Suspected Rolled Lead Cartel Companies Named

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has named three rolled lead companies it suspects formed a cartel to fix lead prices, share out customers, exchange commercially sensitive information and restrict the supply of rolled lead.

The CMA’s investigation into roofing materials, which started in July 2017, has provisionally found that the UK’s three principal suppliers of rolled lead broke competition laws.

The companies are:
- Associated Lead Mills Ltd, which has its headquarters in Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, and its sister company Jammeston Metals Ltd
- N.I. Entwistle Ltd (trading as BLM British Lead, which has its headquarters in Wetherby Garden City, Hertfordshire) and its parent company Eko-Bat Technologies Ltd
- Calder Industrial Materials Ltd, and its parent company Calder Group Holdings Ltd, headquartered in Chester, Cheshire.

The three companies together account for about 90% of the rolled lead market. Rolled lead is an important, high-value product for the construction industry, used for waterproofing roofs, including churches and historic buildings, as well as flashing on domestic properties.

Paul Walters, former Commercial Director of Calder Industrial Materials Ltd from 1994 to 2015, now Sales and Marketing Director at Associated Lead Mills, said: “The matter is currently with our solicitors and I am unable to comment.”

The CMA has issued a Statement of Objections (SO) which details the provisional findings of its investigations. Martin Amour, Commercial Director at Calder Lead, commented: “The Calder Group denies any wrongdoing and welcomes the opportunity to respond to the full CMA’s provisional views as set out in the SO.”

The rolled lead cartel companies are all former members of the Lead Sheet Association, a trade association which, after nine decades in existence, dissolved in March 2018 leaving its training arm to continue as the Lead Sheet Training Academy.

Stephen Reynolds, former National Specification Manager of the Lead Sheet Association (now Head of Membership at the National Federation of Roofing Contractors) said: “I was aware of any cartel because I was not involved in sales. I was not party to any of these types of negotiations and I was nothing to do with the acquisition or allocation of any product.”

Lynne Street, Marketing and Sales Manager at Midland Lead, manufacturer of cast lead, comments: “We are a family-run business making cast lead and have never been part of the Lead Sheet Association and we operate in an ethical manner. I’m worried about the detrimental effect on the market, as a whole, that we will be tarnished by the CMA’s investigation.”

Michael Grendell, the CMA’s Executive Director for Enforcement, said: “The CMA’s findings are, at this stage in its investigation, provisional and do not necessarily lead to a decision that the companies have breached competition law.”

Any business found to have broken competition law can be fined up to 10% of its annual worldwide turnover.

New Managing Director for Euroclad

Euroclad Group has appointed Ailven Kearney as Managing Director. Ailven will replace Simon Thomas who has left the building envelope company after 30 years.

Paul O’Gorman commented: “On behalf of the Kingspan Group, I want to thank Simon for his considerable input and leadership into the business during the past 30 plus years and, in particular, since the acquisition by the Kingspan Group some three years ago. In addition, I want to wish Simon every success in his future career path over the coming years.”

Ailven started her role as Managing Director from May 2019. She joined the Internal Division 15 months ago and prior to this worked in a range of senior roles for Holton, a global building materials and appliances company, in both Australia and the USA.

Bühlreiterbergen Acquisition

Building manufacturers Bühlreibergen has acquired BP’s Halttings Ltd (BP) to further expand its roof accessories offering and cement the existing not product portfolio in the UK and Europe.

As a producer of roof undertiles, wall and construction membranes, building ventilation systems and specialist roof products, BP will become a centre of excellence for innovative roofing solutions within Bühlreibergen, says the company. BP will develop innovative solutions for the broader Bühlreibergen network, exploiting the combined regional strengths of both companies and their product expertise.

BP products include the Protekt, Passivent, Gluidevale and Kingfisher brands and the film provides production sites in Nottinghamshire and South Wales with 200 employees and an annual turnover of £12m.

Bühlreibergen CEO Heino Schuchel said: “The UK is one of the strongest and most innovative markets for roofing products, and a key growth area for us as a business. The acquisition of BP will strengthen our own position as a full-range roof systems supplier.”

Bühlreibergen’s growth strategy is focused on advancing its building materials solutions for the whole building envelope by offering new products and selective bolt-on acquisitions. Bühlreibergen currently operates 14 UK manufacturing plants and employs a workforce of 1,200.

Fallen Roofer Reborn as Midwife

Roofer Paul Byrne made a multimillionaire Career Change when an accident left him hospitalised for several months.

The 50-year-old fell off a roof breaking eleven bones and during his recuperation decided to earn as a midwife.

“I knew my days as a roofer were over and the dedication of the nurses really made an impression on me. I got thinking about nursing as a career and midwifery seemed the most life-affirming of the 25 or so specialities. The majority of us go through our working lives without feeling we are making much of a difference and I grabbed the opportunity. It sounds odd but falling off that roof gave me another shot at life.”

However, the education system had other ideas when faced with a middle-aged builder who had left school at 15 with no qualifications and who wanted to enter an almost exclusively female profession.

Paul was refused a grant for a one-year access course and paid his way by returning part-time to roofing, despite doctors saying another fall could kill him.

He passed with distinction, winning a place at the University of West London. Paul added: “I had to move from Ireland and start from scratch in student digs. It wasn’t easy but where there is a will there is a way.

It is 40 years since men were first allowed to train as midwives in the UK, and they still make up a tiny proportion of the profession.”

Young Roofing Business Plans to Grow

A business started by a young Teenage roofer from a garage at his home now has a team of five established in a prestigious business centre and with ambitious plans for expansion.

Samuel Moore Roofing, which set up in 2014, is thriving in a competitive market and operating successfully in both residential and commercial sectors across the West Midlands. Sam now has plans to expand across the North East and develop the potential he sees for real growth in the commercial sector, including working with major construction companies.

The company provides the whole range of roofing services and the team at Samuel Moore Roofing now includes David Betton, who has a background in building and construction and came on board to help the business meet growing demand. The family connections extend to Sam’s brother who runs his own roofing company, but they often help each other out in exceptionally busy times.

“They are in a competitive sector but have now built up a solid reputation for both quality and price,” said Sam. “I am pleased with progress and confident that we will continue to grow as we extend across the North East and take on more commercial work.”

Jonathan Fletcher Joins Made For Trade

Jonathan Fletcher has been appointed as Business Development Manager at Made For Trade.

Jonathan will help ensure the successful roll-out of all Made For Trade (MFT) products and customer support and guidance will be crucial to the role as MFT continue to invest in research and the design of new systems. MFT is also preparing to move part of the business to new 140,000 sq ft premises at the Wynn Bank Business Park in Stockton on Tees.

Jonathan said: “I am looking forward to increasing awareness of the Made For Trade brand through strategic marketing avenues whilst also increasing face time with our customers.”

New Chair and Vice Chair for LRWA

The Liquid Roofing and Waterproofing Association (LRWA) has appointed a new Chairman - Stuart Hicks, UK Marketing Manager at Kemper System, and Vice Chairman - Mark Fellows, Managing Director of Dow Technology Ltd.

Stuart joined LRWA’s marketing committee eight years ago, leading the redevelopment of the LRWA website, a digital video members pack and the LRWA Awards and Gala Mark Fellows will provide a supporting role as Vice Chairman. Mark’s experience in liquid technology spans 40 years, founding Dome Technology Ltd, a specialist adhesives manufacturer for flat roofing, in 2001.
Avonside Group ‘Grow their Own’!

Avonside Group, the UK’s largest Roofing contractor, has made further investments to strengthen its management capability.

Sam Trett has been recruited to the group as a management trainee. He will gain exposure to all elements of the business during his training, allowing him to support the business and ultimately fast track to a management role.

Graduate Sam, 23 was recruited to Avonside following an intensive qualifying process. He said: “I’m delighted to have secured such an important position with a forward-thinking organisation like Avonside, and it allows me to continue family connections within the roofing industry.”

Avonside Group Chief Executive Officer, Tony Buick said: “It is important to us that we develop more of our management talent from within the company and we are all very excited about this initiative. We think it highlights a planned and progressive approach for the business.”

CSCS Withdraws Grandfather Rights Cards

The Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) is withdrawing CSCS cards issued under Industry Accreditation, otherwise known as Grandfather Rights.

Grandfather rights allowed workers to obtain CSCS cards on the strength of an employer recommendation rather than the achievement of a recognised qualification. CSCS closed Industry Accreditation to new applicants in 2010 but those already holding a card are currently able to renew on the same basis.

From 1st January 2020, all cards renewed under Industry Accreditation will expire on 31st December 2024 and CSCS will stop issuing the card from 30th June 2024.

CSCS wants all card holders in future to possess a construction-related qualification. In recent years the organisation has not issued any more Construction Related Occupation cards or Site Visitor cards and there will be no other non-qualification-based cards in existence.

Card holders without qualifications will be required to register for the appropriate qualification for their occupation before their cards expire in 2024.

New Report Shows London’s Rise up the Green Roof League Table

A new green roof report showing the speed with which London has delivered on its drive to meet climate resilience and biodiversity objectives is published, called Living Roofs and Walls: From policy to practice – 10 years of urban greening in London and beyond. The report, produced by the European Federation of Green Roofs and Walls (EFGB), and Livingroofs shows that the total area of green roofs in the Greater London area is equal to 1.5 million m² with a density of 0.17m² per inhabitant, which far surpasses that of other cities in the world such as Copenhagen, Toronto and Singapore.

Significantly, the density in the capital’s Central Activity Zone is now 1.21 m² of green roof per inhabitant.

The new report contains infographics detailing all the green roofs installed in the Greater London Area and the Central Activity Zone by 2018 and the first ever league table of green roof cities around the world. It also contains a review of global green roof policies in cities and new evidence of the benefits and economic case for green roofs and walls. With an appraisal of how various London boroughs are delivering green roofs, there are 17 case studies.

