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The trade magazine for UK roofing, cladding and insulation professionals

Issue 106 May-June 2023



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Editor's Welcome

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Dr Claire Griffiths, Editor

Welcome to the May edition with several pages covering the UK Roofing Awards winners and their projects. Congratulations to all and a huge well done on showcasing the industry to such an impressive standard. We hope that you will keep this edition of Roofing Today as a proud souvenir of your success!

Also in this edition is an interesting look into future developments on evidencing competence, as well as reflections on the sector from Richard Miller, the new COO of the NFRC.

CITB's report: *RoofCERT Evaluation*, obtained via a Freedom of Information request, is now publicly available and provides a summary of RoofCERT's successes, challenges and lessons to be learned. We review the report's findings and recommendations.

As the days are long and the sun is shining brightly, we are

focusing on the huge upsurge of interest in rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) installations. Tile manufacturer, Sandtoft explains how the company is responding to demand with several impressive new products. There's also a summary of the sums on solar which contractors might find useful to share with their domestic clients.

#WGRD23

We would like to remind our readers that World Green Roof Day is very soon - on 6th June - so don't forget to prepare to show off your best green roofing projects on social media and help to spread awareness of all the benefits of this growing roofing sector! #WGRD23

We have some interesting reads on the pitched roofing side - including a look at the old naming conventions for Welsh slate, the key legislation for Mansard roofs, an important conservation project protecting one of the first railway station roofs and aluminium as an alternative to cast iron on heritage properties.

Our regular columnist, Steve Dickinson, takes a thought-provoking look at cold flat roofs, questioning whether we should construct them at all - particularly pertinent after this winter's record numbers of roof condensation problems being reported.

As the industry settles into the new Part L requirements (for which the grace period ends in June), Kingspan explains the exciting design potential for new and existing buildings.

We also have informative insights from YBS Insulation's MD on multi-foil insulation and how demand has created a growing market in recent years.

Lastly, congratulations go to the Woods family as AJW Distribution celebrates its 25th anniversary. We interviewed founder of the business, Alan just as he is preparing for retirement and for handing over the company's reins to the next generation of the family, including son, Tom, as MD.

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CLC Skills Plan Update



A plan to support the net zero challenge and get young people into high-skilled, well-paid jobs was launched on 20 April by the Construction Leadership Council (CLC).

Aiming to stimulate recruitment of the extra 225,000 construction workers CITB estimates will be needed in the next 4 years, while supporting net zero goals, CLC's Skills Plan focuses on four priorities: culture change, routes into construction and built environment, competence and future skills.

It includes meeting employers' demand for skilled workers, training and retaining people, ensuring competency, expanding the career appeal of construction and built environment, while also training experienced workers to become teachers.

Skills Plan

As part of the Skills Plan, CLC has developed a range of projects for 2023-24, including:

- The launch of a new competence approach to ensure there is an accepted, accredited definition of competence for all construction and built environment occupations.
- Expansion of apprenticeship brokerage services and introducing a new apprenticeship mentoring standard to increase apprenticeship starts, continuation and completions.

- The launch of an online portal, the Career Pathway Hub, aimed at defining high value career pathways for net zero, digitalisation, smart construction and repair maintenance and improvement.

- A pilot scheme to give schoolchildren a chance to learn about construction careers

Tackling Challenges

Adrian Beckingham, CITB Strategy and Policy Director and Co-Chair of CLC People and Skills Network, said: "Construction will be at the forefront of arguably the biggest challenge – supporting the transition to net zero – which makes our industry a career of meaning and value.

"At the same time, we have a pressing need to attract and support new entrants into the industry.

"This new Skills Plan by CLC will tackle these challenges by creating opportunities to get young people into high-skilled, well-paid jobs, while encouraging workers to adopt modern, green skills across the globe."

Nick Roberts, Chief Executive of Travis Perkins, said: "Partnering for skills is paramount. This means employers of all sizes investing in people, improving industry's working culture and attracting new talent for future skills demand."

Langley Launches Training Service Partnership with NRTG

Langley Training Services (LTS) – a new social enterprise within the Langley Group endorsed by the UK government as a main training provider – has formed a national partnership with the National Roof Training Group (NRTG).

The NRTG is the umbrella organisation for the nationwide regional training groups which support the roofing industry to access training such as NVQs, apprenticeships and H&S qualifications.

The two organisations have a shared ambition to promote and stimulate collective training initiatives. They will unlock barriers to training through the creation of employer-led initiatives providing opportunities for smaller



organisations to access government-funded training programmes to upskill their workforce and train the next generation.

In establishing the social enterprise, Langley bolsters its reputation nationally for creating solid foundations for the next generation, both through professional qualifications and an overall approach led by quality and standards.

New NARM Appointment

NARM, the National Association of Rooflight Manufacturers, has appointed Alex O'dell to its board of directors, at the Association's recent AGM.

Alex is Market Director at VELUX, where he heads the company's core residential window operations in the UK and Ireland.

He is a seasoned leader with extensive knowledge and experience across various manufacturing and consumer industries both in the UK and overseas.

He is passionate about promoting healthy homes through natural daylight and fresh air, energy conservation and sustainable building design.

Alex commented: "I'm delighted to be joining the team at NARM at an exciting time for the Association, whose important



work is supporting best practice in the rooflight industry.

"I'm looking forward to making my contribution as an active member of the board," Alex ended.

NARM Chairman, Ian Weakford, said: "Alex's appointment further strengthens our board, which represents manufacturers rooflights for all sectors. His global experience in sales, marketing and operations will be of great value to NARM in our role as the voice of the UK's rooflight industry."

Roofing Students Benefit From Manthorpe Products and Knowledge

Manthorpe Building Products, a UK-based manufacturer and supplier of building products, has been supporting several roofing colleges across the country.

Newcastle College, Optimum Training Centre, Leeds College of Building, and Derwentside College have all benefited from Manthorpe's donations of a wide variety of products. The materials will provide the students with hands-on learning experiences and practical skills in the construction industry, while also promoting the use of high-quality products.

Centre Visit

As well as offering product donations, Manthorpe has recently welcomed Leeds College of Building to its production facility and Customer Experience Centre. The Centre not only showcases installed products, but allows customers to understand their main features, and talk with experts.

Manthorpe's research and development team designs and develops new products within a stone's throw of its manufacturing plant, allowing the students to see how ideas are



turned into actual product solutions.

The team also delivered sessions on the importance of adequate roof space ventilation, and dry fix systems to enhance the student's knowledge and ongoing learning.

Developing New Talent

Dale Yates, tutor at Leeds College of Building said "It is always an honour to be working closely with companies such as Manthorpe Building Products allowing us to have such great products readily available for our future generation of roofers at LCB. In return, this certainly has a positive effect. Feedback from all our apprentices

is fantastic due to them having a wide range of material available, along with other professionals passing on their own valuable knowledge within their specialist subject.

Dale continued, "I have been working for LCB as a roof slating and tiling tutor for just over two years now, and in this time the courses have significantly improved thanks to businesses such as Manthorpe Building Products. We are now currently running with three full-time tutors: myself, David Mallory, and Patrick Heptinstall, along with an extremely supportive manager, Lee Bogg, who are all also

passionate about supporting and developing new talent in the sector."

Quality Products

Gareth Wright, Sales Director at Manthorpe, said "We all know there is a skills shortage in our industry so it is vitally important for students to be able to learn practical skills, using real products, that they can take into the world of work with them. One of the most practical ways for us to support the next generation of construction professionals is to help with supply of quality products that will add value to the students overall learning experience."

Main Contractor Pursues Cladding Subcontractor for £10m Remedial Work

Downing Construction has declared it is seeking to recover a £9.8m provision it's set aside for remedial cladding work on completed projects.

The Liverpool headquartered company's subsidiary, George Downing Construction Ltd, settled a long-standing court case in October last year brought by Unite Students. The claim was for compensation for composite cladding, water ingress and fire prevention defects on three high-rise student halls of residence at Parkway Gate in Manchester built in 2007 and 2008.

The claim was brought against George Downing Construction Ltd as the project's main



contractor, together with its subcontractor European Sheeting Ltd, which delivered the external wall, rainscreen and cladding on the blocks.

Subcontractor Liable

After Downing Construction settled with United Students subsidiary, LDC, including a payment of £17.65m, it is pursuing European Sheeting's insurers for recompense. In December last year, the High Court ruled that European Sheeting, which went into voluntary liquidation in May 2022, was liable for the cladding defects.

Now, in its latest year end accounts filed at the end of March 2023, the company says that before it recoup's the outstanding sums it has made provision by holding a £10m asset. Additionally, a Downing Group's shareholder has injected £6.5m

cash into the business "restoring the Group's financial strength". Setting aside these provisions, Downing Group reports a pre-tax profit of £2m down from £4.8m in 2021.

The year-end accounts show a fall in revenue from £83.4m to £28.8m due to three projects completing and three beginning. These include one at the former Royal Hospital for Sick Children site in Edinburgh and the largest two, at First Street, Manchester. Gross margin increased from 3.9% in 2021 to 6.3% for 2022.

The directors state: "The group has a very healthy pipeline of contracts programmed over the next five years."

Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers Invites Master Craftsman Applications

One of the oldest and most prestigious organisations for roof 'tylers', the Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers of the City of London, is inviting the industry to send it applications for the Master Craftsman award.

The Master Craftsman award recognises individuals achieving high levels of competence in roof slating and tiling through a combination of training, practical site experience and a willingness to assist in the training of others. Master Craftsman status is a career-boosting award which helps to foster high standards and pride in the roofing trade.

Master Craftsmen are invited to the Company's Craft Awards Luncheon in London where the award is bestowed in March of each year.

The Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers has for centuries played a leading part in the regulation of standards of craftsmanship in and around London. Because of the importance of the London region these have impacted on standards across the UK and helped to shape the Building Regulations

since their introduction after the Great Fire in 1666.

Master Craftsman Applications

Previous Master Craftsman award recipients in roofing include Andy Rowlands and Matt Timby, both of whom have received numerous awards for their roofing work – the latter most recently at the UK Roofing Awards 2023 for his work on the lead tower roof of Somerton Castle.

Applicants for the award must have completed a recognised training in roof tiling and slating and possess formal qualifications. They should possess evidence of working as a qualified craftsman and the projects they have worked on.

More information and an application form are available on the Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers website: www.tylersandbricklayers.co.uk.

Triennial Awards 2024

Every three years the Tylers and Bricklayers Company also holds its Triennial Awards competition to identify the buildings or structures within the area



bounded by the M25 motorway which best demonstrate all-round excellence in the use of roof slates and tiles.

Projects must have been completed within the preceding three years and entries can be from architects, contractors, specialist sub-contractors and building owners. Many are also submitted through allied trade associations and federations.

The Company says judging is rigorous with entries being shortlisted before each project is visited and assessed by a panel made up of the Company's Craft Committee. A final shortlist of projects is visited and assessed by

the Award Jury, usually chaired by an eminent architect and including the Master of the Company, the Chairman of its Craft Committee and a Liveryman expert in roofing.

Previous winners of this Triennial Award include the clay roof of New Place, Banstead completed by Karl Terry Contractors Ltd in 2017 and Battersea Arts Centre re-roofed following a fire by Richardson Roofing Ltd, receiving the award in 2021.

The Awards are presented, often by the Lord Mayor of London, at a special ceremony in the City. They take the form of framed certificates for the building owner, the architect, main contractor and specialist sub-contractor and a certificate and Company Silver Medal for the Foreman Craftsman.

To submit a project for the Triennial Awards 2024, contact David White, Chairman of The Craft Committee via the Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers website contact page (www.tylersandbricklayers.co.uk/contact) and he will send an entry pack to you, for completion.

FLEX-R Joins the Liquid Roofing and Waterproofing Association (LRWA)

Flex-R has joined the Liquid Roofing and Waterproofing Association (LRWA). The company says the move will tap into a valued resource and organisation while providing additional support for customers. Representing the fastest growing sector of the industry, the LRWA can provide insight and guidance on industry standards and best practice.

The decision by Flex-R to become a member of the LRWA was seen as a natural progression by Trading Director, Danny Cole to increase the company's support for its customers. He said, "The LRWA



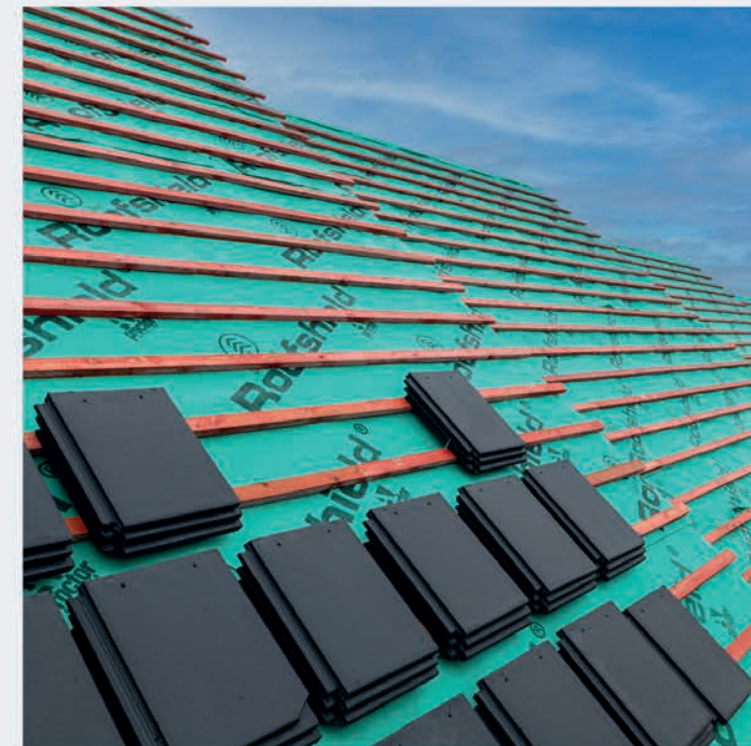
L-R Ben Midwinter, Dukan Winter and Danny Cole.

has always been an association we've been interested in. We've worked hard to compile the right support and offer across our ranges in recent years, so we feel now is the perfect time to join. I hope our partnership will ensure the very best service and support for our customers."

Technical Director, Ben Midwinter added, "Being a member of the LRWA keeps us informed of the latest technology updates and changes, plus allows us to have a voice in industry discussions. The LRWA also provides an opportunity to have positive input into government legislation, which in turn benefits our customers through the knowledge and support we gain."

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Roof Training Groups Hold Flat Roofing CPD Showcase in North West

Roofing businesses in Yorkshire and the North East attended a Flat Roofing CPD showcase on Tuesday 25 April.

The day was hosted by the North East Roof Training Group (NERTG) and Yorkshire Independent Roof Training Group (YIRTG).

Held at the Holiday Inn Scotch Corner, contractors gathered at the event to hear presentations from manufacturers and flat roofing trade federations on topics such as working at height, fire safety, and finding and funding training.

Denise Cherry, National Roofing Training Group Chair and YIRTG Training Manager, said “I am absolutely delighted that the CPD day was so well received. We are looking to deliver similar events across England and Wales to support roofing and cladding members in staying up to date



with the latest installation, regulation and funding developments.”

Roofing CPD Day

Morning sessions at the Roofing CPD day included an introduction to the LRWA delivered by Steve Leech; advice on mitigating the risk of fire in flat roofing and the Safe2Torch standard, from Langley; and insight into B_{Roof}(t4) fire safety testing regulations from TaperedPlus.

Working at height was also covered by training company, Safety Maintenance Company.

The afternoon sessions focused on finding and funding training and tackling the skills shortage.

Ronan Brunton, CEO of the SPRA, delivered a fascinating update on new requirements from the Competence Working Group, led by the Construction Products Association about to be to enshrined as a Standard. This will mean roofing contractors, as part

of UK construction, will be required to demonstrate their competence.

This was followed by a presentation from Claire Griffiths, Editor of Roofing Today, introducing the TAP for Roofing website, which now lists 200 training courses across a range of roofing and cladding disciplines.

There was also plenty of information on training funding and how to find it. Mark David from the North East Local Skills Improvement Plan (NELSIP) and delegates from CITB were on hand to address funding opportunities for roofing training.

Advice on recruiting and retaining staff came from Ruth Scarrott at the NFRC Roofing Careers Service. The talk focused on how the NFRC is supporting its members to find, place and mentor new recruits through the ECO scheme.

Ladder Association Urges Govt to Clamp Down on Online Sales



Dangerous ladders continue to be sold online in the UK, according to a new safety report from the Ladder Association (LA).

The latest report follows the same findings of tests last year. It found that over 80% of commercially-available telescopic ladders tested, failed to meet the minimum safety requirements. Worse still, over half of the failed ladders were sold as ‘compliant’, deliberately misleading consumers. The telescopic ladders were bought from Amazon and eBay, and online marketplace OnBuy.com.

Despite ongoing campaigning since last year, no action has been

taken by government to improve the problem.

Currently, online marketplaces selling products supplied by third-party sellers have no responsibility for preventing unsafe goods being sold on their platforms, or to inform buyers if they have bought unsafe goods.

Peter Bennett LA Director, said: “The issue of unsafe telescopic ladders for sale on the UK market is neither new nor improving.

“The Ladder Association is calling for the Government to step in urgently to make regulatory changes to hold suppliers and online platforms accountable.”

ROCKWOOL Appoints Nick Wilson as UK Managing Director

ROCKWOOL has appointed Nick Wilson as managing director to lead the insulation manufacturer across the UK and Irish markets. Wilson brings over 20 years of experience across the industrial, appliance and heating sectors, having held senior positions across commercial, marketing and operations functions. He joins at a time when energy efficiency is high on the political and domestic agendas.

Rafael Rodriguez, Senior Vice President at ROCKWOOL Group, said: “Nick is a proven leader with exceptional commercial and operational acumen. We are delighted that he will drive the company’s efforts through a period of heightened need for both energy efficiency and fire safety solutions in the UK and Ireland, whilst also championing our own sustainability goals”.



ROCKWOOL UK has been working with Swansea University on a carbon capture initiative and with industry partners on a government-funded pilot for using green hydrogen in insulation production.

Nick Wilson said: “This is a pivotal moment in the path to net zero and I am delighted to be working with ROCKWOOL’s dedicated teams to continue our long legacy of stone wool production in Bridgend. I have been hugely impressed by everyone’s passion for our products and I look forward to working together.”

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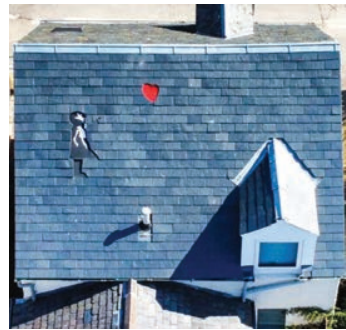
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Highland Roofer's Rooftop Artwork Goes Viral Online



A Highland roofer with a creative flare is being praised worldwide for his original rooftop artwork.

Gary McIntyre began adding his personal designs to roofs in 2019. He first featured his work on a friend's roof after pitching the unique idea to him. Gary embedded a lead stag into the roof and his friend was so pleased with the result, he asked him to do another one. This second roof-size slate artwork depicted a salmon and a fisherman, titled 'An Afternoon's Fishing' and won Gary a roofing award in 2022.



Since then, Gary's work has received global recognition online. With the help of his colleague, Adam Schuerman, Gary has featured several other designs of roofs he has worked on. These include a lead bat slated in Ballachulish slate on a property in Balblair which houses bats nesting in the roofspace, and his own rendition of Banksy's 'Girl with Balloon' on the roof of a house in Telford Road, Inverness.

Gary said: "A lot of people that are interested in having works of art on their roofs are now getting

in touch. I have started a bit of a revolution within UK roofing for roofers trying to do artwork."

With a rising profile, Gary was approached by the Masters School of Slating in Cologne, Germany and was invited to skip the five-year waiting list to join the college's prestigious ornamental slating course.



In the UK, one of Gary's designs is now featured in South Lanarkshire College's ornamental slating course. He has also been invited as guest speaker on Master Roofers' ornamental slating course in Manchester.

Gary's latest project will feature a family of Highland cows on the roof of a property in Aberdeen. He has also been commissioned to recreate the Fyrish Monument on a roof in Evanton which he will begin this summer.

"I am really excited to work on new designs," Gary said. "So far I have been doing mostly animals but I would like to experiment also with trees and foliage as well as birds."

Gary's Instagram account is garymcintyre81

MCS Solar PV Data Shows Most Installations in 8 Years

The latest quarterly data on small-scale solar PV installations shows that the three months to the end of March 2023 has had the most projects completed since Q4 2015.

Latest figures from the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) show that 60,004 installations of solar PV, heat pumps and battery storage technologies, were completed in Q1 2023.

