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ISSUE 95 JULY-AUGUST 2021



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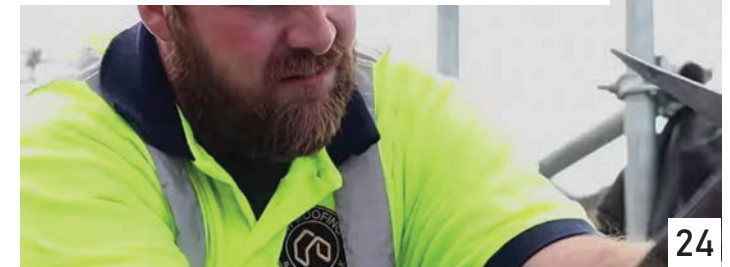
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Front Cover

SSQ's Riverstone Ultra was used to re-roof Bodmin Jail – the Grade II-listed Cornish prison, which has now been comprehensively renovated as a 70-bed boutique hotel.

The project's managers wanted a product that could emulate the aesthetics of the dry-laid Cornish slate that made up the original roof, but that was more readily available.

The finished result integrates seamlessly with the renovated building's modern roof design, in a way that protects the centuries-old building underneath, and honours its historic aesthetics.



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Flat Roofing Industry Launches Guidance on Fire Safety Regulations

Trade associations representing the flat roofing industry have launched new guidance in response to changes to fire safety legislation.

The Liquid Roofing and Waterproofing Association (LRWA), the Single Ply Roofing Association (SPRA) and the National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC) have developed the document, which is aimed at all those involved in specifying and designing flat roofing and waterproofing systems.

Two years in the making, the guidance follows dialogue with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. It focuses on Approved Document B, which was amended in 2019 following the Government's ban on using combustible materials in the



external walls of high rise residential buildings of 18 metres and over.

Approved Document B now states that any products with membranes forming part of external walls on high rise residential buildings need to meet the BS EN 13501-1 fire class requirements and achieve a

result that deems them non-combustible.

The new guidance also addresses questions about the implications of the new regulations on flat roofing and waterproofing membranes. These include how to interpret sections in Approved Document B referring to 'specified

attachments' and roofs that connect to external walls.

The document clarifies the definitions of an external wall and that a 'specified attachment' is a balcony or solar panel attached to an external wall. It explains how waterproofing membranes can be used on balconies and how these structures are differentiated from roof terraces. Using insulation as part of the roof dressed up the wall, which is known as a 'thermal break', is also discussed.

The 'Guidance Document - Changes in Regulations and Approved Documents Relating to Fire Safety for Flat Roofs on 'Relevant Buildings' in England' is available free of charge and can be downloaded via the LRWA, SPRA and NFRC websites.

Bigger and Better Second World Green Roof Day



The second annual World Green Roof Day took place on Sunday 6 June 2021. Building on the success of its launch in 2020, this year's event was bigger and better with engagement from new countries, including Argentina, Ghana, Nigeria, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Kuwait, Lithuania and Albania. There were also shares of green roofs from Mumbai and the Faroe Islands.

Using the hashtag #WGRD2021, companies and individuals shared

images and videos of green roofs and rooftop gardens from around the globe. Emporio Armani celebrated funding a green roof on a children's hospice in the UK, new telephone booths with green roofs were launched in Austria, and an open rooftop tour was hosted in Rotterdam.

Two days prior to the event, a colony of rare orchids, *Serapias parviflora*, was discovered on the green roof of Nomura International Bank in the City of London. It is the

first time the small-flowered tongue-orchid has been seen in the UK since arriving in Cornwall in 1989.

In addition to celebrating green roofs, some used this dedicated occasion to launch new products and initiatives. This included the 2021 Anniversary Edition of the GRO Code in the UK, a new green roof product range from Sika, and a new eLearning Green Roof training course from Lantra (UK).

Amsterdam also announced plans to build accessible roof gardens at high altitude, connected by air bridges, by 2025. Since the event, Milan in Italy has announced it will map all of its existing green roofs and walls.

As well as increased reach, the global event was endorsed by the Austrian Environment Minister and the Welsh Government Minister for Climate Change. It also received the backing of the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Norbord Acquired by West Fraser

Norbord Europe Ltd has been acquired by the West Fraser organisation.

The engineered wood panel manufacturer supplies housebuilding and the construction industry with board products for flooring, panelling and roofing.

Brands include SterlingOSB Zero, CaberFloor and CaberWood MDF.

The three UK plants at Cowie and Inverness in Scotland and South Molton in Devon will continue manufacturing with no change in personnel.

Under the terms of the acquisition Norbord shareholders received 0.675 of a West Fraser share for each Norbord Share held.

West Fraser is a wood products company with 60 facilities in Canada, America and Europe.

West Fraser produces lumber, engineered wood (OSB, LVL, MDF, plywood, particleboard), and other products including pulp, newsprint, wood chips and renewable energy.



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LRWA Announces New 2022 Date for Awards and Gala Dinner



The Liquid Roofing and Waterproofing Association (LRWA) has announced a new date for the LRWA Awards & Gala Dinner.

The 2020 event was postponed to 3 November 2021 because of the pandemic. It has now been rescheduled to Wednesday, 23 March 2022 to avoid clashing with the UK Roofing Awards taking place on 5 November.

The venue for the LRWA Awards & Gala Dinner will remain at the Titanic Hotel in Liverpool's Stanley Dock.

All entries from 2020 and 2021 will be carried over to next year's awards and the current entry form will remain open until 3 December 2021. All tickets and room bookings have also been automatically carried over.

Sarah Spink, CEO of the LRWA said: "Planning this event during a pandemic has been a huge challenge, so we're pleased to now be in a position to secure a date.

"We're looking forward to bringing people together in a safe environment to celebrate the outstanding workmanship and technical excellence in the liquid roofing and waterproofing sector.

"Despite the challenges faced by our industry over the past year, we know that lots of our members have continued to deliver impressive projects during the pandemic. The event provides the ideal platform for contractors and manufacturers to showcase those achievements and promote the benefits and versatility of a broad range of liquid systems."

Contractors Appointed to £180m Framework

More than 100 specialist roofing contractors have won places on a new £180 million framework for the public sector.

The design, supply and installation of roofing and associated works (RS4) framework from LHC allows local authorities, social landlords and other public bodies to source pre-approved local suppliers providing roofing systems for new builds or refurbishment projects.

The framework is worth £100 million in England, £60 million in Scotland and £20 million in Wales.

Dean Fazackerley, LHC group procurement manager, said: "The large majority of the companies appointed to the framework are SMEs from around the country, all awarded places due to their proven record of high quality work.

Appointed companies are:

Flat Roofing

Alumasc Building Products Ltd
Bauder Ltd
BMI Icopal Limited
Britmet Tileform Ltd



IKO PLC
Langley Waterproofing Systems
Polyroof Products Ltd
SIG Trading Limited
Soprema UK Limited
The Garland Company UK Limited
Triflex UK Ltd

Pitched Roofing Contractors

Abbeymill Homes Ltd
A.C.Whyte & Co Ltd
Ailsa Building Contractors Ltd
Amber Construction Services Ltd
Aspect Group Services Limited
Axis Europe PLC
Breyer Group PLC
Cambridge Flat Roofing Co Ltd
Contract Building Services (Scotland) Ltd

CWG Group Ltd
Everlast Waterproofing Ltd
Faskin Group Ltd
Hugh LS McConnell
John Flowers Ltd
MAC Roofing and Contracting Ltd
Maguire Bros Ltd
M&J Group (Construction and Roofing)
NRA Roofing & Flooring Services Ltd
Procast Building Contractors Ltd
R Benson Property Maintenance
RTL Group (Roofing Technologies Ltd)

The RS4 framework will run from 1 June 2021 until May 2025.

SSQ Maintains Lead Times Despite Disruption

Responding to the last 12 months of disruption across roofing, construction and the economy generally, natural slate specialists, SSQ says it's maintaining consistent supply despite the ongoing challenges in the supply chain.

As well as owning the quarry in Argentina that supplies its slate, the company's depots around Britain allow it to hold large amounts of stock.

With thousands of pallets of Riverstone already in the UK, SSQ reports maintaining lead times of 3-5 days.

"Like virtually every business in the country, we've obviously been impacted by coronavirus,



and the huge disruption that's followed in its wake," said SSQ founder and MD, Ahmed El-Helw.

"However, some strategic decisions we've taken over the last four decades have meant we've not been as seriously affected as some in our industry.

"From the very beginning of the life of the business, I knew I

wanted us to have a reliable supply of quality material. In the case of our Riverstone phyllite, that meant acquiring the Argentinian quarry that produces it.

"It also meant investing in depots around the UK that would allow us to maintain high levels of stock, and be able to guarantee quick delivery to customers wherever they are in the country.

"Thanks to this, and the dedication and professionalism of our staff, I'm delighted to say that while our Spanish slate supply has been somewhat disrupted, we're still able to deliver Riverstone within 3-5 days across the whole country."

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European Slate Company Helps Promote Sustainable and Supportive Community



Specialist slate supplier, European Slate Company (ESCO), has helped a Dorset charity to realise its vision of building a new facility supporting young adults with a learning disability.

As a registered charity and housing association, Sturts Community Trust combines promoting sustainability with providing supportive communities on Sturts Farm - a 90 acre working organic farm.

On the farm, the charity offers work opportunities, individualised support and supported living. It has a number of housing projects on the site and recently opened a new housing neighbourhood called Twin Oaks.

This Lottery funded project will enable the charity to offer more opportunities to young adults with a learning disability, providing living accommodation to them and their supporters.

Contractors building the new housing, Castle Lodge Construction of Ringwood in Hampshire,

presented several choices of roofing for the new neighbourhood to the client.

ESCO's natural slate, ESCO 5, stood out with its distinctive, rich blue/black colour and attractive texture.

As Sturts Community Trust is an organic, biodynamic farm, it was important that the 500mm x 250mm natural slate is environmentally friendly through all stages of its lifecycle, making it the best natural choice for the sustainable community.

Natural slate is a totally inert mineral product, meaning it does not impact its surroundings. It is produced using traditional processes making it the roofing material with minimal environmental impact.

Combined with its extraordinary long-life expectancy, Sturts Farm can be sure they've made the most sustainable, as well as most beautiful choice, for their new community's roofs.

SIG Zinc & Copper Now UK Distributor for VMZINC

SIG Zinc and Copper has entered into an agreement to become GB distributors of the VMZINC range of rolled zinc roofing and cladding products.

As a sustainable metal, zinc is increasingly used in construction projects.

SIG Zinc & Copper offers a design and detailing service, fabrication of bespoke designs and materials supply through a UK network of roofing branches. When installed by a SIG accredited contractor systems include integrated warranties covering the entire build-up.

BSI Competence Criteria for Everyone Working on a Building

BSI has published new competence criteria for those working in the built environment. It applies to all who provide services and products throughout the life of a building.

It's hoped the new standard will support industry reform to minimize safety risks and improve protection to consumers and building occupants.



The new code of practice: BSI Flex 8670 v3.0 Built environment - Core criteria for building safety in competence frameworks - Code of practice, sets out building safety competence criteria for fire safety, structural safety and public health. It will encourage a more consistent approach to the development and use of competence frameworks.

Building Safety Minister Lord Greenhalgh said: "We are making the biggest changes to building safety in a generation. This new criteria, funded by the Government, will set a new standard for professionals across the sector - and will underpin our wider reforms to ensure that homes are designed, built, and managed more safely in future. I urge all sectors in the industry to adopt this."

NFRC Suspends BLM British Lead



The National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC) has suspended its member, HJ Enthoven Limited, trading as BLM British Lead.

The lead manufacturer is suspended for one year for breaching the competition clause of the NFRC's Code of Practice.

This follows the decision of the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) to fine BLM British Lead £8 million as well as disqualifying BLM company director Jocelyn Campbell, for breaking the law by entering into four anti-competitive arrangements with Associated Lead Mills Ltd (ALM) as part of a cartel.

Between October 2015 and April 2019 the lead companies colluded on prices. They also shared the rolled lead market by arranging not

to target certain customers. They arranged not to supply a new business because it risked disrupting the firms' existing customer relationships. Lastly, they exchanged commercially sensitive information.

Associated Lead Mills (ALM) ended their membership of NFRC in January 2021, and so were not subject to the NFRC investigation.

NFRC CEO James Talman said: "This decision demonstrates that NFRC's Code has teeth, and we mean what we say when we stand for roofing excellence. Our Code is clear that all our members, both trade and supplier, should agree to conduct operations with the principles of fair competition. This case was a clear breach of this and through due process resulted in suspension."

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Rock to Roof Day to Run Again



Expert roofing trainer and heritage consultant, Richard Jordan FloR, recently delivered a 'rock to roof' day course in North Wales on behalf of the Welsh National Roof Training Group.

The course consists of workshops and practical demonstrations of the traditional skill of splitting slate stone by hand then cutting and dressing it into roofing slates.

Organised by Wrexham Council and held at Coleg Cambria's Bersham Road campus, the course was part of a series provided free of charge through the Wrexham Traditional Building Skills Programme.

The Traditional Building Skills programme forms part of the council's Townscape Heritage Scheme heritage-led regeneration programme. It aims to train local people in traditional building skills, helping them to gain employment regenerating pre-1919 buildings in

the old part of Wrexham Town Centre.

Janine Beggan, who runs the Traditional Building Skills programme, said: "It's great to see students learning valuable traditional building skills and then applying their newly acquired expertise in the workplace."

Richard Jordan's Rock to Roof course was such a success that it is now scheduled to run again on 1 July, 2021. Participation is free of charge to anyone living in Wrexham.

This project has received funding from Cadwyn Clwyd Rural Development Agency, through the Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government.

United Roofing Products Donates Materials to SWRTG



Devon-based manufacturer of roofing sheets, United Roofing Products has donated materials to the South West Roofing Training Group (SWRTG) for the third year running.

The SWRTG provides training related to sheeting and cladding via the Specialist Applied Skills Programme, bespoke sheeting and cladding training and NVQs through the Experienced Worker Practical Assessment route and On-site assessment Training.

The donation will benefit those attending courses at the SWRTG training centre in Melksham.

Keith Wiltshire, Assessor and Tutor for the SWRTG says, "United Roofing Products has been so generous, their donation really helps add to sheeting and cladding skills in the region."

United Roofing Products supplies roofing sheets direct to consumers in the agricultural, industrial and commercial sectors. The Cullompton-based, family run business has recently significantly invested to upgrade its flashing and fabrication production facility. New machinery is being incorporated into production while minimising disruption to the day to day operation of the company.

NERTG Shows How Members Benefit

A North East Roof Training Group (NERTG) member recently gained from the group being able to combine resources to arrange training otherwise unavailable.

The member company had requested NEBOSH Construction Certificate training on a day-release, classroom basis but there was nothing available in the north east region.

NERTG Training Coordinator, Helen Wilson, was able to find a provider who could deliver the training required - as long as NERTG could provide the delegates and a venue. Helen said, "This is one of the key benefits of training groups -

members are able to pool their resources to arrange in-house training for multiple employers."