Manufacturer Invests £1.2m in New Warehousing Facility

Apollo Chemicals’ new £1.2m warehouse is now complete and will increase capacity and facilitate further growth for the privately-owned liquid adhesive, sealant, coating and primer manufacturer.

The warehouse investment took place just five months after Tamworth-based Apollo opened a new (540,000) technical centre in response to growing business demands.

Apollo Managing Director, Ian Cornish, said: “During the past five years, we have seen tremendous business growth and almost doubled the number of employees as we’ve developed the Apollo brand in the adhesive, construction and roofing sectors. “We recognise that in order to continue to add value for our customers we need to continually invest in our infrastructure and our people.”

The new 100,000m² warehouse facility includes streamlined loading and unloading areas and new processing systems to deliver products to customers more efficiently.

QuadCore™ Pitched Roof System

QuadCore™ is Kingspan’s new hybrid insulation core technology with a unique formulation that creates microcells with unrivalled thermal performance, superior fire protection and enhanced environmental credentials.

RW QuadCore™ trapezoidal roof panel combines this additional performance with all the advantages you’ve come to expect of a Kingspan factory-engineered system – significantly faster build speed, reduced time working at height, lifetime insulation continuity and consistent build quality. Higher building performance, powered by QuadCore™ Technology.

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Enhanced Environmental Credentials
An Interview with Guy Bruce, Managing Director at SIG Roofing

Guy Bruce, SIG Roofing’s Managing Director appointed in July 2018, is a man in a hurry. A straight-talking, no-nonsense Gentleman. Guycourts’ energy and determination – much-needed characteristics to address the tailing sales, profits and share values the company has suffered in the last few years.

“We’ve just had the best January in our history in the branches,” says Guy.

“We’re on budget for March and the target profit is 50 per cent higher than last year’s. We’ve arrested a four-year sales decline in the past three months and we are now in positive growth. But it’s not about revenue, it’s about profit.

“This is a fundamentally simple business that we’ve over-complicated in the last few years. We knew complexity here from what I’m trying to do is simply, take noise out of the system, automate, digitise and let people have the time to speak to customers and sell products. “We will walk away from uneconomic business. It doesn’t make money then I’m not doing it” states Guy.

“It’s just economics,” he explains.

“There’s three drivers to it: one, it’s un-economic, two, if I say I’m going to do something I’ll do it. When I do that, it recalibrates the business’ expectation. If I say I’m going to do something they know I really do mean it. And three, there’s a benefit to it going to my competition.”

Guy comes from Interserve’s infrastructure and industrial division where he faced similar restructuring challenges to develop revenue streams and profitability. Guy’s first task has been to get to know the business of SIG Roofing and assess its current state.

“The questions are always the same, the answers are always different,” says Guy, “whether it’s the sector, the cycle, or the PLC agenda: what’s the true current state of the business? What are its fundamentals? What are its strengths and weaknesses? And, what are our options to move ahead?”

“There are a number of areas in the business where we could do better. We had sizeable market share, now we’ve got less. Competitors have grown up regionally, most of whom used to work for us and have been relatively agile.

“Stripping out acquisitions, all the profit and revenue were going down, stock was up, all the graphs were going in the wrong direction. So, there’s the context of why we’re doing what we’re about to do.”

“I want to do in 12 months. It can be done, I’ve done it at other places.”

“My ambition is to be the number one e-commerce platform within the next two years.”

Guy says: “My ambition is to be the number one e-commerce platform within the next two years.”

These plans beg the question: why not buy out one of the many roofing e-commerce merchants that have sprung up in recent years? “They’re great little businesses,” responds Guy.

“We’ve also opened some new format branches,” he continues. “Mink Screwfix for roofing. They’re smaller branches fed from a hub (at least one this year) and then we’ll be moving and optimising hubs.”

And that’s not all. In May, the company’s new IT logistics system, Descartes, goes live, allowing customers to track orders and sign for deliveries electronically on site, smoothing a smoother, digitised supply chain process.

E-commerce

But the really big news for SIG Roofing is its plan to start e-commerce, giving customers the option to order online with delivery to site.

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“So, how will Guy go about addressing the various problems at SIG Roofing?”

“In this business, the options are pretty straightforward. It’s a very straightforward business: we buy product, we store product, we sell it through one channel – branches. We distribute it. We are profitable: we are cash generative. That’s not a bad place to start, I’ve had worse!”

The company has formulated a five-year plan and its starring place is reinvesting in the basics of the business. Guy explains: “What we know is, there three things important to our customers: proximity – we’ve still got the largest footprint in the UK, IT branches, stock availability both to collect and continue. “Mink Screwfix for roofing. They’re smaller branches fed from a hub (at least one this year) and then we’ll be moving and optimising hubs.”

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“I’ve analysed all of them: their operating model, their logistics footprint, the software they use, who owns them. I know everything about all of them. I couldn’t have bought any of them because I could afford to.”

“But based on return on investment, speed to market, how much cash I’ve got to spend and the scalability of the IT architecture that needs to go to a £100 million business in five years, we need to start from scratch.”

“We’ll have European-level architecture; it’s a several million-pound investment over the next two years. You’ve got to have the machinery in place to drive the online footprint and then fulfill it at the back end. All of that we’ve got. If you’re on the right platform and it’s scalable, it’s valuable in its own right.”

“Phase one will be 24-hour delivery. Phase two will be a click and collect app on your phone. Within 18 months. We see the demographic changing and sectors that we don’t properly serve currently. If you look wearing a high vis vest and carrying some roofing plants, posing as a customer: ‘I was finding out whether they could supply the product I want, the expert advice. Was there a queue keeping me waiting for ages? Did I get the right advice?’ Were they too busy answering the phone because there aren’t enough staff to serve people waiting to buy stuff? Is there easy access, clear signage? Can I find the postcodes on the platform? I wanted to find out the process you go through as a customer and I got some really interesting answers.”

Not only has this experience focused Guy’s attention on the stop drop experience so that “everything is measured weekly and we now know the performance of every branch daily and, more importantly, so do they.”

This approach is: “The first half of the day was a bit of a reality check for everyone. I showed the top 100 people some underlying financial stats going back to 2014 that they said they hadn’t seen before.”

Being transparent and sharing information and expectations is a fundamental aspect of the changes Guy expects SIG Roofing employees to deliver.

“We want to deliver for revenue, profit, margin and then I let them get on with it.”

Everyone said: ‘Great, we want autonomy’. I said: ‘Be careful what you wish for, you have to deliver now.”

“A year ago the three UK divisional managing directors, who each run about £100m of business, couldn’t sign off a new hire or increase in salary without it being approved. My approach is opposite: we create a budget for revenue, profit, margin and then I let them get on with it. Everyone said: ‘Great, we want autonomy’. I said: ‘Be careful what you wish for, you have to deliver now.”

“We want to do three years in 12 months. It can be done, I’ve done it at other places.”

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Understanding Product Accreditations and Why They Matter

“Third-party accreditations provide the data that is needed to confirm that individual products will meet specified requirements and perform as expected.”

expected based on the parameters given by the manufacturer.

Importantly, the certificate will list different factors that demonstrate compliance with UK Building Regulations. For liquid waterproofing products, these include weathertightness, fire-related properties, adhesion, resistance to heat, and durability.

The BBA is the UK’s leading construction certification body. There is a very similar, but less well-known, accreditation available through Netherlands-based Kiwa, called a BBA Agreement. Manufacturers would usually have one or the other, but not both.

For domestic work, the certificate will also confirm whether the product meets the standards required by the National House Building Council (NHBC).

Agreement certificates are reviewed every three years, so when specifying or installing a product, the most recent certificate must be referred to. If a manufacturer changes anything in the formulation of a liquid membrane, it has to be declared to the certification body and may need re-testing.

Agreement certificates: what to look for

One of our biggest concerns is that people don’t read agreement certificates properly and therefore make inaccurate assumptions or rely too heavily on manufacturers’ own product claims, some of which are misleading.

It is important to read the detail thoroughly and understand what the product has actually been tested for, and what is covered by the certificate.

For example, it is not uncommon for a list of accessories such as primers, insulation boards, carrier membranes and vapour control layers to be listed on the certificate but that does not always mean they have been tested – just that they can be used in conjunction with the tested product.

Similarly, it may be that a certain liquid waterproofing system is required in a particular thickness to meet the accreditation.

Another important detail to check is the substrate: the liquid waterproofing has been tested on. Some products entering the UK market from abroad have only been tested on concrete and not on substrates commonly used for refurbishment work in the UK, so may not perform as expected.

“Understanding agreement and ETA documents can be challenging but we all have a role to play in ensuring the right products are specified and installed.”

There are also safety risks to consider. The certificate may show the product has had a fire test relevant to Building Regulations but, again, it is essential to establish what substrate it has been tested on. Some may only have been tested on a non-combustible substrate. If in doubt, it is advisable to ask the manufacturer for their full fire test information.

The agreement certificate also provides information about the manufacturing process. It will state whether the manufacturer’s quality management systems meet the ISO 9001 standard, one of the criteria which also has to be met for LRWA membership. This standard provides assurance that the product will be of consistently high quality.

What is an ETA?

As an ETA is a certificate based on testing carried out to agreed European levels and provides information about the performance of certain construction products, including liquid applied membranes.

An ETA can only be issued for products not covered by harmonised European Standards (hENs) and, in the case of liquid applied systems, those supplied by a single manufacturer as a kit. In other words, combining two or more separate components that need to be put together to be incorporated into the construction works.

Consequently, the BBA as a notified body, can issue ETAs but this does not necessarily mean the product also has a BBA certificate.

ETA certificates: what to look for

As well as providing details of the manufacturer, the product and its intended use, the ETA document includes a table outlining performance in relation to several areas such as reaction to fire, service temperature, roof slope and load resistance.

A rating is given which enables products to be easily compared. For example, a liquid membrane with a user load categorised as P1 can only be used on roofs that are non-accessible, whereas a product which has been rated P4 will be robust enough to be approved for roof gardens, inverted roofs and green roofs.