In March 2023 alone, MCS recorded a total of 20,868 installations, which was the highest performing March since 2012 and the second consecutive month in which the number of installations had exceeded 20,000.

Solar PV Installations

Solar PV technologies accounted for 85% of installations (50,719) in Q1 2023, the highest deployment since Q4 2015. The figure represents a 114% increase on the number of solar PV installations for the same period in 2022 (23,747). It is also a 94% increase on installations during the first quarter of 2019, which marked the end of the government Feed-in Tariff (FiT) incentive (26,089 installations during this period).

In particular, the number of solar PV installations in March 2023 (17,497) was 73% higher than March 2022 and represents the highest monthly deployment of the technology since December 2015, during the height of the FiT.



Likewise, Battery storage enjoyed its best quarter for installations in the scheme to date, with 351 systems installed in total – over 50% of the scheme total (621 installations) to date. Battery storage is the newest installation MCS standard introduced for its certified contractors, reflecting consumers' growing interest in self-consumption and electrical storage systems in combination with solar PV.

MCS Contractors

Overall, 449 new MCS certified contractors joined the scheme in Q1 2023, representing 13% of the 3,337 contractors on the scheme in total. The number joining the scheme in Q1 2023 is the highest in a quarter since 2011.

In Q1 2023, 359 contractors joined MCS to deliver solar PV, a 385% increase on the same period in 2022. Total heat pump contractors increased by 95 in the same period.

A total of 2,286 contractors are now certified to install solar PV, compared with 1,366 in Q1 2022 – a 66% increase.

Conversely, 1,494 contractors are now certified to design and install heat pump technologies, a 17% increase on Q1 2022.

Ian Rippin, CEO of MCS, said: "Solar PV deployment continues its exponential rise, as more talent enters the sector to service huge consumer interest in this cost-saving, proven, low-carbon technology."



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Roof Training Groups Deliver on Training



The National Roof Training Group has collated statistics from the eight regional roof training groups in England and Wales.

Collectively the groups have supported the NRTG Trainer and Assessor Projects which arranged training for the Award in Education and Training and Certificate in Assessing Vocational Qualifications. There have been 50 successful completions of this programme, and NRTG is investigating additional funding options to continue training.

Achievements

For the year to April 2023 groups delivered **7,325 days training** with a value of over **£685,000.00** and achieved a saving for member companies of £188,000.00 on listed prices where 32% of the training was for practical roofing specialist courses. With over **400 member companies**, groups work with a cross-section of the industry, focusing on delivery to small businesses.



The South West Roof Training Group has recently achieved direct funding status, enabling them to deliver full framework apprenticeships through their associated training centres in Exeter and Melsham. Recruiting is now taking place for a September 2023 intake.



The Yorkshire RTG and North East RTG have worked together to deliver highly successful roofing CPDs on flat roofing and training and are looking forward to delivering a further Showcase on Pitched Roofing on 5th September at Scotch Corner.

The South Coast Roof Training Group continues to be busy to the extent of having courses running simultaneously to meet demand.



London and Southern Roof Training Group continues to promote a wide range of training whilst supporting apprenticeship trailblazers through providers in the region.

The Wales National Roof Training Group no longer have CITB funding support for their highly successful Specialist Applied Skills Programme, and are seeking alternative mainstream provision to continue their new entrant delivery, whilst working closely with manufacturers to provide upskilling and product training. Wales NRTG has also piloted a recruitment and information scheme with Roofbase to take advice into roofing merchants which has been very well received. WNRTG will also be hosting a CPD Showcase on 9th November.



The Midlands Roof Training Group reports that many of their members are currently too busy to train and whilst continuing to promote training the group training officer is exploring options for a CPD focussing on Sustainability in Roofing in the autumn.

Good News for North West Roofing Firms



The North West Roof Training Group (NWRTG) has good news for any employers looking to recruit new roofing apprentices who live anywhere in Knowsley, Merseyside, in Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council or in Lancashire, as there is funding available to support employers - in addition to the CITB grant of £8,500. To qualify for this grant, each council specifies certain criteria. Find out more: nwrooftraining@gmail.com.

RBM SAP Training

Still on a subject close to apprenticeships, NWRTG is calling on its members who may be looking for formal training in Reinforced Bitumen Membrane, as opposed to following

the three-in-one Waterproof Membrane Installer (training in single ply, liquids and RBM over the two-year apprenticeship). CITB may consider funding a Specialist Applied-Skills Programme (SAP) to take place in the North West. However, the challenge is to demonstrate that this is required by employers.

SAPs are 18-month long new entrant programmes and are considered as "sector apprenticeships" which, in time terms, take up less time than the apprenticeship. Usually, training is in short bursts over 12 months and is followed by a 6-month assessment period. Sika, Preston is well placed to offer the SAP, so, if you, as an employer, wish to participate

in a pilot scheme, please let NWRTG know nwrooftraining@gmail.com.

Focus on Flat Roofing CPD Day

Finally, look out for NWRTG's Roofing CPD day, "Focus on Flat Roofing" which will take place on Thursday 28 September at the Engine Rooms, Birchwood, Warrington. Following the highly successful event held at Scotch Corner, hosted by both the Yorkshire and North East Roof Training Groups, NWRTG has started planning and will ensure the content is both relevant and right up to the minute. Look out for further details on the NWRTG website:

<https://northwestrooftraining.co.uk/>

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Evaluating RoofCERT – A Model for the Future?

The RoofCERT accreditation scheme was launched in 2018. Securing funding of £2.9 million, the National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC) agreed to match the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) grant by 30% with a further almost £1m of its own. RoofCERT aimed to assess and certify the competence of 5,000 roofers, thereby raising standards, professionalising the industry, and improving its image in the 4-year scheme. Roofers with an NVQ (and, later, workers with five years' experience) were eligible.

Now, through a Freedom of Information request, a report into RoofCERT completed in December 2022, called *RoofCERT Evaluation* has been made public. Commissioned and paid for by CITB, the report was prepared by Pye Tait Consulting.

The *RoofCERT Evaluation* report seeks to understand which elements of RoofCERT were successful, the barriers to its uptake, the lessons learned and how RoofCERT is perceived in the industry. It examines “contracted outputs and their success criteria” agreed between CITB and NFRC. Lastly, it explores the scheme’s future and its impact on wider skills in the roofing sector.

The top line result was a total of 195 RoofCERT accredited roofers by June 2022, according to the report. This is the audited number of total accredited roofers, despite media briefings sometimes confusing those roofers pledging support or registered on the scheme, and those completing accreditation.

The report documents how, two years into the scheme in April 2020, CITB had spent £1,521,256 and NFRC £871,387 – a sum of £2,392,643 (most of the total £2.9m scheme fund). This was followed in September 2020, by NFRC announcing that the first 50 roofers had gained RoofCERT accreditation. The failure to meet its targets documented in the RoofCERT report is not a surprise outcome. Indeed, amongst the report’s key findings is that “uptake on the scheme has been one of the key challenges of RoofCERT”.

Learning Lessons

So what are the lessons to be learned?

The report says that NFRC believed it had direct access to



One of RoofCERT’s undoubted successes identified in the report has been to map a “skills matrix for sector disciplines”.

2,000 companies (presumably its own and other roofing federation members) and by targeting 10% of these, it could secure support for RoofCERT. Yet, it points out, “There appears to have been no wider consultation in developing the targets or other objectives.” While NFRC is commended for its consultation of other

accreditation schemes, such as NAPIT and GAS Safe, the report says “decisions around targets for the number of accredited roofers should have involved the wider roofing industry, including roofing companies, manufacturers and other construction federations.”

Other causes of the poor levels of industry take-up of RoofCERT identified include the several stages of the scheme that meant a nine months lag between registration and completion, which it says contributed to just one out of every six firms registering becoming accredited.

Too Many Specialisms

Another cause of failure on targets was that the accreditation scheme had to cover too many specialisms (ten disciplines across two routes); and it seems that only five of the ten had schemes in place by the end of the project. Whilst one of RoofCERT’s undoubted successes, identified in the report, has been to map a “skills matrix for sector disciplines” they, too, don’t seem to exist for all the roofing disciplines. Indeed, the report says that delays stemming from simultaneously working on all disciplines and both vocational and experienced worker routes contributed to the failure to reach targets. Likewise, by the end of 2018, only 15 Skills Evaluators and 11 Centre Assessors were recruited against the original goal of 270 staff.

An insufficient consideration of the breadth of roofing disciplines when designing the scheme is perhaps surprising, particularly as the report says, RoofCERT was “designed and developed by industry”. This last point highlights an ambiguity that seems to run through the report. On the one hand it says industry was a key driver of RoofCERT but on the other, that “stakeholder

engagement could have been more inclusive”, adding that the “Roof Training Groups could have significantly benefited the projects by helping in setting-up the targets and carrying out research for this work, but lack of communication from NFRC did not prompt their engagement.”

Target Audience

Another of the report’s key findings is that there was “a lack of clear understanding in terms of the target audience for this scheme.” The report says NFRC did attempt to engage housebuilders in supporting demand for RoofCERT roofers. Persimmon, Taylor Wimpey and Redrow were all mentioned at various times as privileging RoofCERT roofers. Indeed, the scheme had originally launched in partnership with the Home Builders Federation and Home Building Skills Partnership. But the latter organisations seem to have slipped from view entirely soon after the scheme was launched and in reality CITB’s contract was solely with NFRC.

Making Accreditation Mandatory

An additional cause of RoofCERT’s low numbers is attributed to roofing contractors who are characterised as having an “inherent lack of interest in training/upskilling”, asserting only if the scheme is made mandatory will they invest in their professional development. However, the report notes that jobs in the sector do not depend on proof of competence and admits there is a lack of clear economic rationale for firms to invest in RoofCERT. It concludes that while NFRC could ably tackle defining technical competencies, establishing and stimulating market demand was a cross-industry task. All of this points to the report’s overriding conclusion: that making accreditation a legal requirement is the answer to driving uptake for RoofCERT.

CITB Responses

Another important strand implicit in the PyeTait report is the responses of CITB. It states

The report notes that jobs in the sector do not depend on proof of competence and admits there is a lack of clear economic rationale for firms to invest in RoofCERT.

CITB payments to NFRC were structured by key outputs aligned with quarterly indicators - assessed from NFRC’s submitted reports. This meant that by April 2020 – two years into a four-year scheme – it was clear that targets were not being met. As mentioned above, by April 2020 just 50 accreditations of the 5,000 target had been delivered. While, then CITB CEO, Sarah Beale circulated an appeal for RoofCERT recruits, the report explains, “despite the lack of uptake, CITB viewed it [RoofCERT] as a pilot for similar initiatives in wider competence and did not give up on the project even when the COVID-19 pandemic hit.”

In fact, far from bringing the project to an early close, in July 2020 CITB extended funding to NFRC by almost another million pounds (£939,763) in a variation to the original contract. It reduced the 5,000 RoofCERT

roofers target to 2,000 and provided a further £50,000 to pilot a similar scheme for rainscreen cladding to develop ‘proof of concept’. This time NFRC was not expected to match the funding, even in kind. As a de-centralised government ‘quango’, CITB’s approach to project management and its decision to continue spending taxes (or ‘levies’) seemingly rested on the new regime advocated by Dame Judith Hackett in *Building a Safer Future*, published in June 2019.

Which brings us to the present, and the question of RoofCERT’s future. The report concludes that RoofCERT’s “low uptake translates to low impact on wider skills”, thereby failing to deliver one of CITB’s ‘core strategic priorities’, to “upskill the construction workforce” and justify its spend on the project. Moreover, the report also recognises that “RoofCERT is not



The report concludes that RoofCERT’s “low uptake translates to low impact on wider skills”, thereby failing to deliver one of CITB’s ‘core strategic priorities’, to “upskill the construction workforce” and justify its spend on the project.

CITB	
CITB FUNDING AGREEMENT VARIATION REQUEST	
CITB Reference Number:	NFRC-17-016
Lead Organisation:	National Federation of Roofing Contractors
Start Date:	01/07/2020
End Date:	30/06/2022
CITB Project Funding (Total £)	£939,763
Match Funding (Total £)	
Overall Project Value (Total £)	£939,763

In July 2020 CITB extended funding to NFRC by almost another million pounds (£939,763) in a variation to the original contract.

improving competence per se but rather proving/demonstrating competence already in existence.” It adds “There are signs that the scheme may evolve in the future via closer collaboration with commercial contractors and housebuilders,”. And it seems that the main contractor members of the Construction Leadership Council may be about to announce that some form of competence accreditation will be a prerequisite for their supply chain sub-contractors.

In the final recommendations section, the report states “RoofCERT holds a unique position in the market by being the first accreditation scheme of its kind and also the most tailored to the needs of the market... It is also considered a unique pilot which should inform similar activities in the wider sector in the future.” At RoofCERT’s launch five years ago there were high hopes of the scheme improving standards and it would seem that mapping the ‘skills matrix’ has laid the basis for that to happen. Whether accreditation becomes mandatory, forcing more engagement from roofers to build on that basis, is yet to be seen. RoofCERT also sought to improve the perception of roofing, and as a blueprint for evidencing competence to the wider industry it will certainly accomplish a leading role amongst the construction occupations. ■

An Interview with Richard Miller Chief Operating Officer of NFRC

Starting with the National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC) in 2019 and working on RoofCERT's technical tests, Richard Miller has recently been appointed the new Chief Operating Officer of the trade association. Here, Richard explains what the job entails and how his recent work on competency frameworks will help shape the future of the construction industry.

This spring, the National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC) confirmed Richard Miller's appointment as Chief Operating Officer (COO).

This role propels Richard further into the spotlight after his recent work on the Building Safety Competence Steering Group's Working Group 2 (WG2) – Installers, mapping out competencies for the UK roofing and cladding sectors. These competencies will determine the minimum standards roofers and cladders will need to demonstrate evidence for, in a new format that will be ready by the end of the year (according to the CLC Industry Skills Plan for the UK Construction Sector 2021 – 2025). The competencies will 'set the bar' in accordance with the recommendations made for construction industry change by Dame Judith Hackitt in 2020 following the Grenfell Tower fire tragedy in 2017.

Now, working alongside NFRC's James Talman who remains as CEO, Richard takes up his new COO role for the trade association's 1,250 members.

Richard explains, "The role for James has become quite widespread, so in order to support him and ensure we're maximising value continuously to membership, we've re-introduced what has been the historically existing role in NFRC of COO."

"It's all about continuous improvement for me. Continuous improvement for the members, for the industry and with key stakeholders. Naturally I'll be supporting the CEO and board in

It's all about continuous improvement for me. Continuous improvement for the members, for the industry and with key stakeholders.

delivering our strategic outcomes."

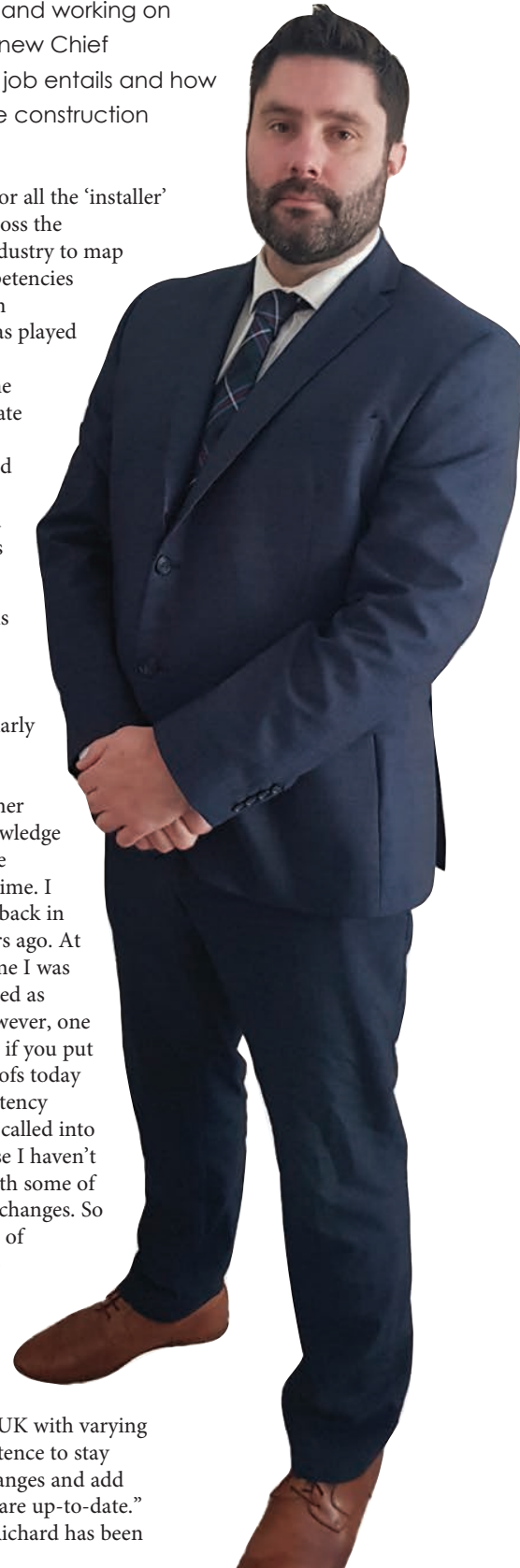
"It's important that we meet the needs of members and help them get to the next level as individuals and as businesses."

Richard will now assume day-to-day responsibility for membership, everyday operations of membership activity, including communications, technical, IT and training. Having already worked for the NFRC for four years as Head of Quality and Compliance, Richard will continue with the responsibilities of that post also. "Obviously there'll be some delegation to the team," Richard is quick to add.

In many ways, Richard Miller is the man of the moment. Having started with NFRC four years ago to support the design and development of RoofCERT for the roofing and cladding disciplines, Richard has built on that work to then map the RoofCERT skills, knowledge, experience and behaviours to the wider competency framework he has piloted for our sector and that is now being prepared cross-industry. The idea is that the work Richard has done can

act as a model for all the 'installer' occupations across the construction industry to map their own competencies for re-validation purposes. He has played a key part in spearheading the drive to formulate this change in construction and has helped the UK roofing and cladding sectors to lead the way.

Richard explains how the CPD element of the RoofCERT scheme particularly has risen to the fore: "I know myself as a former roofer how knowledge and skills can be impacted over time. I did my NVQ 2 back in 2000, so 23 years ago. At that point in time I was obviously deemed as competent. However, one thing's for sure, if you put me on doing roofs today then my competency levels would be called into question because I haven't kept up fully with some of the installation changes. So the whole point of RoofCERT is to re-validate competency and support the 58,000-65,000 roofers working in the UK with varying levels of competence to stay abreast with changes and add proof that they are up-to-date." Most recently Richard has been



working with the Liquid Roofing and Waterproofing Association (LRWA) to shape a RoofCERT pathway for that discipline and provide technical CPD education.

Building on Pre-Existing Training and Infrastructure

While many in the roofing and cladding sectors understand their clients will be demanding more proof of competence from them in the future, others feel that they already have sufficient proof of competence in the qualifications and accreditations they possess. However, Richard says that rather than replacing existing arrangements, this work builds on pre-existing training and infrastructure and will utilise them.

"The Competency Framework has to recognise what is currently in existence. Apprenticeships, for example, are fundamental to our industry and to skill new talent. I'd never want to see N/SVQs disappear, I think they are a fabulous mechanism as long as they are delivered in the correct way. Likewise, SAPs are enormously important to the sector and long may they continue where required. And the same with short courses, supported by CITB.

"We want to build on the current infrastructure, not restrict or reduce it. We want to recognise and point towards these routes to upskilling and encourage those not using them to do so and prove their competency.

"But the question is, how do you pull all this information into one place? I'm not talking about individual providers or details, but about industry standards. The new competency arrangements will enable a client or contractor to assess which areas they need to see competence in because they can see the roles and functions of people in what they do and how they align to particular standards. Those standards are the industry-approved National Occupational Standards. Everything on the Competency Framework aligns to those standards."

It has been Richard's task to also identify where the gaps are. He

points to the historically patchy geographical coverage of training provision and is hopeful that once the competency frameworks are being used they will support the creation of additional courses in the locations where they're needed. Solutions to other gaps in knowledge areas, such as fire safety in roofing for example, he is also hopeful will be further developed.

Barriers to Uptake

With such a positive narrative around the drive towards evidencing competence, the numbers going through the RoofCERT scheme are something of a brake. Against this, Richard highlights that about a quarter of the individuals signed up have now become accredited, and he is encouraged by the hundreds of individuals still in the pipeline who have registered for the scheme. That said, he concedes that as the scheme is still voluntary it might be a barrier to uptake.