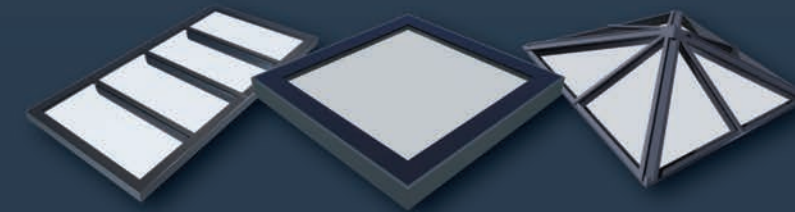
NERTG is offering the new NEBOSH Health & Safety Management for Construction (UK) qualification that came out earlier this year and replaces the NEBOSH National Certificate in Construction Health & Safety. The course will be delivered by 16 Degree Shift Training & Consultancy Ltd, running one day a week, over 12 weeks, in East Boldon, Tyne & Wear. The proposed start date is 30 September 2021 and costs £1,400. If there are sufficient delegates the cost will be reduced for members. More information by emailing nertg@btconnect.com.

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It's been a great year for the North West Roof Training Group to date. Sue Wharton, Group Training Officer says, "We can't let another month go by without thanking all the manufacturers, suppliers and merchants who have

supported the apprentice training facilities in the region - BMI Group, Cupa Pizaras, Hambleside Danelaw, Midland Lead, North West Roofing Supplies, SIG Roofing, SR Timber, Ulti-mate Roofing & Building, and Velux.

An Interview with Philip Johns, Managing Director of SIG Roofing

Philip Johns' return to SIG UK couldn't have come at a more challenging time. Not only was his arrival just a few weeks into the pandemic, but the company had been experiencing falling UK revenues and bottom-line losses. So, after being away from SIG for five years, why did Philip Johns come back?

"I didn't really want to leave," he explains.

"I'd been with the organisation most of my working life. I absolutely love the company. The reason for my leaving had been around the direction the organisation was going in.

"If you're running a company and you don't believe in the strategy then it's very difficult to lead a team. It affects your personal integrity I think if you're trying to sell something you don't believe in. That's why I left."

A Compelling Challenge

Philip's return to the company where he had worked for 28 years culminating as MD of the Exteriors side of the business (the roofing merchant branches), is accompanied with a determination to shape the business back into a profitable form. Following a conversation with SIG plc's senior management, Philip says, "It was clear the organisation needed to rediscover the roots that had made it so successful. I felt the platform was there to get the business back on track. The challenge and opportunity for a business I love so much was extremely compelling."

The time spent away from SIG, leading MKM Building Supplies, allowed Philip a broader perspective on construction material supplies. Philip says the biggest insight he gained was into how the structure of the business delivered commercially: "It's a business where the branch directors come on board. They open up a branch with a team and they have a share in the business, so it's a highly



"I didn't really want to leave. I'd been with the organisation most of my working life. I absolutely love the company. The reason for my leaving had been around the direction the organisation was going in."

entrepreneurial, decentralised model.

"What struck me was the drive and enthusiasm of the branch teams because they were in control of their own destiny, within a framework. That created an incredible energy to take the business to new heights. It's an incredibly dynamic business."

New Strategy

So, coming back to SIG, Philip has brought a fresh approach based around a franchise model. "SIG is a large, corporate organisation, so that brings lots of benefits. The ideal is that we have all those benefits, but think like a local, independent business in our branches. If you combine the two together, that's a very powerful offer to the marketplace."

The decision was also made to combine and share operational support for the firm's Distribution and Exteriors divisions, achieving cost savings. But the move also means a better chance to cross-sell to customers, offering a whole service package and maximising opportunities.

Philip explains: "In terms of our central services, our commercial department consists of category management, marketing and also national sales. National sales deals with main contractors, housebuilders, and builders' merchants. In that way, we're joined up, we sell the complete UK package of the distribution and exteriors business together. Obviously, that highlights our offer to those customer types. It utilises our salespeople as they have more to offer.

"Take a main contractor – they go out to tender on projects and we supply them with specialised products. But also, they're keen to work with us on their major projects with their contractor network. They have an approved set of contractors they work with and provide us with the information on who tenders for that work. We work with those subcontractors to help them through the tender process and look to win the work with them. There are occasions where we help to identify subcontractors that could work with the main contractors. The main contractors see the value of the breadth and specialisation of our offering."

Taking Employees with You

Of course, the new strategy means a lot of adjustment for the SIG workforce, as Phil describes, "We've

done an awful lot in a short space of time. To reorganise the business, we created 400 positions in the company when I came back. It was about re-deploying people in the right de-centralised roles."

He adds, "We've been through a difficult period in the Group's recent history, but they can see we're getting it back on track. I go around the businesses a lot and I see a lot of happy people. We've also looked very hard at how we reward our people. If people create a successful performance, it's important that they share in that success."

The new strategy seems to be working. After reinstating many of the SIG management alumni that Philip had previously worked with, the company reported a strong finish to 2020, ahead of expectations; like-for-like sales up 4% in Q4 on 2019, reflecting growth across all major markets, including the UK. Philip expects to return the company to profit this year.

Materials Shortages and Price Rises

But a very busy market brings its own challenges, particularly combined with the current materials shortages and price rises. The scale of SIG, with 105 nationwide roofing branches alone, does, however, give the company an advantage in flexing stocks, moving product to where it is needed.

Philip says, "We work very hard at forward ordering. There have been some key challenge areas around roof tiles and timber. Lead times vary on product, on a concrete tile it's currently 6 to 14 weeks. It just means that you have to be much more coordinated in ordering and taking products to branches."

As the industry faces the prospect of being held up by shortages of timber, including batten, SIG has been in talks with its European timber supply chain to create more volume. Philip says, "The timber market is about the cubic capacity

you're able to secure and we hit some challenges on that in April. We've been working on that in the last three months, but hope to be in a much better position from mid-summer."

Philip also speaks of the current shipping problems affecting timber. Not just rising costs and container availability, but also the capacity of British ports in taking delivery and then moving product from there to SIG's branches.

"It's not just one problem. You've got to work on all the elements to get it to where it needs to be. I'm pleased to say that we've managed that process well. We're confident that we're in good shape to supply the market."

Roof Tile Manufacturing

For roofing tiles, Philip explains the problems are more entrenched with long lead times: "I think the [roof tile] manufacturers are finding it a real challenge. In many ways it goes back to 2008/2009 when they took capacity out of their production because the recession was so bad. Some of that capacity hasn't been turned back on again. I think manufacturers have got to think about capacity and whether they are brave enough to put more lines down to make more product, which is a costly exercise.

"We have to remember the market is very buoyant. It's been very good for the industry but put pressure on the supply chain," says Philip. "I think the issues of component parts such as chemicals and plastics will sort themselves out, I'm confident of that. I would hope that insulation will improve later this year, but I can't say for certain."

Inflationary Pressures

In the longer term, Philip doesn't see the industry going into a recession because demand remains high despite the substantial rises in material prices. "My personal view is that we're entering into a period of good growth in the industry for lots of different reasons," he says.

"The economy has gone through a difficult period with Covid, so that creates stimulus. We're coming out of the Brexit situation and broadening deals with various countries. The Government are clearly looking to create stimulus for the UK to recover. It seems quite clear that they are very supportive of the building industry, they see it as a big driver for growth.

"It's not just one problem. You've got to work on all the elements to get it to where it needs to be. I'm pleased to say that we've managed that process well. We're confident that we're in good shape to supply the market."

"We have to be careful of inflation; if it gets out of control it could stifle demand. I think the supply of products, broadly speaking, will sort itself out. The only area that I think will remain a challenge will be timber. Inflation across the whole roofing market is around 3.5% since the beginning of the year. But increases on timber are over 50% now this year, it's been quite aggressive."

For contractors, Philip says, it's about adjusting to this inflationary market and ensuring you're talking to customers: "The whole industry knows there's unprecedented price increases coming through. I think you've got to tell customers that there is significant inflation on products at the moment and therefore you'd have to reconsider your prices at the time the work starts. It's a change to the way we operate, but that's the way the market is right now."

Future Moves

The longer-term strategy to develop the branch network, includes "definitely getting involved in acquisitions and also

opening up sites where it's appropriate". Philip also mentions developing product ranges, whether that's with manufacturers or own label.

While in Poland SIG gets about 12% of its sales online, the UK's e-commerce is notably absent, something Philip's predecessor was keen to address. Philip's enthusiasm is more measured: "I have a very different view about e-

commerce. I think it has a place, but we want it to complement our specialisation rather than moving towards a transactional trading site. E-commerce adds value to our customers so we should give them the opportunity to trade with us on their own portal, their own account. We've already got some sites up and running that we're trialling, so we're progressing that."

"I think we've got to look at our technical services too. We've got Design & Technology which designs roofs for customers. We've got Flex-R which does similar things for EPDM. So the question is: how do we raise the value of our offer to our customers? One area is obviously product range and extension, the other is the levels of services we provide."

Philip concludes, "I'm delighted to be back at SIG, I'm delighted to be back in the company and industry which I love and I'm enjoying the whole experience. It's the people: whether staff, suppliers or customers – it's a great industry with great people." ■

Who Moved My Cheese?

As the material crisis continues to bite, will work remain as abundant in the medium term?

‘Who Moved My Cheese’ is a fable that demonstrates in practical terms how to handle change better and avoid pitfalls, by practicing a few key principles: anticipate and prepare for change, overcome fears, envision success, and enjoy change. It’s about two little people and two mice in a maze, searching for cheese, where each character represents a different attitude towards change, with cheese being what we consider to be ‘success’. Never more than now is this tale more appropriate for our industry because the source of the cheese could well be moving, and moving fast.

Currently, all contractors and manufacturers are flat out with work, most with more work than they can handle. We’re all aware of the labour and materials issues in the market, both of scarcity and price and with further increases on the way, and an even further tightening of timber and many other raw materials’ supply.

But where are we really?

Whilst the work flows in and the sun shines, there are nevertheless now many indicators of significant future uncertainty. For example, in April there were 455 tender opportunities, a 21% reduction from March (574). This is a 41% decrease if we take the average monthly tenders of 768 available between April 2019 and March 2020 (pre-covid of course). In May, there was an 11% increase in the month-on-month overall value of contracts awarded to £6.3Bn, but...35% of that value is represented by 171 housing developments. source Builders Conference. We are in a super-heated housing market, with prices rising in the last 12 months alone by 10% source Bank of England, that market being falsely propped up by the stamp duty holiday and overall high demand. Rapidly rising house prices create consumer confidence, and hence consumer spending and borrowing. There is



Whilst the work flows in and the sun shines, there are nevertheless now many indicators of significant future uncertainty.

the potential here to mirror the late 80’s issues in the economy which lead to the recession of the early 90’s. We’re not seeing the numbers to give sleepless nights just yet, but that could easily come.

Build Build Build

The Prime Minister keeps repeating the mantra ‘Build, Build, Build’ and planning law is potentially relaxing to allow town centre conversions to residential, plus a raft of other planning easing to enable conversion and new build. Yet, that landscape is changing. Do people want to live in town centres in a post-pandemic world? According to Knight Frank’s Country index, demand for countryside properties is at an all-time high. With many firms allowing changes in working methods, more working from home and more flexible options, suddenly the house in the country is even more accessible if the commute is only going to be twice a week, for example. According to the Country Land and Business Association (CLA), 55% of 18–34-year-olds in London want to move to a rural area because of the pandemic.

In terms of the issues in the market regarding materials price increases, one of the latest is the planned 58% increase in OSB prices which takes effect on 1 August (source, SIG plc). The various and sharp increases throughout the year in

timber, insulation and steel (with much of the 2021 steel allocation for the UK now exhausted) may well be adding to inflationary pressure. We await the date, but if the trend is upward, how long will the Bank of England hold its nerve before raising rates?

Stagflation

We potentially face the worst possible case, that of stagflation; high unemployment (furlough ending), a stagnating economy, yet with significant inflationary pressure. Remember, too, that we have a whole generation of people who have spent their adult life in a time of zero interest rates and cheap mortgages. 14% interest rates anyone?

It’s possible that it could be a blip, and if the Chancellor holds his nerve and waits out interest rate rises, the economy could push through the issue. But for that to happen, we must see materials prices relaxing (is that realistic?),

and we must have a cooler and more stable housing market without so many unknowns. If we reach autumn with no let-up in sight for materials availability (at least in steel, cement and timber), there could be significant problems in getting buildings out of the ground, which may put paid to numerous roofing contracts. The rumour mill has it that several housebuilders are scaling back build programmes for 2022 due to the shortage of cement and other materials.

This is all very negative you may say, and yes, it is. But look, collective investment vehicles in commodities are rising, a sign of institutions possibly moving money towards investments which give stronger returns in times of inflation. In mid-June, the Federal Reserve announced potential rate rises earlier than those anticipated in 2024 should inflationary pressure remain. The question is, in this country, will we see just a bump in the road then a smoothing, or will it be more serious? Where demand remains strong, yet there is an inability to complete constructions due to materials shortages?

Repair, maintenance and improvement (RMI) is likely to remain strong, certainly for this year. Foreign holidays remain a dream for the moment and money saved during the lockdowns has already been ‘allocated’ in the minds of many people - even if they can’t get the work done right away due to contractor workload. The only question here is that works quoted for earlier this year may need to be requoted due to materials increases, which could cause consternation with residential clients.

The phrase ‘the only constant in life is change’ is truer now more than ever. And considering the many factors in play this could have some dramatic effects on both current and future construction orders. At present, the cheese is everywhere, we’re all falling over it. In the cheese fable, the mouse who methodically and consistently looked in different places for cheese was successful. The ones who simply went to the same spot each time suddenly found there was no cheese left, and you can guess the rest. ■



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Rejuvenating Cornwall's Historic Bodmin Jail Roof

In 2021, indigenous slate isn't exactly easy to come by. Of the over 50 slate quarries that once existed across the UK and Ireland, the vast majority have since ceased operation. What's more, those that remain often produce very little material, with lead times that can sometimes be measured in years. When you're tasked with preserving a historic building which many consider is a piece of Britain's history, that means you're presented with a problem.

The question is: how do you maintain the period character of a structure that was originally fitted with an indigenous slate roof which is now well past its prime and needs replacing?

Over two hundred years of history

That was the dilemma recently faced by the custodians of Bodmin

How do you maintain the period character of a structure that was originally fitted with an indigenous slate roof which is now well past its prime and needs replacing?

Jail – the famous Cornish prison, originally built in the late 1700s, then remodelled in the second half of the 19th century by Victorian penal reformers.

Grade II listed, the buildings that exist today were completed in 1881. They were given over to the Admiralty for use as a Royal Navy prison not long afterwards.

However, in the 2020s, they're used for a very different purpose – the site has been comprehensively renovated, and transformed into a luxury boutique hotel with 100 beds, as well as a major Cornish tourist attraction.

It was during that renovation that attention inevitably turned to the buildings' roofs. As you'd expect, the original structures had been roofed with Cornish slate – but after more than a century's service on the notoriously windswept Bodmin Moor, they were in serious need of replacement.