From an end client’s perspective, an ETA offers a good way of easily comparing liquid waterproofing products but does not declare that the system conforms with national Building Regulations, so should not be seen as a replacement to BBA or BDA certificates.

ETAs and CE Marking

A CE Mark is effectively a statement that a particular construction product complies with the relevant EU legislation, providing the manufacturer with free access to markets in all European Economic Area (EEA) countries.

CE Marking of liquid applied membranes is voluntary, however, a system must have a CE Mark if the product is ETA certified. So, it is up the manufacturer whether they obtain an ETA certificate or not.

Stepping up to the plate

Understanding agreement and ETA documents can be challenging but we all have a role to play in ensuring the right products are specified and installed.

There is already work underway to help prevent misleading product claims. The Marketing Integrity Group was recently set up by the Construction Products Association (CPA) and is developing a common language for specifications that is clear, accurate and verified.

The LRWA, working in partnership with the Single Ply Roofing Association, is also part of the CPA’s Industry Response Wicking Group 12 (Products) to ensure people can make competent and more informed decisions.

Manufacturers are key to this process but anyone involved in the selection or installation of liquid applied membranes must also take responsibility for raising standards. It is crucial that all available product information is read and that people have the knowledge to understand accreditations and the impact they could have on a building’s future performance.

For more information or advice visit www.bba.org.uk

Certification

With product claims and performance coming under increased scrutiny, Sarah Spink, CEO of the Liquid Roofing and Waterproofing Association (LRWA), explains the importance of understanding accreditations.

Following the Grenfell tragedy and recommendations in Dame Judith Hackitt’s report, product ventilation is becoming crucially important. No longer will it be acceptable to revert to old specifications. Everyone involved in a construction project, from manufacturers and procurement managers to specifiers and contractors, will have a responsibility to ensure that products have been appropriately tested and are suitable for the application.

Third-party accreditations provide the data that is needed to confirm that individual products will meet specified requirements and perform as expected. For the liquid waterproofing industry, agreement certificates and European Technical Approval (ETA) certificates are commonly used.

There are, however, key differences between the two and it is vital that accreditations are fully understood to avoid the risk of inappropriate products being used and a project potentially failing.

What is an agreement certificate?

Agreement certificates are issued by independent organisations to confirm that building products and systems are fit for purpose. To achieve an agreement certificate, products and systems must pass a series of comprehensive assessments which verify that the product performs as expected based on the parameters given by the manufacturer.

Importantly, the certificate will list different factors that demonstrate compliance with UK Building Regulations. For liquid waterproofing products, these include weathertightness, fire-related properties, adhesion, resistance to heat, and durability.

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Manufacturers are key to this process but anyone involved in the selection or installation of liquid applied membranes must also take responsibility for raising standards. It is crucial that all available product information is read and that people have the knowledge to understand accreditations and the impact they could have on a building’s future performance.

For more information or advice visit www.bba.org.uk
The Consequences of Changing Specifications

There has been a lot written about the dangers and problems that occur when roof specifications are changed from the original issued by the specifying authority and a recent case brings into sharp focus the real consequences that can ensue.

As a roofing veteran of over 40 years’ experience, I have spent the bulk of my working life in the flat roof sector, most of that time specialising in technical areas, latterly as the Technical Secretary of the Liquid Roofing and Waterproofing Association (LRWA). It was while in that role that one of the residents living in this particular project made contact.

The project

This is a 150/200m roof with an original structure of 20mm asphalt on pre-screwed channel reinforced woodslats. The original specification called for a new vapour control layer (VCL), with 18mm thick polyisofoam insulation, topped with a liquid waterproofing system provided by one of the leading UK manufacturers. This information was on documentation sent to all eight residents in the building.

What the residents ended up with was the roof’s existing asphalt being used as the VCL, an insulation that the manufacturer states should be covered with 18mm plywood prior to the laying of the waterproofing. Needless to say, this particular project had no plywood or carrier membrane. In fact, the liquid was laid directly on to the insulation. The roof was two years old by the time I carried out my initial inspection and it had already had one major repair because of water ingress around an outlet and several minor repairs. (Fig 1)

The workmanship was poor, particularly in terms of termination details (Fig 2) and there was one area where the membrane had completely lifted at the perimeter of the roof (Fig 3). After sending a video of the roof flapping in the wind, an emergency repair (Fig 3) was carried out. Twelve weeks later, I carried out a second inspection in order to assess how the roof had deteriorated, and, in my opinion, delamination was now a major feature on this roof. Large blisters (Fig 4) in four or five different areas had developed, and there is now another video showing an area of at least 20m2 lifting in the wind.

“The main contractor has been conspicuous by their total lack of involvement in trying to get this project rectified and yet they must have had plenty of involvement in accepting the change of specification.”

The problem

The main problem at the moment is that if we get a really good wind, this roof - in a busy town centre - is in real danger of ending up in the street - and that’s no exaggeration.

The main protagonists

The main contractor has been conspicuous by their total lack of involvement in trying to get this project rectified and yet they must have had plenty of involvement in accepting the change of specification, including an insulation that was not fit for purpose as it was laid.

The roofing contractor is an NFRC member and to a certain extent, I feel they have been left carrying the can, even though they must have been instrumental in the specification change. As I understand it, the roofing contractor used a liquid-application gap recommended by the manufacturer and this was the list job that the roofing contractor had done using this material. I do not know if they were responsible for the choice of insulation or if that came from the waterproofing manufacturer.

The waterproofing manufacturer is European-based and imports product to the United Kingdom, and they are not members of the LRWA. If this product had been the original specification, carrying a labour and material’s guarantee, this roof would have been rectified a long time ago. However, this company provides a material guarantee only - and even that has limitations.

The specifying authority is difficult to deal with, as they often do not answer emails and have changed the person dealing with this property four times in the past two years. They appear to accept no responsibility for the change in specification, even though they issued the original documentation. They have carried out two internal assessments of this roof at their own, but will not disclose any of their findings.

Terry War, Liquid Roofing Specialist

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They have also had an external, national surveying practice look at this roof (costing a lot of money) but they will not disclose their findings. They have written to the residents saying they are looking at replacing the roof but they cannot guarantee that the residents will not incur cost for this work.

Last, but not least, are the residents. The eight residents paid good money for this roof and what they have ended up with is a disaster. They have been given the run-around by the specifying authority in particular, simply because that is their main point of contact. The residents have paid a huge amount of money for what is a terrible job and now they could be asked to pay again.

Winners and losers

Specification changes are made for financial gain, so I assume that all the contractors involved in this project would have seen an immediate gain. To that extent they are the ‘winners’ of this project. But I am sure that whatever gain was made has since diminished or disappeared, as the contractors have been back to site on at least three occasions that I know of, and the most expensive part of the project is its rectification because nobody prices for that.

The main losers are the specifying authority which has spent many hours of wasted time on this project, and of course the residents who have spent a lot of money and still have a roof that is not fit for purpose.

Lessons

The main lesson to learn is to choose a waterproofing manufacturer that is a member of a good trade association and has an active, approved contractor programme. They should also have a field services department that checks on works in progress and then issues a worthwhile labour and materials guarantee.

Another point is that architects and specifying authorities generally do a lot of research and use ‘experience of systems’ in order to choose the initial specification. Yet it is all too easy to change this. Why? A more rigorous process must be in place to regulate specifications changes.

Fig 2

Fig 3

Fig 4

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Inverted Roof Guidance Has Changed – But Not All for the Better

Six months since the revised version of BS 6229 was introduced, questions have been raised about the amended inverted roof guidance. Rob Firman, Technical and Specification manager at Polyfoam XPS, explains the changes and why they are causing industry concerns.

A revised version of BS 6229, the code of practice for ‘flat roofs with continuously supported flexible waterproofing covers’, came into effect on 30 November 2018. As a British Standard only (rather than an adopted European or international standard), BS 6229 concentrates on flat roof construction in the UK. It describes best practice in the design, construction and maintenance of cold, warm and inverted flat roofs with a fully supported, flexible waterproofing layer.

Like any British Standard code of practice, the contents of BS 6229 are guidance and recommendations only, but the flat roofing industry collaborates to produce the standard and the guidance carries weight.

Thermal performance guidance
As part of the wide-ranging update, the standard’s guidance about inverted roof construction has been amended.

Paragraph 4.6.2 describes how the thermal performance of an inverted roof should allow for the cooling effect of rainwater that penetrates the insulation layer and reaches the waterproofing.

This procedure should be familiar to anybody who regularly works with inverted roof insulation manufacturers or system suppliers. Thermal transmittance (U-value) is calculated following the method in BS EN ISO 6946, using the design thermal conductivity of the insulation and rainwater cooling. The 2018 revision leaves a supplementary note to paragraph 4.6.2 and this is what is triggering questions from specifiers and contractors. It says that imperfections occur in the water control layer (in water flow reducing layer) installed over the inverted roof insulation, due to poor workmanship, poor detailing or post-construction damage, increasing the volume of water likely to reach the waterproofing layer.

“This increases the water-cooling effect on the insulation and worsens the in-service thermal performance of the roof, beyond what was anticipated at design stage. To compensate, the supplementary note suggests increasing the thickness of the insulation layer by 10 per cent, until further evidence and performance testing of inverted roofs is available.”

Mechanisms exist within the calculation method to achieve a similar level of caution, such as using an increased value for the drainage factor, ‘F’. It is not clear why the supplementary note, if it had to be written at all, did not suggest this, rather than an arbitrary percentage increase in insulation thickness.

We are working with other organisations across the flat roofing industry, including members of the Liquid Roofing and Waterproofing Association (LRWAA) and the National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC) to collectively voice these concerns and ensure more clarity for all those involved in specifying and installing insulation.

Best practice advice
In the meantime, any worries about poor workmanship should be raised directly with the contractor - but if a compensatory factor in a U-value calculation is still deemed necessary, then insulation manufacturers can discuss a measurable level of caution.