"RoofCERT is like any other route to industry entry: NVQs have been around for 30-odd years, at times full-funded, and mostly widely accessible, but we still have had relatively low take-up (around 12,000 in roofing). SAPs have been on offer for a number of years, but we've also got low take-up there; and the same with the Apprenticeship Standard. I think it just all comes down to whether these voluntary regimes are made mandatory.

Secondary Legislation

"We're all waiting for the secondary legislation under the Building Safety Act at the moment which may stipulate more on competence requirements. While the Building Safety Act legislates for the use of competent individuals it doesn't provide any more detail on that. The series of secondary legislation is expected to provide additional information on competency requirements."

"And I think it will take that, not just in our sector but across the construction and built environment to drive change in

We're all waiting for the secondary legislation under the Building Safety Act at the moment which may stipulate more on competence requirements.

procurement, skills and training requirements."

In this context, Richard's work to map out the competency requirements for the day-to-day work of roofers and cladders across the roofing disciplines is centrally important to how the sectors and construction industry will develop in future. While RoofCERT has been a precursor to this work, he envisages the competency frameworks diversifying and developing to meet the industry's needs.

Procurement Processes

"I don't think it will be a question of the legislation saying you achieve this to do that, I think what we'll see is industry taking the lead to comply with legislation, such as on procurement processes being more specific on technical competence alongside, for example, health and safety or business competencies.

"I also think we'll see competency demanded more and more at the request of main duty holders. It will naturally have an effect through the supply chain."

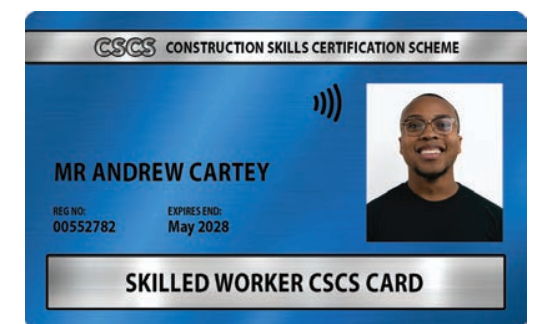
While this effect might build from the commercial roofing sector, Richard thinks that it will inevitably extend to the RMI and domestic roofing market. He suggests that where there are repeated installation issues, pressure from clients such as local authorities will mean more

attention will focus on the competence of individuals. Likewise, as retrofit work increases, homeowners will become more aware of proof of competence as a prerequisite to obtaining certification for the work done on their property.

CSCS Cards

Another boost to schemes for proving trade competencies will come from the loss of Grandfather Rights as a means of securing CSCS cards (needed to work on a construction site). CSCS estimates there will be around 2,000 people in roofing who will need to access alternative means of proving competence. "The Experienced Worker Route will help support workers needing to update their cards and that's something we and the LRWA are actively working on currently. Hopefully we can alert people to what's coming down the line and support them to prepare."

"We've got to set an example in this industry. As a trade body we are here to support our members of course, but also the wider industry. I want to highlight the need for collaboration across the industry and how we can all work together to move forward. For example, I recently worked with the National Roof Training Group to ensure there are enough assessors and we've had some successful results. If we can get that kind of collaboration in the sector, then I think we'll all reap the rewards." III



The housing industry is gearing up for the implementation of the Future Homes Standard in 2025, as well as the new Part L Building Regulations as the grace period comes to an end in June. These regulations will make sure housebuilders and developers build homes to higher energy performance standards. The aim is for new homes built from 2025 to produce 75-80% less carbon emissions than homes built under the current Building Regulations. Manufacturers are making strides in their product offerings to support roofing contractors, housebuilders and social landlords in adapting to the changing shape of residential buildings. In this article, Simon Garbett, the Category Manager for roof systems at Wienerberger UK & Ireland, shares his thoughts on the subject and how roofing contractors have a huge opportunity to tap into this growing demand.



The Complete Solar Roofing Solution

The regulations governing building in England are undergoing significant changes. The new Future Homes Standard will be fully implemented by 2025 and will require new homes to be built with low-carbon heating and

stringent energy efficiency, ensuring they are future-proofed for years to come.

The introduction of Part L last year marked the first step towards this goal, with updated conservation measures for fuel and power usage now mandatory

for new homes built in England after 1 July, 2022, unless planning permission was approved before that date. These new regulations require a 31% reduction in CO2 emissions compared to previous standards, with full implementation just months away.

One crucial aspect of the updated regulations is the adoption of a "Fabric First" approach, emphasising the use of efficient materials to minimise energy consumption. However, achieving the desired levels of efficiency will also require the use of technology, ||-



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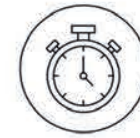
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as fabric alone may not be enough to meet the new standards.

Revolutionising Product Offerings

The key to meeting the energy efficiency and carbon reduction targets for homes in the future is for manufacturers to continually improve and innovate their product offerings. One example of this is renewable energy. Wienerberger understands this need for innovation and sees itself as not just a fabric manufacturer, but a provider of complete solutions that combine fabric and technology.

Recently, Wienerberger launched its Sandtoft in-roof solar panels, which have been designed to simplify installation with an interlocking design that is directly applied to roof battens. The panels reflect the traditional aesthetic of tiled roofs and are fully compatible with both clay and concrete tiles. The benefits for roofing contractors are significant, with each panel weighing just 8.95 kg and installation costs reduced, due to the direct mounting onto battens.

The industry is rapidly evolving and Wienerberger has received a huge demand from customers to expand the range. Battery storage is becoming more popular, which stores energy generated from renewable energy sources such as

In summer 2023, we are planning to launch a complete roof package that includes inverters and batteries, as well as roofing tiles and accessories, combining fabric and solar and storage technology. We believe this solution will fill a critical gap in the UK solar offering.

solar panels at peak times and can be released when needed. For example, electricity produced by solar PV panels during the day can be stored in an electric battery and used for tasks like boiling the kettle or watching TV in the evening when the panels are no longer generating electricity. Storing solar energy at home allows for reduced reliance on traditional power grids, promotes sustainability and energy independence and provides long-term cost savings.

As a result, in summer 2023, we are planning to launch a complete roof package that includes



inverters and batteries, as well as roofing tiles and accessories, combining fabric and solar and storage technology. We believe this solution will fill a critical gap in the UK solar offering. By continually innovating and offering complete solutions, manufacturers like Wienerberger can help roofing contractors and housebuilders meet the changing demands of the new building regulations.

Roofing Contractor Opportunity

As the demand for net zero solutions increases, roofing contractors may wonder how to stay competitive and not lose out on new-roof and re-roof projects as solar becomes widespread and covers a higher surface area of the roof. Our Sandtoft in-roof solar panels are one solution, as they are designed by roofers, for roofers. The unique way the tiles are fitted to the roof battens with an interlocking design results in a simple and hassle-free installation, which means our solar panels can be fitted easily by roofers as well as solar installers.

As well as meeting the needs of roofing contractors by launching new product innovations, manufacturers in the industry are ready to offer training and support to those who are new to solar technology. At Wienerberger we are offering

hands-on and digital certified product training, along with a range of materials such as how-to videos, to help contractors on their journey.

Contractors should take advantage of these opportunities and speak to product experts for guidance. Additionally, they can utilise social media channels to access video tutorials and connect with industry peers who may be on a similar journey. With the right training and support, roofing contractors can ensure they stay competitive in the rapidly evolving industry and take advantage of new opportunities presented by net zero solutions.

Building for Homes of the Future

The implementation of the Future Homes Standard will result in homes that can generate and store their own energy. Solar technology presents a simple solution to achieve this goal, and it's essential for roofing contractors to adapt and innovate to keep pace with the changing regulations. The installers who successfully adapt to the changes will likely emerge as leaders in the industry. ■■■

Find out more about Sandtoft's in-roof solar tiles by visiting www.wienerberger.co.uk/products/roof/in-roof-solar.html. View how-to videos and register for hands-on and digital product training with certification.



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SPRA AWARDS 2023



HILTON LEEDS CITY THURSDAY 15 JUNE

The SPRA Awards Luncheon will return to Hilton Leeds City, Leeds on Thursday 15 June. Last year, over 180 members and their guests gathered to enjoy a drinks reception, feast upon a three-course luncheon, celebrate excellence in single ply roofing, and network with their peers – the largest event in SPRA history! This year's event will be just as special and will feature the following award categories for projects completed in 2022 –

- Best Detailing
- Best New Build
- Best Refurbishment
- Best Small Project (≤100m²) **NEW!**
- Competence Award (closed for submissions) **NEW!**
- Health and Safety Award
- Outstanding Contribution to Single Ply Roofing **NEW!**
- Sustainability Award

SPRA members may submit their projects and nominations for the Outstanding Contribution to Single Ply Roofing award using the form on the SPRA website. The deadline for submissions is Sunday 30 April.

Ticket prices range from £165.00 + VAT for an individual, up to £1,567.50 + VAT for a table of ten people. So what are you waiting for? Join us at what will be a spectacular event in the roofing industry calendar!

**Submit your projects and
buy your tickets now!**



Solar Roofing

Making the Solar Sum Add Up

The big roofing manufacturers are innovating to bring out the next generation of in-line solar roofing products. It makes sense, because as the price of energy has rocketed, and the cost of solar panels has fallen, installing solar panels to generate electricity has become more attractive for many. This means that it's worth re-doing the sums on solar installations for many households.



New solar roofing solutions are coming on the market this year with systems that can be installed directly onto battens. It means that if your customer wants a re-roof, going down the solar route can be a savvy choice. Not only more attractive, in-line roofing systems will partially offset the cost of traditional roof coverings. Add in a battery storage system and electric vehicle (EV) charging point and your customer will be futureproofed.

Generating Savings

If a household uses the electricity its solar system generates, they can save up to £600 per year on electricity bills. Actual savings depend on the size of the solar installation, the number of occupants and, of course, how much electricity is normally used. It also depends on whether occupants are at home during the

day when the electricity is being generated (unless there's a battery storage system).

The Energy Saving Trust estimates a typical household with a 3.5 kilowatt-peak system can save £195- £600 per year off electricity bills at May 2023 prices.

Smart Export Guarantee

Under the smart export guarantee (SEG) UK households get paid for solar electricity generated by the solar system, but not used by the household which is then sold into the national electricity grid.

The SEG scheme works by the larger energy suppliers being required to offer tariffs to households. These are a set rate for each kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity generated from the solar roof, which is unused by the household.

Rates vary widely, ranging from 1p per kWh to up to 25p per kWh. You don't have to buy your electricity from the same company you export it to, although some energy suppliers offer better rates if you do.

The Energy Saving Trust estimates a typical household based in mid-England could sell £90 - £130 of electricity each year (assuming a conservative 5p per kWh).

Breaking Even

A typical 3.5 kilowatt-peak solar panel system costs about £5,500. Based on the Energy Saving Trust's May 2023 figures for a typical household, it could take between 10 -17 years to recoup the costs of installing a solar

system. This depends on a household's electricity use, when it is used, and what smart export guarantee deal the household has got. (The figures assume an electricity cost of 34p/kWh and a smart export guarantee rate of 5p/kWh.) There is a very useful solar panel calculator on the Energy Saving Trust's website: www.pvfitcalculator.energysavingtrust.org.uk/.

Of course, individual circumstances affect this break-even point. For example, roofs located further south are exposed to longer days and more sunlight. Roofs orientated south and those without any form of shading from trees or nearby buildings, will generate more electricity.

Likewise, if occupants are at home using electricity in the daytime when it is being generated, it will take less time to recoup the cost of the installation. However, with many smart appliances it is easy to schedule electricity consumption in the daytime.

Solar Storage

A battery installed as part of a solar system can store unused electricity instead of exporting it to the grid. A 3 kWh battery, costing around £3,000 will save the 34p/kWh electricity currently costs. It could store around of third of all the electricity a typical household uses (so saving a third off annual bills). However, a typical household will take 5-13 years to recoup the cost of a battery according to Solar Energy UK.

Adding Value

A break-even point exceeding a decade for solar roofs may mean the sums don't add up for those intending to sell their home before that time. However, homes with solar roofs are often seen as a good investment and will attract higher prices, estimated at £2,000 more, on average.

Importantly, anyone considering a solar roof is advised to get three detailed written quotes from reputable firms.

The system and the installer should meet the standards of the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) and the installer should be a member of the Renewable Energy Consumer Code. ■

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World Green Roof Day 2023

Since the first World Green Roof Day on 6th June 2020 people all over the world have proudly shared their green roofs, either online through social media or, if safe to do so, by opening them up to the public.

This year World Green Roof Day is all about working together to protect our climate for people and nature. Over 60 countries, from Brazil to South Africa have previously taken part. This year we invite you to, quite literally, share your views, we want to see your best sunsets, wildflowers, rooftop boxing, and high-rise vegetable plot. However a green roof inspires you, we want you to share your rooftop views and stories with the world, using the hashtag #WGRD2023.

Each year we are blown away by the diverse green roof spaces that are shared across the globe. Each country brings its own local knowledge of how to create a living roof that works in its own climate and within its culture of using roof spaces. The green roofs that thrive the most are those that mimic the surrounding landscape, they literally blend into the natural environment. It's exciting to see green roofs in hotter climates with desert conditions working with the landscape and honoring the pre-existing terrain.

In the UK, a green roof is often one of the last parts of a building project to be completed and in

some cases an afterthought or part of building regulations. We want to use World Green Roof Day to change this. We want green roofs to be thought of as an opportunity at the beginning of the design process, an extra space, a place to bring people together. We know how much care and pride goes into your roofing projects and we see the roofing community as our allies who can help to spread the word about the benefits of green roofs.

So what are the benefits?

- Protection of the waterproofing layer; extends the lifespan of the roof by up to three times.
- Stormwater management and flood reduction
- Insulation; keeps the building warm in winter and cool in summer
- Soundproofing; reduces external noises
- Air cooling; reduces surrounding air temperatures and the urban heat island effect
- Carbon capture and sequestration

- Creation of secure areas for ground-nesting bees, birds, and invertebrates

Alongside all this, the benefit to people is something a lot of the roofing industry will already know. There is something quite awe-inspiring about taking in the early morning views from a city rooftop. Many countries all over the world use their rooftop space for people to enjoy. A rooftop bar, a restaurant, a kitchen garden, or an activity space. World Green Roof Day hopes to bring those 'people benefits' to light and help to bring more fun to a rooftop near you. Many towns and cities have rooftops strong enough to have green roofs already. We need

#WGRD2023



to take down some of the perceived barriers to having a green roof and ensure that policymakers encourage building owners and developers to invest in green roofs that really encourage biodiversity.

The Green Roofing Skills Gap

The roofing industry has many different career paths, as the green roof industry grows at approximately 17% each year, we need to encourage more people to learn about green infrastructure and nature-based solutions within construction. It is essential we have a trained workforce that cares about creating good quality green roofs that can boost biodiversity. If we are going to move forward with green skills training, we need government support to fund training opportunities – we will also be using World Green Roof Day to raise awareness of this skills gap and support real change in our industry that can meet the planning needs of the future.

This year we would love to see people taking ownership of World Green Roof Day – if safe to do so why not give a video rooftop tour, show the world the vegetables you grew on the 26th floor, do a rooftop exchange visit or share that incredible rooftop sunset photo you took last year - anything that will inspire more people in the world to see the potential of this often unused space and help us all to work together to protect our climate for people and nature.

Get involved with World Green Roof Day 2023 on June 6th!
www.worldgreenroofday.com Social media: #WGRD2023

Biosolar PV Supports from Optigrun

Green roofs are already established as having an important part to play in the economic and ecological functionality of the building they are installed on as well as their contribution to stormwater management and biodiversity net gain.

Alongside the adoption of green roofs there has been a move towards the greater use of renewable energy to achieve better energy security, reduce costs for the consumer and to achieve carbon neutrality. Photovoltaic (PV) systems are now extensively used at roof level to achieve energy efficiency targets for new buildings.

Multifunctionality is the new goal of urban planning, and the combination of green roof and PV systems provides a particularly efficient solution in this respect.

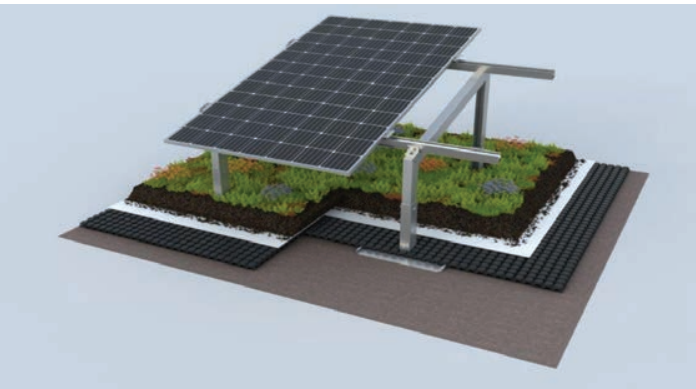
Benefits of a Biosolar Roof

There are many advantages to the combination of green roofs and photovoltaics, often referred to as biosolar roofs.

The evaporative cooling effect of the vegetation leads to an increase in the efficiency of the photovoltaic system, particularly during hotter conditions. At the same time, the green roof makes an important contribution to preserving the natural water balance and increasing biodiversity.

The varying amounts of sunlight and water in front of, underneath and between the modules provide a varied habitat for different plant and animal species.

The positive effect on biodiversity, the potential increase in the efficiency of the PV system and the possible structural and practical advantages of a support system secured with a superimposed load require a multi-functional and flexible solution and biosolar roofs can offer this.



Multifunctionality is the new goal of urban planning, and the combination of green roof and PV systems provides a particularly efficient solution.

Choosing the Right Solution

Leading specialist green roof and blue roof suppliers, Optigrun have over 50 years experience in developing new and innovative solutions. The challenge when engineering a new PV array support was to create a product that could be entirely ballasted in position by the superimposed loading of the surrounding green roof build-up without a

requirement to be fixed to the roof structure in any way. There was also a need for the system to be able to support vegetation underneath the PV panels thereby maximising the green roof area available.

With the increased use of blue roofs on construction projects to enhance stormwater management Optigrun were also keen to develop an additional product within their PV support range



that could be used as an integral part of a blue roof specification where PV arrays were also required.

The Optigrun Solar FKD and Solar WRB ranges are both load-supported solar mounting frames for penetration-free roof mounting of PV modules in combination with an extensive green roof system. The versatile subframe assembly makes it possible to mount almost all standard solar modules, with inclines of 10°, 15° or 20°. The rows of modules can be installed in a south-facing or east-west orientation. The modules can be fixed either vertically (portrait) and horizontally (landscape).

Both products come with a base drainage and reservoir board and support frame as well as secondary mounting rails and fixings allowing the PV panel supplier to provide the chosen modules, inverters and associated cabling. The Optigrun Solar FKD or Solar WRB support system would be installed at the same time as the green or blue roof with the fixing of the PV panels normally being carried out prior to the planting of the vegetation.

Technical and Specification Support

Optigrun provides full technical support for this product range. This includes the preparation of PV module and support layouts, wind loading calculations together with general specification advice. Minimum substrate loadings are provided to ensure that the dry weight of the vegetation build-up is sufficient to keep the supports in position on all areas of the roof. With the Solar WRB solution Optigrun can also provide water storage and outflow calculations to suit the requirements of the local water authority or drainage engineer for the project.

To find out more visit www.optigrun.co.uk
Email enquiries@optigrun.co.uk
Phone 0203 5899 401

Welsh Slates Ranked High in the Naming Stakes

*"By the strike of his hammer without the King's aid
A Lady or Countess or Duchess is made
Yet high is the station from which they are sent
And all their great titles are got by descent
And when they are seen in a palace or shop
Their rank they preserve and are still at the top."*

Verse quoted in an article on Penrhyn slate quarries in Bradshaw's Journal, Volume 2 1842.

It is some 90 years since the practice of calling different roof slate sizes by the titles of female aristocrats was lost to posterity after many centuries.

Although roofing slates per se continue to be named after the area or quarry from which they are mined, the different sizes (and there were dozens) were first given the titles of female aristocrats from the late 1730s.

This practice was commonly thought to have been introduced by General Sir Hugh Warburton, the former owner of Penrhyn Quarry in North Wales, as now owned by Welsh Slate. Others believe it was by the quarrymen themselves.



Traditional Slate Sizes

The names of the larger, imperial-size slates are (length x width):

- Empress – 26" x 16",
- Princess – 24" x 14",
- Duchess – 24" x 12",
- Small Duchess – 22" x 12", offers excellent coverage with 13 slates/m²,
- Marchioness – 22" x 11",
- Wide/Broad Countess – 20" x 12", popular and versatile size,
- Countess – 20" x 10" (the name also refers to 20" x 9" and 18" x 12"),
- Wide/Small Viscountess – 18" x 10", extremely popular size,



- Viscountess – 18" x 9" and 16" x 12",
- Wide ladies – 16" x 10" (maybe not PC but possibly the most popular size!),
- Broad ladies – 16" x 9",
- Lady – 16" x 8",
- Small Lady – 14" x 8", a popular choice for Victorian terraced houses,
- Narrow Lady – 14" x 7", not as common as the wider 14" sizes.