Not just a substitute

It was at this stage that SSQ became involved in the project. The project's managers wanted a roofing product that could emulate the aesthetics of the 600 x 300 dry-laid Cornish slate that made up the

original roof – but one that was more readily available.

That led them to consider SSQ's Riverstone Ultra phyllite – both for its similarity to Cornish slate in terms of its strength, colour and geological profile, and its long track record of being approved by Cornwall Council's Historic Environment and Planning Team.

However, describing Riverstone as a substitute for Cornish slate does it something of a disservice. The water absorption and durability of the 'substitute' are in fact far superior.

Overcoming access challenges

The roof installation took place over a period of four months, using a similar dry-laid method to the one that had been used for the site's original roof.

III

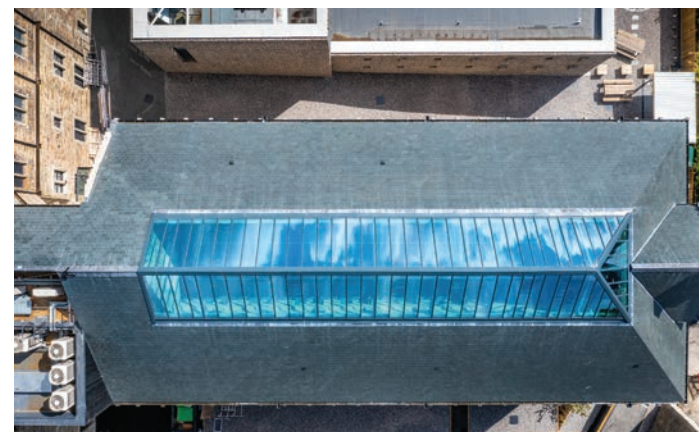
The slates were laid using a 200mm gauge. They were copper nailed twice onto 500 x 200 factory-grade, treated counter battens, which were fixed to a ply roofing deck using a Permavent Apex Air breather felt.

Access was a challenge throughout the project, which, combined with the height of the roof, meant the slates had to be graded and sorted below on the scaffold board.

Slates were separated into three different thicknesses – thin, medium and thick – and then laid cut and dressed with the thicker slates at the eaves course and the thinner slates laid upwards under the lead flashing below the glazed apex.

Honouring historic heritage

The slating was set out using true chalk lines at a regular 200m gauge. Perpendicular chalk lines were set at 1015mm centres to ensure that an average tolerance of 3-5mm was retained between slate side joints,



to allow for minor movements in the roof sub structure.

Slates at all hip and valley junctions were laid using a close mitred detail, to ensure the clean lines of the glazed apex weren't interrupted when adjoining the slate roof areas.

The mitred valley and hips were weatherproofed using lead soakers treated with patination oil, which were interleaved with the slates and fixed so that they extended to a minimum of 150mm down each side.

The finished result was a roof that has been seamlessly integrated with the modern design of the renovated buildings' roof structure, in a way that protected the centuries-old building underneath, and honoured its historic aesthetics. III

If you'd like to learn more about the outstanding range of natural slate and phyllite products SSQ can provide, and their long track record of providing roofs for heritage buildings around the country, please visit www.ssqgroup.com.



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A Clean Slate for Roofers

Environmental targets are becoming more commonplace in specification briefs, so contractors must increasingly assess the environmental impact of the materials they choose. Steve Pearson, UK Country Director at Cupa Pizarras explains how those in the trade can ensure they are making an informed and effective decision.

As the roofing industry continues to incorporate more sustainable products in installations natural slate stands out as a particularly eco-friendly solution. In fact, as a 100% natural material, slate is one of the most sustainable roofing options available. What's more, slate does not require the use of any artificial materials, furnaces or chemical products in its production.

Why is Slate Sustainable?

Life cycle analysis to examine the overall environmental impact of a product, confirms natural slate as an ecological option for any architectural project. Assessment of each stage in the life of slate

highlights its minimal water and energy consumption and the limited pollution it produces. In fact, the Inventory of Carbon and Energy, an independent database launched by the University of Bath, lists natural slate as the roofing material with the lowest number of adverse impacts on the environment.

How is Slate Produced?

Production of natural slate can only begin after geological, mineral and geotechnical surveys at the quarry, or mine site. Suppliers analyse whether the slate mine is of the desired quality and purity for extraction. Sample testing is next carried out to further clarify the

precise quality of the slate, as well as the potential reserves of the deposit. Following this, the extraction process can finally begin in open quarries or underground mines.

A diamond blade is used to remove large blocks of natural slate from

the ground, before the material is sent on to a processing plant. Here, water is used as a coolant and base material for removing any rubble. To make the most environmentally conscious choice, roofing contractors should assess how efficiently water is used as part of this process. At Cupa Pizarras, all



processing water is recycled via a closed circuit to prevent waste.

How is Slate Processed?

Arguably, the most important stage in the slate production process is the processing phase. Normally, the slate goes through three stages before being packaged. Firstly, it is cut to size and separated into individual sheets. The edges of the slate are then bevelled to help it shed rainwater when it's installed.

Next, the slate is sorted prior to delivery to give roofers the desired quality for each project. At Cupa

that provide long-lasting and reliable performance. To this end, it's best to adopt solutions with extensive and comprehensive warranties from the product producer themselves and not a



distributor or other third party. Cupa offers a 100-year guarantee across its slate solutions covering any imperfection that may affect the slate roof's permeability, as long as the roof has been laid according to the European Standards ISO EN 22190-3.

The Sustainable Option

As mentioned, slate is a highly sustainable material, but the carbon footprint associated with its production can differ between suppliers. To this end, when looking to make the most environmentally conscious decision, it's important to assess companies individually.

To this end, Cupa Pizarras has been certified carbon neutral by the Carbon Trust. The company offsets its operational CO2 emissions through projects to plant trees in the UK and to protect the Amazon rainforest. Moving forward, Cupa remains committed to the strict measurement of its emissions and has created an ambitious two-year plan. III

To find out more about CUPA PIZARRAS' environmental credentials, please visit www.cupapizarras.com/uk.

Guaranteed Performance

While roofing contractors might prioritise environmental credentials when choosing slate solutions, clearly there is still a need to select roofing products

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Roof Access Over Laid Tiling

Here specialist roof consultant, John Mercer, discusses accessing the roof after tiles are laid, the impact of current shortened turnover of concrete tile stocks and what measures are needed to avoid the risk of damaging finished roof coverings.



Back in 2014, one of the biggest changes to BS 5534: British Standard Code of practice for slating and tiling, was the requirement to fix all single lapped tiles in all circumstances. It became no longer possible to leave some tiles on a roof unfixed, though, of course, this depended on the calculated fixing specification. Roof tile fixing schedules can be obtained from the tile manufacturer and are generally available online for instant access.

This has meant that roofers need to find new ways of working if they want to avoid walking on laid tiles. In the past, roofers would leave a few tiles unfixed, then push them up so they can walk up the roof on the tiling battens. However, this course of action is no longer open to them as all tiles must be fixed by nailing or clipping.

It is important to understand that roof tiles are not designed to withstand foot traffic. They are manufactured to a strength given in the relevant manufacturing Standard (EN 490 for concrete tiles and EN 1304 for clay tiles). The strength that tiles must be when they leave the factory is amply sufficient to enable normal transportation, handling, and installation without damage - but may not be always sufficient to resist the weight of a person.

Shortages Shortening Curing Time

Interestingly, concrete products continue to gain strength for months, even years, after manufacture. When business is slow, roof tiles may sit in a manufacturers or merchant's yard for many months before installation, making them extraordinarily strong when installed.

As we experience material shortages, concrete tiles are given the minimum curing time before leaving the manufacturers yard. This has led to a rise in complaints about tile breakage through foot traffic.

This curing time, however, is not always available. When turnaround time is rapid, as is the case currently as we experience material shortages, concrete tiles are given the minimum curing time before leaving the manufacturers yard. This has led to a rise in complaints about tile breakage through foot traffic. More worrying though, could be the number of roofs which have been finished without complaint, where there could be many cracked or broken tiles going unnoticed. It is only later, when the roof starts to leak, or someone spots fragments of

tiles sliding down the roof, that the problem is noticed.

Flat interlocking tiles can be vulnerable to damage caused by foot traffic. Not because they are weak or otherwise faulty, but because they are laid cross-bonded and are therefore more susceptible to variations and unevenness in the roof structure than straight-bonded tiles are. Tiles are designed to have an even contact across each tile when laid. But unevenness in the roof structure can cause a point load contact between tiles, making them more at risk of damage under load.

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Planning working sequence

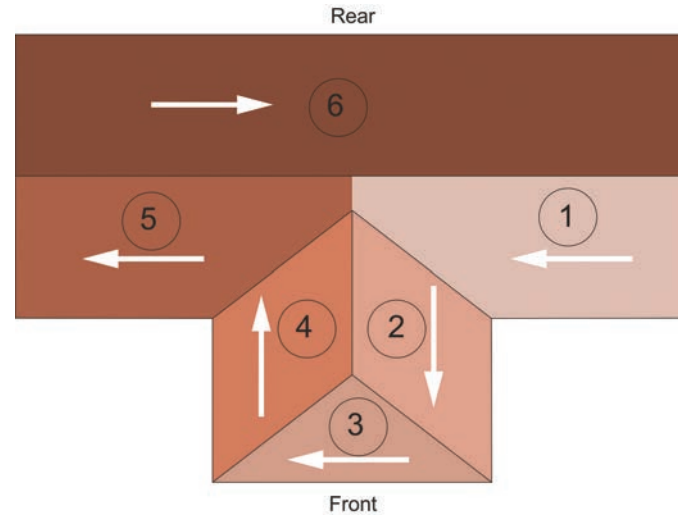
HSG33 covers all aspects of health and safety when working on roofs. It states that roof tiles and slates must be regarded as a fragile roof covering, both in terms of safety of operatives and the risk of damage to the materials. Therefore, it is important to plan tiling works so that battens can be used as footholds where they pass over the rafters, to avoid walking directly on laid tiles.

The plan (right) shows how the roof work on a typical roof can be planned to avoid access over laid tiles by always standing on the tile battens. Once the underlay and tile battens are installed, and the tiles have been loaded to all roof areas, tiling can start at the front right-hand verge. Work can progress in the numbered sequence shown, starting with roof face (1). Tiles can be laid to the first valley, which is then installed before progressing around the corner to the next roof face (2). Once the valley is installed, tiling can progress to the first hip.

Similarly, the hip can be installed before tiling progresses onto the next roof face (3), and so on. The short ridge on the front can be installed as tiling progresses on the left-hand side (4).

In this way, tiling can progress to the left-hand verge on the front elevation (5). Tiling on the rear elevation would start at the right-hand verge, and the main roof ridge can be installed as tiling progresses across the rear roof face (6).

Where access or working directly over tiling is unavoidable, this should be done from properly supported and anchored crawling boards or access ladders, suitably packed with foam or other compressible material to spread the load and avoid point contact loads on the tiles. Where regular access is required over laid tiles, for example to clean windows, some form of safe, permanent walkway or steps should be installed.



Summary

- ❑ All single lapped tiles must be fixed. Obtain a fixing schedule from the tile manufacturer before work commences.
- ❑ For safety reasons and to avoid damages the tiles, plan work to avoid walking and working directly over laid tiles.
- ❑ For roof designs where it is not possible to avoid walking over laid tiles, use properly supported and anchored crawling boards or access ladders, suitably packed with foam or other compressible material to spread the load.
- ❑ For roofs where future, regular access is required over the tiling, install purpose-made walkways and steps. III



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Striving for Roofing Perfection

Chatting to Zak Williams, his enthusiasm for his work as a roofing and leadwork contractor quickly becomes clear.

Passionate to the point of perfectionism, Zak, 29, has quickly built a reputation for roofing and leadwork excellence, as the owner of ZW Roofing and Leadwork based in Ilfracombe, North Devon. His social media posts have the flavour of a celebrity influencer with his thousands of devotees appreciating the precision and craftsmanship shown in his work.



Unlike so many business owners in the sector, Zak had no roofing family background that brought him into the trade. He started work as a carpentry apprentice and his first job was with a local joinery company - but one that also offered roofing. Here, Zak's work involved learning slating and tiling on the job, which became the magnet that pulled him into roofing.

He decided early on that he wanted his own company but became dissatisfied with having to ask other tradespeople to complete the leadwork on roofing projects.

Zak explains: "I was slating and tiling for years and the leadwork

side of it was getting frustrating; with having to rely on other people just to come in and weld trays and so on."

Deciding to get formal lead training was a seminal moment for Zak. He counts himself as exceptionally lucky to have been trained by lead tutor, Simon Wood, at the Lead Sheet Training Academy (LSTA) in Kent.

At the LSTA, Zak met fellow leadworker Ashley Saxton (who also put him up while there).

that's carried on to this day. Zak says, "Me, Lewis and Ash are good mates and I class them as the best in the country. When we finished at the LSTA we started helping each other out. We'd call each other regularly and check in with each other comparing what details we're working on. We still do it now, one of us might ring and ask 'what is the best detail for this' and vice versa.

"It's really handy for all of us because if you've got the attitude of 'you can always pick something up' or 'there's an easier way' it helps you to keep developing, getting better all the time."

Drive to Develop

Zak's continual striving for improvement and drive to develop his expertise is typical of the perfectionist. But like all perfectionists, his tendency for self-criticism is ever-present. Zak says, "The trouble is I always, even now, look back and think 'that could be better', or I look at it and think 'next time I'll do that differently'. When you hear or see feedback off other people like 'ah mate that's really tidy', or 'exceptional work', I look at it and think it's just bog-standard.

"You kind of, not put yourself down, just I suppose have a lower opinion because you always want to do the next one better."

All three leadworkers are often in demand for specialist heritage projects which call for intricate and technically demanding solutions. A recent project Zak worked on was a £2million property in Croyde, North Devon. Its mono-pitch roof was completely clad in lead and Zak took huge professional pleasure in delivering its aesthetic.

"I introduced some features which are not really used that much anymore. There's a hollow roll detail on the top, and there's some more cladded face panels. That added a large amount of lead. It's quite an iconic feature which we are extremely proud of."

"Then there's a big roof we just completed in West Down, which was in a dire state before we started work. Everything was planned out properly, all the gauges were worked out and we added some attractive traditional features to it. Every detail is weather checked so it'll last, which is fundamentally what you want.



The striking £2million new build in Croyde, North Devon, with its mono-pitch roof completely clad in lead by Zak Williams. The exposed location meant everything was doubly secured, so all free edges were back hooked.



"The contrast between how it was before and now is striking. We introduced some pattern work and we're really happy with how it looks now."

Another project involved Zak travelling each day to Anglesey in North Wales. Leaving at 2am to arrive on site at 8am with another 6-hour journey at the end of the day.

"We were so busy I couldn't take more than a day out but I wanted to help a friend out who's a very good slater but needed a bit of leadwork. It was a curved barrel top dormer. I did the complete barrel top with some extra flashings. It was a nice little curved feature but a bit of a long day!"