Otherwise, the recommendations of BS 6229 2018 are clear. The current method for calculating the thermal performance of inverted roofs is valid and does not require any change in current practice.

This view has been endorsed by the British Board of Agrément (BBA), which has confirmed that it “will not be including the 10 per cent additional increment.” and that “will continue to reference the standard in the certificate and leave potential specifiers to decide whether or not to implement the note.”

At a time when the construction industry is striving to hold itself to greater account, we should not be assuming there are workmanship issues in inverted roofing and attempting to compensate for it. We should be working in line with clear guidance that avoids ambiguity and we look forward to the issues outlined here being addressed at the earliest opportunity.

“One of our biggest concerns is that the inclusion of this note could lead to people wrongly assuming their designs and installations do not accord with current best practice, even though the correct calculation procedures have been followed.”
Bring on the Heritage Code of Practice

Michael Hallé, Commercial Director for Welsh Slate, discusses the challenges in getting heritage roofing skills recognised.

To most of us in the roofing industry heritage roofs are an interesting diversion from the run-of-the-mill roofs we come across. But coupled with the challenge and prestige of working on heritage roofs comes the fact that there is often no precedent or British Standard regulation to guide the contractor. This is LinearLayoutManager in a complex and arduous process. The former because they have not been re-roofed before, and the latter because the current British Standard does not cover heritage roofs specifically.

BS 5534 gives recommendations primarily intended for the design, performance and installation of new-build pitched roofs, with the heritage get-out clause. “The recommendations contained in this British Standard might not be appropriate for the re-roofing or re-roofing of some old roofs, particularly where traditional and/or reclaimed materials are used.”

The standard is quite rightly used by the industry as the best practice for quality roofing but like most industry standards the technical aspects of the document and heritage roofs were covered with a thick experience of very local conditions, whereas British Standards are a generalised standard taking into account national conditions and practices. Creating some kind of a standard for heritage roofs will be challenging in itself, as it is interesting to hear that none other than Historic England is making commendable headway on a Code of Practice. This was first mooted several years ago which goes to show the complexity of the task at hand.

Technical guidance

Chris Wood, Senior Architectural Conservator for Historic England’s building conservation and geophysical survey, commented: “Before we can produce the Code of Practice we need to finish the technical guidance needed to support it. We are near to finishing Part 1 which we will be sending out for review in the next month or so. Part 2 should follow shortly afterwards.

“The proposed Code of Practice will take a few months as there is likely to be a lot of consultation and review. It is through, our intention to pursue it.”

Vernacular roofing consultant, Terry Hughes, who will produce the first draft, added: “This advice is needed because the trend to standardisation since the 1940s, when CP142 was written, and as exemplified by British Standards, is that roofing has become just that: everything is standard, the same whichever you are, particularly so by metamorphic slate.

“What has been lost is the variety of northsouth which were a response to local materials. And the knowledge of how they were slates has often been lost as well. It does live on in some regions South West England is an example. Here slate-tiled and thatch roofs are still understood and conserved. But in other regions, there is a need for these old roofs to be carefully looked at and understood before they are repaired or replaced. All too often, the roof is stripped without doing this and then replaced with what is, incorrectly, thought to be the detailing or a so-called improvement.”

Historic England’s use of the term ‘Code of practice’ is stilling and rightly so as it would seem there cannot be a ‘standard’ for heritage roofs as they are rarely, if ever, standard. They can all be unique. This myriad of variations, even within local areas, is the main reason a code has not been pursued with any seriousness before.

Each heritage roof is individual or has components that are, for example details such as valleys that apply a local style of roofing. They tend to be covered with local material because vernacular roofing was often carried out with local residual stones, particularly slate, as it was the most naturally available and relatively easily worked or produced.

The type and method of covering roofs from the pre-Roman occupation to 1939 changed significantly due to available materials, transportation, mechanisation, tools and experience of the most successful applications. As with many other niche building trades, heritage roofers have relied on learning processes and details that have been repeated and passed on, as they should do themselves, and will be able to do, presumably, through the new Code of Practice.

Specialist roofing companies that are members of the NFCF can apply to be included in its National Heritage Roofing Contractors Register, which is endorsed by Historic England, CADW (the Welsh Government’s historic environment service), the Environment and Heritage Service for Northern Ireland, and Historic Environment Scotland.

To qualify, the contractor must have recognised qualifications and present a portfolio of heritage roofing which can be scrutinised by experts in that particular field. But these types of roofs will be out of the comfort zone for most roofing contractors. Attempts to redress this can be through accredited NVQ Level 3 heritage roofing qualifications.

Sourcing replacements

Sourcing replacement new material can also be a challenge, particularly in the case of stone roofs that were often produced from local quantities that are no longer operational because over time they became unavailable. However, good-quality second-hand material from the local area may well be an alternative, and heritage guidelines from some local authorities and national parks, for example, can help classify traditional local roof details.

We are regularly asked quite early on in a project to identify the roof covering and in the vast majority of cases can do so, sometimes offering the exact same slate from the original source or the best available alternative.

The most common type of heritage roof we get called in to advise on tends to be large-format slates with random widths and diminishing lengths. These types of slate roofs are often known as Rag Slate. London Rag or Queen Rag and the largest slates will often be in the region of 40” long. These can still be produced, but the material needed for such large slates is not always readily available due to the limitations of a naturally-torn rock in cases like these, as much warning as possible is always helpful to a manufacturer. We also regularly advise on recommended roof pitches for a certain size of slate.

When it does come to replacing a heritage roof, steps should always be taken to carefully record the way it has been set out, especially the head and side laps and the pitch gauging. Photographs taken perpendicular to the slates with a scale are useful for checking details later. Details such as rainwater, hips and eaves are important because often these will have been planned to work with particular sizes of slates.

Until Historic England’s Code of Practice is published, contractors, specifiers and clients can turn to the most comprehensive recent book - the English Heritage Practical Building Conservation volume: Roofing (2013). See also the Stone Roof Association site which has a wealth of information www.stonerof.org.uk/historic_roofing_roofing.html.
Stewart Rowles: A Heritage Roofer at the Top of his Trade

Stewart Rowles, owner of Church, Castle & Cottage, is a specialist roofer and builder who is at the top of his game. Working in heritage roof restoration for over 20 years, Stewart specialises in leadwork and is also a master slater, having lived and trained in North Wales, only a few miles from the Welsh Slate Penrhyn quarry, for the majority of his career. Stewart started his Chester-based business, Church, Castle and Cottage, in 2010 and since then he says he’s had the opportunity to work on some “amazing projects”. Mainly working in the North West, he also travels nationwide when interesting and unusual projects beckon.

One such exciting project Stewart couldn’t resist was the restoration of a lead roof at Westminster Palace, London. Here, Stewart was called in to redesign a failing lead roof which had been repaired and patched for many years. Because of the final detail on the roof was either missing, or had never been installed originally, part of the project involved Stewart designing a new additional finial to the give the roof the visual impact it had been lacking.

Another fascinating project was the full restoration of a 18th century lyrhgate, subcontracting for North Wales roofing firm, Greenough and Sons Ltd. This demanding project was shortlisted as a finalist in the National Federation of Roofing Contractors’ 2019 UK Roofing Awards.

The 18th century St. Baglans church is Grade I listed and its lyrrhgate roof is oak peg hung and all hand cut. The project involved repairs to the oak joists and new pegs to tie all the existing rafters into the roof’s purlins. The slates were shouldered and bedded on lime putty and then torched with horse hair lime putty inside.

Stewart explains: “The condition of the walls and stonework were appalling.”

“The rebuilding of the tops of the walls was painstakingly delicate work and most of the removal of stones for later use was virtually done with a paint brush.”

Stewart’s totally original ‘swept pep’ design.

“The rebuilding of the tops of the walls was painstakingly delicate work and most of the removal of stones for later use was virtually done with a paint brush. All stones were numbered and photographed and replaced exactly as they came out. Then everything was reinstated with a combination of lime mixes including hot lime, NHL and lime putty.”

That’s not the only unusual project Stewart’s worked on recently.

The swept pep pattern

As a specialist heritage roofer at the top of his trade, Stewart relishes taking on challenges that other roofers might prefer to pass up. So when the owner of a Welsh cottage asked for something different to a traditional slated roof, Stewart spent several weeks working out a totally original design, which he has named the ‘swept pep pattern’.

The restored lyrhgate is a finalist project in the 2019 UK Roofing Awards.

“The project involved laying Penrhyn slate 450 x 300mm on TLX gold insulating membrane in a pattern which lines up the perpendicular (pegs) diagonally across the roof. The pattern creates a striking diamond effect which catches the eye in dramatic and ever-changing visual arrangements as the light of the day changes.

Stewart says: “The customer was thrilled with their roof of the ordinary roof and has had many admiring comments from locals and passers by. It is not every roofer who would want this kind of work but it is very rewarding to see the client so pleased with the outcome and it gives me enormous satisfaction to complete this sort of job. I have some other unusual patterns that I would like to do in the future.”

With such exceptional and specialist skills on display in all his roofing projects, Stewart has proved he’s at a high point in his career in all ways.
Creating the Old from the New

Accurately and reliably restoring a heritage project whilst doing justice to a building’s original features can be a difficult balancing act with modern building methods. Here Julian Gomez, Marketing Manager at CUPA PIZZARRAS highlights the importance of working with an experienced slate manufacturer on heritage builds and explains how the company’s Heavy 3 slate helped to accurately restore a listed Scottish building to its former glory.

The preservation of a heritage site is of great importance so when restoring a heritage building, it is key that a close and convincing replication of the original is achieved. Care should be taken to match the dimensions, thickness, texture and colour of the original as well as the original pattern. This can be achieved by replicating the number of courses, the size and the slates’ integration with skews and dormers. However, while the aesthetics of the slate is crucial, it is also important to select a product that will stand the test of time and the elements.