It is not really known why the different slate sizes were given these names. Perhaps to appease the land-owning nobility at a time when the Industrial Revolution was helping to take slate production from a cottage industry to one of worldwide significance. For the first time, ambitious ordinary people were beginning to make their own fortunes, taking power away from the slate quarries' owners.

Industrial Revolution

But it was during this time that the use of slate as a roofing material really took off, aided by the introduction of coastal shipping, canals and railways, which enabled Welsh slate to be

transported to customers throughout the UK, and beyond.

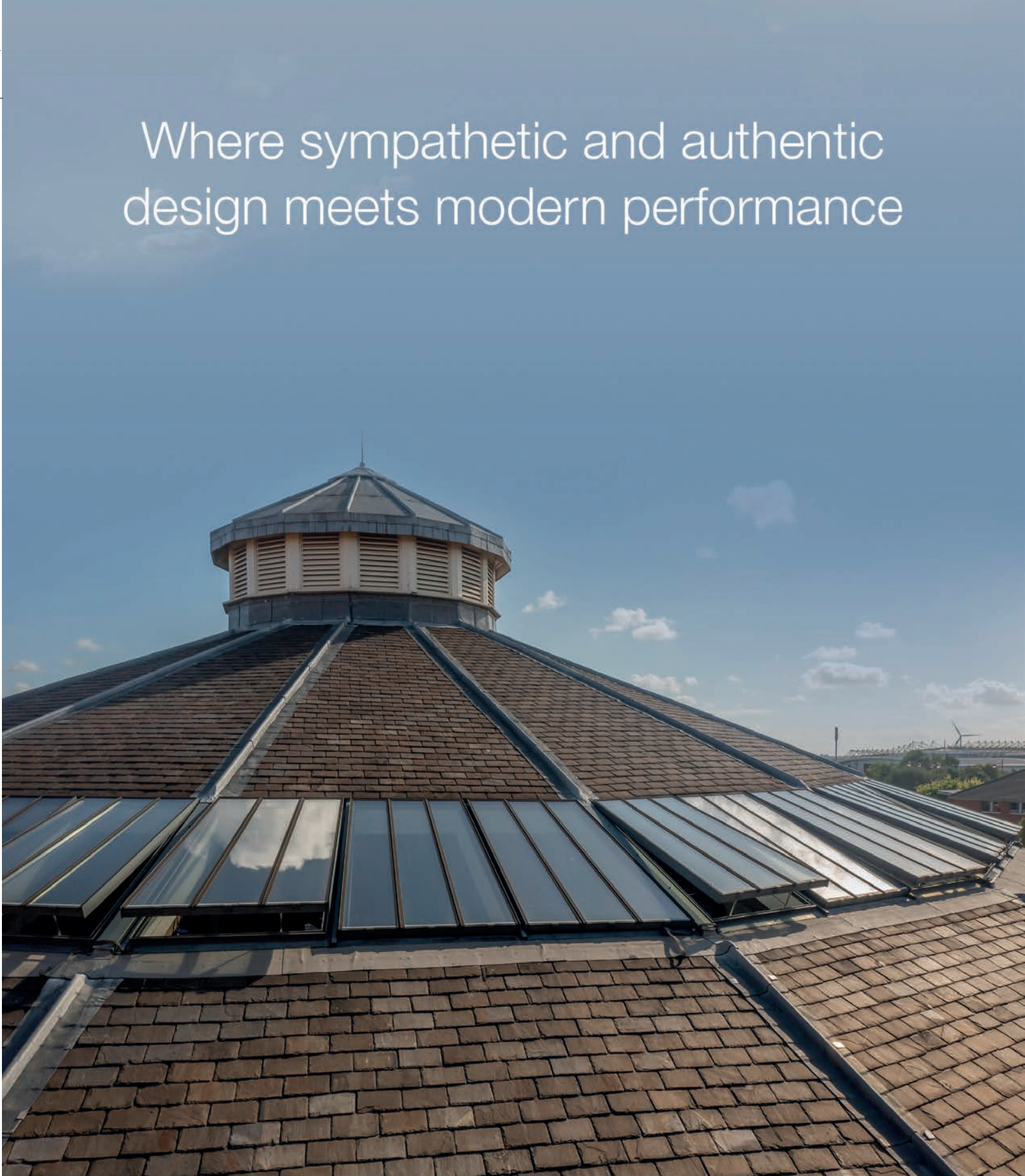
Penrhyn slates pioneered the naming practice as Welsh Slate's Penrhyn Quarry at the time was the largest in the world, employing hundreds of men, quarrying hundreds of tonnes of slate every day.

Its place in the history books was further assured in 1801 when Penrhyn opened a tramway linking the quarry to its own port at Bangor, the first slate quarry in the world to do this. This particularly increased its profile internationally due to overseas shipments. Competitors basically had no choice but to follow suit.

However, the naming practice began to fade out in the 1930s when the BSI decided to formally adopt imperial sizing that ranged from 36" x 20" down to 10" x 6". Then metrification in the 1970s dealt the final blow, although the names have lived on in some quarters, even if they are not officially recognised.

Quarries continue to produce a large range of sizes, with even random or diminishing sizes (which reflect the origins of slating, with every slate being a different size) supplied. III

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The 3 greatest problems limiting the growth of roofing and cladding businesses

“Over the past 7 years, I've had the privilege of building relationships and working closely with many of the fastest-growing roofing and cladding companies in the UK. It's been incredible to witness the growth of the industry over this time and it's been very satisfying to see many of my clients quadruple their turnover, get off the front lines and get more enjoyment out of their career and life.

Whether I am working with a global cladding manufacturer or a regional roofing contractor, it is apparent to me that the inability to quickly recruit specialist staff from within the industry is one of the biggest challenges holding businesses back.

Luke McCormack,
Managing Director, McCormack Partners

1. STRUGGLING TO ATTRACT TOP TALENT

In the cut-throat job market of today, attracting and retaining the best candidates is a constant battle that roofing and cladding businesses must fight. Without top-notch talent, companies can struggle to stay ahead of their competitors and achieve their goals. It's incredibly frustrating when you're unable to put together an A-team of skilled and qualified professionals to execute your vision.

But it's not just about finding the right people. Once you've hired them, you need to ensure that they seamlessly integrate into your company culture, share your values, and align with your vision. Failure to do so can lead to a demoralized workforce, decreased job satisfaction, and ultimately, lower productivity and performance.

“McCormack Partners have recently secured seven members of staff for our business. The candidates that were brought to interview stages far exceeded anything we had experienced before in previous recruitment.

Dexter Copland

Managing Director, Topek Southern Ltd

2. TIME-CONSUMING RECRUITMENT PROCESS

In business, time is money. Every moment you spend sifting through resumes, scheduling interviews, checking references, and negotiating salaries, is a moment taken away from managing your day-to-day operations, focusing on strategic planning, and driving revenue growth.

A lengthy and arduous recruitment process can quickly become a major headache for you. It can leave you feeling overwhelmed, stressed, and unable to focus on the most important aspects of your business. Worse yet, it can lead to missed opportunities, lost revenue, and recurring problems that could have been avoided if you had the time to devote to your core business activities.

3. COSTS OF BAD HIRES

The cost of hiring a professional can seem steep. But the truth is, the cost of hiring an amateur can be even higher.

A bad hire can be a nightmare for any business, and it's not just about the cost of recruitment. It's about the cost of everything that comes after. Failure to properly invest in hiring and onboarding can result in high turnover rates, lost productivity, and decreased morale.

And the expenses add up quickly, from recruitment and training costs, to damage to company culture, a bad hire can wreak havoc on your bottom line and your brand.

The truth is, a bad hire can cost you more than just money - it can cost you your reputation. And in today's hyper-connected world, that's something that no business can afford.

McCormack Partners - Our Recruitment Partnership is Your Competitive Advantage!

Sourcing specialist professionals from the Roofing & Cladding industry can be challenging, but with the right partner you can have faster, more efficient hiring!

We take a deep dive into the DNA of your business and provide a bespoke service that is tailored to your specific needs and requirements.

Top-Tier candidates are not actively applying for jobs. However, they can be recruited if you have a specialist Roofing & Cladding head-hunter on your team.

By leveraging our expertise and resources, you can fill key roles faster, reducing the time and costs associated with lost productivity and bad hires.

As members of the NFRC and the only recruitment company in existence who recruit solely in the Roofing & Cladding industry, we pride ourselves on our expertise and track record in sourcing expert candidates who fit with your unique company profile and can hit-the-ground-running.

“McCormack Partners provide a great service and great quality of candidates.

McCormack Partners are experts in their field.

Andy Jackson,

National Roofing Director, Mitie plc

Benefits of using McCormack Partners

Peace of mind in knowing your team has the specialist knowledge and skill required to deliver quality work

Easier recruitment and training of new staff with specialists on board

Increased competitiveness in the market to grow your business

More effective delegation and management of duties



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Scan the QR code to book an appointment with our Managing Director, Luke McCormack



UK Roofing Awards 2023 Winners

At a glittering ceremony on 12th May 2023 at the Intercontinental hotel in London, the UK roofing industry gathered together to celebrate the winners of the UK Roofing Awards 2023.

Crowning the winners of 15 roofing and cladding disciplines, the UK Roofing Awards recognise the best demonstration of outstanding technical skills, overcoming project challenges and safety. Additional awards are given for Health & Safety, Roof of the Year, Large and Small Scale Projects, Young Roofer of the Year and the Industry Choice Award.

Congratulations go to all the winning teams and projects, as well as the finalists reaching the shortlist.



Roof of the Year

sponsored by SIG Roofing

Yellowsands, Thurlestone

Stuart Wheeler Roofing Ltd

Yellowsands is a 19th century arts and crafts building located on Devon's coastline and is full of extraordinary detail. The contractor was tasked with renovating the unique and intricate roof, as well as installing dormers added to the roof area with their dramatic curved features. The contractor chose Proctor Roofshield breathable membrane and used reclaimed random Delabole slates to cover the main roof elevations, as they could not obtain enough of the original slates to renew the roof in full. The judges were particularly impressed with the swept valley detailing, as well as mitred hip details with fishtail soakers, swept lead ridge detail using code 6 lead sheet and back bedded clay ridge tiles. The contractor worked under a temporary roof to ensure that the project was completed on time.



Bituminous Hot Applied Liquid Waterproofing

Heatherwood Hospital

MAC Roofing & Contracting Ltd

This expertly managed installation provided the contractor with challenging detailing, which included many changes in direction, complex internal and external corners, and many plinths of different shapes and sizes that had to be waterproofed and tested before plant and machinery was placed on the roof. A solar array was also installed on the finished waterproofing system, which required a lot of co-ordination with the mechanical and electrical contractor to ensure that the waterproofing was not damaged. The commitment and attention to detail of the installation team contributed to the project's success.



Cold Applied Liquid Waterproofing

sponsored by Cromar Building Products

Le Clos Maurant

Rateavon Ltd

Le Clos Maurant is a housing estate in St Clement, Jersey. Large central podiums form the roof of the car parks, as well as a warm roof to some of the accommodation. In addition, the systems were used to waterproof the block work planters, due to the root resistant property of the membrane. The Triflex liquid system delivered seamless and self-terminating waterproofing for the warm flat roofs and entrance canopies. The large-scale project meant that the installation team were working around other trades to deliver the schedule of works to time and the project utilised local subcontractors wherever possible to support the Jersey island economy. The attitude and skill of the installation team has ensured a high quality finish.



Young Roofer of the Year

sponsored by BMI

Blake Peters

Blake was offered an apprenticeship with Hawkins Roofing after attending a local recruitment event, at which his ability and enthusiasm were clear.



Blake has demonstrated consistent commitment towards his progression and is willing to share his outstanding knowledge and skills with co-workers. Blake's apprenticeship tutor and assessor explains that, "Blake is a pleasure to teach. He thrives on learning, has a very mature outlook and offers to support me and other members of the group. He is a very professional apprentice and is excelling in the Sheeting and Cladding discipline.

"He has a great career ahead of him. We know he will be a success in this industry."

Health and Safety Award

John Colbeck

John Colbeck is one of Doncaster Maintenance's most experienced employees delivering industrial roofing repair and maintenance. He is always coming up with new initiatives and methods of working to improve health and safety compliance within the business. The time, effort, commitment, passion, and total dedication John puts into his role and helping others every day is testament to his character and earning the full respect of his team.

Nothing is too much trouble for John, and he covers the length and breadth of the country ensuring the team are performing to a first class health and safety standard. John's involvement has been fundamental in delivering the business' Accident Frequency Rate of zero for three years. He is a true ambassador for Doncaster Maintenance.



Local Hero

sponsored by SIG Roofing

Neal Walters

Neal set up Hybrid Flat Roofing nearly two years ago, although has worked in the industry for over ten years. He felt the sector needed more honest, reliable and skilled workmanship in his community. Neal goes above and beyond for every single customer and is always on hand after the installations for customers. He always makes time for clients whether it's a phone call, a fifth site visit or a midnight text. Hybrid Flat Roofing completed a charitable project on a local community book exchange scheme.

Another project involved a roof on a small library located on a church ground which was leaking, so Hybrid Flat Roofing did the work and supplied materials completely free of charge. The company also sponsors a local junior rugby club.



Fully Supported Metal

sponsored by Metal Solutions Ltd

Blacknest, Ascot

Roles Broderick Roofing Limited

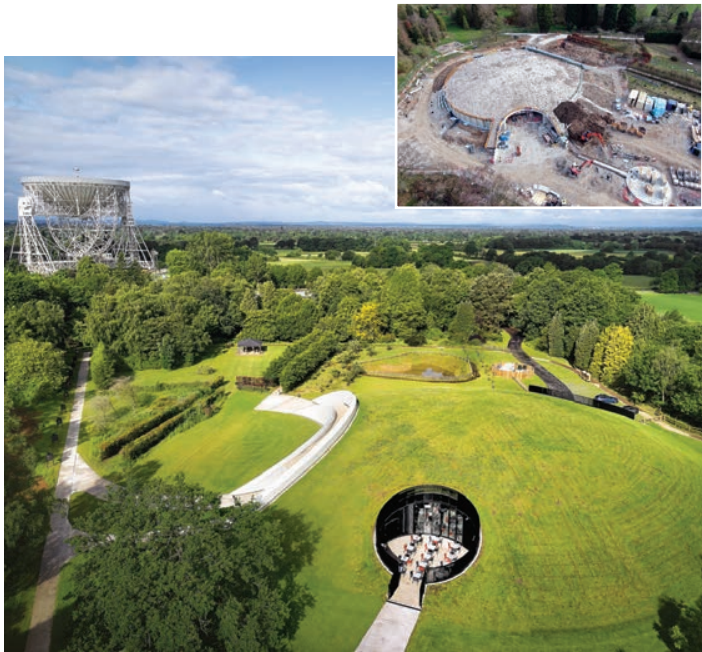
Blacknest is a bespoke contemporary residence with a guesthouse and studio in a lakeside setting. The buildings are wrapped in a KME TECU Classic copper which gives the impression of a woodland canopy and the illusion of a boat hull. The copper coverings were installed onto overhanging soffits, walls, support columns and window surrounds. In addition, the work included copper cappings, stainless steel internal gutter linings and aluminium standing seam roofing on the guesthouse. The project was all fabricated on site. The support columns for the main house were changed to copper after discussion on site, and the contractor ensured that any rainwater runoff was directed away from the lake to prevent harm to the fish stock.



Green Roofing

sponsored by Bauder
Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre
LRL Roofing Solutions

Situated in Macclesfield, the new First Light Pavilion forms part of the Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre. The uniquely impressive dome was opened to the public in 2022 and blends effortlessly into its natural surroundings. The shape of the roof challenged the operatives as a large amount of planning was involved in making sure that the roof was set out correctly. The contracts manager produced a phased plan, splitting the circular dome into 16 separate segments to ensure correct coverage and sufficient laps on the waterproofing. Although the waterproofing was to be covered by landscaping, the operatives took great pride whilst installing the Bauder system to ensure the Pavilion is watertight.



Heritage Roofing

sponsored by Keymer
Derby Market Hall
Longworth Building Services Limited

Originally built in 1864 and located in Derby's Cathedral Quarter, the Market Hall is one of the city's most culturally important buildings, which today plays host to a range of independent market traders. To extend the building's lifespan and to counter structural deterioration that has sometimes forced temporary closure, the contractor designed, supplied and installed new standing seam copper roofing to the central spine of the roof and the four tapered curved corners. All four hipped corners of the barrel vaulted structure were slightly different which presented setting out challenges on site. The contractor carried out all work without disturbing internal works or market stalls. The judges were also impressed that the contractor had three apprentices working on the project.



Industry Choice

sponsored by Radmat Building Products
Stockport School
Fulwood Roofing

This project has been deemed the Industry Choice winner, receiving the most votes online from the rest of the UK roofing sector. This roof refurbishment project at Stockport School was carried out while students and staff studied and taught in the buildings and were on campus. In total 24 individual roofs with many hips and valleys were refurbished using BMI Redland tiles, totalling some 4,000 square metres.



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Technical advice, the industry quality stamp and fantastic profile-raising opportunities—for all roofing disciplines

NFRC sets the highest standards for work across all roofing and cladding disciplines. But we're much more than the industry's quality assurance stamp. Membership of the trade association offers contractors and suppliers a range of powerful technical and commercial advantages.

These include a profile on our website and directory listing, making your business easier for clients to find. Plus exclusive access to technical support and updates, an exclusive health and safety app, and advice on training provision.

For suppliers, key benefits include numerous opportunities to engage with roofing contractors all over the country.

And as the voice of the roofing sector, NFRC makes our members' views heard where it matters most. We work with government, standards bodies and training providers to promote the interests of the industry, and of the construction market as a whole.



Call 020 7638 7663 or visit [nfrc.co.uk/RTbenefits](https://www.nfrc.co.uk/RTbenefits) to request our benefits brochure—and find out more about what NFRC membership can do for your business.



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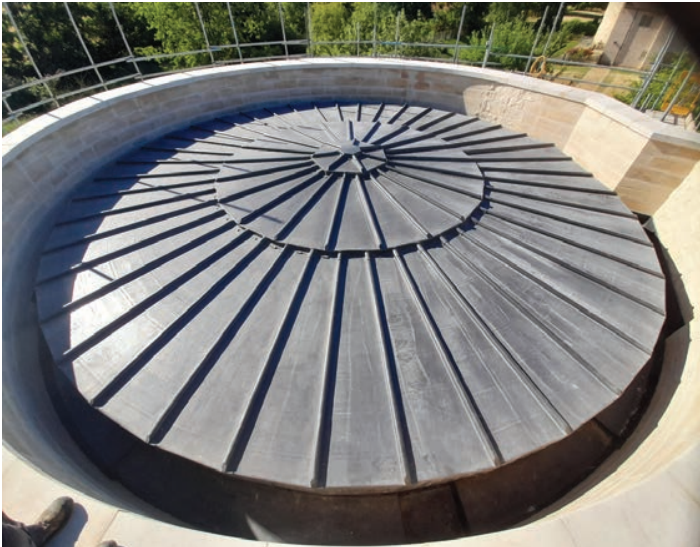
Contractors with knowledge, skills and experience of heritage roofing systems

Leadwork

Somerton Castle NE Tower

Matt Timby Limited

Somerton Castle was built in 1281, and was soon after gifted to Edward II, but the history of the site goes back to Roman times. The site had fallen into disrepair and had been placed on Historic England Heritage at Risk Register. The leadwork on the tower was completed in three phases, the first being the gutters, which were no more than 400 mm wide and deep sided, with the lowest point being around 1.3 m below the main roof, and with an abutment on the outer edge with some of the code eight rolls weighing 130 kg each. The gutter included two sandcast sumps. The second phase saw the addition of the code 6 lead to the internal ring wall which carried the main roof. Following this, the main roof covering was installed, consisting of 70 tapered bays using code 6 lead and two oversized bays of code 7 because of the irregular shape of the tower roof.