Over time, Zak has built up a network of roofer contacts that he knows are doing good work and that he's happy to work with. Recently he completed a big Co-Op project in Milburn Port near Yeovil for a development company, taking on roofers he knows as subcontractors. But for the most part Zak says he's usually able to complete projects in a good timescale with just him and his sole employee, Ben Aikem.

Zak is arranging training for Ben, 23, with someone Zak considers is one of the best: Andy Rowlands at his Roof Training Centre in Hereford. Zak says, "He's a lovely guy - very knowledgeable and a proper craftsman, someone who knows exactly what's what. If there was ever an issue, he'd be the first person to call."

Zak is considering an OSAT route for Ben's NVQ simply because they are so busy at the moment and booked up well into next year. "It's manic at the minute, every day it's working eight till eight, just trying to catch up. I've always been busy - touch wood! I've noticed that the longer we've been doing it and the more leadwork we do, new work quite often just looks after itself. It almost runs itself as long as you pick up the phone."

"I appreciate I might make more money with eight lads, and there's definitely the work. But with eight lads your quality of work is more than likely going to drop in some areas, and I just don't want that. To me it's about earning decent money, but also just doing that 100% job where you can look back and say it's perfect."

Having said that, Zak says he's keen to work on bigger, more challenging projects. "People say I'm mad, but I'd be happy to travel to the top of Scotland for the right job. It would be nice to get some big heritage or unusual projects with lead, or slate; some proper big feature work, like pillars or domes or turrets. That'd be gold to me, not because of the money, but because of the finished project. That's what gets me going!"

Zak is engaged to be married, as soon as Covid-19 restrictions allow. He says how much he appreciates his fiancée putting up with his long hours and him speaking to customers and other contractors in the evenings.

Code 6 lead welted cappings with hidden copper clips on the stunning Watersmeet Hotel terraces in Woolacombe.



It would be nice to get some big heritage or unusual projects with lead, or slate; some proper big feature work, like pillars or domes or turrets. That'd be gold to me, not because of the money, but because of the finished project. That's what gets me going!"

But it's not just planning for the next job or arranging the current one, Zak often gives advice to roofing colleagues too. He says, "You get a lot of people from social media platforms asking for advice, which I always will give. Someone might message us with photos and ask what do you reckon the best

detail is to get over that, and I'll do a quick diagram. It's nice to help out because I still ask other lead workers and we might sit down over facetime. Someone might come up with a better option, or ours might be the best."

Zak's commitment to keep learning and collaborating with others to share his skills and knowledge make him a natural educator. He says he'd like to eventually go into roof training: "It'd be nice to give something to someone that wants to learn because I haven't always been like this. When I was at college, I was like any young lad, thinking I know everything, not really interested. I've always thought I'd get a lot of benefit out of teaching someone who had quite a bad attitude and then seeing the reward of them changing because you've taught them; made them realise that they can be good. That'd be lovely," he ends. ■



"The contrast between how it was before and now is striking. We introduced some pattern work and we're really happy with how it looks now."

RoofCERT Sets Target of Accrediting 2000 Roofers by Mid-2022

RoofCERT has an ambitious target to accredit 2,000 roofing operatives by the middle of 2022. Despite some knockbacks over the past year as a result of lockdowns, the impact of the pandemic on contractors, and funding cuts, Richard Miller, Head of Quality and Compliance at NFRC is confident the target can still be achieved. Here, he explains how RoofCERT is pulling out all the stops to reach as many roofers as possible over the next year and outlines the new Experienced Worker Route to accreditation.



The quality of new build homes is very much in the spotlight currently – with the government target to build 300,000 homes a year by the mid-2020s, it is critical that quality is not compromised for the sake of quantity. Many house builders are increasingly making this a strategic priority as can be seen in the majority of their Annual Reports.

We recently held a joint webinar with Persimmon for its roofing supply chain in which the firm actively promoted RoofCERT accreditation for operatives. They see RoofCERT very much aligning with their own strategic objectives over the coming years, and we are working collaboratively to help accredit operatives working on Persimmon sites.

The piloting of the EWR so far has proved that this concept can be delivered to a high standard. Once we have successfully put 100 roofing operatives through this route, we will then be able to scale this across the whole industry. We will be publishing more information on this shortly, but in the meantime I would like to thank in particular

their card under the old Industry Accreditation (grandfathering rights), will now be able to get a new skilled worker card by successfully completing the Experienced Worker Route. With many in the industry concerned about how they will renew their CSCS card before 2024 when grandfathering rights come to an end, this will be a great relief.

New Commercial Manager for RoofCERT

Finally, we are pleased to welcome our new Commercial Manager, Matt Dawson to the team. Matt has a strong background in sales, as well as industry accreditation, standards and qualifications. Matt will be a great asset to our team, and will be instrumental in driving



recognition of the scheme with stakeholders and encouraging roofers to apply.

What next for RoofCERT?

As lockdown restrictions ease further, Matt and the RoofCERT team will be getting out and about, speaking to industry, undertaking EWR assessments and knowledge tests, working with house builders and their supply chains, as well as writing to every CSCS card holder to try and reach as many roofers as we can.

Together, as an industry, we can reach this target, and show the rest of the construction industry that when it comes to professionalism, upskilling and demonstrating competency, roofing is leading the way. ■

We have also worked closely with CSCS to ensure that not only will those who have RoofCERT accreditation have this clearly marked on their card, but they will also now accept the Experienced Worker Route as evidence for obtaining a card.

Andy Rowlands, for hosting the pilots at CORE in Hereford, to McDonnell-Price for putting operatives through the pilots, and Marley, Hambleside Danelaw and Burtons Roofing for providing materials.

Working in collaboration with CSCS

We have also worked closely with CSCS to ensure that not only will those who have RoofCERT accreditation have this clearly marked on their card, but they will also now accept the Experienced Worker Route as evidence for obtaining a card. This will mean that those who are unable to renew



Partnership with Persimmon Homes

One housebuilder in particular, which has recently committed to putting quality at the top of its agenda, is Persimmon Homes.

Under the leadership of its new CEO, Dean Finch, Persimmon has clearly stated its intention to make quality a priority and ensure they get it right first time every time. The company intends to do this by not only improving its own internal processes but by partnering with a number of accredited providers across the supply chain – including RoofCERT.

Experienced Worker Route Pilots

Alongside this, we have been piloting the RoofCERT Experienced Worker Route (EWR) to achieving accreditation. There are two ways of achieving RoofCERT accreditation – the qualified roofer route that requires a vocational qualification; and a route for roofers with more than five years of experience, which involves a one-day practical assessment as well as the other elements required to achieve accreditation. Due to the impact of Covid-19, we had to delay the launch of the EWR, and it is currently in its pilot stage.

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Ventilation Requirements with Breathable Membranes

Additional ventilation is required with the vast majority of breathable membranes. This is why eaves ventilation and ridge systems also require consideration alongside membranes. Nick King, Portfolio Manager (UK) at Klober, explores why these systems are so important and how to avoid common installation mistakes.



The type of ventilation required depends on a number of factors, including roof and ceiling design, as well as membrane type. As a rule, the National House Building Council (NHBC) insists on additional ventilation with the vast majority of breathable membranes. This is to create a continuous flow of air - particularly important for the drying out of a new building.

Additional ventilation increases air movement, helping to eliminate potential problems of condensation in the roof space. BS 5250 (Code of Practice for Control of Condensation in Buildings) covers the minimum ventilation requirements expected for roofing.

Eaves and Ridge Ventilation

A traditional method of ensuring continuous ventilation of the roof void, low level eaves ventilation systems are often used in conjunction with high level ridge ventilation to encourage maximum air flow. The amount of low level ventilation required depends upon the roof type and pitch, but ventilation equivalent to a 10mm

continuous air gap is commonly seen with cold pitched roofs and 25mm for warm roofs.

When it comes to eaves ventilation, there are three components required for effective installation – the fascia vent, felt support tray, and roll out rafter tray.



A traditional method of ensuring continuous ventilation of the roof void, low level eaves ventilation systems are often used in conjunction with high level ridge ventilation to encourage maximum air flow.

The fascia vent is a ventilating unit 1m in length that allows airflow into the roof space. To protect the eaves, the felt support tray reinforces the roofing membrane above. Finally, the roll out rafter tray maintains a ventilation path into the roof void and prevents loft insulation from being pushed up against the roofing underlay, blocking the airflow. Working together, these components provide all the necessary elements for effective eaves ventilation. Ridge ventilation products should be tested to the requirements of BS 8612, as well as meeting the ventilation criteria of BS 5250.

Dry ridge systems have become increasingly popular due to the requirement to mechanically fix ridge tiles. They offer a way of fixing ridge and hip tiles without

traditional sand and cement mortar, while also providing the required amount of high level ventilation. Suitable for clay and concrete tiles, dry ridge systems typically consist of: a ventilated ridge roll, ridge to ridge seals, stainless steel screws and washers, clamping plates, and ridge batten strips.

Installation Tips

Although both eaves and ridge ventilation are often used together, the installation processes for both are unique and there are common installation errors that should be avoided.

For eaves, it is common for the roll out rafter tray to be pulled too tightly. However it must remain castellated to ensure an airflow past the insulation into the loft space. Membranes should also not be pulled taut, so that the drape between the rafters provides a

Although both eaves and ridge ventilation are often used together, the installation processes for both are unique and there are common installation errors that should be avoided.

drainage channel (a maximum of 15mm). If the construction beneath doesn't allow this, due to insulation or boarding, then counter battens should be used.

Allowing the membrane to sag down into the guttering is another mistake but is easily avoided by stopping short of the gutter and

allowing the underlay support tray to ensure safe passage of water to the gutter. Exposure like this should be avoided because modern day membranes are not permanently UV stable.

When installing dry ridge products, it is important to ensure the membrane stops short of the apex on either side of the highest roof point, providing a small gap to allow air flow. Roofers must also ensure that the ridge batten is fixed correctly for dry ridge systems as this is the integral fixing part. For butyl backed ridge rolls, contact with the roof tiles must be maintained all the way along the ridge line to prevent any wind-driven rain from getting underneath the roll.

Product Testing and Quality

When selecting both ridge and eaves ventilation systems, the

quality and performance guarantees of products should be carefully thought through. Not all products come with a guarantee against manufacturing defects and conform to the relevant Building Regulations and British Standards, for example. Dry ridge products specifically should have passed rigorous testing, including wind tunnel testing to replicate storm conditions, which ensures the product withstands specified levels of pressure.

The key to success when it comes to specifying and installing quality and well-ventilated roofs is to consider the whole roof area. By keeping in mind eaves ventilation systems and ridge ventilation, contractors can ensure they are covering all bases and putting quality first to continue to raise the roofing standard. III

For further information visit: klober.co.uk

For retrofit and new-build

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Why Change is Needed in the Roofing Industry

Managing director of Green and Heritage Roofing Ltd, Chris Hopkins, discusses why the roofing industry is crying out for change – and how to achieve it.



Innovation is constantly advancing from every corner of the world. The speed of change, adapting to Covid, climate change, technological advancements, regulatory demands, material shortages and constantly changing customer expectations, are all challenging companies to maintain their relevance.

The competitive advantages companies achieve are often all too temporary. The game has changed from 'how do I gain an advantage' to 'how do I change to stay relevant'. This is what I am hearing from my business connections and comments and posts on social media.

This is also true of the roofing industry – it is crying out for change! And it urgently needs a roofing industry game-changer to really grab this bull by the horns and start making these changes.

It seems to me that the roofing industry is currently moving way too slowly. It is overwhelmed by carrying too much bureaucracy, too many egos, and outdated ways of working which simply no longer apply. While working as a business mentor I have encountered these attitudes too often in too many organisations.

So how do we bring about change?

Green agenda

The government's green agenda will produce opportunities. Although most people are quick to blame the government for 100 per cent of the failure, the Green Homes Grant also failed in part due to the construction industry not being prepared well enough in advance to take advantage of the opportunity which the government was attempting to provide.

For example, I have seen companies who are unwilling to qualify their



workforce to PAS 2030 – yet if they stand still, they will never be ready when the next round of green grants becomes available.

Roofing business models *can* be ready for and adapt to change. If employers upskill their staff, they can then achieve certification to PAS 2030 along with Annex B5 (flat roofing insulation), B10 (pitched roof insulation) and B12 (room in roof insulation).

With this newly-evolved roofing business model, those forward-thinking companies who have embraced PAS 2030 will be ready when the next round of green energy grants are launched. And it is very clear that grants will have to be made available once lessons have been learned from the previous failure. How else will the Government achieve its Net Zero targets?

It is simply not good enough to steer the industry in the interests of the larger roofing contractors and allow it to be driven by the roofing industry's main monetary turnover, whilst ignoring the seeding ground for the industry's skill base.

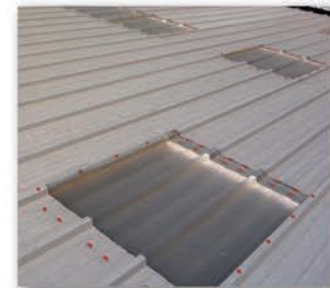
Nurture traditional roofing skills

The main focus of the roofing sector's representation seems to be centred on larger, established roofing contractors. However, what is being missed is the fact that the majority of roofing skills (that is, at the coalface, not the boardroom) are the traditional roofing skills used by tradespeople. These skills are mostly found in the micro-roofing businesses of under 10 roofing staff which, along with subcontracted

labour, form the majority of the workforce.

We urgently need greater representation of these traditional roofing craft skills and a voice to represent the interests of these micro-businesses. It is simply not good enough to steer the industry in the interests of the larger roofing contractors and allow it to be driven by the roofing industry's main monetary turnover, whilst ignoring the seeding ground for the industry's skill base.

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“We must change this imbalance, as it is traditional roofing skills we need to nurture in order to foster the opportunities which in turn attract the best construction apprenticeships into the roofing sector.

If we do not change and evolve, we risk the skills gap getting larger and we could lose great existing talent from the roofing sector. We must attract the best apprentices along with the best new workers to ensure that the roofing industry can evolve and is fit for purpose: today and in the future.

Climate change emergency

The roofing industry could, with proper representation from leading roofing industry entrepreneurs in the green energy field, take on the opportunity of the climate change emergency. This would help create new, evolved business models that will help to cut carbon emissions. Traditional roofing techniques can be successfully combined with technically-advanced, energy-efficiency measures, including hybrid insulation products and solar photovoltaic (PV) energy production, to make the most of the opportunities flowing from adapting the built environment to climate change.

T level apprenticeships

In my current role on the construction route panel for the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education, I and my colleagues are working with trailblazer groups who are producing the new T level apprenticeships for 2022-2025. These apprenticeships contain newly-evolved technical occupational standards, together with end-point assessments, which are signed off by the construction group panel. Within all trailblazing groups in the various construction sectors is this ever-growing need for rapid transformational change. They need additional knowledge, skills and behaviours to create new green technical qualifications.

