compression is applied before the boards pass through metal detectors. Lastly, the panels are cooled before being cut to size, the tongue and groove edges formed, and special coatings applied.

To find out more about West Fraser's products for housebuilders, email Daniel.Clarke@westfraser.com or download a product brochure at https://uk.westfraser.com/housebuilders/.

BMI Icopal's Sealoflex Cold Liquid Systems Offer Complete Solutions for all Flat Roofing Challenges

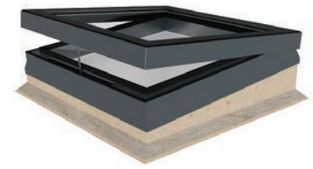
Flat roofs are common on buildings that are in use all year round, making repairs or replacements a challenge for flat roofers. This is where BMI Icopal's Sealoflex Cold Liquid Systems can help. Sealoflex is a range of cold-applied liquid waterproofing systems that provide a full range of liquid applied roofing solutions. The ease of application and the systems' entirely flame-free installation makes it an optimal choice for commercial projects, retrofits, or refurbishments. Sealoflex is made up of three technologies: Sealoflex Ultima, Sealoflex Endura, and Sealoflex Prima – all offering multiple benefits when compared to more traditional roofing technologies. The ease of application of the Sealoflex systems and the limited tools required make them a convenient solution. As with the Icopal range of flat roofing systems, specifiers and clients can have guaranteed quality and performance from their flat roofing system. This is because Sealoflex Endura and Prima are installed by contractors who are part of BMI Icopal's Approved Contractor schemes. For more information on the full Sealoflex product range, visit: https://www.bmigroup.com/uk/icopal-flat-roofing/liquid-waterproofing/.

Makita Sheds Even More Light

Makita has launched two new cordless work lights, compatible with both 40VMax XGT and 18V LXT batteries. The ML005 and ML009 have a compact design and are IP65 certified dust and water resistant. The ML005 40VMax XGT has three brightness settings, delivering 3,600 lumens and 3.5 hours of continuous illumination on high mode when used with the BL4040 battery. For increased brightness, the ML009 40VMax XGT delivers 10,000 lumens, with a lighting coverage of 9.7m to the front and 11.4m to either side. In addition, an optional lamp shade can provide widespread illumination and reduce glare. When in high mode, the ML009 offers 2.4 hours of illumination when used with two BL4040 batteries. Both lights have an LED colour of daylight white and a colour temperature of 5,000k. They can be rotated from -30° to 210° and can be mounted on an tripod lighting stand.

Makita's Marketing Manager, Kevin Brannigan, said: "The ML005 and ML009 cordless work lights offer the benefit of being nice and compact - due to the retractable handles - whilst still delivering powerful illumination."
Visit: www.makitauk.com/products/xgt-machines.

Whitesales Does the Hard Work – So Builders Don't Have To



Whitesales has launched an all-in-one proprietary solution that makes it easy for builders to comply to new Building Regulations which require all rooflight upstands built on site to meet a 0.35W/m²K U-Value. The new pre-assembled timber sloping upstand fits with its em.glaze fixed and hinged aluminium rooflights, meaning builders don't need to worry about U-Value calculations for Part L compliance. The upstand comes pre-assembled and can be supplied to site ahead of the rooflight. The new timber upstand is available in 18 sizes to match with Whitesales' complete em.glaze rooflight range.

All sizes meet the standard requirement for upstands to be at least 150mm at the lowest part of the flat roof and all have a 5° pitch to ensure adequate water run-off. They are constructed from FSC Certified C16 grade CLS timber battens and studs and marine grade plywood, with an insulating foam sandwich layer to give the necessary thermal performance and a plasterboard inner. The timber upstand is available in standard sizes on a lead time of just two to three weeks for roof openings from 500 x 500mm up to 1500mm x 3000mm. More details at: https://www.whitesales.co.uk/our-products/.

READER ENQUIRY SERVICE

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81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
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