Mastic Asphalt

Battersea Power Station

Briggs Amasco

Logistically and technically, the Battersea Power Station development proved a true test of the contractor's workmanship and project management capabilities. To provide the chimney structures with long-term waterproof protection and to stay true to the aesthetic of the repurposed site, the contractor worked with IKO products and applied mastic asphalt to the bases of the four chimneys, totalling 750m², as part of a challenging but very rewarding application for the tradespeople working on this iconic building. As a measure of how the contractor went beyond its remit to exceed project requirements, it designed a mastic asphalt solution to waterproof and line a peregrine falcon's nest within the chimneys. The birds have been resident there for many years, and the 1 m x 1 m square nest provides them with a permanent home.



Multi-discipline Project > £250k

sponsored by ICB

St Sidwell's Point

Massey Cladding Solutions Ltd

St Sidwell's Point Leisure Centre was the first Passivhaus leisure facility in the UK. Consisting of aluminium standing seam roofing and three different types of rainscreen cladding fixed to three different backing substrates, this project had two key areas of complexity. The first and most visually obvious was the base geometry of the project, with almost all elevations and roofs being sloped, tapered, curved or spiralled which required an enhanced level of accuracy. The second element was the hidden complexity of the Passivhaus requirement.



Rainscreen Façades

sponsored by Siderise

National Train Control Centre, Dublin

Roofscape Ltd

This complex project involved the use of numerous different sized and coloured fibre cement and aluminium rainscreen systems, and bringing the façade together seamlessly whilst sitting on numerous planes and projections. The Ash and Lacy aluminium panels for the rainscreen system each needed to be drawn and dimensioned individually to be installed in a specific location on the building. The installation crew were fed drawings and information digitally, and queries were addressed with the design team in real time via Teams, with solutions agreed to ensure that schedules and quality of workmanship were preserved, all within a constricted site in a live operating railway station.



Reinforced Bitumen Membranes

sponsored by Sika

Launceston College

Progressive Systems Ltd

Cornwall's Launceston College undertook a major development to meet increasing demand for student places, as well as to improve its infrastructure and facilities for current students. This included the construction of a new three-storey purpose-built Science and Technology block involving a main flat roof area, two secondary flat roofs and a canopy roof. The contractor faced several challenges, including calculating wind loads, designing a tapered insulation scheme that didn't restrict the access doors, working on a live site and managing deliveries. The attention to detail on the completed BMI Icopal roof areas stood out.



Small Scale Project < £25k

sponsored by NFRC CPS

The Riverside Pavilion

Emerton Roofing (Western) Ltd

This project comprised the restoration of a tapering, large lead finial on the Riverside Pavilion, located in a private country garden. The finial was dismantled and returned to the workshop so that the timber former could be replicated. With the new oak former fitted together in the workshop, the old leadwork was trial fitted before being dismantled and transported to the site for its final fitting. The original iron centre rod was still in good condition despite being 150 years old. Divided into manageable components, the oak structure was carefully hoisted into position and temporarily covered. The salvageable embellishments were sandblasted, and the missing ones were re-cast in the workshop. The octagonal timber moulding was re-lined by welding together segments of lead which were fitted in two halves.



Roof Tiling

sponsored by Marley

Jane Austen's House

Clarke Roofing Southern Ltd

The author's home was originally a timber farmhouse built around 500 years ago, and Austen lived in it for 8 years before her death in 1817. In 1845 the house was returned to the Chawton Estate and divided into three dwellings for estate workers. It was also used as an estate office and a working men's club, before becoming a museum in 1949, and it is now Grade I listed. Working closely with the architect and local conservation officers, the contractor opened up the entire structure to carry out structural timber repairs, re-forming the central valleys and rebuilding brick corbels to retain drive spike gutter brackets. The head tiler allowed their apprentices to lay the Keymer tiles and bonnets whilst under supervision to gain experience.



Sheeting and Cladding

Thatcher's Cider Warehouse 2

Progressive Systems Ltd

This project was the second phase of works to construct a new high bay robotic storage facility. This phase comprised 124 metre long aluminium standing seam sheets on the roof and composite panels installed horizontally on the walls. The roof consisted of two build ups, one of which had Rockwool slab insulation for soundproofing. The aluminium standing seam sheets were rolled on the ground and then carried along a specially designed, 34 metre long scaffold platform from ground floor to the roof level to be installed. Where the original warehouse was extended, the contractor removed and numbered each of the original composite panels and installed them onto the new structure to save them from being sent to landfill. The contractor also acted as principal contractor on this project.



Single Ply Roofing

sponsored by Recticel Insulation

Valley Drive

Invictus Roofing Ltd

Valley Drive is part of Gravesham Council's affordable homes project. The design required a crisp, straight, and neat transition to give the roof a sheet metal effect. This was achieved by drawing on the installer's knowledge and experience of the Protan membrane system. Another challenge was ensuring the roof was properly vented, so a vented detail was designed that could be used in a single ply system to ventilate the ridges, eaves, and valleys of the pitched roof areas. A template was fabricated by the contractor to ensure uniformity, producing a seamless, even, and straight finish to the ridges, eaves, and valleys and demonstrating excellent workmanship by the contractor's team.



Integrating Rooflights with Solar Roofing for Planet Friendly Energy Generation

An increasing number of homeowners are looking towards cleaner, more affordable energy sources and with the UK government's target of 70 gigawatts of solar energy in the UK by 2035, this looks set to grow rapidly until at least 2050. With the speeding up of planning approvals for solar energy, it is becoming an attractive option for those who want to get on board with the government's energy goals. Although roof windows and solar panels both require space on the roof, installing photovoltaic panels needn't mean a compromise in rooflighting.

At the Rooflight Company, we've been working to develop our products to work alongside PV panels to allow our customers to take advantage of generating renewable energy whilst simultaneously welcoming in natural light from above. A great example of this marriage of natural toplighting and solar energy is a residential roofing project with Simon Merrony Architects. The brief was to achieve a flush modular design concept which is practical, watertight and aesthetically pleasing. The solution needed to provide eco-friendly source of heating and allow light to enter into the living space below.

The architect liked the neo® rooflight for its contemporary appearance, and specifying a bespoke version meant the rooflight could be built to the exact measurements of the solar panels, creating a uniform look on the roof. The thin external framing and edge to edge glazing the neo® is known for, mirrored the frame design of the solar panels; and this theme continues internally with the seamless lining to glass® internal finish.

To ensure the overall sleek and uninterrupted finish between the solar panels and the rooflight, the architect opted for black framing



Specifying a bespoke version meant the rooflight could be built to the exact measurements of the solar panels, creating a uniform look on the roof.

over the standard neo® Umbra Grey, which he commented was to 'ensure that the obliqueness of the roof plan is maintained'. Greencap, the roofing agent and PV installer ordered specific colour edging for the PV panels, colour matching the bracketry and fittings for a seamless integration with the rooflight.

The experienced design engineers at the Rooflight Company consulted with Simon Merrony Architects to develop project specific installation details and the neo® rooflights were tested prior to installation to ensure the opening mechanism met the architect's design vision, ensuring adequate ventilation into the room below.



Developing Site Specific Solar Solutions

As the UK's focus towards cleaner and more sustainable energy sources continues, photovoltaic panels on the roof ticks the boxes for the resulting rising demand in renewable energy. This project was a prime example of how architects and installers can work in unison with the Rooflight Company to develop site specific solutions. As a result, homeowners can combine their personal sustainable goals with well-lit and well-ventilated living spaces.

With the emergence of alternative methods to capture solar energy,

the Rooflight Company continues to ensure its product collections can be installed into a variety of roof build ups. Rooflight installation alongside solar tiles can be achieved in consultation with our bespoke design team, allowing a flush installation into the roof with our flashing kit, ensuring the installation is weathertight against the elements. III

 To learn more about the Rooflight Company and how our rooflights can be integrated with sustainable roofing solutions, please visit www.therooflightcompany.co.uk or forward your plans to info@therooflightcompany.co.uk

Is It a Wall or is it a Roof?

New Laws on Mansard Roofs Explained



Here, Simon Hope, CUPACLAD Product Manager at CUPA PIZARRAS highlights the key legislation when constructing a mansard roof and the benefits of using natural slate cladding as opposed to traditional roofing methods.



Popularised by architect Francois Mansart in the 17th century, a mansard roof provides an easy alternative to a lateral extension in locations where space is at a premium. An ideal solution for older terraced houses or blocks of flats, mansard roofing can be retrofitted to provide additional floorspace but also often features on new-builds that incorporate traditional design features.

However, in recent years, changes to the building regulations, specifically around fire safety, have impacted the materials that can be used as part of a mansard roof installation, meaning, for example, that cladding can no longer be fixed using timber battens.

The Legislation – What Has Changed?

The Building (Amendment) Regulations 2018/1230 which came into force in December 2018, class ‘any part of a roof pitched at an angle of more than 70 degrees to the horizontal’ as ‘an external wall’. As such, many mansard roofs, which usually

have a pitch of 70 degrees or more, should be classed as a wall and adhere to the building regulations relating to external walls.

The regulations do add that this is only relevant ‘if that part of the roof adjoins a space within the building to which persons have access’ and excludes roofs where access would be ‘only for the purpose of [...] repairs and maintenance’. However, as a mansard roof is usually installed for the purpose of creating additional usable space, this regulation would be applicable in most cases.

Interestingly, BS 5534, the British Standard Code of Practice for Slating and Tiling, goes one step further, classing any surface at a pitch of 75 degrees or greater from the horizontal as a wall, with no reference to whether the roofing space is widely accessible or in regular use. This suggests that best practice would be to consider any pitched surface an external wall and build it to the same stipulations.

Why is this Distinction Important?

The distinction between a roof and an external wall is of particular importance given the two building elements have differing building requirements. In relation to the amendments to Regulation 7, which banned the use of combustible materials on external walls of buildings ‘at least 18 metres above ground level’, it is especially pertinent. The regulation states:

‘[B]uilding work shall be carried out so that materials, which become part of an external wall [...] are of European Classification A2-s1, d0 or A1, classified in accordance with BS EN 13501-1:2007+A1:2009 entitled “Fire classification of construction products and building elements”.’

While generally ‘any part of a roof’ is outlined as exempt from the ban, as mentioned above, a mansard roof – depending on its pitch – can be considered a wall and should adhere to the stipulations of Regulation 7.

In recent years, changes to the building regulations, specifically around fire safety, have impacted the materials that can be used as part of a mansard roof installation.

Crucially, this is also applicable if an existing building is going through a material change of use, as per Regulation 6, and now contains a flat, dwelling, institution or residential room where it previously did not, or contains more or less of these than it did previously. As such, a building with an existing mansard roof installed using the traditional timber batten method will need to be replaced with non-combustible materials if the building undergoes a change of use.

Approved Document B Fire Safety Volume 1 takes an even broader stance, suggesting in paragraph 10.4 that – further to the Regulation 7 – ‘in relation to buildings of any height or use, consideration should be given to the choice of materials [...] used for the external wall [...] to reduce the risk of fire spread over the wall.’

Combined, these documents suggest that a standard mansard roof should always be considered an external wall and adhere to the strict building standards restricting combustible material use on external walls. As such, it is advisable to avoid using timber battens to fix natural slate cladding to a mansard roof.

What are the Alternatives?

A natural slate rainscreen cladding system that utilises a metal subframe is the ideal choice, providing an identical traditional slate finish using non-combustible materials. Not only do systems like these meet the requirements of the building regulations, but they also provide added durability as the subframe will not degrade over time. Not only that, they can withstand extreme winds and impacts to a greater extent than a timber battened system.

Systems like these are available with both visible and invisible fixing systems – with invisible fixing systems providing the same layered finish as traditional cladding methods. The slates are also supplied pre-holed or with clip guide marks depending on the system selected, ensuring that installation is simple.

Following the 2018 amendments to the building regulations, many mansard roofs are now considered walls and therefore should follow the wider regulations on the use of non-combustible materials. Given the level of variation – with regards to the angle of the mansard, the use of the space within and the height of the building – between the regulations and BS 5534, specifying an alternative non-combustible cladding method for all mansard roofs is advisable and should now be considered best practice. ■

Following the 2018 amendments to the building regulations, many mansard roofs are now considered walls and therefore should follow the wider regulations on the use of non-combustible materials.



CUPACLAD® from CUPA PIZARRAS is a natural slate rainscreen cladding system range. The system combines traceable, handcrafted natural slates with stainless steel fixings and

aluminium alloy brackets. All the main components of CUPACLAD are rated A1 non-combustible – the highest fire rating classification possible – and it has also received approval by the relevant

British Board of Agrément (BBA) for impact testing, wind load and non-combustibility. Find out more at: www.cupapizarra.com/uk/rainscreen-cladding/.

One of the earliest surviving railway stations in the world is enjoying a new lease of life, and TV stardom, thanks in part to Welsh Slate.

Some 4,200 or 230m² of Welsh Slate's Penrhyn Heather Blue roofing slates have replaced their 180-year-old predecessors on the roofs of the main station and parcel shed buildings at Wingfield Station in Alfreton, Derbyshire.

The Grade II* listed station, which was built in 1840, is the sole survivor of railway architect Francis Thompson's notable sequence of picturesque stations between Derby and Leeds, widely regarded as his finest work. One of the earliest railway stations in England, it closed in 1967 and fell into disrepair.

After more than 30 years of deterioration, it was compulsorily purchased by Amber Valley Borough Council, before the Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust (DHBT) took over ownership in 2019.

A first, £470,000 phase of urgent works, which required specially-designed scaffolding during night-time possessions of the Midland main line, is now complete after 9 months, and was marked by an appearance on Yesterday UKTV's "The architecture the railways built", as DHBT's flagship project. This was funded by a Historic England grant and carried out over six months by ASBC Conservation and Heritage Specialists.

A second phase of non-urgent works is due to start early 2023, with full completion by the summer. The main station building will be leased to small office users and open a set number of days a year for the



Historic Railway Station is Back On Track

public to appreciate its international significance.

Conservation Philosophy

Derbyshire-based James Boon Architects developed a conservation philosophy for the site next to Network Rail's main line, in conjunction with the DHBT, Historic England and other stakeholders.

This stipulated that the original or primary fabric related to the pioneer phase of the original station building, among other factors, should be considered

sacrosanct and its loss to be avoided unless strong justification can be established.

In addition, the external and internal appearance is to be

The examination of the slate nailing indicated that, apart from repairs, the boarding had only been slated once.

restored to that of the pioneering phase, and repairs to original fabric are 'like for like' materials or informed by evidence on site to be restored to their original materials and appearance.

In terms of the roof, it was inspected for evidence of nail holes to inform the size of the graduations originally on it. Roofing specialists appointed by Historic England established what size slates were on the roof and which were fixed previously, along with the methods of fixing, including any indication of underlay. It was identified that slates were nailed to the sarking boards over rafters.

The spacing of the slate nails on the ticket office, which has a roof pitch of 19°, was measured at each course. These varied slightly because the nail holes were made by hand and were not precisely placed, and to be secure, the slate nails should not have been driven near to gaps in the boarding.

Typically, they would be at least half an inch away from the board's edge. Therefore, the measurements were averaged, and probable slate lengths determined.

Booking Hall Roof

The high-level roof over the booking hall, which had a pitch of 20°, was slated with the slates centre-nailed directly to the boards with 2 x 1.5 inch copper nails. There was no underlay over the boards.

The examination of the slate nailing indicated that, apart from repairs, the boarding had only been slated once. The slate lengths and widths were measured and found to be 22.1/4" x 11.1/4", which suggested they were from Welsh Slate's Penrhyn Quarry which traditionally made slates a ¼ inch oversized.

The original slates and head laps did not conform to BS 5534 requirements, but this was overcome by using larger slates at larger head laps as it was important to conserve as far as possible the margin or the visible area of the slates to achieve the original appearance of the slate roof. The effective width of the centre-nailed slates is reduced by the distance of the nail holes from the long edges of the slates, typically this would be about an inch.

Extra nails were used (four nails per slate at holing gauges of 450mm and 550mm) to compensate for the reduced uplift resistance on nailing higher in the slates. Wind uplift is also proportional to the slates' thickness.

All abutments were laid with a lead soaker interleafed with each course of slate and covered with a flashing which has a straight cut joint into the stonework. The original line of the eaves' slates came over the 3"x1" arris cut tilt fillet, allowing for a 4" overhang into the lead gutters.

James Boon said: "Other than the historic and listed nature of the building, the main requirement

Photos: Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust and ASBC Conservation and Heritage Specialists.



Apart from the significant roof damage following the theft of the lead gutters, much of the rest of the roof was in decent condition and would be able to withstand the conditions of high-speed trains passing by, without concerns for this damaging the slates. The only concession to concerns regarding uplift from passing trains was using additional nail fixings.

related to the proximity to the adjacent mainline railway line. With limited future access to the trackside for maintenance, initial proposals looked at the possibility of other roofing finishes to that side that wouldn't require maintenance.

"However, after the detailed studies of the history of the roof, it was apparent that apart from the significant roof damage following the theft of the lead

gutters, much of the rest of the roof was in decent condition and would be able to withstand the conditions of high-speed trains passing by, without concerns for this damaging the slates. The only concession to concerns regarding uplift from passing trains was using additional nail fixings.

"The Welsh Slate played an important part in the project as it allowed us to reinstate the original material. It was

important to us that re-slating could be achieved on a like-for-like basis. The fact that a like-for-like repair enabled us to go back to the original supplier, plus any associated sustainability benefits of using a UK-supplied material, were both an added bonus, and also helped us to fulfil the aims set out in the conservation philosophy at the start of the project." III



Aluminium – The Ideal Rainwater Solution to Replace Cast Iron

Here, Tim Streeton, Senior Technical Services Engineer at Marley Alutec explains the benefits of aluminium rainwater systems and why they offer an ideal alternative to cast iron on heritage properties.

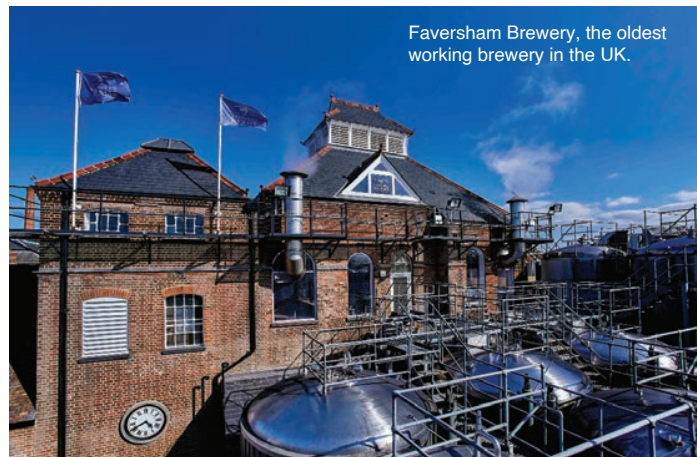
On a heritage renovation or maintenance project, retaining the traditional aesthetic of the building is nearly always the main focus. To achieve this, specifiers frequently swap old components of a building with like for like replacements. However, this often means compromising in terms of performance as well as ease of installation and maintenance.

For example, when original cast iron gutters and downpipes reach the end of their usable life, they are often replaced with newer systems manufactured from the same material. However, cast iron requires a significant amount of upkeep and its weight presents a challenge in terms of installation and maintenance. In fact, these gutters can weigh upwards of 10kg per 1.8m length. It can also be a time intensive process, preventing the contractor from moving onto the next job quickly.

Furthermore, cast iron is prone to degradation, requiring preventative maintenance every ten years to keep it in good condition. This involves removing the gutters from the building, cleaning them with a wire brush, priming, applying typically two coats of paint and then refitting.



There are alternatives to cast iron that can provide the same traditional finish without the installation and maintenance difficulties.



Faversham Brewery, the oldest working brewery in the UK.

Not only is this a long and difficult process but it also presents risks in terms of both injury to the workers and also accidental damage to the property.

There are alternatives to cast iron that can provide the same traditional finish without the installation and maintenance difficulties. Marine grade aluminium guttering, for example, can be manufactured to the BS 8530 standard to resemble traditional cast iron designs. A polyester powder coat (PPC) can be applied to provide the textured, black finish associated with cast iron.

A major advantage of aluminium is its impressive strength-to-weight ratio meaning it is 65% lighter than cast iron. High quality aluminium, such as marine grade aluminium, also provides excellent resistance due to a naturally occurring oxide layer, which forms should the surface be damaged. Consequently, the material has a

functional life expectancy of 50+ years with minimal maintenance – only periodic aesthetic cleaning is needed. The longevity of the solution's aesthetic can be extended even further if an architectural grade PPC is applied. This will help the system to resist colour fading. As such, marine-grade aluminium guttering offers the ultimate 'fit and forget' solution.

Traditional Aesthetic

Aluminium guttering was utilised to create a traditional aesthetic as part of the Faversham Brewery restoration project. The oldest working brewery in the UK, it even predates its official founding date by Shepherd Neame in 1698.