In the roof training sector, this swift transformational change could be achieved by the creation of several green roof training courses. They

Within all trailblazing groups in the various construction sectors is this ever-growing need for rapid transformational change.

would cover concepts such as U-values, insulation in roofs, cross-ventilation, condensation risk analysis including dew points, integrated solar PV with battery storage, hybrid inverters and electric vehicle charging points. All of these can be taken forward, starting with the trailblazer groups to create T level apprenticeships as well as upskilling opportunities.

Close collaboration

The roofing sector skills gap needs to be tackled by very close collaboration between all the key roofing industry stakeholders. Manufacturer-led training, combined with roofing industry training groups and roofing employers can help share best practices, along with new technologies and new emerging trends, attitudes and behaviours. Through this collaboration more standardised, short-duration training models can evolve, which in turn can be formalised and delivered quickly and easily in a fit-for-purpose training model. An excellent example of this would be the Experienced Worker Practical Assessment (EWPA) route.

Change management

Changing any industry for the better – roofing or otherwise – is no small challenge. Change management practitioners can be instrumental in working with business leaders to help them improve their business model, making it more adaptable, stronger and more flexible to a changing environment.

Business mentoring

There is currently a good deal of funded business help available; for example, Be the Business has a 12-week rapid response mentoring programme. <https://www.bethebusiness.com/rebuild-your-business/find-a-topic/>

Business mentoring can offer a great deal of help to micro-businesses in the construction industry, from changing business models to new ways of engaging and motivating employees. Many business leaders could take advantage of this. It will almost certainly help the business leader create new, flexible strategies and coping mechanisms for this current flux and change we now find ourselves in.

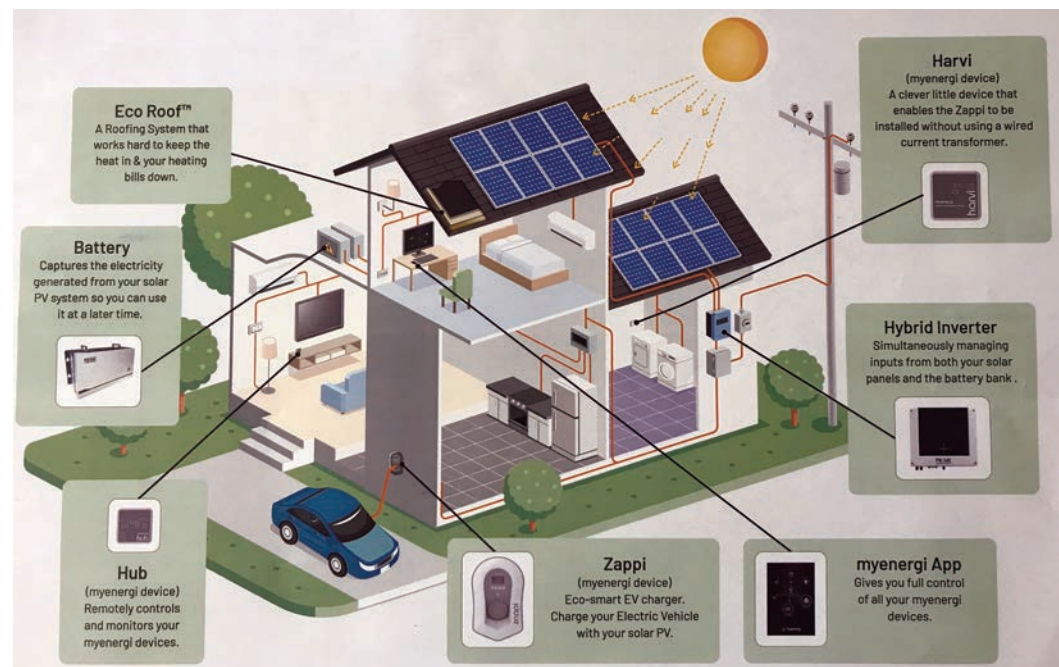
Integrated solar PV

There is currently a huge opportunity in the solar rooftop market. It is telling that a large manufacturer like Marley has recently launched into this market. To transition to a low carbon economy we will need to install more integrated solar PV. We will need to transition to electric vehicles by combining rooftop solar with battery storage systems, connected to a hybrid inverter connected to electric vehicle charging points located in people's homes. I am sure this opportunity will exist for the next 30 years or more; it is certainly one that I have taken on board and is driving my green and heritage roofing business. I am proud to promote the potential of solar PV for the greater good of the industry.

It is the ability to adjust your strategy as it is needed that will help roofing businesses retain their relevance and profitability as they take advantage of newly-emerging opportunities.

In short, we must evolve, then evolve again. The roofing industry is crying out for leadership to encourage this kind of change in dynamic and attitude. ■

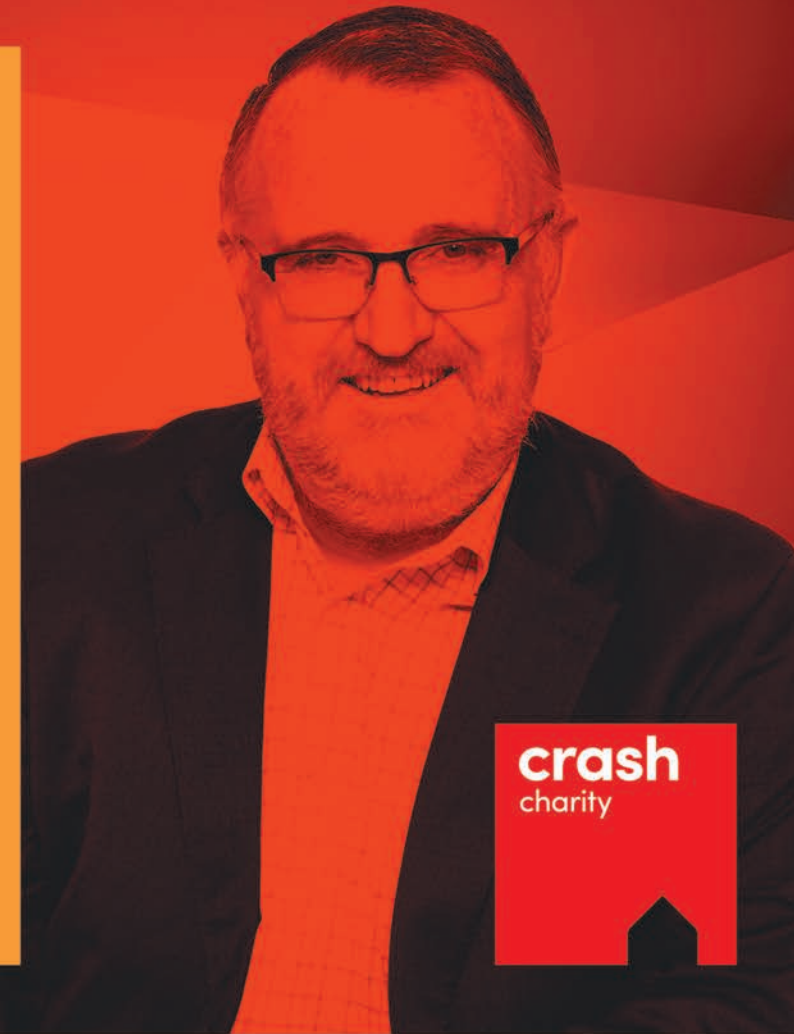
If you are interested in discussing any of these ideas further, Chris Hopkins can be contacted on 07939 506481, or emailed at chris@greenandheritage.uk.



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Overcoming the Roofing Skills Gap in Wales

With an ageing workforce and a shortage of key skills in the industry, the launch of the Specialist Upskilling Programme (SUP) in Wales, being delivered by Langley Waterproofing Systems Ltd, in collaboration of Wales National Roofing Training Group (WNRTG) is a timely and welcome development. Here, Monique Jones, Operations & Business Development Manager at J Randall Roofing Contractors Ltd explains how the new SUP is supporting the company and its Youth Generation Program.

J Randall Roofing Contractors Ltd is extremely excited about the launch of the new Specialist Upskilling Programme and we are hoping it will generate interest and introduce young people into the industry.

It's time to support this training in the heart of Wales and start delivering and promoting the SUP to introduce much needed young blood into the industry.

The growing skills gap in construction is a topic that has received a great deal of attention in recent years. With fewer young people taking up a career in construction the workforce is steadily getting older, with 22% now over 50 and 15% over 60 years of age. For this reason, attracting young and new people to the sector and providing them with the correct level of training is crucial.

In the last three years, J Randall Roofing has developed a successful Youth Generation Programme. Matty Falarski, our youngest apprentice, began his journey when he was just 16 years old. Working from our local yard then progressing to a live site, he's yet another proven success story. To develop the younger generation, you need a professional, dedicated team who have the time and patience to go at the individual's pace and meet their requirements – and importantly – making sure they have full knowledge of risks on site to themselves and others.

Whilst working with our CITB advisor, Helen Murray, and our local trainers who support reduced training costs, alongside CCTAL, we regulate and monitor the criteria required for each individual and create support in the areas they require. Our aim is to develop the apprentices to have the confidence and ability to make decisions on site and to identify any health and



(l-r): Joby Randall MD J Randall Roofing Ltd, Lee Sims Regional Manager, Langley Waterproofing Ltd, Matty, J Randall Roofing Ltd, Tom Kerr, Sales Director Langley Waterproofing Ltd, Monique Jones, Operations Manager J Randall Roofing Ltd.



safety issues that may occur. The health and safety aspect of their development is aided by the close relationship we have with PCR Global, who are our company advisors.

At J Randall we currently have six upskilled apprentices, with more to be developed in the future.

There are many geographical and logistical challenges faced by roofing contractors in gaining formal qualifications. These include training only being available in certain areas, making opportunities inaccessible for many local roofers. Thanks to Langley Waterproofing Systems and WNRTG, the opportunities they are providing within Wales have created a much more accessible training opportunity for our operatives.

A recent update confirmed that the issue of limited skilled operatives

To develop the younger generation, you need a professional, dedicated team who have the time and patience to go at the individual's pace.

in the industry remains a prevalent one. NFRC and Glenigans confirmed one of the most significant challenges faced by the roofing industry in 2021 is labour shortages.

Our Youth Generation Programme is made up of practical sessions - covering key topics such as preparation, installation, and repair, as well as fire safety requirements in line with the NFRC Safe2Torch guidelines.

Training and qualifications should be at the forefront of all roofing business' minds, it is a key element of work safety, allowing individuals to approach daily tasks competently with an understanding of their surroundings – essential when working at height.

We see training and qualifications as offering plenty of other key benefits. They include retaining key

members of the team, encouraging professional development, maintaining a competitive advantage, and ensuring peace of mind for clients.

Indeed, more clients are looking at companies' associations and qualifications. This is in part due to the awareness gained by clients of their responsibilities to those accessing the roof, of building compliance, and the importance of competent and professional companies within the chain as part of the build process.

Welsh Construction Confidence

With the new training on offer, roofing contractors in Wales can now feel confident in taking on new apprentices who have little or no experience. In addition to its local availability, the training is fully funded by CITB's Skills and Training fund. CITB has said:

"Welsh construction is leading the way in supporting Britain's post-Covid economic recovery. Our work to invest in the construction sector, including investing £140 million in the industry over this financial year, will support employers.

"We're delighted to be working in partnership with J Randall Roofing Contractors Ltd and Wales National Roofing Training Group to provide the training and support workers need. Roofing is a key part of our sector, and this initiative will support people in realising their ambitions as they pursue a rewarding career in construction."

Investing in essential assets and young people to continue to boost the economy through construction and ensuring easily accessible qualifications are available to help bridge the skills gap will ensure that those within the industry are trained to deliver quality and compliant installations. ■

Discover the New Range of Fittings and Accessories from Cedral Roofs

Cedral, the UK's leading provider of fibre cement slates, has extended its range into fittings and accessories.

The new portfolio of products will include a range of fittings and accessories for pitched roof ventilation, ridges and hips, verges and general fixings. The new range is designed to complement Cedral's market leading Rivendale, Birkdale, Thrutone Smooth and Thrutone Textured fibre cement slates, and is available through a nationwide network of stockists and distributors.

Formerly under the brand name of Eternit, Cedral has been putting roofs over the nation's heads for decades, offering customers innovative roofing solutions alongside professional expertise and advice. Its mission has always been to help customers build more beautiful and resilient homes, using the company's unparalleled expertise and extensive experience in fibre cement and roofing.

The New Cedral Accessories Range

The new Cedral accessories range includes:

Main roof ventilation: The Cedral main roof ventilation range includes an in-line slate vent designed to offer a 10,000mm² free area, which is easy to install without compromising on either dimensions or the aesthetic look of the roof. It's available in two sizes – 600x300mm and 500x250mm. A new large capacity vent is supplied with a



click-on 160mm multi-adaptor to accommodate pipes down to 110mm, with the vent offering a 20,000 mm² free area. The range also includes a felt weir and flexipipe.

Verges: New high-quality verge trims are durable, cost-effective and designed to work with both new roofs and renovations.

Ridges and hips: An expanded and improved range for ridges and hips includes a new dry ridge ventilation system, end cap and smaller, more compact fibre cement ridges which are 525mm. All Cedral ridges can all be used with its dry ridge ventilation system, which secures ridges at the roof apex, is resistant to wind uplift and ventilates the roof to BS 5534 requirements.



General fixings - introducing the Cedral Slater's Tub, perfect for a pallet of slates: Alongside Cedral's range of copper nails and copper disc rivets, new to the market is the slater's tub containing a mixture of nails and rivets. It's designed to sit safely between the roof battens on projects, making it an indispensable pack for roofers. Each tub holds enough fixings to cover a pallet of slates so it's easy to order exactly what's needed for the job.

Online expertise: To support the new range of roofing accessories, Cedral has produced an extensive portfolio of technical product information including wallcharts, product literature and fixings information, all available on the company website Cedral.world.

At-a-glance guide to Cedral accessories

- ❑ The new comprehensive range of fittings and accessories complements Cedral's fibre cement slate range
- ❑ All products are carefully designed, tested and manufactured to save time on site and provide the best protection for every roofing project

❑ Cedral offers complete dry fix and ventilation systems

❑ All roofing accessories are BS 5534 compliant

Lisa Grosse, brand manager at Cedral, said: "Our mission is help installers and contractors to create beautiful, sustainable and long-lasting homes with the minimum of hassle. Over the last few months, we've been working hard behind the scenes to create this new range of fittings and accessories that will bring greater consistency and quality to our slate products.

"Post-lockdown, roofers are now busier than ever – and so our aim is to make it even simpler for them to specify the right fittings and accessories for the job. We're delighted with the new range and we're sure this development will be welcomed by the industry." ■

Contact Cedral

For more information about the new Cedral roofing range of fittings and accessories, visit the website at Cedral.world, fill out an online form and one of Cedral's dedicated sales team will get in touch. You can also contact Cedral on email: enquiriesuk@etexgroup.com; or tel: +44 (0) 1283 501505.

SPRA Conference and Awards 2021



The SPRA Conference and Awards 2021 event was a welcome occasion for membrane manufacturer, associate, and contractor members – as well as the wider roofing and construction industries. An occasion to reflect on and acknowledge their positive contributions in what has been an exceedingly difficult 18 months.