CUPA PIZZARRAS natural slate is particularly popular for heritage projects in Scotland due to the close resemblance between its Heavy 3 slate and traditional Ballachulish slate, which is no longer mined in Scotland. Heavy 3 has the same colour, texture and markings as Ballachulish and is produced, unlike many slates, in a random version providing for the option of diminishing courses, popular on Scottish heritage sites.

For these reasons, CUPA PIZZARRAS Heavy 3 natural slate was selected as an accurate match for the historic slate roof of Bell Street Stables, a Category B listed building in the merchant city area of Glasgow. Built in 1896, the stables were also on the Historic Environment Scotland (HES) Buildings at Risk Register prior to the restoration. Previously home to the city’s police and horses cleaning department, the unique building originally comprised multi-storey stables and horse circulation areas grouped around a cobble courtyard but has since been converted into 52 affordable mid-market flats.

The stables are owned by Glasgow Housing Association (GHA), part of the Wheatley Group, who undertook the project including the restoration of the existing façade and roofing and replacement of the cobbled horse ramps between floors with staircases. For the roof refurbishment, a total of 200m² of CUPA PIZZARRAS Heavy 3 slates measuring 90cm x 20cm were used to emulate the original roofing.

Andrew Caddell of Collective Architecture was the architect on the project. CUPA PIZZARRAS had previously visited Collective Architecture to present a CPD, so Andrew was aware of Heavy 3 and its characteristics and was quick to specify the product. Andrew commented: “CUPA PIZZARRAS Heavy 3 is a good match for the existing historic slate and was readily accepted by Listed Buildings as an acceptable- roofing material. The character and appearance of the slate is great for historic projects such as this one. The slate has transformed the roof and, along with the stone brickwork and leadwork, has brought a new lease of life to this listed building.”

Dick Tulloch, Development Officers for Glasgow Housing Association, commented: “The design philosophy was to restore the external appearance of the B listed building while creating modern apartments within. The CUPA PIZZARRAS slate matches well with the original and as the client, we are very pleased with the final appearance.”

Quantum from CUPA PIZZARRAS own quarry in northern Spain, Heavy 3 - like all tectonic slate - is a durable and sustainable material choice with no chemical process or additional treatments.

To ensure quality, it is important to understand the origins of a slate product before purchase. Many manufacturers are able to offer a basic level of transparence, often the municipality of origin. However, this could include a wide range of quantities with a variety of slate quality. At CUPA PIZZARRAS, the company can provide the exact quarry of origin as well as the type, technical data and production date of the slate to provide assurance that the quality of the product will be up to standard and, in this case, replicate the original slate accurately.

“ The company can provide the exact quarry of origin as well as the type, technical data and production date of the slate to provide assurance that the quality of the product will be up to standard and, in this case, replicate the original slates accurately.”

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For more information on CUPA PIZZARRAS Heavy 3 natural slate, please visit www.cupazarras.com/uk/heavy3/

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A Roof Refurbishment with Military Planning and Precision

Mastic asphalt roofing was recently chosen to protect a military museum housing one of the world’s finest collections of artillery.

Abbey Asphalt Roofing Ltd, a member of the Mastic Asphalt Council (MAC), has completed a heritage mastic asphalt roofing refurbishment project at the historic Royal Armouries at Fort Nelson in Fareham - now a landmark attraction in Hampshire.

**Mastic asphalt roofing**

...is the best solution for the project. The mastic asphalt roofing system is easy to install, reduces noise levels, and is durable. The advantage of using mastic asphalt is that it can be tailored to the specific requirements of the project.

**The heritage market is a key sector for the industry and mastic asphalt is frequently specified by the National Trust and English Heritage.**

**The co-existence of mastic asphalt roofing and heritage buildings**

...has been a success. The mastic asphalt roofing system has performed well and has contributed to the sustainability of the project.

**The client’s requirements**

...were met by the mastic asphalt roofing system. The client was impressed with the quality of work and the speed of installation.

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**Facts and Figures**

- **Mastic asphalt** is a flexible, malleable asphalt that can be applied to a roof in a liquid state.
- **Heritage buildings** require materials that are sympathetic to their historical context.
- **Sustainability** is becoming increasingly important in the construction industry.
- **Noise reduction** is a benefit of using mastic asphalt roofing.
- **Cost-effectiveness** is another advantage of mastic asphalt roofing.
- **Flexibility** allows the material to adapt to different roof shapes and sizes.
- **Durability** is a key characteristic, ensuring long-term performance.

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**About the Author**

...is an expert in mastic asphalt roofing and has extensive experience in heritage projects.

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**References**

- **Mastic Asphalt Council (MAC)**
- **Royal Armouries**
- **English Heritage**
Cost, Quality and Time – Getting the Balance Right

James Seavell, Area Sales Manager at Marley

You can quickly get a free fixing specification via our website at www.marleyuk.com/specification

3. Choose time-saving accessories that make it easier to install compliant roofs. For example, under BS 5534:2014, most single lap tiles will now require an element of roof clamping. However, using a SolidFix one-piece clip and nail can save around 30% on roof clamping time. To help contractors meet the new BS 5812:2012 Dry Fix Standard, our dry verge system now includes a batten end clip, which has been specifically designed with speed of installation in mind and doesn’t require nails or screws to fix into place.

4. To get a beautiful, traditional-looking pantile roof in less time, use an easy-to-fix interlocking pantile, such as our Lincoln or Melodic tiles. As well as including some clever time-saving features, such as flexible gauges and hidden interlocks, they can also be used down to much lower pitches than the traditional equivalent and are compatible with our dry fix systems and SolidFix.

5. For significant time savings, look for a tile or slate that gives the required aesthetics with a higher coverage rate. Both our Ashmore double interlocking plain tiles and Edgemere interlocking slates have coverage rates of 175 tiles per m², which means they are very quick to install.

6. Use an underlay that has an integrated tape system for sealing laps. This helps you meet BS 5534 requirements more quickly, without the need for a ‘fly’ batten to secure the laps.

7. One common call back for new homes is leaking roofs, or gable wall staining which can be caused by inferior dry fix systems. To avoid this, always specify a dry fix system that is compliant with BS 5812 or has BBA certification. Also, consider that not all compliant systems will offer the same levels of performance and there will still be significant differences between products.

The financial uncertainty surrounding Brexit has inevitably had an impact on the housing market, with the latest NHBC figures showing private sector new home registrations falling. As a result, some housebuilders have reacted by reducing purchase prices and starting to cut costs from some product specifications.

However, when people talk about cost-engineering specifications, they don’t necessarily mean choosing cheaper products. Genuine cost-engineering isn’t just about cutting expenditure. It is about getting the optimum balance between cost, quality and time. A key priority for most roofing projects.

Long-term cost

For roofing contractors, choosing cheaper materials may save money in the short-term, but could prove very costly further down the line – both in terms of finance and reputation. For example, using a cheaper dry ridge system will provide an immediate cost saving – but value-engineering means there could be a risk of product failure and the added cost of repairs.

It therefore important for contractors not only to consider the initial materials and installation costs but also the longer-term repair costs. In fact, there are many ways to save time and money on a roofing project without compromising on quality or aesthetics.

Here are our technical team’s top tips to help balance cost, quality and time:

1. Talk to a trusted roofing manufacturer as soon as possible in the process. At Marley, our area sales managers and technical team can work with you to identify ways to save time and cost on a project while still getting the aesthetic you need. We can also create free NBS specifications for the roof – this makes sure you are complying with relevant British Standards, prevents installation issues and ensures you’re not going to pay the price for over or under ventilating.

2. Always get a free fixing specification for each project you do – doing this upfront will save time and money by preventing call backs and ensure you comply with the requirements of BS 5534.
Why Should You Enter the BMI Apprentice of the Year Competition?

Each year, the BMI Apprentice of the Year competition helps apprentices on their journey to build their future careers, by helping them with better business understanding, stronger communication skills and improved confidence. These are just some of the benefits that past winners and finalists of the BMI Apprentice of the Year competition have received and, as entries for the 2019 competition are now being sifted through, some past finalists have been reflecting upon the experience and what it taught them.

It’s not only the apprentices that have benefited from the competition, it’s also their employers. As their employees acquire confidence and skills, they’ve seen their apprentices more able to run jobs and act independently, putting into practice the wide knowledge and experience they gained from the two-day competition. Last year’s winners report they are now taking on more responsibility in their roles as a result of the competition. In addition, some of those finalists are now in business on their own, while others are representing the industry and recruiting new entrants as Construction Ambassadors with the CITB.

“I get to look at jobs before they start, work with customers, identify issues and the best way to deal with them and this is because of what I learnt from the Apprentice of the Year competition. I’m trusted more and more and allowed to do jobs on my own,” says Kieran Forster, Flat Roofing Apprentice of the Year 2018, who works for Hodgson Sayers of Stanley, County Durham.

Joe Burgess, 2018 Highly Commended in the flat roofing category, works for East Stolkirk Council and agrees: “I’m now doing a lot of my own property, I get briefed by the housing officer and then organise the job myself, estimating and ordering materials.”

Jay Webster, 2018 BMI Pitched Roofing Apprentice of the Year, works for Yorkshire Heritage Roofing based in Leeds and believes the experience of taking part went well beyond simply roofing. “The competition wasn’t just about roofing skills – it also included elements such as presenting, which really helps when it comes to talking to customers. If you can’t speak to the customer, you can have all the skill in the world and not win work.”

Opening doors

Other contestants have found that their success in the competition opened doors they had not even known were there. Tom Thompson (pitched roofing Highly Commended 2018) was named Rising Star of the Year in the Pitched Roof Awards 2018 and: “Tom Knight (pitched roofing Highly Commended 2017) is to be a Construction Ambassador for the CITB.