Over the years, the building had lost some of its key features including its original cast iron gutters which had been replaced with modern non-characteristic guttering. Senior Surveyor for the brewery, Jonathan Arthur, wanted to re-establish the heritage characteristic of the building and

felt that a complete restoration was required. For the guttering, he specified Marley Alutec's Moulded Ogee from the Traditional range.

The brewery now benefits from a guttering system that has a striking resemblance to the original Victorian appearance, while the durability of aluminium keeps the installation maintenance free. Commenting on the project, Jonathan said, "The finish is absolutely perfect – Shepherd Neame has been restored to its original stunning historical beauty."

Ultimately, roofing specifiers and contractors should consider alternative modern solutions when replacing cast iron guttering on heritage properties. Aluminium is able to replicate the attractive visual quality of cast iron whilst also out-performing it in terms of resistance, durability and ease of installation. In order to get the best out of aluminium's impressive qualities, roofers should look to providers such as Marley Alutec that can provide rainwater solutions manufactured from marine grade aluminium.

Marley Alutec's Traditional guttering range is available in a variety of designs, including Half Round, Moulded and Victorian Ogee, and complemented by its Tudor downpipe range. To maximise the cast iron aesthetic, Marley Alutec also offers Heritage Black finish which has a textured surface. ■

To learn more about Marley Alutec's Traditional range, please visit: www.marleyalutec.co.uk/products/traditional-gutter-systems/



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“It’s not about being a woman in roofing, it’s about being the right person for the job.”

After a decade working at cold-applied liquid waterproofing specialists, Kemper System, commercial manager, Victoria Ramwell, talks about the challenges she's faced and what keeps her working in roofing.

“As commercial manager at Kemper System, my role is extremely varied and dynamic. I work across all departments; helping to strategise and coordinate efforts of the entire company to ensure the business operates efficiently and collaboratively. I am responsible for working with the customer service team, helping to meet sales targets as well as contributing to the marketing strategy.

“As others in our industry would admit, I think I ‘fell’ into working in roofing; but I really enjoy it and couldn’t imagine my career doing anything else.

“Before I joined Kemper System, I worked for a roofing contractor as a business development manager for two years. I then applied for a technical sales manager (TSM) role at Kemper, and that was it! Ten years later, I can’t quite believe where the time has gone. I’ve had to work my way up to where I am now – and that has taken a lot of diligence and determination, as well as experience in working within a number of different roles at the company. Not only has my job role changed within the last decade, but the business and liquid roofing as a sector has experienced a lot of innovation and growth.

“I love working in roofing – it’s different, complex and there is a lot of scope. It’s not run of the mill, and that’s what I like. We work with some big names in the industry, and get involved in some extremely prestigious projects, as do many of our competitors. And that is what’s so great about liquid waterproofing – its versatility. Our project scope is vast and we can be working on a number of really interesting jobs at any one time.”

A Progressive Career

“After two years as TSM at Kemper System, I joined the technical team at our headquarters in Warrington. My role within technical really broadened my knowledge not only of Kemper System products, but of the wider liquid roofing and waterproofing industry. It gave me a full flavour and true understanding of liquid chemistries and the industry, and how the different elements of roofing worked; including the specification side, the challenges for architects, the mindset of the sales teams and what was important for contractors.

“During my time in these varied roles, many of the departments were male dominated and at times I was the only female advising roofing contractors and specifiers. It was an eye opener for me and I learnt a lot in a short space of time working within such a male-dominated sector. But I don’t think gender is the be-all and end-all; it’s about the right person for the job and doing your job effectively. We are seeing even more diversity in our sector now, thanks to the variety of opportunities and company innovation across the board.

“At Kemper System, we really look after our own and we are an inclusive and special team. We are also a global entity – with manufacturing plants across the world including Germany, the USA and India. This gives us access to the latest technologies and ensures that our products are certified to the highest standards.

“We have a special team here in the UK with a very low staff turnover. Between all employees at Kemper System UK, there is more than 140 years’ experience



I’ve had to work my way up to where I am now – and that has taken a lot of diligence and determination, as well as experience in working within a number of different roles at the company.

in roofing combined – so we really do know our stuff!

“Looking back on my time at Kemper System, there have been many projects that stand out as highlights. One that springs to mind is the Barnsley Town Hall project, which was a big job with lots of different elements. As TSM, it was my responsibility to

oversee the insulation and waterproofing components of the project, and it was incredibly rewarding to see the finished result. I also enjoy projects with domed roofs, as it’s great to see the diversity of the Kemper System liquid solutions which showcases liquids in a different light and that they aren’t just for flat roofs.”

In the next ten years, I am keen to build a bigger internal team, harnessing our expertise and knowledge, as well as bringing in fresh talent.

A Decade of Change

“In the last ten years, I have seen Kemper System go through a lot of changes. We have grown significantly as a company, moving to bigger premises to accommodate this growth. Our warehouse in the UK alone is vast, and we have invested in new technologies and equipment to improve our manufacturing processes across the world.

“We have also welcomed change of leadership and strategy over the last decade, grasping change of direction to meet the needs and ever-evolving market of liquids and constantly looking for new ways to improve and innovate.

“Mark Bruchez, our managing director, has been at the company for 20 years, and he is really steering the ship into new territory when it comes to product innovation and company transformation.”

Career Challenges

“One of the biggest challenges in my role is ensuring everyone is working collaboratively. This means keeping lines of communication open and making sure everyone has the information they need to make decisions and do their jobs effectively. I believe that collaboration is key to success in any organisation, and it is something that we work hard to cultivate at Kemper System.

“The level of competition in the liquids market is a challenge. In the last few years, we have seen a significant increase in the number of manufacturers operating in the liquid roofing and waterproofing industry. We are proud to be one

of the original manufacturers in the UK, with a long history and tradition behind us. We are constantly working to manage our clients’ expectations and to make sure they understand the value that we offer.”

A Woman in Roofing

“As a woman in roofing, I have always been aware that I am in a minority. However, I have never let this define me or hold me back. When I first started in the industry, it was certainly an eye-opener, but it wasn’t something that phased me. As time has gone on, I have seen more and more women taking on high-profile roles in the roofing industry, which is fantastic to see. I believe

women can bring a lot of valuable skills and perspectives to the table, and I hope we will continue to see more women joining our industry in the future.”

The Next Decade?

“In the next ten years, I am keen to build a bigger internal team, harnessing our expertise and knowledge, as well as bringing in fresh talent. If I could describe Kemper System in three words, I would say we are unique, inclusive and experienced. We are a small team compared to some of our competitors, but we are tight-knit and a well-oiled machine; working well together as part of the bigger Kemper System group.

“Every working day is different and there is such variety in my role. I also love the people I work with at Kemper System, as well as our clients and wider contacts. We have a special team here, and there is a real sense of camaraderie and shared purpose within the company. I feel very lucky to work at Kemper System – we have a rich history and tradition, and I am proud to be a part of it.” III



Vicky in her earlier role as a technical sales manager at Kemper Systems, delivering a CPD.



Barnsley Town Hall - Vicky oversaw the roof's insulation and waterproofing on the project.

Constructing the Next Generation of Antimicrobial Roofing Materials

Mai Ha, Senior Product Development Engineer at Microban International

Moulds and mildews thrive in roof spaces, that offer warm and damp conditions with limited ventilation. As fungi are decomposers, their growth manifests into visible and structural damage to roofing materials, including staining, discolouration, odours and a reduction of physical strength, potentially significantly decreasing the quality of living conditions. The premature breakdown of these materials creates considerable safety concerns, lessening the usable lifetime of each material and requiring them to be frequently maintained or replaced. Property owners can incur expensive financial repercussions from the cost of new materials and labour, as well as losses from temporary relocation or closure of commercial premises, not to mention costly law cases. Fungal growth on materials also creates many environmental concerns by requiring resource intensive cleaning with large quantities of water, electricity and topical chemicals, as well as ultimately adding to the amount of construction waste that ends up in landfill.

Membranes and Fungal Growth

PVC roofing membranes are a particular concern for microbial growth, as they contain materials such as plasticizers that provide a nutrient rich food source, making them more susceptible to microbial attack. In addition, elements that reduce airflow contribute to the build up of condensation inside a roof space, creating the ideal environment for microbial growth. Moulds can penetrate the materials, leading to the build up of visible stains and musty smells, and the only way to remediate the problem is to remove and replace those

elements. Putting in place technology that tackles microbial growth is the best preventative method, which is why many industry professionals are now choosing roofing materials with built-in antimicrobials.

Antimicrobial Technology

Antimicrobial technology can be built into roofing materials to provide around-the-clock product protection against the growth of microbes, including moulds and mildews. Incorporating antifungal agents into the PVC polymer matrix of roofing materials helps to protect the product from within, creating a surface that is inhospitable to fungus for greater resistance. This helps to extend the usable lifetime of materials, by preventing microbial growth and deterioration that leads to colour changes, odours and reduced performance.

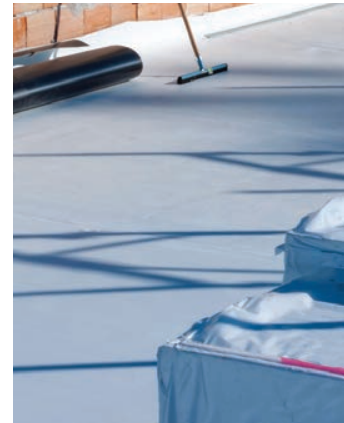
The arsenic-based agent 10,10-oxybisphenoxarsine (OBPA) has historically been used to protect PVC building materials against fungal growth. However, this chemical is highly corrosive, and can leach out of the product. This is a considerable concern, as studies have found that it is highly toxic to terrestrial organisms and both freshwater and marine invertebrates. It is also an arsenic

Antimicrobial chemistries are bringing a new level of product protection to the roofing industry, by tackling the persistent problem of mould and mildew growth.

compound and therefore carcinogen. Consequently, the EU total banned OBPA use in 2016, and it was also added to the REACH restricted substances list, meaning that goods imported into the EU cannot contain this compound.

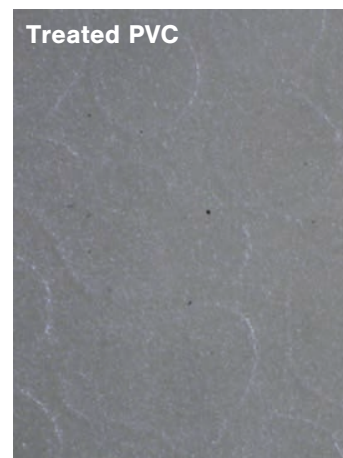
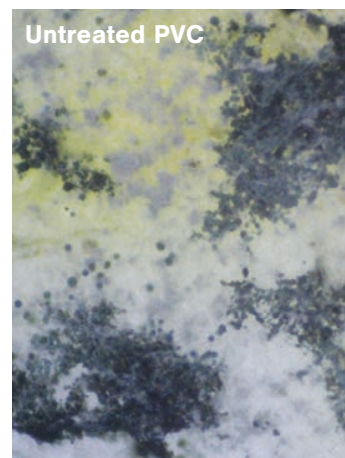
PVC and its co-ingredients have already come under increased regulatory control, and associating with OPBA, further damages the reputation of PVC materials. The PVC industry must therefore work towards improving the toxicology profile of ingredients used in product formulations to achieve greater consumer acceptance.

Working with a trusted antimicrobial partner will provide access to innovative antimicrobial technologies that possess more



favourable toxicity profiles than OBPA for PVC and ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA) roofing membranes, such as MicroGuard™ from Microban. These technologies can be easily incorporated into PVC and EVA roofing membranes at the point of manufacture, without affecting the production process, appearance or function of the final goods. The active agents become an intrinsic part of the material, and do not wear off or leach out into the environment over time, actively inhibiting fungal growth 24/7 for the expected lifetime of the membrane. Working with these technologies allows manufacturers to provide products protected against fungal degradation without impacting the environment, as well as opening up a wider market than for OBPA-containing products.

Antimicrobial chemistries are bringing a new level of product protection to the roofing industry, by tackling the persistent problem of mould and mildew growth. In turn, this is helping manufacturers to offer roofing materials with enhanced longevity, giving constructors and property owners valuable reassurance of high quality and long-lasting products without impacting the environment for a more sustainable future. ■■



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Cold Flat Roofs, Should We Do Them?

Steven Dickinson, Principal Surveyor and Estimator at London Flat Roofing considers cold *flat* roofs. Steve will be providing his opinion on cold *pitched* roofs in a separate article, because there are subtle differences between the two roof types.

Firstly, let's explore what a cold roof is and how it got the name? It's called a cold roof because the decking on which the roofing membrane is installed is always going to be cold. The reason for this is due to its exposure to the external weather and, because there is space under the decking that is vented to the outside, little or minimal heat from the rooms below gets to the underside of the decking because of insulation fitted between the joists and possibly under the joists. Hence the name 'cold roof' describes it accurately.

By contrast, a warm roof is where the decking is always warm, because there is no venting or insulation fitted under it (probably just the plasterboard ceiling). Warmth from the rooms below gets to the decking easily and keeps it warm, whilst the insulation above stops the cold getting to the decking, so the temperature of the decking will be warm, hence 'warm roof'.

I have purposely not mentioned the exact buildups, as this will differ depending on many factors - mostly the internal and external environments. Old properties with flat roofs were built without ventilation and without forethought as to the comfort of the internal environment. Most importantly, they were never airtight, and mostly vented themselves naturally. We now refer to constructions such as this (that don't conform to the new standards of warm roof or cold

Old properties with flat roofs were built without ventilation and without forethought as to the comfort of the internal environment. Most importantly, they were never airtight, and mostly vented themselves naturally.

roof construction) as hybrid roofs, but that's a story for another day.

The Transfer of Energy

So how was the original design of a cold roof supposed to work? Insulation placed between the joists reduced the transfer of energy from inside the property to a void above that is vented. The vented void is covered by the decking, with a roof covering preventing the outside

environment from getting in, including rain and snow. For many years this worked, but it's why it worked that is most important.

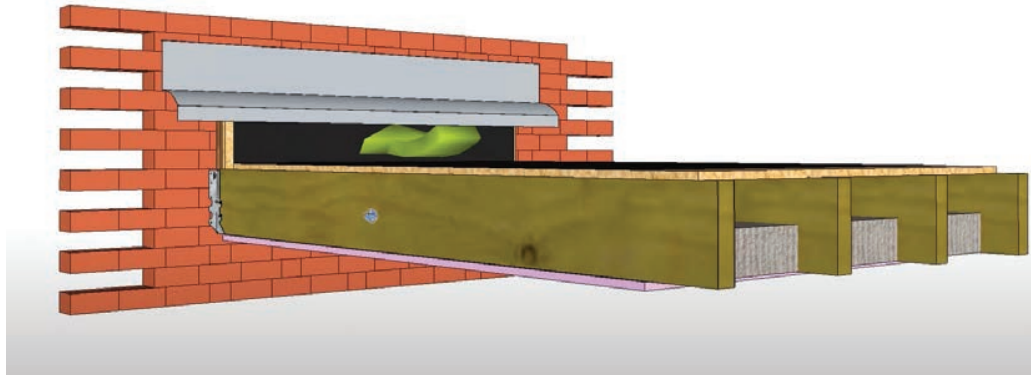
- Firstly, the effectiveness of the insulation was poor if any at all, and we still had lots of heat loss (that is, energy transfer.)
- Secondly, we not only had some ventilation added but we had lots of natural

ventilation, because of badly-fitting fascias, and general workmanship that wasn't required to be precise.

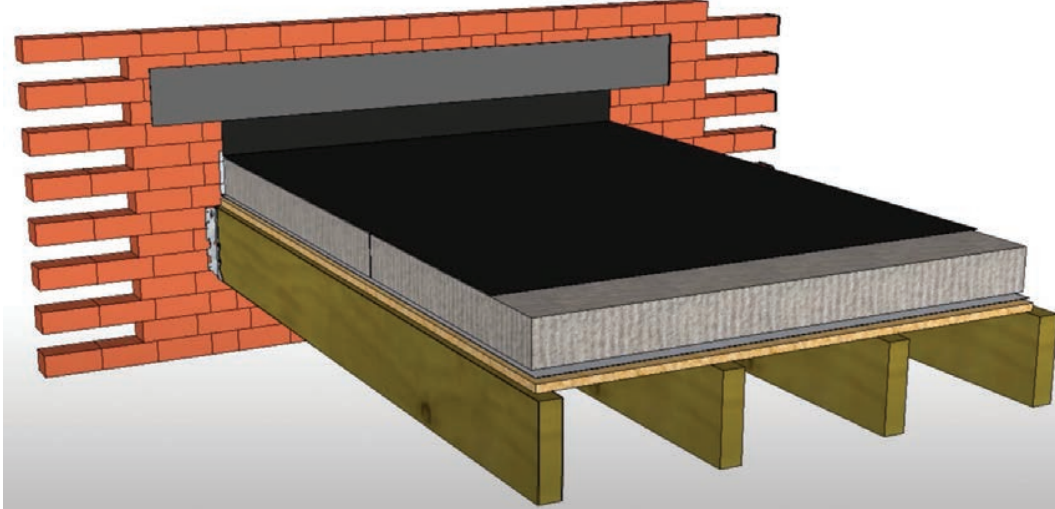
Old Cold Roof

To summarise what happens in the two extreme seasons in the life of an old cold roof, in the summer months all would be good, as the sun's solar radiation would keep the roof voids warm and extremely dry. As winter set in, although the external

3-D diagram of a cold roof structure



3-D diagram of a warm roof structure



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temperatures would drop, the vented cavity's micro-climate was mostly still warmer because of the poor quality insulation.

Over the years the cold roof and the hybrid roof served their purposes admirably. However, other elements of construction have changed dramatically and the good old cold roof appears not to be able to cope with the changes. It also appears that our builders and roofers can't cope with the changes either. Many times, I've visited sites with a new loft conversion or extension, and the plans specify a warm roof, but the builders have talked the owners into having a cold roof. The common phrases I hear trotted out are "this is the way we always do it, and it works", or "we can give you more head room if we change to a cold roof".

Both statements are correct. The fact is that a warm roof does take up a little bit more room - probably around 75mm, or 3" in old money, but it works, it's a lot easier to construct and it's also cheaper than a cold roof. On new construction, once the decision is made to do a cold roof there is normally no easy way back, as the structural timbers are fixed in a higher position.

Delicate Balance

If you're with me so far, you have probably worked out where it's all going wrong. By using more efficient insulating materials and techniques, we have stopped more of the energy from transferring into the void, thus we have changed the delicate balance that we used to have. The vented space is now colder for longer periods.

So what happens now during winter and extended cold periods, is that whilst the temperatures drop there is no energy transfer into the roof void. Furthermore, with the seasonal increases in Relative Humidity (RH), the venting actually allows in more moist air than it can extract. Thus, the colder environment inside the vented space no longer facilitates drying in the area, and the void is subjected to longer periods of higher humidity. This persistent moisture penetrates the wood and builds up.

By using more efficient insulating materials and techniques, we have stopped more of the energy from transferring into the void, thus we have changed the delicate balance that we used to have. The vented space is now colder for longer periods.



When the perfect conditions come together, i.e. high moisture and low external temperatures, interstitial condensation occurs.



Interstitial condensation used to be considered acceptable periodically in the winter, but not for sustained, long periods, otherwise mould could set in.

When the perfect conditions come together, that is, high moisture and low external temperatures, interstitial condensation occurs. In the past, interstitial condensation would only happen periodically, when all the right conditions aligned - high humidity in the vented area, extreme cold externally and insufficient energy transferring up into the vented void. It was considered acceptable that this would happen periodically in the winter, but not for sustained, long periods, otherwise mould could set in. So, because of the lack of energy transfer this is now a far more frequent occurrence than it has been over the last 100 years, thus leading to the failure of many new cold roofs.

Vapour Control Layer

At this point I must also mention the introduction of the Air Vapour Control Layer (AVCL).

Firstly, as the name suggests, it is an air barrier; if installed correctly, it should make an airtight barrier between the room below and the roof above, achieving no air transfer at all. Secondly, it controls the transfer of moisture from the rooms below through to the area above and into the vented space.

Believe it or not, I don't think I've ever seen an AVCL fitted correctly on a cold roof. In general they have either been missed out entirely or fitted with large holes cut into them for downlights.

It's not always the rising moisture from a badly-fitted AVCL or having no AVCL that is the problem, it's the lack of energy transfer.

So what's the answer?