Attendees were invited to look to the future, with presentations from key industry stakeholders that outlined some of the most important current and upcoming challenges faced by the construction industry and how we might work together to solve them.

The highlights of the virtual event – the first of its kind in SPRA's history – were the announcements of award winners and highly commended submissions for each category. Submissions were restricted to projects completed in 2019, due to the postponement of the 2020 event and downturn in productivity caused by the pandemic. The effective extension of time for submissions proved to be a silver lining, with a record number received and all featuring detailed challenging projects and excellent workmanship.

Best Detailing



Highly Commended

Jeffery Street Student Court, Gillingham
Danosa working with Invictus Roofing Ltd

The design and construction of this affordable student accommodation in a busy location were driven by aesthetics and thermal efficiency, both of which were enhanced by Invictus Roofing's installation of the Danosa warm roof system. Despite delays to the programme, which led to the works having to be completed in cold weather conditions and a change of specification, the finish of the waterproofing and the accurate setting out of the décor profiles were particularly impressive.



Winner △

Former Holmlea Primary School, Glasgow

IKO Polymeric working with JMS External Envelopes Ltd

The flexibility of the IKO Armourplan system installed on the former Holmlea Primary School allowed the contractor, JMS External Envelopes, to manage a lack of site storage space; negotiate tight construction tolerances; and minimise waste – while still achieving the attractive aesthetic of a standing seam roof. The attention and care paid to the detailing of complex geometries, narrow valleys, 36 pipe penetrations, 43 roof lights, steep pitches and terraces – as well as the installation of the standing seam profiles – demonstrated outstanding workmanship.

Kerry Parker-Wray of IKO Plc was happy with the win; "IKO were very happy to be shortlisted and then win Best Detailing award with JMS External Envelopes as the installing contractor. The complexity, attention to detail and the results speak for themselves."

Best Safe Working



Winner △

Bell's Sports Centre, Perth

Sika Sarnafil working with AIM Developments Limited

This sports centre had to stay fully operational while its roof was refurbished by AIM Developments using a Sika Sarnafil membrane; a difficult challenge exacerbated by the domed shape of the roof. The solution was to use a Limpet height safety and access system – usually used to carry out maintenance on wind turbines – the first UK roofing project to do so. This afforded increased flexibility around the work area and rendered traditional scaffolding unnecessary, which reduced costs, noise levels, and time on site.

On news of winning the award, Kirsten Morrison of AIM Developments said: "The whole team at AIM Developments are so proud to have won the SPRA Awards 2021 Best Safe Working award for Bell's Sports Centre, Perth."

"It is extremely rewarding to have been recognised for this as we invest heavily in maintaining our safety standards throughout our business."

"The main challenge that this project presented was the dome shaped roof. However, by utilising a Limpet system we were able to manoeuvre around working areas safely and efficiently to install the Sika Sarnafil weatherproofing system."

"This was a first for UK roofing to use such methods and both ourselves and client were impressed with its performance and the flexibility that it offered, whilst ensuring the safety of our employees and members of the public was at no point compromised."



Highly Commended

Waterside Theatre, Aylesbury

Sika Sarnafil working with Delomac Limited

Delomac completed this complicated project on a site landlocked by a busy road, canal, and pedestrian access areas. Over 210m² of materials were removed and installed – including a Sika Sarnafil membrane –

making use of long-reach crane distribution, flame-free installation, and out-of-hours waste removal. This allowed administrative operations and community amenity use to continue uninterrupted, as well as a Christmas pantomime to take place in dry, warm conditions. Phase one delivered over 12,600 accident- and incident-free workplace hours.

SPRA Conference and Awards 2021



Best Refurbishment



Winner 
Reading University Library, Reading

Sika Sarnafil working with Owlsworth Roofing Ltd
As part of a £40 million redevelopment to provide better access, security, and improved energy efficiency, Owlsworth

Roofing refurbished each of the 10 existing flat roof areas on this site. They encountered four types of structural deck; asbestos containing materials; built just under 500m of new parapet walls; and installed Sika Sarnafil membranes in as many as eight different specifications – all while the library remained operational for

students during a programme of works that spanned over three years. Peter Mably of Owlsworth Roofing reflected on the effort that went into the project: “Everyone at Owlsworth Roofing is extremely proud to have received the SPRA Award for Best Refurbishment 2021.

“As a Reading-based single ply roofing specialist, we were able to put a great deal of effort into the University of Reading Library refurbishment project and always knew that it had a good story to tell, but recognition of these efforts from within the industry adds yet another level of satisfaction for all those involved.”



Highly Commended

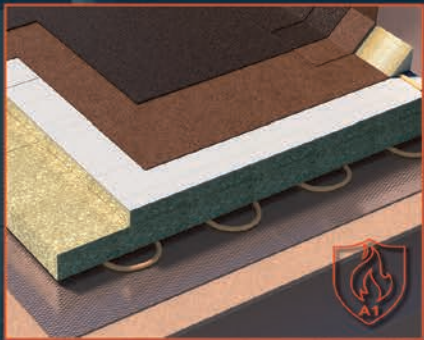
Royal Gunpowder Mills, Waltham Abbey
Sika Sarnafil working with Contour Roofing (Essex) Limited

A hundreds-of-years-old scheduled monument, the Royal Gunpowder Mills were once home to tonnes of explosives. The project comprised listed buildings with steeply pitched roofs exposed to high winds, which were open to the public for the duration of the works. This site presented Contour Roofing with numerous challenges. The Sika Sarnafil self-adhered system installed allowed them to be overcome and resulted in a refurbishment that is durable, sympathetic and upholds the heritage charity’s mission to conserve the site for the public.

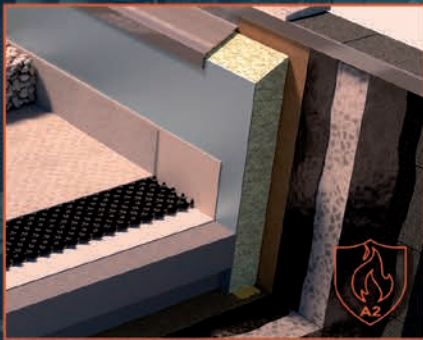


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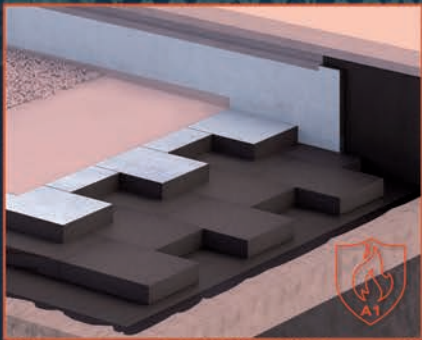
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SPRA Conference and Awards 2021



Best Sustainability



Winner

Cwm Mawr, Penycwm

Flex-R working with Randell and Janes Roofing Specialists Limited

This unique project is in a Site of Special Scientific Interest, located in the heart of the Welsh National Park. The planning requirements were therefore challenging, and it was necessary to ensure that the final design allowed for a contemporary, low impact green

dwelling. The Flex-R RubberBond FleeceBack membrane was chosen for the green roof waterproofing. Difficulty due to restricted access added complexity to the project. The final stunning result is a curved roof covered in living plants, giving the impression that the property is growing out of the hillside.

Danny Cole, Sales Director at Flex-R said: "I am immensely

proud of the of the hard work by our contractor Randall and Janes Roofing and the team at Flex-R at Cwm Mawr. Due to its location in a protected site this stunning project provided numerous challenges for the contractors, which even included the installers having to carry the materials by hand to the site down a long, narrow track!

"Cwm Mawr with its unique RubberBond FleeceBack EPDM membrane topped with a green roof is a great achievement by everyone involved. It is testament to how, through our knowledge of the sector and by working in partnership with the clients, architects and Specialist Registered Installers, we can create elegant, high quality projects."

Highly Commended

Spencer Courtyard, London

SIG Design and Technology working with AJ Lucas Roofing Contractors Limited

Spencer Courtyard is located on a former London brownfield site. What was originally a harsh concrete wasteland scattered with ramshackle buildings has been transformed with 75% of the site now covered in greenery including green roofs to the residential properties. SIG Design and Technology supplied IKO Armourplan PSG fleece-backed membrane for the project in a fully adhered waterproofing specification. Narrow width membrane rolls were used minimizing waste as the pitched roof surfaces have various rooflights, pipes, door and window thresholds. The project was designed to promote biodiversity in its urban setting and provide an aesthetically pleasing view for both the residents and neighbours.



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SPRA Conference and Awards 2021



Best New Build



Winner

St George's College, Weybridge
Sika Sarnafil working with Malone Roofing (Newbury) Limited

This new activity centre's roof has a beautiful, free-form shape that curves in multiple directions.

It required a flexible, pliable waterproofing solution provided by Sika Sarnafil and excellent workmanship from the contractor, Malone Roofing, whose operatives had to negotiate steep slopes and do all hot air welding by hand.

The installation was completed with décor profiles, photovoltaic

panels, a Latchways ManSafe system, and Sika Walkway to provide safe access for maintenance – resulting in a durable, energy-efficient, inspiring development for future generations.

Tim Halls of Sika commented, "SPRA sets the standard for single

ply roofing, so we're delighted to have won Best New Build for St George's College.

"It's testament to the impeccable workmanship of Malone Roofing, in close partnership with our Sika roofing team, on what was an incredibly complex project."

Highly Commended

Maidenhill Primary School, Newton Mearns

Bauder Ltd working with Procladd (Scotland) Ltd

Procladd installed 1,800m² of Bauder's Thermofol PVC system on the main roof of this brand new, one-of-a-kind establishment south of Glasgow, as well as 360m² of photovoltaic panels – one of the largest PV projects that Bauder has produced in Scotland. The hybrid specification of mineral wool and PIR insulation was designed to meet acoustic and thermal performance requirements, while the combination of the PVC membrane and photovoltaic solution provides a cost-effective, high quality, lightweight waterproofing solution and renewable source of energy.



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Flat Roofs and Fire Strategy - Designing Out Risk

Stringent thermal regulations require warm flat roof build-ups to specify an increased amount of insulation material, while flat roofs also play an important role in the overall fire safety strategy of a building. It means roofing contractors are often required to navigate multiple, complex design demands. Examining the role of the roof in modern construction, Will Wigfield, Product Manager - Building Envelope at ROCKWOOL UK, discusses how to effectively balance these design criteria to deliver buildings that minimise heat loss as well as fire risk.



In building design, flat roofs offer specifiers flexibility and versatility, enabling the role of the roof to extend far beyond its original purpose of keeping a building watertight.

While flat roofs have housed electrical and plant equipment for some time, they now also provide designers with a practical space to harvest energy, create green roofs and provide garden terraces. Alongside this, it is important to consider that the roof is a fundamental part of an overall fire safety strategy.

With these considerations high on the construction agenda and increasingly stringent energy efficiency targets coming to the fore, specifiers and contractors are faced with ever-challenging specifications and roof insulation plays a fundamental role in delivering design criteria.

The Fifth Façade

As an integral part of the building envelope the roof can be conceptualised as the 'fifth-façade'. As with other areas of the building fabric, evaluating its role in meeting performance criteria from the outset can help towards satisfying thermal efficiency, acoustic performance and fire protection.

In modern construction, warm flat roofs contribute to the building's overall thermal performance and energy efficiency. As almost a quarter of heat can be lost through an uninsulated roof¹, insulation can help to reduce heat loss and support architects as they navigate the increasingly complex requirements of Approved Document L (ADL) and the net-zero agenda.



Beyond this, fire safety is another driving force of design, and ensuring a building meets the requirements of Approved Document B (ADB), which has been designed to safeguard occupants and firefighters, is a priority.

Best practice is to consider how flat roof design can mitigate risk and streamline the overall construction process.

Regulations and combustibility

Minimising the risk of fire spread across the building façade is a main consideration for specifiers and contractors. However, the roof is not subject to the same fire safety legislation as external walls in high rise buildings.

The ban on combustible materials prohibits their use in the external walls of relevant buildings over

The ban on combustible materials prohibits their use in the external walls of relevant buildings over 18m. A proposal to lower this height threshold to 11m is currently under review. Despite its role in the building fabric, the roof is not currently included in the scope of the ban.

18m.² A proposal to lower this height threshold to 11m is currently under review.³ Despite its role in the building fabric, the roof is not currently included in the scope of the ban.

Efforts to increase energy efficiency have led to an increasing amount of insulation being installed in roof constructions. If a combustible product is used then the fire load will be significantly increased –

introducing an additional fuel source that can contribute to fire spread. The implications of this fire risk can be compounded by the many roles of the modern roof.

The recognised standard for classifying roofs and roof coverings exposed to external fire is EN 13501-5. Applicable to ADB, Test 4 of DD CEN/TS 1187:2012 provides the test method for evaluating the performance of a roof under fire

exposure, which includes exposure to burning brands, simulated winds and radiant heat.

The highest possible performance is classified as BROOF(t4). However, it is important to note that this classification is only applicable to the performance of the roof when exposed to an external fire source. BROOF(t4) does not consider the fire threat from an internal source, nor does it assess the combustibility of the system or its component parts. Naturally, the roof's positioning in a building places it at risk of fire threat from both internal and external sources, and as a result, it needs to play a crucial part in the overall fire safety strategy.

Mitigating risk of fire spreading from internal and external sources is considered best practice for contractors in order to reduce the impact a roof fire could have on the post-fire viability of the building. The use of non-combustible insulation, such as stone wool, supports a building in achieving a high level of thermal efficiency without compromising fire performance.

The simplest and most effective way to determine a product's combustibility is to review its Euroclass rating. A non-combustible material is defined by a Euroclass rating of A1 or A2-s1, d0⁴.

Regulation compliance in practice

The interface between the roof system and fire compartment lines is also an important consideration. To maintain compartmentation, it is essential that critical junctions between all elements, including the external envelope, flat roofs and compartment walls, and floors, are addressed.

ADB Volume 2 considers this in Section 8.26, stating: "To reduce the risk of fire spreading over the roof from one compartment to another, a 1500mm wide zone of the roof, either side of the wall, should have a covering classified as BROOF(t4), on a substrate or deck of a material rated class A2-s3, d2 or better, as set out in Diagram 8.2a."



Naturally, the roof's positioning in a building places it at risk of fire threat from both internal and external sources, and as a result, it needs to play a crucial part in the overall fire safety strategy.

Where Section 8.26 applies, and in the case of a warm flat roof, this means that the substrate material – the insulation layer – must achieve a Euroclass reaction-to-fire rating of at least A2-s3, d2, and the roof covering across the junction must be classified as BROOF(t4).

It is important to note that roof systems incorporating combustible materials as low as Euroclass F can achieve a rating of BROOF(t4). As such, this classification does not automatically allow such roof systems to be continued uninterrupted over compartment walls without further restriction.

Wider specification considerations

Tapered falls and gutter details balance effective rainwater management with an increasing demand for thermal efficiency, but introduce further challenges to roof design.