Both Knight and Thompson strongly believe the competition was an important part of their education as roofer and businessmen. “The competition broadened my knowledge. It wasn’t just hands-on skill, it went a bit deeper. For instance, in the building finding section, I learnt that you had to do more than look to see if a few tiles were broken to check a roof,” explains Tom Thompson. Now self-employed, Tom works with Roundway Roofing in Devizes, which is sponsoring him through college to get his site manager’s card.

Tom Knight and Joe Stantling, winners of the 2017 competition, both say meeting the tao and the judges was important. “The Q&A sessions meant we could ask the judges about their background and how they got to be where they are. This was a fantastic insight into where we might want to be and how we could get there,” says Knight.

Joe, who became self-employed last August, sums up the experience: “I think having presentations from all the judges, who explained what it takes to start up your own business, was really valuable. They were stories that really motivate you. The workshops and exercises in talking to customers were also incredibly helpful and inspired me to set up my own business.”

The 2019 competition closed for entries on 3 May. In July, finalists will come together for the two-day event and once again, will have the chance to set themselves apart as someone with that roofing ‘X Factor’, whether they want to run their own business or become a highly-valued employee.
Choosing Pitched Roof Underlays

There are various types of roofing underlays available on the UK market, all offering very different modes of performance. Even amongst the so-called ‘breather’ membranes, there are different types. For that reason, it is rather confusing to simply refer to them as breathable. It is better to consider such membranes as vapour-permeable or air and vapour-permeable. Even with these, there are varying levels of performance.

To avoid confusion, BS 5934 refers to underlays as ‘LR’ (low resistance) and ‘HR’ (high resistance), meaning low or high resistance to the passage of water vapour through the underlay, with definitions for both. For example, an LR underlay is defined as one with a water vapour resistance of not more than 0.2 MN/m/s. HR underlay has a resistance value higher than 0.2 MN/m/s. An air permeable underlay is defined as one having an air permeability of not less than 20m pers. at a pressure difference of 50 Pa. The installer and designer need to be aware of these product types and performances.

The functions of underlay

Underlay, regardless of its type, should provide a completely waterproof barrier to prevent water from entering the building. This is important both at construction stage, before tiles are laid, and just as important when the roof is fully installed. This means making sure that all junctions such as hips, valleys, abutments, around pipes, chimneys and roof windows are adequately sealed between the underlay and the junction. It is just as important to seal penetrations such as battens and counterbattens nail holes through the underlay. Not only may water and snow penetrate the nailing during extreme weather conditions, water can also be present in the batten cavity in the form of condensation as water vapour passes through the underlay from inside the building. Unsealed underlay must be sealed between natters to allow water to flow between the battens and underlay and drain to the gutter. The underlay’s Manufacturing Instructions will tell you how much of a drip to allow. Just as importantly, BS 5934 stipulates that pitched roofing underlay should provide a barrier to reduce the wind uplift load acting on the tiles. If the underlay cannot sufficiently resist the wind uplift load, then a greater share is borne by the roof tiles, possibly resulting in dislodgement of the tiles.

The share of the wind load borne by the underlay is considerable; therefore the underlay must be of suitable strength to resist these uplift forces. Underlay must always be specified that is appropriate for the design of the building and, importantly, its location. See box entitled ‘Underlay wind uplift resistance requirements’

Thirdly, the underlay and ceiling construction play important roles in controlling condensation within the roof space; directly influencing the amount and position of roof space ventilation.

How the underlay influences ventilation requirements

BS 5250: the British Standard Code of Practice for Control of Condensation in Buildings gives practical recommendations for the installation of ventilation, taking account of underlay and ceiling types.

Domestic ceiling construction generally falls into two categories:

- Well-sealed (continuous): means there is an efficient air and vapour control layer (AVCL) and all joints, junctions and penetrations through the ceiling are sealed to prevent any air and water vapour from passing through the ceiling as possible. BS 5250 gives practical advice on how to design and construct a well-sealed ceiling. Defined as having an air permeability of < 0.1 m³/100 m²/h.

- Unsealed (discontinuous): Ceilings constructed with plasterboards and plaster, no VCL or AVCL and with gaps around cable and pipe ventilation is also recommended. For a warm roof, where the insulation is fitted under/between the rafters, the roof needs 20mm ventilation at eaves and 5mm at ridge, with a clean air path from eaves to ridge between the underlay and insulation.

Vapour-permeable underlays

For a vapour-permeable underlay installed in a cold roof, the level of ventilation depends upon the type of ceiling. In less ventilation is required if the ceiling is well-sealed. BS 5250 recommends a minimum of 0.3 m³/m² ventilation of only 0.3 m³, though in practice, this would be 10mm due to the ready availability of 10mm eaves vents (see Fig 1). Alternatively, 5mm ridge ventilation can be installed. If the ceiling is unsealed, then ridge ventilation should be installed in conjunction with eaves ventilation.

For a warm roof with a well-sealed ceiling, roof space ventilation is not required [see Fig 2]. If the ceiling is unsealed, then 20mm ventilation at eaves and 5mm at ridge is required, with a clean air path from eaves to ridge between the underlay and insulation.
Underlay Wind Uplift Resistance Requirements

Underlays should be classified in accordance with their geographic location and wind zone in the form of a UK Zonal Classification Table on the packaging. The UK is divided into five wind zones, with lowest wind speed, Zone 1, being centred around London and the south of England, and Zone 5 covering the very far north of Scotland. When choosing an underlay, designers and installers must be mindful of the list of criteria that apply to underlay Zonal tables. These are as follows:

- The ceiling must be ‘well sealed’, as defined in BS 5530 (referred to as ‘continuous’ in BS 6364).
- The ridge height must not be greater than 15m.
- The roof pitch must be between 12.5° and 75°.
- The site altitude must not be greater than 100m.
- There should be no significant site topography (as defined in BS 6364).

Where a project falls outside any of these parameters, the predicted wind load may exceed the maximum declared load resistance in the Zonal Classification Table for the location. In these cases, it is a requirement of BS 6364 that a wind uplift calculation is performed to determine what strength the underlay needs to be.

Some concerns have been raised recently that these criteria are not always considered when choosing an underlay. In view of this, I can see some test wind uplift calculations for actual development sites close to what I live. The results were alarming. For two sites, I found the predicted wind load exceeded the maximum load resistance given in the Zonal Classification Table for the location. The sample calculations below:

Wind speed (peak gust) from EN 1991-1-4 = 48.4 m/s
Peak velocity pressure pv = density of air/2 x wind speed2 = 0.613 x 2342.56 = 1468N/m²

From BS 5534, the design wind pressure Pu on an underlay is derived from the equation:

pu = fu x gp
fu = 0.75 where a well-sealed (continuous) ceiling is present = 1077N/m²
fu = 0.90 where an unsealed (discontinuous) ceiling is present = 1992N/m²

Zonal Classification Table requirement for Zone 2 = 975N/m²

These calculations show, that regardless of whether the building has a well-sealed ceiling or not, the predicted wind loads exceed the requirement of the Zonal Table for the particular location. Therefore, it is not possible to use an underlay that only achieves the uplift resistance given in the Zonal Classification Tables.

If there is any doubt about the suitability of an underlay for any particular site or project, always obtain the actual underlay uplift resistance value figure. Alternatively, use an underlay that is classified for unrestricted use in all UK wind zones, such as for example, the range of Trytek Supro underlay systems.

Something New Under the Sun

An innovative, UV-resistant roofing underlay with high water resistance opens up exciting alternatives to traditional roof coverings.

Up until recently, the concept of using an openwork timber cladding system as a roof covering would be unheard of. Partially open timber cladding, as well as metal mesh and composite rainscreen systems, are becoming increasingly common in modern façade design. But extending this cladding to the roof, giving a unified, aesthetically pleasing effect, pitched and mansard roofs is not possible. Why install a roof covering system that will allow water in? However, an innovative, highly water and UV-resistant roofing underlay allows for creative extension cladding design, not just limited to walls.

One small project, an award-winning gem, features this creative unified façade/roof concept. Designed by Robert Houmiller of Merrett Houmiller (initial design in collaboration with Eva Willoughby), their bauhouse sits at the edge of a small lake. The outer cladding of Japanese scoured timber extends up the walls and over the pitched roof. The same timber features in the large shutters that cover the glass walls when the bauhouse is not in use. The effect is of that of a monolithic structure sited harmoniously in the gently landscape at the water’s edge.

“One up until recently, the concept of using an openwork timber cladding system as a roof covering would be unheard of.”

Covering would be unheard of.”

The building was constructed using structural insulated panels, with Powertex UV Colour façade membrane for the walls and Powertex UV Roof protecting the roof. These technologically advanced membranes protect the walls and roofs with exceptionally high UV and water resistance, combined with excellent water vapour permeability. Both are well suited to use with SIP construction, but are compatible with all substrates. They come with a 10-year warranty when installed according to guidelines using proprietary adhesives and detailing accessories. Powertex UV Roof can be used on pitched roofs, including those with a shallow slope (greater than five degrees) and provides protection in even the harshest weather conditions. It can be used in both ventilated and unventilated roof installations and can also be glued directly onto wood, metal or rendered supporting structures. Another feature of UV Roof is its extremely high hail-tar resistance: UV Roof comes in two colours (brown and black) while the UV Colour façade membrane is available in eight colours.

Typically the UV Roof membrane has been used with timber rainscreen cladding, with gaps up to 80mm. UV Roof should be installed in conjunction with Powertex Eco, an economical breather membrane suitable for roofs with a slope greater than 15 degrees. Together, they allow for a complete water and UV protected installation with openwork timber panels.
Sue Wharton
An Outstanding Ambassador for Roofing

As the Group Training Officer of the North West Roofing Group, Sue Wharton is no stranger to success.

Last month saw the official launch of the new DMR Roofing Academy in Wigan, a valuable new facility available for contractors in the region, whose existence is, in no small measure, down to Sue’s efforts.

The DMR Academy, offering both flat and pitched roofing training, joins the existing regional provider, Bolton College, which L&D is thriving - with roofing tutor, Luke O’Gorman now full-time, and an increasing apprentice cohort of roof slaters, and tiles this year.