To sum up what we're doing by using more efficient insulation and better workmanship: energy redistribution causes system changes. We've broken the cold roof system, so I would suggest we no longer do cold roofs, and always work to the principles of a warm roof instead. III

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Thinking Thin

Matthew Evans, Head of Technical GB, Kingspan Insulation Limited

Significant updates of the Building Regulations mean that, in many cases, roofs will need to achieve very low U-values and requirements are expected to further tighten in the next couple of years. This can have a big impact on the depth of insulation needed for roof constructions and roofers will need to think carefully about the thermal conductivity of the materials they fit. By installing insulation with lower thermal conductivities, it may be possible to greatly reduce construction depths.

Part L

The energy efficiency requirements for buildings are contained in Part L of the Building Regulations in England and Wales, and Section 6 (Energy) to the Building Standards in Scotland. The regulations are supported with guidance documents, known as the Approved Documents in England and Wales and the Technical Handbooks in Scotland, which explain how to actually reach compliance.

The latest updates impact work on both new and existing buildings. On new builds, projects

are required to reach a number of performance targets. These vary in each country, but all include a carbon emissions target and a target looking at energy demand.

The targets for a given building are set via modelling software (SAP for domestic, SBEM for non-domestic) using a notional building recipe. An energy assessor inputs the building

dimensions into the software. The software will then apply a set notional building specification to a theoretical building of the same dimensions. From this, it generates the performance targets that the actual building and building specification are compared against.

In many cases, the notional building specifications form the

starting point for building fabric specifications. However, you can choose to vary the actual roof U-value from the notional building values (*shown below*) providing this is offset elsewhere. In all cases, the area weighted average U-value for the roof should be no worse than the limiting values shown below, and no individual section of roof can have a U-value worse than 0.35 W/m²K.

	England			Wales		Scotland	
	Domestic Approved Document L1 2021	Non-domestic Approved Document L2 2021		Domestic Approved Document L1 2022	Non-domestic Approved Document L2 2022	Domestic Technical Handbook Section 6 2022	Non-domestic Technical Handbook Section 6 2022
		Side-lit and unlit spaces	Top-lit spaces				
Notional building U-value (W/m ² K)	0.11	0.15	0.18	0.11	0.18	0.09	0.11
Area weighted average Limiting U-value (W/m ² K)	0.16	0.16 (pitched roof), 0.18 (flat roof)	0.16 pitched roof, 0.18 flat roof	0.13	0.20	0.12	0.16

Table 1: Roof U-values for the notional building specification and area-weighted limiting U-values in England, Scotland and Wales

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■ The U-value requirements for roofs are especially ambitious so it is important to carefully consider the thermal conductivity of the material you are planning to fit.

Why Thermal Conductivities Matter

Thermal conductivities are a key measure of insulation performance. The lower the thermal conductivity, the more effective an insulation is at preventing heat loss. This means it may be possible to achieve a desired U-value with a much thinner thickness of insulation, reducing the overall construction depth.

There are a wide range of insulation products now on the market and their thermal conductivities can vary significantly. For example, rock mineral fibre slabs typically achieve thermal conductivities between 0.039 W/mK and 0.032 W/mK. By comparison, PIR typically achieves thermal conductivities between 0.027 W/mK (gas-open) and 0.022 W/mK (foil-faced). Phenolic boards can achieve values as low as 0.021 W/mK and 0.019 W/mK respectively. Alternatively, Vacuum Insulation Panel (VIP) systems can offer a problem-solving solution for especially challenging applications. The VIPs have a microporous core which is evacuated and sealed in a gas-tight envelope, allowing them to achieve declared thermal conductivities as low as 0.007 W/mK.

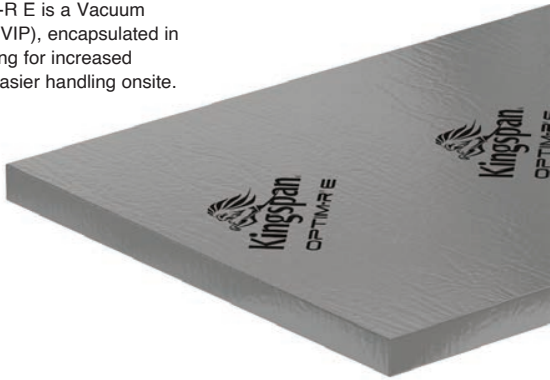
Delivering Thinner Constructions

A good example of the impact the choice of insulation can have on construction thicknesses are inverted roofs. Historically, these have been insulated with extruded polystyrene (XPS) insulation due to its excellent compressive strength and resistance to moisture. The downside is the boards have a fairly high thermal conductivity, typically around 0.034 W/mK.

To address this, encapsulated VIP solutions have now been introduced. These panels are covered in a protective spray coating to provide a more robust finish which is easy to handle and makes them suitable for inverted roof applications. Some encapsulated VIPs can achieve a declared thermal conductivity of as low as 0.008 W/mK, and a design thermal conductivity as low as 0.009 W/mK (the design value is used for U-value calculations in inverted roofs).

For an inverted roof application, the encapsulated VIPs are usually supplied with XPS insulation boards of the same thickness. These boards can be cut as infill strips to fit around the perimeter of the roof, fill awkward spaces between the VIPs and to enable penetrations through the insulation layer, allowing for elements such as rooflights or ventilator kerbs. Suppliers can provide a clear, tailored layout for these systems, ensuring the best

Kingspan OPTIM-R E is a Vacuum Insulation Panel (VIP), encapsulated in a protective coating for increased robustness and easier handling onsite.



Construction	150 mm concrete deck, liquid applied waterproofing, geotextile membrane, XPS, water flow reduction layer, paving slabs on support	150 mm concrete deck, liquid applied waterproofing, geotextile membrane, encapsulated VIP system, XPS, water flow reduction layer, paving slabs on support
Insulation thickness required to meet the 0.09 W/m²K requirement	420 mm (made up of two 150 mm layers and one 120 mm layer below)	220 mm (made up of two 50 mm encapsulated VIP system layers with a 120 mm XPS overlay).

Table 2: Inverted roof constructions and insulation thicknesses designed to achieve U-value of 0.09 W/m²K for a typical concrete roof in G1 postcode area, Glasgow.

possible ratio of encapsulated VIPs to infill panels.

To illustrate how the use of encapsulated VIPs can impact construction depth, we've looked at two build-ups above a typical concrete decked roof configuration on a property located in Glasgow. The constructions differed only in insulation specification. One features XPS boards with a declared lambda value of 0.034 W/mK and a design value of 0.036 W/mK. The other features encapsulated VIPs, combined with a 120 mm layer of the same XPS insulation for additional protection. They have been calculated to achieve a U-value of 0.09 W/m²K in line with the value in the Scottish domestic notional building specification.

As the table above clearly shows, installing encapsulated VIPs can help to significantly reduce the thickness of the insulation layer in an inverted roof application, and therefore provide the ideal

solution where space (or height of roof) is a key consideration.

It is important to note that the U-value of all inverted roofing systems is influenced by local rainfall. In addition, the layout of your roof and configuration of the encapsulated VIPs may affect the required thickness. For this reason, the encapsulated VIPs system should be designed specifically for your project.

Ready for Net Zero

The changes to the Building Regulations and Standards mean that roofers need to think carefully about which insulation materials are best suited to their applications. By using solutions with lower thermal conductivities, it should be possible to hit ambitious U-values without greatly increasing the thickness of insulation. ■

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Versapanel®, Euroform's cement particle board, has been specified for its acoustic properties as a roofing system component for what is set to be one of the UK's largest film and TV studios, Shinfield Studios, at the Thames Valley Science Park.

Shinfield Studios is a state of the art, purpose-built studio facility close to Reading in Berkshire. Phase 1, comprising four sound stages, workshops and offices is in operation having opened last year. Phase 2, to add five new sound stages, workshops and offices is opening across the coming months. When Shinfield Studios is complete it will offer film and television producers over one million square feet of studio space with 18 sound stages and complimentary facilities.

The project is designed by international design practice Scott Brownrigg and being delivered by contractors, including Curo Construction. Vertec, a leading specialist in facades, roofing and cladding, is constructing the building envelopes for the studios.

Acoustic Control

Protection against noise is important in modern construction design, but at Shinfield Studios it is crucial to the purpose of the studio buildings. Versapanel® is used extensively in construction where acoustic control is essential.

Specified by scheme architects Scott Brownrigg, approximately 17,000 square metres of Euroform's Versapanel® is being incorporated by Vertec as an element, along with acoustic matting and mineral fibre products, to the acoustic roof construction across the studios.

"Versapanel® has advantages over other types of board materials due to its strength, workability, durability and high performance in the presence of moisture, but, in this project where acoustic performance is so important, it is Versapanel's sound reduction properties that were key to meeting the brief," said Euroform's national commercial manager Mark Atkinson.



Euroform's Versapanel 'Makes the Cut' for Film and TV Studios



Versapanel® has a minimum density of 1300kg per M3 providing superior acoustic performance when used in construction of walls, floors, ceilings or roofs. A single Versapanel® board provides airborne sound reduction of between 30 dB and 36 dB, depending on board thickness which ranges from 8mm up to 28mm.

Versapanel® can be used in single sheet or sandwich construction. At Shinfield Studios, to achieve the building design's demanding decibel reduction objectives it has been specified as a multiple layer,

contributing to the effectiveness of the acoustic system in the pitched steel roofs at Shinfield Studios.

A versatile building board, Versapanel® is widely used in acoustic roofs, ceilings and floors, but also as sheathing panel for steel frame systems, for external wall insulation and for partition walls. It can be found in a wide range of commercial, residential and public sector buildings, including offices, schools, hospitals, libraries and hotels.

Euroform has been developing, fabricating and supplying materials for the construction

industry since 1995. Euroform specialises in ensuring fire and thermal compliance across its product range. Each product is supported by an experienced and knowledgeable technical team to provide advice and guidance.

Based at Warrington, Euroform is part of Performance Technology Group an SIG Trading Ltd group of companies specialising in supporting the construction industry to meet acoustic, fire, thermal and vibration challenges. ■

www.euroform.co.uk
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Kingspan OPTIM-R E provides protection for the waterproof membrane and is suitable for use beneath paving slabs.

AJW Distribution Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Family firm, AJW Distribution celebrated the 25th anniversary of its beginning by founder Alan Woods, on 26 March 2023.

Planning to now retire and pass the company reins to son, Tom Woods as managing director, daughter Charlotte as marketing director, Gareth as director and his grandson who recently joined as a yard operative, Alan looks back over a long career in the roofing industry.

Alan's start in the industry came working for a roofing manufacturer as well as a national distributor where he built up his specialist knowledge of the sector.

Invited to join a colleague in starting up a local distributor, Alan went on to buy them out, becoming sole director.

From a single depot and handful of staff, AJW Distribution now offers a huge range of products from six depots and a Leicester office, employing a 60-strong workforce – with plans to grow further.

With his characteristic humour, Alan says, "We'll sell to anybody! Industrial and domestic contractors, merchants, housebuilders, builders – the whole sector. We've diversified



Pictured: (l-r) Charlotte Woods, Tom Woods, Gareth Woods and Alan Woods.

our products and customer base to spread risk; if the housebuilding market is down, maybe the industrial market is up (as is the case at the moment). It's a good mix and match."

Good Times and Bad

Alan says his success (apart from being such a lovable character) is attributable to employing a high calibre of people, who, led by the family, work very hard, as well as getting on well with staff and suppliers.

Being a family business gives AJW Distribution a close point of identification with many of its roofing customers that are likewise family-run.

"We've come through good times and bad," says Alan. "We've weathered recessions and covid, as well as the materials shortages, particularly scarcity of tiles. We fortunately decided to overstock with £1 million of extra tiles and that stood us in good stead, as well as our relationship with manufacturers, who helped us to maintain supply. That led us to gain some new accounts."

"Clay was a problem, and still is a bit slower. Slate has gone through some more recent interruptions. Securing the next generation of skilled slate workers is apparently a problem, resulting in a wider variety of natural slate products, but less supply of previous favourites. Concrete is not an issue.

"Inflation is what it is, if prices go up, we put our prices up, it's as simple as that. But we're in the

East of England, which is a very affluent area."

Being a family business gives AJW Distribution a close point of identification with many of its roofing customers that are likewise family-run. While Alan admits everyone in the family has got their own views and they don't always agree, he sees their differing roles as important to ironing out disagreements: "It's definitely working, we have a very successful business!"

AJW has just completed its second most successful year ever, reaching its best turnover and profitability, only slightly capped by the year before.

With such "exceptionally good" results, it's a great moment for Alan to retire. Now, he says, the drive and energy of the next generation will bring about the



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Images by Cedral & rawpixel.com



After starting the business 25 years ago, Alan Woods is planning to now retire and pass the company reins to son, Tom Woods as managing director.

I think we're very well placed to keep pushing forward and increasing market share. We've got some very good people in the business and offer a very good service – reflecting our company motto of customer service first.

changes that he knows are needed in the business.

“We’ve outgrown our computer systems and we’re investing in a new computerised process which will merge together the data of all the currently separate businesses. It will be more efficient and customized for our business. It will run very fast and it will be exciting to see what we can do when our time isn’t being taken up with slow processes. So, we’ll be refining that this year, becoming a stronger force into next year.

Pushing Forward

“I think we’re very well placed to keep pushing forward and increasing market share. We’ve got some very good people in the business and offer a very good service – reflecting our company motto of customer service first.”

However, the merchanting and distribution sector shares the same difficulties as the rest of the construction industry in recruiting enough staff. Alan explains that most companies thought the pandemic would mean plenty of people looking for work. However, securing the next generation of staff coming through is proving a challenge, and the company is looking for new recruits at every one of its locations.



Training Centre

In March, AJW opened a training centre in Sawston to train both their own recruits and make a venue for product training available to manufacturers and customers. “It’s been very well received by the supply chain,” says Tom. “We understand that there isn’t that large base of trained, knowledgeable people coming through in the same numbers, and we want to contribute to addressing that.”

Like Alan, Tom Woods sees the company’s people as absolutely

key to growing the business. He’s keen to maintain their motivation and sees family members’ relationships with staff as critical to achieving this.

“We can talk and listen to wants, needs and ideas. That’s important feedback to developing the business. If someone suggests something on a Friday, we can discuss it on a Monday and implement it on a Tuesday – and that’s why people like working for us, because we’re responsive and they know they have an important role to play. Everyone’s involved

and we try and keep everyone happy.

“There are some great employee perks in place, we socialise together, we try and keep staff morale high. There’s also bonuses in place.

“It’s a plus being in a family business, Gareth and Charlotte both have children and I’ve got one on the way, so we know about combining family demands and try to offer flexibility and make AJW Distribution a family-friendly place to work. We know family comes first,” Tom ends. III

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Multi-Foil Insulation: Market Insight

Daniel McKane, Co-Managing Director of YBS Insulation, discusses the benefits of multi-foil insulation and its growth in the roofing sector.

As co-managing director of YBS Insulation, I have witnessed first-hand the recent growth of the multi-foil sector and the market trends that are shaping it. Multi-foil has become increasingly popular because, by its very nature, it is extremely flexible and easy to install. It has zero fibres which removes the need for PPE, and minimal waste compared to other traditional insulation products.

Multi-foil insulation works by reflecting radiant heat back into the building space retaining warmth, saving money and providing a warmer environment, keeping homes cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. It is very thin and pliant, which makes it quick to install using a staple gun and aluminium foil tape. No additional training is required to install this type of insulation.

We manufacture all our products at our headquarters in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, and have done for the last 30 years. We are a down to earth, honest business with honest people – many of our employees have been here for many years and we have a very low staff turnover.

The reflective outer layers of the product increase the overall thermal performance once installed, with an R-Value of up to 2.10 m²K/W - equivalent of up to 90mm of mineral wool. The unique patented Kimble design of YBS quilt products, for example, holds layers in place to avoid separation when cutting. Once taped and sealed, it also works as a vapour control layer to reduce the risk of condensation.

As with any building product, contractors should look for multi-foil solutions with third party

Agrément approval, as well as Building Control compliance and NHBC acceptance for new build projects.

Multi-Foil Specification

Multifoil insulation is often used in older properties during refurbishment to upgrade the thermal performance of the roof and walls, but over the last few years it is being increasingly used in new builds such as house extensions or new homes.

None of us can escape the ever-increasing cost of living crisis –



which of course affects the end user, or the commercial end client - and explaining the price and energy benefits can be an important decision-making factor when it comes to multi-foil insulation specification.

Heading-Up YBS Insulation

My experience in the building products sector spans more than 30 years, predominately working in sales for the likes of plasterboard fittings manufacturer, Gripit, as well as distributor, Centurion Europe Ltd and bathroom furniture manufacturers, Be-Modern Ltd.

I joined YBS Insulation five years ago and there have been many positive changes within that time. The COVID-19 pandemic played a huge part in our most recent growth as a business, as the UK government's response to the crisis has also presented opportunities for YBS Insulation. We were included in the government's list of approved suppliers for the NHS and participated in weekly webinars with ministers and procurement officials during the pandemic. While these webinars were initially focused on PPE and other medical supplies, they also presented an opportunity to discuss our insulation products and their potential applications – including specification and installation into the new Nightingale hospitals set up around the country.

Within a few weeks of the first lockdown in 2020, we were manufacturing to supply both our quota for the government, as well as the sudden increased demand in the domestic and DIY sectors as home improvement activity increased massively with people turning garages, conservatories, summer houses and spare bedrooms into offices to work from home.

At YBS, we manufacture all our products at our headquarters in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, and have done for the last 30 years. We are a down to earth, honest business with honest people – many of our employees have been here for many years and we have a very low staff turnover. I think, after a lot of the time in the building sector, people definitely buy from people – and we've managed to nurture and maintain strong relationships with our clients by manufacturing high quality products.

A challenge for me as MD, and for us as a business, is changing the mindset of specifiers, as well as merchants and smaller contractors. Many will have specified alternative insulation solutions for many years, including traditional materials like mineral wool and PIR glass wool. Partly as a result of the pandemic, when availability of other products was scarce, specifiers were seeking alternative solutions and seeing the real benefits of multi-foil insulation, which has led to a surge in demand and a better understanding of our products and their applications.

At YBS, our vision is to make the best multi-foil insulation in the UK, and we are already the leading manufacturer in the country. Throughout the pandemic and since then, we work tirelessly to keep the supply chain running and keep people working.

Market Challenges

There are challenges facing the sector, despite recent successes. One of the main challenges we face is balancing increasing costs. I sit on many industry forums



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and have seen material prices increase steeply in the last three years, and geopolitical events like the situation in Ukraine have only made things worse. While pricing is still an issue, we are beginning to see things level-out a bit more, with the focus on driving net zero and reducing carbon emissions. At YBS Insulation, we believe that we have the right products to meet these sustainability demands. Our quilt products, for example, contain up to 83 per cent recycled materials, which is far higher than many of our competitors' products, and without the carbon footprint of importing material from overseas.

Net Zero

The Future Homes Standard (FHS) and the net zero movement have been significant drivers of change in the industry, and in 2025, compliance with FHS will become mandatory. Its aim is to

ensure that new homes built from 2025 will produce 75-80 per cent less carbon emissions than homes built under the current Building Regulations.

This, alongside the current energy crisis, is a challenge for our country and beyond - and can be argued is driving sales in the insulation sector. But many homeowners simply do not have the spare cash to invest in improving insulation. The UK government has recognised this and is set to launch the eco plus scheme, which will provide £1 billion in funding from 2023-2026 to improve energy efficiency. While this scheme is a step in the right direction, only 42 per cent of homes in England are currently Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rated C or higher, highlighting the need for continued efforts to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.

At YBS Insulation, we are committed to low CO2 emissions, and raising the awareness of the impact insulation can have on a building's environment. By insulating a home, for example, homeowners can achieve a 75 per cent reduction in heat loss. Our products also tick all the boxes when it comes to sustainability and carbon emissions, as they are made in the UK, have a low CO2 footprint and contain recycled and recyclable materials.

Looking to the Future

Looking to the future, YBS Insulation is committed to being a net zero business. However, achieving this will require significant systematic shifts in our operations and strategy. We are already taking steps in this direction and have invested in hybrid cars and electric forklifts for example, and none of the waste from YBS production goes to landfill, but we are always looking at more ways to improve to ensure we're on track and exceeding the needs of our market. ■

YBS Insulation is a UK-based multi-process manufacturer with more than 25 years of knowledge and experience, producing over 2 million metres of reflective insulation every year, with a global customer base and extensive national market.
<https://ybsinsulation.com>



Working at Height Made Easy with WernerCo's MiniMax Tower

AKA Building Services was contacted to upgrade the old Roto roof windows at a listed 18th Century orangery set in the grounds of Woodfold Hall, Lancashire. The delicate nature of the work meant there had to be great planning when it came to what equipment was best used. Werner's MiniMax Tower was selected as the ideal solution. The old roof windows were replaced with top-hung Velux roof windows and blinds.