BS 6229:2018⁵ specifies that tapered falls should be "designed with a fall

by BS 6229:2018, which states that the roofs of heated buildings "must be insulated to provide a U-value that does not exceed 0.35 W/m²K at any point".

Designing out risk with non-combustible insulation

Architects are required to navigate complex design criteria, such as satisfying thermal and acoustic requirements along with any additional performance considerations. As a result, many are now finding it preferable to specify non-combustible insulation across the entire roof.

Simplifying the route to ADB compliance, non-combustible insulation, such as stone wool, will not contribute to the spread of fire and will therefore support the overall fire safety strategy of a building, particularly in relation to compartmentation. Stone wool is able to withstand temperatures in excess of 1,000°C and does not emit significant toxic smoke. Beyond this, stone wool insulation can be used to meet the relevant performance criteria in ADL, preventing heat loss through the roof.

Some flat roofing solutions have also been acoustically tested and demonstrate reduced transfer of external noise into buildings - giving the roof an additional performance dimension. This is particularly beneficial in the case of schools and hospitals.

As roofs become more demanding and building regulations become increasingly stringent, effectively balancing design requirements with performance and compliance can be achieved with non-combustible insulation solutions. Non-combustible materials can satisfy performance criteria and streamline both the design and installation process for architects and contractors. ■

NOTES

- 1 Energy Saving Trust <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/advice/roof-and-loft-insulation/>
- 2 The Building (Amendment) Regulations 2018
- 3 Building Magazine 2020, <https://www.building.co.uk/news/government-announces-plans-to-toughen-combustible-cladding-ban/5103820.article>
- 4 Within the context of Approved Document B, a substrate or deck with a minimum classification of A2-s3, d2 is required at the junction with compartment walls.
- 5 BS 6229:2018 – 'Flat roofs with continuously supported flexible waterproof coverings – Code of practice'
- 6 Annex E of BS EN ISO 6946, 'Building components and building elements — Thermal resistance and thermal transmittance — Calculation methods'

Tapered Insulation: Single or Multi-Layered Systems?

The main – and very important – objectives for a roof are to keep the building beneath it warm and dry. Failure can lead to costly consequences - higher fuel bills or expensive repairs. As James Wilkinson, Design Team Manager at Gradient explains, a well-designed tapered insulation scheme is essential to ensuring a flat roof's waterproofing and thermal performance. Critical to this is deciding which tapered system works best for your roof: single-layer or multi-layer?



Quality and performance should override every other consideration when it comes to specifying roof insulation. The industrywide issue of buildings falling short of as-design expectation is perpetuated by contractor and client taking a bottom-line approach to product selection. In the long-term, quality really does pay. This is evident when comparing the merits of single and multi-layer insulation which on the face of it, offer different routes to the same destination.

Multi-layer option

In plain and simple terms, multi-layer solutions are traditionally more time and labour intensive to install. The complexity of installing a multi-layer system can lead to costly installation errors on account of layers being built-up incorrectly. To achieve the appropriate falls for a flat roof application, for example, requires build-ups of differing thickness. One point of the roof might require 200mm-thick insulation comprising two flat boards and a tapered panel, whilst other areas might require a four-layer build-up.

In a multi-layer application, each board within the build-up needs to be individually bonded to the roof. Carried out on site, this can be an extremely laborious and convoluted task. It also incurs other issues. Outside air temperature can affect the adhesive's quality: too hot and it's in danger of solidifying too rapidly; too cold and it might not set properly. Such issues threaten the overall performance of the installation, which relies on the consistency of each element of the insulation build-up.

Furthermore, multi-layer systems require extra vigilance in terms of on-site housekeeping. Each layer may result in three or four different offcuts that will need to be stored and disposed of appropriately. During the course of a large project, such a build-up of materials can cause confusion and lead to errors. It's an outcome that is considerably less likely with a single-layer system.

The case for single-layer systems

Bonded in factory-controlled conditions, single-layer insulation systems are ready to install once delivered to site. The insulation within the build-up will have been monitored for its depth and minimum pull-off performance. It leaves installers with the relatively straightforward task of bonding it or mechanically fixing it to the deck – in one block – to the roof, followed by the waterproofing. This not only guarantees the insulation will perform as-designed, it significantly reduces application times. Therefore, whilst a multi-layer solution might appear, on paper at least, to be a more cost-effective option, the benefit is negated by the additional on-site labour, as well as glue costs if adhering the system. There is also the time it takes to bond and install the insulation; a process that is mitigated with a pre-bonded single-layer system.

From a specification point of view, quality is built in with single-layer insulation systems. At Gradient, for example, our technical teams will carry-out a pre-design survey of a roof to determine the precise position of falls and other outlets. Once agreed, the specification will



The industrywide issue of buildings falling short of as-design expectation is perpetuated by contractor and client taking a bottom-line approach to product selection.



be signed off by the contractor and client, and the manufacturer can get to work on producing the system itself. Detailed drawings can then accompany the completed single-layer system to site to further simplify the installation process. This involves a single bond between the insulation and the vapour control layer.

Putting the design and manufacture of roof insulation into the hands of experts ensures its long-term performance and minimises the potential for periodical repairs, thus adding further weight to the adage that ultimately, quality really does pay. ■

CUPA PIZARRAS Continues to Support the Next Generation of Roofers

Spanish slate manufacturer CUPA PIZARRAS is continuing its college sponsorship scheme for a third year, and extending it to include an additional college. The annual program includes CPD presentations, free of charge slate pallets and a trip to the CUPA PIZARRAS' quarries in Spain, COVID-19

allowing. Recommended to CUPA PIZARRAS by the National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC), the colleges were chosen for the outstanding achievements of their students. Currently on the sponsorship scheme are South Devon College, Leeds College of Building, Newcastle College, Edinburgh College, Dundee and Angus College and finally Bolton College, which was a new addition this academic year. A core part of the sponsorship includes the presentation of CUPA PIZARRAS' RIBA-approved CPD, The Definitive Natural Slate, to the colleges. CUPA PIZARRAS also provides pallets of free slate to the colleges for use during training as well as a goodie bag for every student. Steve Dowell, Lecturer of Roof Slate at South Devon College, said: "I think that being backed by a high-quality product manufacturer, allowing us to provide them with slate, merchandise and additional training, really gives our students the confidence to succeed." Visit www.cupapizarra.com/uk.



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Geocel Teams up with Britain's Favourite Builder to Set the Standards on Sealants

One of the UK and Ireland's leading sealant and adhesive suppliers, Geocel has announced a partnership with popular builder and TV personality, Julian Perryman. Geocel will be working with Julian throughout 2021 to highlight a number of its product campaigns as well the work it is doing raising awareness for the Lighthouse Construction Industry Charity (Lighthouse Club). A video series, 'Setting the Standard with Julian Perryman', promoted across Geocel's social media and YouTube channel will document Julian's ongoing work with the brand. In the coming months, Julian is due to take up the ecoSEAL Challenge to try out Geocel's reusable ecoSEAL system. To kick off the partnership, Julian has recently interviewed Bill Hill, CEO of the Lighthouse Club on behalf of Geocel, to find out about the support it offers to construction workers and their families. Julian commented: "I am enjoying testing out the company's comprehensive product range, as well as a number of products from the wider Sherwin Williams portfolio, and highlighting the work it has been doing to raise money for the Lighthouse Club." To watch the series please follow @GeocelUK on Facebook or subscribe to the Geocel YouTube channel, here: www.youtube.com/channel/UCkqC3ly1F42-8zMTNAWnc6w.



23

Snickers LiteWork Workwear – Making Light Work of WarmWeather

The 2021 LITEWork clothing range delivers great thermal comfort in warmer months with light, quick drying fabrics that will keep you cool and comfortable all day. The new range of 'Rip Stop' shirts are stretchy and breathable, offering UPF50+ sun protection – great for craftsmen who work long hours outdoors. While 37.5°C fabric technology in the mid- and base-layer garments have features for efficient ventilation and moisture transport to keep you comfortable all day. The ergonomic, body-mapping Trousers, Shirts, Shorts, Jackets and Windproofers have all the comfort and functionality of other Snickers Workwearstretch garments delivering extra freedom of movement and improved performance on site. Just like high performance sportswear, they'll also keep you feeling cool and looking smart whatever you're doing and wherever you are on site this summer. So, to make sure you get the right protection, flexibility, durability and ventilation, check out the Snickers Workwear LiteWork range for precisely the right garments to fit your workday. Getting more information on the Snickers Workwear clothing range is easy. Tel 01484 854788 or visit www.snickersworkwear.co.uk.



25

Brett Martin Announces Environmental Product Declarations

The UK's leading supplier of rooftop systems Brett Martin Daylight Systems is delighted to announce Environmental Product Declarations for two of its site assembled and one of its factory assembled rooftights. In order to support customers with Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) for its most popular products, Brett Martin approached the highly respected Building Research

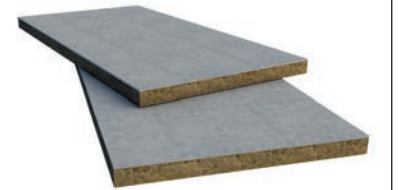


Establishment to commission two site assembled and one factory assembled EPD. For configurations not covered by the EPDs, Brett Martin is able to generate a configuration specific assessment. This also means that the embodied carbon of Brett Martin's industrial rooftop systems is available for specifiers and building owners to respond to enquiries from the market. Bill Hawker, Technical Director at Brett Martin Daylight Systems said: "For a company committed to supplying sustainable products and one which constantly invests to make its products and manufacturing processes more sustainable and efficient, this is a great advance." All of Brett Martins' products are designed, developed and manufactured in the UK in its own ISO 9001 quality accredited and ISO 14001 environmentally accredited factories. Brett Martin's EPDs can be accessed via the following link to the Green Book Live: <https://www.greenbooklive.com>. Visit www.brettmartin.com.

22

ROCKWOOL Expands Flat Roof Range with Non-Combustible Upright Board

In its latest step to help specifiers and contractors mitigate fire risk in the fifth façade, ROCKWOOL has launched HARDROCK UB34; an insulation solution specially designed for parapet walls and upstands on flat roofs which is non-combustible in case of fire. A robust, thermally efficient, upstand insulation

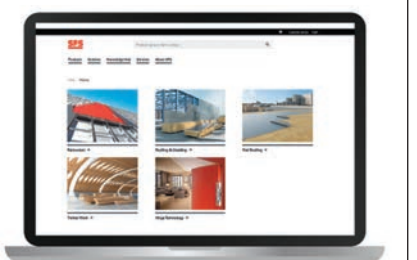


board, UB34 combines a dense 50mm slab of ROCKWOOL stone wool insulation bonded to a rigid 6mm fibre cement board making it impact and weather resistant. HARDROCK UB34 has been fully tested and classified as Euroclass A2-s1, d0, meaning it's suitable for use on buildings over 18 metres that are affected by the ban on combustible materials. "UB34 helps specifiers and contractors mitigate fire risk by providing a durable, non-combustible insulation solution compliant with the latest guidance for buildings over 18m," said Will Wigfield, Product Manager – Building Envelope at ROCKWOOL UK. "A purpose designed solution, it's easy to install – and its stone wool core provides an excellent thermal performance." HARDROCK UB34 is manufactured with a ROCKWOOL base slab, and has thermal conductivity of 0.034 W/mK, helping to reduce thermal bridging through roof upstands. The board is compatible with a range of flat roof systems, including single-ply and inverted. Visit www.rockwool.com/uk/flat-roof-hub.

24

SFS' New eCommerce Website Signals Step-Change for Digital Construction

Global fasteners and fixings and building envelope specialist SFS marks a new era for digital construction, following the launch of its new eCommerce-ready website. Officially launched in May 2021, the website is a key development in SFS' digital transformation strategy. As well as being able to purchase a large array of fasteners, fixings and building envelope products, customers



can benefit from accessing live data on orders and products, see their order status and create repeat orders. Alongside the online ordering system, the website is a central resource for products, services, technical and product data, and provides useful industry commentary and information. This includes SFS' existing digital tools in its SFS ConnectSuite, such as the rainscreen subframe system Project Builder, as well as SFS Talks on topics ranging from specification, installation and digitalisation. David Wigglesworth, M.D. at SFS UK, said, "Our new website is just the starting point in our digitalisation strategy. The platform significantly streamlines how customers can interact with us, while giving them full transparency to data about their orders, as well as a wealth of information to make key decisions." Visit <https://uk.sfs.com>.

28

Taking the Smart Approach to Specifying Smoke Vents

Here, Bilco UK, manufacturer of Roof Access Hatches, Smoke Vents and Roof Safety products, shares its top three considerations that professionals should focus on when specifying NSHEVs.

Natural Smoke and Heat Exhaust Ventilators (NSHEVs), known as smoke vents, provide essential ventilation in the event of a building fire. Installed in the roof, they open by sensors or remote control in response to exhaust smoke and noxious fumes.

Suitable for installation in a range of buildings, from educational spaces such as universities to commercial environments such as warehouses, the aim of a smoke vent is to make a dangerous situation safer for all individuals.

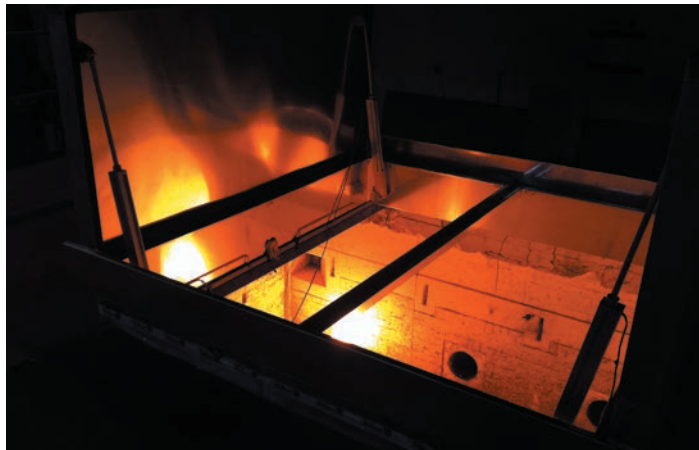
1. Understanding the seriousness of smoke

While many may assume that the biggest danger of a fire is the flames, smoke inhalation can be far more life threatening. Statistics from the UK Fire & Rescue Services show the most common cause of fire deaths and injury between 2018 and 2019 was 'being overcome by gas or smoke.'

As a fire develops inside a building it burns the oxygen in the air, removing most of the available oxygen as part of 'incomplete combustion', which in turn produces toxic and potentially deadly carbon monoxide.

When a fire ignites in an enclosed space the smoke rising from the fire gets trapped by the ceiling. It then begins to spread, forming an expanding layer that leaks into any gaps in the floors or walls. This can lead to individuals becoming disorientated, with their vision becoming increasingly clouded, hindering safe evacuation.