This is nothing but good news for roofing contractors in the North West and Sue’s genuine passion in the area’s increased training opportunities is obvious: “The good thing is that Bolton College has really taken off again. In the 90s, it was a Centre of Excellence and now its re-emergence is a real thrill to see and has great knock-on effects, such as promoting roofing to local schools and hosting additional training events like Level 1 training and welding, I’m hoping that NVO3 Roof Slating/Tiling will be re-introduced in the near future.”

The North West Roofing Group (NWRTG) has been something of a Wharton family affair since its inception in 2002. Sue had been the UK’s Administrator for the Olympic sport of canoe slalom, in which son Mike participated. Following the organisation of a successful World Championships in Nottingham, the Whartons moved back to Lancashire in 1999 and Sue became NFRC Manager for the North West region.

Husband Brian who had set up British Aerospace’s first ever training school in the region in the early 70s, had retired and became informally involved with Sue’s NFRC work, and the CTB eventually invited him to launch a roofing training group.

The group started with 11 roofing contractor members and a CTB administration grant of £25,000 (now just £20,000). In 2006, Sue resigned her position with the NFRC but stayed involved with the group; in the meantime, son Mike started work with the NFRC and for a spell, also ran the NWRTG, before Sue took up the reins in her own right.

“We have a perception problem in the industry... when I go to schools... they are always surprised at how much a roofer can earn, and the fact that there is career progression.”

Since then, the NWRTG has grown to a membership of 110, with 20 per cent growth in the past year alone. Sue’s group was the first to offer funded drone training and in the past 12 months alone she has supported numerous members in training their staff, writing bids for £200,000 worth of training, and expanded the types of training offered in the region, including the Institute of Roofing Associate’s Management course. She has also focused on promoting roofing’s professional image and its value as a career, attending several school and college events to help attract new talent into roofing.

“We have a perception problem in the industry,” Sue admits. “When I go to schools, I take with me labels of the salaries of teachers, doctors, plumbers and other professions, and I ask pupils – and their parents – to place them in order and pinpoint where a roofer’s salary is. They are always surprised at how much a roofer can earn, and the fact that there is career progression.

Bell-weather
Sue sees recruitment as a bell-weather for the health of the industry. She says: “I would like to think that recruitment wouldn’t be an issue in future for the industry. That’s not just about filling the gaps. And, if we are recruiting the way I believe we should recruit, that is equally, regardless of what jobs are considered suitable for men and women, then that would mean there was equality right through the industry. It’s important that we highlight career progression. Some new recruits will enjoy their work as a roofing installer, others will be looking for a varied career with options to branch out into different areas of the industry, and possibly run their own businesses.”

Sue’s passion for training is pounded in what it can achieve for contractors. She explains: “Those companies that take care to see a 25-30 per cent increase in their bottom lines, I know it’s not simple: contractors have to be sure the work is there to bring in new staff and get them trained and that’s not always straightforward, particularly if they’re subcontracting to main contractors and at their beck and call. They have to be ready to roll in an instant and make sure the work is going to last. There’s often no spare capacity. It’s a low-margin industry.”

Organising training is continual and demand is increasing, yet the NWRTG charges only a modest £40 annual membership fee to ensure it’s inclusive. Late last year, the group, along with several others nationally, received a welcome boost of CTIB funding, allowing it to extend the training it can support, but that’s not matched by funding for the group itself. “We’re like subcontractors to CTIB and we’re getting loaded with more and more requirements but there’s no opportunity to extend our structure as there’s no additional administration grant. That situation is unlikely to improve in the immediate future with additional certification requirements in the industry.”

“It’s so exciting now we’ve got the additional funding to do so much, the possibilities are endless! Here’s our industry with all this opportunity, what a fantastic position for our members to be in!”

One of those requirements comes in the shape of the NFRC initiative, RoofCERT. Sue says: “I believe that RoofCERT is critical in terms of the future of the industry. This accreditation scheme will be one of the most significant changes for the industry. We don’t yet know what degree Roof Training Groups will be involved so I’m looking forward to hearing more about that and the financial support to be put in place.”

For the future, Sue’s outlook is positive: “Last year, CTIB changed the rules so that companies can claim funds for roosters who are subcontracted to them – that’s one big step forward for upskilling in the industry.”

Another step is that increased funding, as Sue concludes: “It’s so exciting now we’ve got the additional funding to do so much, the possibilities are endless! Here’s our industry with all this opportunity, what a fantastic position for our members to be in.”

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The UK Roofing Awards were presented on 10 May 2019 at the InterContinental London O2 hotel. The awards celebrate the very best in the industry across all the roofing disciplines, recognizing outstanding workmanship, problem-solving, environmental qualities and contribution to the built environment.

The awards were hosted by TV presenter Sarah Beeny and received fantastic support from the industry to showcase excellence in roofing and recognize the achievements of roofing contractors.

This year’s awards once again featured the popular Industry Choice Award sponsored by Radmat Building Products, the Local Hero Award sponsored by SIG Roofing, and the Product Innovation Award, sponsored by Easyslope. The introduction of the Young Roofers of the Year Award, sponsored by BML, celebrates the achievements of the industry’s new entrants, and the LSTA Lead Worker of the Year 2019 highlights the exceptional work in this discipline.

**Roof Tiling - Sponsored by ECIC**

**Richard Sao Roofing Services**

**Project Name:** Old Laylands

**Location:** Crowborough

**Materials:** Wienerberger Goshill handmade clay plain tiles

This beautiful country property has a roof made up of 25 intricate slopes, with four protrusions on the rear elevation, with run-out gutters in between, and in places pitches of 45 degrees at the eaves up to 70 degrees. The original tiles were a mixture of peg and ribbed tiles in poor condition and where they could not be re-used, the team sourced matching handmade tiles. The team also renewed the lead flashings, gutters, waste and down pipes as well as the timber soffits and fascia.

**Roof Slating - Sponsored by CUPA PIZZARAS**

**M. Camilleri & Sons Roofing Ltd**

**Project Name:** BIM Building, Clifton College

**Location:** Bristol

**Materials:** Welsh Cwt y Bugail and Penrhyn slates; Dreadnought crested clay ridge tiles

The roof of this imposing Grade II listed kitchen and dining hall built in 1862 needed to be completely renovated and the team were tasked with stripping the 1,000m² roof covering before replacing it like-for-like with 15,000 dark blue-grey rectangular Cwt y Bugail slates and heather blue Penrhyn arrowhead slates. These were fitted on the duo-pitch roof in distinctive alternating ornamental bands, a feature which had to be replicated throughout. The team also repaired the stone chimneys and replaced all leadwork in keeping with the original.

**Green Roofing**

**W Hughes & Son Ltd**

**Project Name:** The Flower Bowl Entertainment Centre

**Location:** Lancashire

**Materials:** Sika Liquid Plastic Decothane roof-resistant cold-applied liquid system

Located in a semi-rural area, the owners of this garden centre and entertainment venue wanted the scheme to be designed on sustainability principles, with the curved green roof reflecting the local landscape of rolling hills. The project required a robust, root-resistant roofing system that would provide a rain-and-forget solution beneath the green roof growing medium and the insulation needed to offer both thermal performance while following the roof profile. Code 6 was used to the ridge, hips and valleys.
Sheeting & Cladding/Rainscreen - Sponsored by Kingspan Insulated Panels

**Prater Ltd working with BEMO**

**Project Name:** No.1 Court at The All England Lawn Tennis Club
**Location:** Wimbledon
**Materials:** BEMOFlex aluminium standing seam system and BEMO Bailey rainscreen cladding

The retractable roof was the key feature of this project to make No.1 Court an all-weather tennis arena with a capacity for 12,400 spectators through the addition of two new tiers. This required significant structural steel frames in order to support it. Working alongside key supply chain partners, Prater installed a 6,500m² aluminium standing seam metal roofing system along with an extensive waterproof hot melt package. The team also delivered 3,000m² of cladding to the outer wall. A phased approach ensured No.1 Court could still host matches.

Fully Supported Metal Roofing – Sponsored by ALM

**Richardson Roofing Co Ltd**

**Project Name:** Ludgate House
**Location:** Herfordshire
**Materials:** Linerthm substrate, zinc

Richardson Roofing installed the bespoke curved zinc roof that was the defining feature of this strikingly modern design, which transformed an old and dated livery yard into a new home. The contractor created the barrelled roof on site, demonstrating excellent detailing on all the elements, to deliver a standing seam metal roof covering that reflects the traditional barn form using the most modern systems.
Lead Roofing – Sponsored by ALM
D Harkin & Co Roofing Ltd
Project Name: McArthur Hall, Methodist College
Location: Belfast
Materials: Lead
The roof of this Grade B1 listed building needed a complete overhaul as part of extensive renovation and the team re-used as much of the original building material as possible including roof slates, gutters and downpipes to retain the building’s character. However, the spire, which is the building’s standout feature, was missing most of its lead due to exposure to the elements and what remained was of very poor quality. Nevertheless, experienced heritage craft lead workers were able to recreate the original intricate lead designs.

Liquid Applied Waterproofing and Hot-Melt
Makers Construction Ltd
Project Name: The Water Gardens
Location: London
Materials: Triflex ProTECT, Triflex ProDetail
The 5,800m² rooftop terrace of this concrete residential block includes planters and pools. These had begun leaking into the basement car park beneath soon after the building’s construction in 1996 and a lack of maintenance had led to severe deterioration. Makers Construction had to first empty the planters and drain the 148,000 litres of water plus accumulated silt from the individual pools before repairs and waterproofing could start. Makers doubled-up the reinforced waterproofing system to ensure a leak-free roof before re-filling the pools.