Andrew Konieczny, Managing Director of AKA Building Services spoke about overcoming the project's challenges: "Uneven ground, working around garden items and the manoeuvrability of expensive roof windows all created challenges for this project, so we needed equipment that offered versatility and the MiniMax tower did just that. The MiniMax tower's compact base means that it's easy to fit in a van. It's also simple to put together with a snap click system on the folding frame allowing for fast set up. The uneven ground and height of the roof windows were also made easier by the fact that we could alter the height options of the MiniMax tower using the adjustable legs." To find out more, visit wernerco.co.uk.

Snickers Workwear Hoodies – Built for Comfort

Along with the work trousers range, these hoodies and sweatshirts are probably the most popular products among Snickers Workwear customers. Designed specifically for professional craftsmen and women, they're built for durability and comfort. The 'full zip' or 'overhead' styles are ideal as mid-layer working clothes. They will fit well with a jacket on chilly days and can be worn as an outer layer in the spring and summer months.



You can choose from a selection of fabric options that include Polartec micro fleece and cosy polycotton. Street-smart and great for on-site work or leisure activities, there's over 40 styles and a host of colours to choose from. These include the new khaki green option as well as Class 1 and Class 2 High-Vis. They are also available with the unmistakable Snickers Workwear logo and are ideal for company profiling. For more information, visit www.snickersworkwear.co.uk.

Ravago Proclaims "Plastic Can be the Future of Sustainable Construction" at Futurebuild

Delegates at the Futurebuild conference learned the role plastics play in the circular economy, and discovered how next-generation Ravatherm XPS X ULTRA 300 SL insulation is helping to create sustainable buildings.



Visitors to the Ravago Building Solutions stand learnt how Ravatherm thermal insulation boards, designed for inverted flat roofs, are being used to deliver buildings with impressive environmental credentials. This Ravatherm insulation offers a design lambda of 0.028 and declared lambda 0.027 W/mK across the whole thickness range, allowing architects and specifiers to achieve U-values with thinner or fewer layers of insulation. Several projects using Ravatherm insulation were showcased, including Howgate Close, an eco-efficient housing estate in Nottinghamshire. Ravago also highlighted the material properties of XPS insulation. Last year, the company invested in a new plastic pelletiser at its King's Lynn manufacturing plant. The new equipment enables Ravago to go beyond recycling rejected boards, presenting the possibility of sourcing off-site waste thermoplastics. To learn more, visit: <https://ravagobuildingsolutions.com/uk/en/product/ravatherm-xps-x-ultra-300-sl/>.

Marley Alutec Provides Bespoke Guttering Solution for Traditional Scottish Home

Marley Alutec has supplied a guttering, fascia and soffit solution for Howiesonhall, a private house in Crossford, Scotland. The property's original cast iron system was replaced with the Evolve Deepflow gutters and Tudor 76mm downpipes to maintain its traditional aesthetic. The Evoke aluminium fascia and soffit was also ideal as it could be formed to fit the curvature of the building onsite by the installer. Evolve Deepflow is a 128 x 75mm rainwater gutter system with a flow rate of 4.9 l/s and 232m² per downpipe. Along with the Tudor Circular downpipes, the system is 65% lighter than traditional cast iron. To create the bespoke sections, Marley Alutec used the Segmented Radiused Gutter method. This is achieved by internally welding together segments of machine mitred gutter to a given radius. Frank O'Hara from Faskin Group, a local roofing contractor, undertook the installation. Frank said: "Having worked with Marley Alutec before, I was confident that the project would be successful. The installation went well, thanks mainly to the products, which are always of a good quality, lightweight and easy to work with." Visit: <https://www.marleyalutec.co.uk/products/>.



AJW Distribution Celebrates 25 Years of Service

AJW was set up in 1998 by Managing Director Alan Woods. Following in his footsteps, his three children and first grandchild Ryan, all work for the family business. His eldest son Gareth heads up the industrial team; his youngest son Tom is the sales director; and his daughter Charlotte is the marketing director. The team also consists of Financial Director Kevin Patrick. 'Where service comes first' has been our company motto since we started. We're proud to have some of the best roofing experts in our area, whose passion is ensuring our customers are looked after. As a company, we also pride ourselves on the way we treat our employees.



Alan said, "To develop a business that employs 60 members of staff with an ever-growing team is a huge achievement and one I am very proud of. It wouldn't be possible without our fantastic staff, making the business what it is today." To celebrate this milestone we've created a marketing campaign for the remainder of 2023 which includes giving back to our customers, and raising money for charity. Keep an eye out on our social media channels to find out what we have planned! Follow @AJWDistribution on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

Whitesales Brings Rooflights to FIT Show

Contractors who want to see Whitesales' rooflights and brand-new roof lantern up close can view the products at the 2023 FIT Show from the 23-25 May. Marketing Director, Sioned Yates, said: "We're inviting roofing contractors to come to see us at FIT, as well as window and door installers. It will be the first opportunity for them to see our new lantern, learn more about our customer support package and get advice on any aspect of rooflight specification or installation from our experts."



The new Whitesales lantern, which will be launched at the show, is strong, slim, safe and competitively priced. With a 38mm frame and a fixed 25° pitch, it ticks all the boxes for the mainstream home extension and orangery market. Sioned added: "At FIT, we'll be demonstrating the new lantern as well as some new features and add-ons for our rooflight range, and of course RUFUS, our user-friendly online product configurator which helps customers build a rooflight to match their exact specification."

More details on the Whitesales stand and products will be available shortly via <https://www.whitesales.co.uk/>.

Strong, Stylish, Sustainable, Safe.

Cedral is the UK's most experienced company in the fibre cement roofing sector and our slates are among the strongest in the market, with a minimum lifetime of 50 years.

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Strong

Cedral slates have more cement fibres and more fixings per square meter than any other roofing material and are designed to perform in the toughest weather conditions. Fibre cement is a durable and resilient material that

is also lightweight and easy to work with. Our slates can be placed on lighter trusses or frames without any additional reinforcement and work on low pitch options down to 20°.

Stylish

Our slates come in a range of beautiful colours, textures and styles, making them exceptionally architecturally versatile. With a range of contemporary shades from classic greys to warm earthy tones, looks can be personalised



using colour accents or elegant tone-on-tone effects. They are also the perfect complement to traditional materials, such as brick, stone and wood, for stylish renovations.

Sustainable

Cedral slates have excellent environmental credentials, including an A+ rating, the lowest environmental impact as defined in the BRE's Green Guide to Specification. They have a low carbon footprint of 16 CO₂e/m² and are rated "Very Good" by

BES 6001 for responsible sourcing. They are produced in a clean, low energy production process and are an ideal low-maintenance roofing material.

Safe

Cedral products have an excellent fire classification of A2-s1, d0 to EN 13501-1:2018.

Contact Cedral

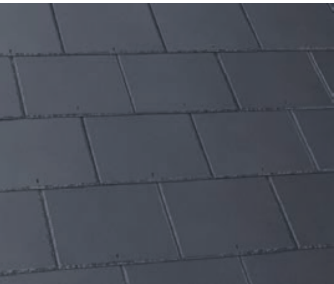
Visit Cedral.world for more information, email us at infouk@etexgroup.com or phone: +44 (0) 1283 501 555

Choose from...

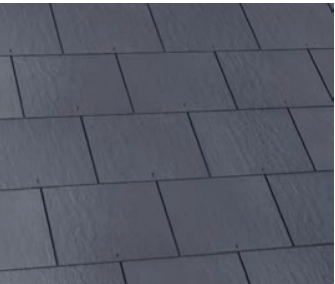
Rivendale, a premium choice with a natural slate appearance, beautifully textured surfaces and dressed edges



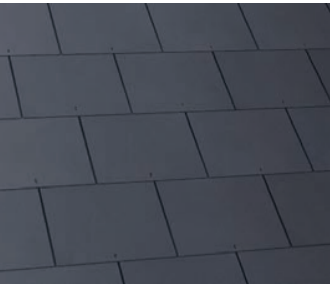
Birkdale, a traditional slate finish at an affordable price, with smooth surfaces and dressed edges



Thrutone Textured, a great-value low-profile slate with a natural textured finish



Thrutone Smooth, with its smooth surfaces and square cut edges that work particularly well with complex roof geometries



Mapei Purtop Easy Gives Rapid Results for Resapol

Resapol has supplied products for an extensive roof renovation in Greater Manchester. Using Mapei Purtop Easy waterproofing system, the application was completed within three days by contractor, Elite Construction & Property Services Group. Work commenced following a site survey by Steve Harrison from Resapol's Leigh-based technical team. "Mapei's range of waterproofing membranes stands out as they're really versatile and typically come as 'ready-to-use'. They're also rigorously tested and backed up by extensive research and development, so they provide a guarantee of durability, quality and environmental sustainability," said Steve. Purtop Easy is a one-component, elastic polyurethane membrane with a coloured finish. It's used for waterproofing balconies, terraces, roofs and areas with pedestrian access and can be applied on concrete, cementitious screeds, ceramic, fibre-cement boards, old bituminous membranes and metal. Once applied, it guarantees substrates are fully impermeable and resistant to standing water, root penetration, foot traffic and temperatures from -40°C to +80°C. [For more information about Mapei, contact: info@mapei.co.uk](mailto:info@mapei.co.uk) or visit www.mapei.co.uk. [For more about Resapol, visit: www.resapol.com](http://www.resapol.com).



Whitesales Rooflights Save Time and Energy at York St John University

Twenty-four bespoke-sized Whitesales em.glaze rooflights have been installed in the roof of the 14m atrium which forms the centrepiece of York St John University's Creative Centre. They fit within square apertures punched through soffits in the glulam timber roof grid, bringing additional light into the atrium designed by Tate+Co Architects. The rooflights were designed with preformed 300mm PVC splayed upstands, enabling them to be fitted directly into the glulam grid. These are estimated to have saved the roofing team two weeks on site as they didn't have to construct the upstands themselves and the integrated splay made waterproofing the roof easier. Tate+Co Director, Andy Baker-Falkner, explained: "The internal look of the rooflights was important for the overall design intent of the atrium. We liked the design of the Whitesales em.glaze units, particularly with the clean white reveal and option for fully concealed vent actuators." The em.glaze rooflight is a flush-glazed glass-to-edge design with flat sealed glass units fitted within a fully welded, thermally broken aluminium frame. They are double glazed and Part L compliant as standard, but can also be specified with triple glazing and in any RAL colour. [More details at: https://www.whitesales.co.uk/products/product-category/rooflights/](https://www.whitesales.co.uk/products/product-category/rooflights/).



CaberDek Helps Keep Berkshire Self-Builder on Budget and Programme

Self-builder and project manager Harjit Padda is nearing the stage of achieving a fully weatherproof envelope for his dream home. Harjit installed West Fraser's CaberDek across the upper floor level, knowing the board product can resist exposure to the elements until the roof is tiled. Harjit acquired the site four years ago and opted to replace the existing bungalow with a two-storey, four-bedroom dwelling incorporating a variety of modern building solutions. These included a Norwegian-manufactured Insulated Concrete Formwork system for the walls, supporting engineered timber beams at first storey height. Harjit laid 22mm CaberDek P5 panels across the timber beams to create a strong, resilient platform for work to proceed. He said: "I was keen to incorporate technologies to make the work quicker as well as better quality, hence the metal web joists and CaberDek for the upper floor. The CaberDek works really well with the ICF. So far, we are on budget and close to programme." CaberDek is produced from moisture resisting P5 particleboard which has the top face covered with the very tough and slip resistant film helping to ensure the floor can remain exposed to the weather for 42 days. [Visit https://uk.westfraser.com/](https://uk.westfraser.com/) or call 01786 812 921.



Let the Light in with Building Superstore

Building Superstore, part of CMO Group PLC, is helping builders and contractors get a clearer view on how to work with roof windows and sky lights by extending its product choice and technical support. Building Superstore provides customers with a dedicated account service and access to 100,000 products via CMO's eight superstores. This includes Roofing Superstore, the UK's largest online retailer of VELUX products. Its customer service team offers technical support to help with the design, installation, and maintenance of roof windows for both pitched and flat roofs. The team provides guidance on how rooflights can reduce heat loss and manage the risk of solar gain and overheating to create cost-effective interiors. Technical support is also available to ensure compliance with the necessary Building Regulations including Part L. By opening a trade account with Building Superstore, contractors will have access to the full VELUX windows range. Building Superstore can provide reliable deliveries and short lead times, with trade accounts available as both cash and credit. Trade customers can also take advantage of discounts, rebates and special offers and will have an account manager assigned to oversee their orders. [Visit: www.buildingsuperstore.co.uk](http://www.buildingsuperstore.co.uk).



Marley Alutec Ensures Fire Safe Specification with New Elite Balcony Rainwater Outlets

To comply with fire safety standards, Marley Alutec has launched updated versions of two of its Elite aluminium balcony rainwater outlets. As a non-combustible A2-S1,d0 fire-rated product, these outlets are ideal for use on residential buildings, including high-rise developments over 11m. The new outlets include a 750 mm spigot as standard, which can be cut to the required length on site. The DR360EX and DR460EX outlets are compatible with Marley Alutec 76 mm and 102 mm circular downpipes. These aluminium downpipes also carry the A2-S1,d0 fire-rating, making it simple to design a rainwater drainage system that is fully compliant with fire regulations. Since the 2021 edition of the NHBC Standards, the guidance is that, in line with BS8579:2020, piped drainage is the preferred approach for balconies. Tim Streeton, Marley Alutec Senior Technical Services Engineer, said: "Our Elite aluminium balcony outlets are a popular choice for high-rise residential projects where the use of non-combustible materials is essential. The new outlets ensure architects can specify rainwater solutions for high-rise projects, confident in the knowledge that all fire safety considerations have been covered." [Visit: www.marleyalutec.co.uk/aluminium-balcony-outlets/](http://www.marleyalutec.co.uk/aluminium-balcony-outlets/).



Roofshield Aids the Restoration of the Boleskine House Estate

The Roofshield membrane from A. Proctor Group was installed as part of a multi-year restoration project aiming to restore the legacy and heritage of the Boleskine House Estate, located on the shores of Loch Ness. In 2019, the Boleskine House Foundation SCIO took over ownership, intending to restore the estate as part of a multi-year project. Boleskine House Foundation contracted with local builder HEIM Build Ltd to carry out the roofing works. As part of the restoration, HEIM Build used traditional carpentry skills and techniques and local highland timber. Roofshield provides a pitched roof underlay that is air and vapour permeable. It allows even complex pitched roofs to breathe without the need for air gaps or secondary venting. Roofshield's unique patented SMS structure, which allows high levels of airflow and the transport of moisture vapour, making the formation of condensation in the roof space virtually impossible. The exceptional air permeability performance of Roofshield means that the roof space will result in similar air changes to that of a roof using traditional eaves/ridge ventilation. Therefore, incorporating Roofshield into the roofing design can lead to savings in labour and material costs as it removes the need for an additional vapour control layer in cold roof applications.



EJOT UK Launches Latest Best Practice Videos for Flat Roof Installation

EJOT UK has released two short videos with the aim of helping flat roofing installers to achieve the highest quality results when installing flat roofs using mineral wool (stone wool) and PIR insulation. The videos, developed in conjunction with IPS Group, provide tips for installers and advice on the correct fastener combinations to use when installing warm roofs. Both videos follow the flat roof build-up process, starting with attaching the mineral wool or PIR insulation boards to the deck. EJOT explains the ideal tools to use, highlighting the fact that the same type of screw can be used for both timber and metal decks, and what diameter tubewasher is needed according to whether the membrane will be mechanically fixed or adhered. EJOT's range of products for flat roofing includes different types of tubewashers, all manufactured in high grade plastic, along with carbon steel and stainless steel fasteners suitable for timber, metal and concrete decks. EJOT also offers ready to use tubewasher and fastener combinations to help installers save time on site. [See the range of flat roofing fasteners and tubewashers at www.ejot.co.uk](http://www.ejot.co.uk). [For advice on the correct tubewasher and screw combination to suit the insulation, membrane and deck material, call 01977 687040 or email info@ejot.co.uk](http://www.ejot.co.uk).



Double Magply Deck Supports Sedum Roof in Bishop's Stortford

A UK housebuilder is creating a new medium rise development on the outskirts of Bishop's Stortford, consisting of five blocks with a total of 174 apartments. With sustainability and the environment central to the design, the specification for the building's sedum roofs includes a layer of 18 mm Magply boards to provide a resilient and fire-resistant deck. Bellway Homes is leading the build using a mix of direct labour and specialist package contractors. LJ Carpentry is responsible for installing the Magply boards over a 300 mm depth of fire resisting rigid insulation as part of a low energy roof construction. Magply MOS boards present a fire-safe and environmentally friendly alternative to conventional plywood or OSB products. The pull-out strength for 18mm Magply is in the range 3.45-4.00 Kn/m². Due to the emphasis on fire safety in residential projects over 18 metres, BBA approved Magply's attributes are seeing it regularly specified for the sheathing of steel and timber framed structures as well as for parrass boards internally. The different thicknesses of panel are also widely used as a substrate board for the direct application of proprietary render systems, as well as flat or pitched roof build-ups.



Kalzip Helps Deliver First Carbon Positive Station Upgrade

The construction of a new entrance, cycle hub and platform canopies at a south London train station is being hailed as the network's first 'Carbon Positive' project, with arrays of integrated AluPlusSolar PV panels installed as part of a roofing package featuring Kalzip products. The £7.5 million Denmark Hill project was led by BAM Nuttall Ltd with Invvu Construction Consulting responsible for the design and project management on behalf of Network Rail. Gribben Solar Roofing was the specialist installer of the AluPlusSolar roofs which total 260m² across three platform canopies, the station building and an access ramp: generating an output of 35 kWp. The new facilities at Denmark Hill Station became operational in September 2021 and the project has since won the 2021 Award for the best roof under 1500m² at the annual Kalzip® awards. Kalzip Sales Director John McAllister said: "The Kalzip AluPlus solar PV system ticked all the boxes to achieve the sustainability improvements for the refurbishment: making it the first carbon positive station development in the UK. And although the Kalzip AluPlusSolar system used on the project is not bespoke, it adopts a building integrated PV solar solution that is a genuine innovation for the roofing industry." [Visit: www.kalzip.com/en/](http://www.kalzip.com/en/).



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Constructionline FENSA GGF HomePro 2023 2023

Werner Towers High with the Launch of its PROPLUS Mobile Access Tower

Werner has launched its PROPLUS Mobile Access Tower. This new mobile tower, which boasts an ergonomic lightweight modular system, is designed to reach up to 5.4m, providing a safe and stable platform for professionals working at height. The PROPLUS Mobile Access Tower is easy to erect, with the stackable system allowing users to build up to three working heights. Designed with a sturdy platform at the top of the tower featuring a trapdoor for easy access, it also has toe boards to prevent tools falling. Certified to EN 1004-1:2020, the swivel castors enable easy movement, as well as a folding base frame single unit for quick assembly. The compact base unit also fits in the boot of most cars or vans. The platform has a load capacity of 184kg. The tower also features stabilisers providing height safety to any job. [The Werner PROPLUS Mobile Access Tower is now available nationally. See www.wernerco.co.uk](http://www.wernerco.co.uk).



Look Cool, Stay Cool with Snickers Workwear Summer Topwear

Snickers Workwear's lightweight, functional tops are designed for work in warmer weather and come in a range of over 50 t-shirt and polo shirt styles. From the new Khaki to Class 1, 2 and 3 High-Vis options, Snickers Workwear has tops and colour choices for professional tradesmen and women who want to look and stay cool on site this summer. Look out for the LiteWork tops, all made from a functional and quick-drying polyester fabric that delivers everyday comfort and UPF40+ protection in sunny weather. LiteWork tops also have a bio-based anti-odour finish for cool, ventilating comfort when it's warm on site. Whatever style option you choose, every Snickers Workwear summer top has a street-smart body-mapping design for a great fit, outstanding functionality and long-lasting comfort – all day, every day.



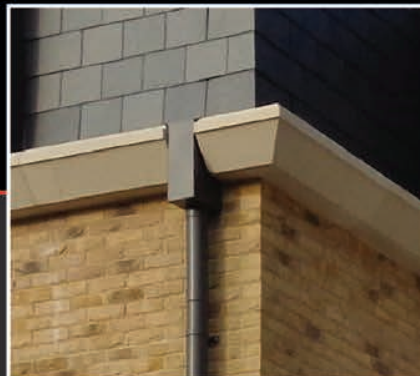
[For more information on the Snickers Workwear clothing range, visit www.snickersworkwear.co.uk](http://www.snickersworkwear.co.uk).

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