The installation of smoke vents in appropriate locations around a building will protect occupants in the event of a fire by preventing the build-up of smoke and noxious



A NSHEV plays a pivotal role in fire protection by successfully exhausting smoke, they can also be utilised for comfort ventilation.

fumes. It reduces the risk of smoke inhalation, horizontal fire spread and secondary ignitions as the smoke is quickly exhausted, enabling fire-fighters to safely enter the building to tackle the blaze and building occupants to exit quickly.

2. Knowing your regulations

As a specifier or contractor, ensuring the right product is used in the correct context is important to confirming it is fit for purpose and regulatory compliant providing the highest levels of safety.

When specifying a smoke vent for a roof, it should be compliant with the Construction Products Regulation 305/2011 and CE-marked with a Declaration of Conformity. It should also be manufactured to meet the demands of Building Regulations, Approved Document B, BS9999 and BS EN12101-2.

Choosing a smoke vent that meets these regulations will help to achieve compliance, and ensure the operational reliability and performance of the smoke vent throughout its lifetime.

The control of the smoke vent should also be considered, whether this is in the form of a dedicated management system or a solution integrated into a networked fire alarm system.

3. Customising your specification

While the functionality and quality of the smoke vent will be the primary consideration, aesthetics can also be an important factor. Here a 'one size fits all approach' won't do, as specifiers and contractors have a wide range of elements to choose from to ensure the product is tailored to meet the project's unique needs. Customisation may include elements such as hardware, paint finishes, curb liners, manual or automatic control units, open-close switches and rain and wind sensors.

While a NSHEV plays a pivotal role in fire protection by successfully exhausting smoke, they can also be utilised for comfort ventilation, removing the requirement for additional roof penetration. The vents also adopt the role of a skylight, allowing natural light into the space below.

By installing the smoke vent with the addition of a fixed vertical safety ladder, it can provide an adequate means of escape from the roof and offer access to contractors for maintenance.

Exploring the particular requirements for each development and working closely with manufacturers at the specification stage will help design a solution that is fit for purpose, whilst also ensuring compliance with all relevant legislations.

For further information on Bilco UK's complete range of roof access solutions, visit www.bilcouk.co.uk or call 01284 701696.

ROCKWOOL Delivers Total Insulation Performance for Clarin College

Priority Roofing has installed over 7,500m² of ROCKWOOL Multi-Fix Dual Density for the new school development at Clarin College, Athenry. In supplying the non-combustible insulation solution, ROCKWOOL enabled the roofing contractor to deliver against a complex specification which required thermal and acoustic performance without compromising on fire safety. As a non-combustible insulation solution, ROCKWOOL HARDROCK® Multi-Fix Dual Density met the fire safety requirements while also delivering against the thermal and acoustic targets. Clarin College's new flat roof achieved a U-value of 0.15 W/m²K, and met or exceeded the 35 db IANL requirement across both the general building and the gymnasium. To combat reverberation and improve the acoustic environment in the gymnasium, ROCKWOOL Acoustic Infills were laid in the troughs of the pre-finished steel deck. The warm flat roof build up was finished with a BauderThermofol PVC layer. Kevin Ryan, Director at Priority Roofing: "We have worked with Bauder and ROCKWOOL on a couple of large projects installing both bituminous and single ply systems. The combination of the availability of the products and the technical backup received was superior to any other system that we have worked with." Find out more at www.rockwool.com/uk/clarin-college.



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Green-Tech Provides Irrigation Solution for Rooftop Planting Scheme in London

80 Charlotte Street, in the exclusive Fitzrovia district of London is a mixed-use development featuring an impressive line-up of greening measures, all helping to achieve Carbon Net Zero status. Having the kudos of being London's first all-electric building, 80 Charlotte Street is rated BREEAM 2014 Excellent and is on track to achieve LEED 2009 Gold, meaning that this cutting-edge building is expected to consume 25% less energy and generate 34% lower greenhouse gas emissions than the average commercial building. Green-tech were contacted by Barton Willmore landscape architects, to quote for irrigation for the many planters that were required on two of the external terraces; part of a design developed by Piercy & Company Architects for a specific high-end tenant fit-out. The most effective solution was to use Green-tech's Mona tank system. This subterranean reservoir system irrigates the soil through capillary action, reducing watering frequency whilst at the same time, aerating the soil. A spokesperson from Barton Willmore Landscape Architects says, "We have worked with Green-tech for many years now, and they can always be relied on not only to help out at the front end with specification and cost proposals, but also provide a reliable service when it comes to supply."



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West Fraser Product Application: Roofing (OSB)

Getting buildings wind and watertight is a priority on any construction site so choosing a quick, easy to install, reliable and versatile roofing system is vital. High quality roof decking or pitched roof sarking is an essential component and Oriented Strand Board (OSB) is now the preferred option for many. Unsurprisingly, given the product's outstanding attributes, West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero OSB3 or SterlingOSB Zero T&G is frequently the first choice. Ideal for structural use in load bearing dry or humid conditions, SterlingOSB Zero OSB3 offers great value and durability. Stronger than most softwood ply, thanks to its makeup of multiple layers of real wood strands pressed together, it is designed to withstand the toughest of conditions. Working with the boards is trouble free as they are uniform in quality with no knots, voids or delamination issues. Helping to cut waste, a range of panel sizes and thicknesses is available to suit all needs. The boards are square-edged so butt together easily and cleanly. Panels are cut and installed on a roof using conventional roofing equipment and are easy to saw, drill, nail or plane. Samples of SterlingOSB Zero, and West Fraser's other construction panels, can be ordered on the website. Visit uk.westfraser.com.



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Makita Launches Latest Promotion for End Users

Makita UK has announced a new redemption scheme for end-users to claim a free XGT 'Bluetooth Jobsite Radio' with the purchase of qualifying XGT products. Tough and durable, the radio is a perfect addition to the job site and is redeemable on purchases of qualifying XGT 40VMax or 80VMax products (2-battery models) with the suffix 'GD201', 'GD202', 'GD203', 'GD204' and 'GD209' from the 1st May 2021 through to the 30th September 2021. The Makita 40VMax XGT Bluetooth Radio is an excellent jobsite companion that is compatible with Makita XGT, LXT and CXT batteries making it easy to slot into an existing family of Makita tools. To claim the free 40VMax XGT Bluetooth Radio (MR002GZ01) via a dedicated microsite, customers will need to provide an invoice or receipt within 28-days of purchasing any of the qualifying products between 1st May and 30th September 2021. Once the application is confirmed, their free gift will arrive within 30 days. "Our radios are the perfect accompaniment to any workplace and are especially appealing as they utilise batteries that many Makita users will already own," says Kevin Brannigan, Marketing Manager at Makita UK. Visit <https://makitauk.com/freexgtradio>.



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Marley Alutec Launches New Hopper Range

Building upon an existing collection, Marley Alutec has launched a new range of contemporary hoppers, which will be available in three sizes; standard, large and extended. Thanks to the new launch, the company is now able to offer the widest range of aluminium hoppers on the domestic market. Sitting at the top of the drainpipe system, hopper solutions enable the collection of water discharged from flat roof areas through parapet openings. The versatile solution can help to prevent water being trapped on a roof in the event of a downpipe blockage. In such an event, the hopper solution still allows the water to safely discharge and overspill. In recent years, they have become increasingly popular in the UK, particularly as we experience longer and more intense bouts of rainfall as a result of climate change. Brian Bell, Head of Technical Services at Marley Alutec commented: "The high-performing range has been designed with functionality in mind and benefits from our years of industry-leading technical expertise. As always, through our team of technical experts, we're also on hand to provide advice and guidance to those specifying and installing our hopper solutions." Visit www.marleyalutec.co.uk/products/hoppers.



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Kima Roofing Accessories Appoints Distributor for its Undertile Roofing Vents

Kima Roofing Accessories is delighted to announce the appointment of Garde Roofing Supplies as a UK distributor for its innovative KimaAir Undertile Roofing Vents. Concealed below the tiles in the batten cavity, KimaAir vents are the new, cost-effective way of protecting roof spaces against excessive condensation. Two versions are available, one for retrofitting (installed from inside the roof space) and one for new roofing projects. Gareth Player-Jones, Director of Garde Roofing Supplies, said, "We are always seeking new roofing products to introduce to the industry and the KimaAir undertile vents tick all our boxes for innovation, quality and value. Their fast and simple fitting saves contractors considerable time and their compact proportions provide considerable flexibility, opening up roof venting solutions for many problematic and hard-to-access areas." Commenting on the appointment, Kima's Export Manager, Glenn Hansen said, "We are confident that Garde's knowledge and experience will prove invaluable to Kima and our customers in the UK." KimaAir vents are available via 500+ builders and roofing merchants and online through specialists such as About Roofing – www.aboutroofing.com. Simon Trenerry, About Roofing's E-commerce Manager commented: "We are excited to be supplying KimaAir vents which offer features not available from other products and solutions to many roofing challenges."



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Hot Melt Cooker Hire

7



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News, Projects, Products & People

Brett Martin Announces Environmental Product Declarations for Modular Rooflights

As a company committed to supplying sustainable products, the UK's leading supplier of rooflight systems Brett Martin Daylight Systems (BMDS) is proud to announce Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) for its most popular modular rooflight products. In addition to EPDs for its industrial rooflight systems, Brett Martin approached the highly respected Building Research Establishment to commission EPDs for its Glass Link, Flat Glass and Mardome Trade rooflights. Commenting on the EPD verification scheme, William McDowell, Specification Sales Manager at Brett Martin Daylight Systems said: "The importance of transparent and independently verified environmental data is increasingly valued both for our existing products and will significantly influence how we develop future low carbon products." All of Brett Martin's products are designed, developed and manufactured in the UK in its own ISO 9001 quality accredited and ISO 14001 environmentally accredited factories. With BBA certification throughout the range, Brett Martin has built up a reputation for providing the best rooflight products, backed by comprehensive technical support, to suit every application. The company also provides special services such as site surveys in advance of manufacture. Brett Martin's EPDs can be accessed via the following link to the Green Book Live. <https://www.greenbooklive.com>. Visit www.brettmartin.com.



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Gradient Service Offering Shows True Value of Contractor Support

Contractor support is crucial to fulfilling a range of criteria regarding flat and tapered roof insulation. It facilitates correct product specification and a high quality installation which is completed in a time and cost-effective manner for the ultimate outcome: a property that benefits the occupant and environment by achieving an industry-required level of energy performance. The contractor/manufacture relationship should not be underestimated as a contributor to a roofing project's success. This type of collaborative approach helps establish trust between parties, opening up an honest dialogue that leads to a greater understanding of each other's requirements for the greater good of the application at hand. Furthermore, manufacturers who are able to offer a high standard of contractor support on a technical and customer service level throughout all stages of a roof's insulation imbue clients with that most vital of commodities: peace of mind. Gradient's surveying department is set up to provide just such a service. Each aspect of Gradient's bespoke, turnkey offering is designed to result in the smooth delivery of a high-performance flat or tapered insulation that provides warm, dry protection for a building's lifespan. Visit www.gradientuk.com.



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Quality Insulation Can Do More than Keep Out the Cold

When it comes to insulation for pitched roofs, it will generally involve insulating beneath slating or tiling, with the option to create a room in a roof. So, which Recticel solutions successfully achieve either outcome? Unlike flat roof insulation, which is specified as much for its compressive strength due to the footfall it's required to withstand, with pitched roofing - as with cavity wall insulation - it's all about the PIR boards' thermal performance. For this we have Eurothane GP, a lightweight, high-performance PIR insulation board which fits easily between roof rafters to create a superbly flat foundation for a smart plaster board finish. To take the process a stage further, in order to create a room in a roof, a combination of Eurothane GP boarding and Eurothane PL is required. A composite board comprising PIR and pre-bonded plasterboard, Eurothane PL reduces instances of thermal bridging to facilitate the rapid, efficient creation of comfortable new living space. With 2020 Part L building regulations - which include a proposal to tighten thermal performance values for flat and pitched roofs in England from 0.20 W/m²K to 0.16 W/m²K - due to be enacted in 2022, the availability of a product such as Eurothane PL will be essential to achieving the new standards.



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Soprema Completes Extruded Membrane Range with Flagon SB Fleece-backed Membrane

Soprema UK, the specialist in waterproofing and building envelope solutions, has completed its Flagon extruded single ply range with the launch of Flagon SB: a fleece-backed extruded roofing membrane. Five times faster to manufacture than conventional cast synthetic roofing membranes, the Flagon range is produced in wider 2.1m rolls, reducing the number of laps for faster installation, improved roof integrity and reduced risk. Created following extensive in-house product development, Flagon SB is the fleece-backed product within Soprema's extruded synthetic membrane range, providing a fully-bonded single ply solution for roof structures. The new product joins Flagon SR, a mechanically-fixed polyester reinforced membrane, and Flagon SV, a glass reinforced bonded membrane. The range offers specifiers a choice of robust extruded membranes for any application, backed by Soprema's technical support and industry-leading warranties. Roland Jackson, commercial director of Soprema UK comments: "We believe Flagon SB is the only fleece backed, fully adhered extruded membrane available on the UK market and the development of this product once again demonstrates Soprema's investment and expertise in product development. We're delighted to have completed our extruded membrane range and will continue to work with specifiers and contractors to provide high levels of technical support and tailor the solution to the project."



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Get Hands on with Makita's 40V/80VMAX XGT and Outdoor Power Equipment

Makita has relaunched its popular product demonstrations of its 40VMax and 80VMax XGT power tool range and for the first time, users are also able to get hands on with the range of cordless garden machinery products. This fantastic opportunity allows professionals to trial a wide range of Makita tools to test how they perform when users are considering new equipment. Professionals are now able to arrange COVID-Secure appointments locally with an experienced Makita team member to get the most out of its wide range of cordless power equipment. Demos are available for either its 40VMax or 80VMax XGT range or the cordless Outdoor Power Equipment (OPE) range, with both offering guidance on tool and accessory selection, as well as hands-on testing with the tools of your choice. Kevin Brannigan, Marketing Manager at Makita UK said: "As part of our ongoing commitment to training, the product demo's offer end users the opportunity to stay up to date with the latest product innovations, put our products to the test and discover the possibilities that cordless offers." To book a demo, fill out the on-line form available on www.makita.com.



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Marley Alutec Fits the Bill at Panmure Hotel

Marley Alutec has been involved in a major refurbishment at the site of the former Panmure Hotel in Monifieth, Scotland. The company's Evolve Half Round and Ogee, as well as its Traditional Moulded Ogee aluminium guttering systems were chosen for their ability to recreate the traditional cast-iron look. At the start of 2018, the Panmure Hotel closed its doors for the final time following years of financial difficulty. The developer, West Developments then purchased the site the following year. Primarily, the client's ambition was to convert the existing building into a number of high-standard flats. The team also wanted to update the building's rainwater and guttering systems to units that did not require intensive maintenance. As the development team had previous experience working with Marley Alutec it was able to quickly identify the company as an ideal partner for the project. Drummond McKenzie, Sales Manager for Scotland at Marley Alutec commented: "We are delighted to once again work with the project team from West Developments. Throughout the project we have installed a number of our systems, all of which perfectly replicate the look of cast-iron whilst providing a long-term durable solution." Visit www.marleyalutec.co.uk.



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