Single Ply Roofing - Sponsored by EJOT UK
Progressive Systems Ltd
Project Name: The Dunes
Location: Cornwall
Materials: Sika Sarnafil, including S327 18 EL lead grey single ply membrane
Situated just 10 short metres from the beach at Porthcurno in Cornwall, Progressive Systems had to contend with unforgiving coastal weather to deliver an attractive, yet robust roof to this luxury development. One of the most prominent design features on the roof were Sarnafil Decor Profiles which were used on the steeper pitched roofs and the beach houses to mimic a standing seam roof. The team carried out wind uplift calculations to determine the number of fixings needed on the roof to ensure it was able to resist the formidable weather.

2019 UK Roofing Awards
**Reinforced Bitumen Membranes**

Industry Choice – sponsored by Radmat Building Products Ltd

**Mastic Asphalt**

Sussex Asphalte Ltd

Project Name: North Courtyard, St Paul’s Cathedral
Location: London
Materials: Recycled asphalt and KO recreational duty asphalt with added granite

After Sussex Asphalte had replaced the asphalt covering of the cathedral’s Stone Gallery in 2017, it recycled the 100-year-old asphalt to renew the 500m² North Courtyard which had started leaking water into the cathedral’s workshops and storage facilities. The team overcame numerous challenges by height and falls and tight areas with many changes in direction to upstands, to ensure straight lines and deliver a high-quality workmanship.

**Small Scale Project (Under £25k)**

**Mitie Tilley Roofing Ltd**

Project Name: Unit 800 Aztec West
Location: Bristol
Materials: BMI loidal products, including Total Torch VCL, and Thermawell Firesmart cap-sheets

Consisting of a series of multi-level octagons, this very complex 4.250m² roof needed a long-lasting covering to replace the original roof. The hexagonal arrangement meant the team had to cut and detail in multiple mitred hips, along with numerous upstands for outfalls. This followed a laborious strip-out where in places the build-up included two layers of insulation board and cork boarding. The team also re-clad the perimeter of the building and five staircases.

**Emerton Roofing (Western) Ltd**

Project Name: Octagonal Tower
Location: Cheltenham
Materials: Marley/John Brash cedar shingles

This fascinating project involved the conversion of a falling load flat roofed bay window into a stunning shingled eight-sided pitched tower. The owners of the Grade II* part-timbered 17th century country estate wanted to make a statement and chose cedar shingles for the new tower. Emerton Roofing’s skilled operatives demonstrated a multitude of skills from laying the shingles to the highest standard to hand-crafting each piece of soffit from a section of oak, tightly cut and fixed to allow for a seamless change in shape.

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Barclay Roofing Ltd working with IKO PLC

Project Name: Stephenson Building, Abbey Hill Academy
Location: Stockton-on-Tees
Materials: IKO slate and Marley Dry Ridge System

This school, for 11 to 16-year-olds with learning difficulties, needed to be completely replaced. However, the scale of the project and the need to avoid disrupting classes meant that work could only be carried out during school holidays throughout 2017 and 2018, with the scaffolding erected and dropped each time. Barclay re-roofed the school with IKO slate, a composite tile made with 95% recycled and re-engineered materials. Manufactured to look like natural slate, the tile is stronger than natural slate and can be fixed with power tools, enabling the team to install the new roof more quickly.

Local Hero Award - Sponsored by SIG Roofing

Ben Large, BPL Roofing Ltd

Ben and his team of six came to the Malik family’s rescue after spotting a Facebook post describing how a cowboy builder had disappeared with £38,000, leaving them with a dangerously incomplete extension for their severely disabled brother.

Building Control found that the roof was resting on a single wall and could have potentially collapsed at any moment. After reinforcing it, B.P.L. Roofing completed the roofing works within two days, free of charge.

Young Roofer of the Year Award - Sponsored by BMI

Blake Edge, J Randall Roofing Contractors Ltd

“Blake worked so hard that he completed his NVQ course ahead of schedule. His college had to create a new work area in order to progress to the next stage of his training.

“He has shown willingness to take on technical jobs for his employer, showing supervisors a commitment to learn. He’s worked weekends and late nights to gain further knowledge to progress and has become a great flat roofer.”

LSTA Lead Worker of the Year 2019

Shane White of SW Leadworks has been crowned Leadworker of the Year 2019. Shane was chosen by a judging panel after a two-day skills test at the Lead Sheet Training Academy’s training centre in East Peckham, Kent.

Shane’s excellent work stood out, with the judges praising his attention to detail and the craftsmanship evident in his work.

Shane, 35, is based in Somerset. With his grandfather being a blacksmith and his uncle having worked with lead, metalwork is something that he feels “almost runs in my blood”.

As well as gaining industry recognition, Shane will be awarded a number of career-boosting prizes, including a free week of training at the LSTA, a new set of tools and a copy of the Riba Lead Sheet Manual.

The competition, now in its eighth year, is sponsored by the Lead Sheet Training Academy and is open to both self-employed leadworkers and those working for contractors.
Introducing the NEW lightweight EnviroPVtile full roof system from July 2019

GSPC are delighted to be working with GB-Sol on the EnviroPVtile product. The light weight and rapid fitting time of the Envirotile range will transform the opportunities for traditional looking roofing in challenging situations such as new build housing and conservatories. The PV modules integrate seamlessly into the moulded tiles and our experienced installation teams should be able to complete most domestic sized installations in a single day on site.

The solar tiles are completely interchangeable with the classic Envirotiles, so the roof layout and design need little amendment to incorporate solar power. As each tile generates 25W of peak solar power, you can fine tune the amount of solar to your needs and budget.

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Beware Those Unintended Consequences

This year, the SPRA Conference title is “What’s the Risk?” It seemed particularly apt given that we are currently living through such uncertain times. The Grenfell [the tragedy] and subsequent Hackitt Review and BREXIT are two extreme, long-running, but very current issues that have created an abode of uncertainty across society and I suspect that the number of risk analyses being repeatedly undertaken by many people and organisations has never been greater. There is also evidence to suggest that many are now so paralysed by their ability to make informed decisions, due to the high levels of uncertainty and incomprehensible complexity, that no decisions are being made at all. However, there is a greater worry: that wrong and knee-jerk decisions are being taken when not enough information or clarity is available.

Most of us do a basic mental risk assessment when we ask ourselves any question beginning with the word ‘should’, for example: questions like:

- Should we get a dog?
- Should we assume that our incomes over the next 12 months will not decrease?
- The risk assessment usually centers on money of course, but there are other issues like mental health, time, inconvenience, happiness etc. that all come into play in a domestic risk analysis.

And the same is true for the single ply roofing sector when they are grappling with the best answer to questions such as:

- Should we stockpile product?
- If we stockpile product, how much should we stockpile?
- Should we ban all combustible materials just in case?
- Should our company invest in staff training?

Risk will be at the centre of these questions and the measure of risk will influence the decisions that are made and actions taken. Company growth, profit and loss, legal responsibilities, health and safety, mental health and insurances are all factors to consider article 59 so that she can bring the opposition to the table to try and find a solution to the BREXIT problem: deal or no deal. Who knows what the situation will be when you read this, but one thing will be certain – people and businesses will have been keeping calm and carrying on, because that’s all they can do… right? It is certainly going to be top of the options appraisal list that comes out of any company risk analysis.

The most important thing that we can all do is to establish the facts before decisions are made. Massive, important issues like Grenfell and BREXIT can lead to knee-jerk reactions by those that do not understand either the full situation, or who have not considered the consequences of their subsequent decision-making and actions taken. The review of Approved Document B and Combustible Materials is just one example. For instance, it would appear that the rush to ensure that buildings are safe has led some specifiers, clients and insurers to interpret new recommendations and regulations to mean that: it is perhaps just safer to not use any combustible materials on any buildings… just in case. This is without, perhaps, taking the time to fully understand the new regulations, or indeed, gain the knowledge and understanding of the combustibility of ‘systems’ as well as individual building elements, or factor in what constitutes robust and appropriate certification testing and accreditation. Reducing risk so that building occupants feel safer and are safer, is of course, the overall goal. How we get there, therefore, is really important.

The Hackitt Review recommendations have a change in culture at their heart, but we are in danger of changing culture in an entirely different way based on mis-information and speculation, not on facts, figures and experience.

Our industry has been quite active in responding to the many workshops and consultations in recent months, but we can always do more. We need to guard against these unintended consequences and ensure a healthy, robust construction sector supported by a stable economy.

Responsible organisations will highlight examples of good and bad practice to their trade bodies that enable them to have informed discussions with government policy-makers and thereby pro-actively and positively influence decision-making and regulation.
The Future is Green

Chris Bridgman, Managing Director of Bridgman and Bridgman

I believe the green roofing industry requires vital skills from both a roofing perspective and a horticultural one. Installers of green roofs have the potential to collapse a building more than any other trade. During the construction of a green roof in Latvia in 2013, 94 people were killed when it was overloaded and the roof collapsed. This was due to tonnes of substrate being loaded in the centre of the roof. Generally, structures are only designed to hold fully saturated conditioned green roofs and are not designed for point loading during construction. Weight distribution is key. Our team has installed a roof that had 3,900 tonnes of substrate laid across the whole roof, plus 400 tonnes of turf rolls (dead load weight) yet an operative pushing a mower across to cut the grass was too much additional weight (live load).

Installers need to respect the waterproofing layer and avoid any potential damage to the structure. Working at height, harness training and working with and around cranes and hoists are key skills that may be required - all common to the roofing sector. In terms of horticultural skills: plant identification, weed identification, plant knowledge, irrigation, and feed application skills are also required to maintain and nurture a successful green roof.

There are now lots of types of green roofs on the market: lightweight, extensive, intensive, biosphere, biodiverse, pitched and, now becoming more common, blue roofs. The industry has moved quickly from many extensive roofs - commonly sedum roofs - to more enhanced designs with multiple benefits. I was recently asked if 50mm of substrate or growing medium is enough for a green roof.

Well, my answer is the deeper the better, and with a deeper depth comes more opportunity for a broad range of wildflowers and species, and more water retention capacity. If the roof can only take a light system and a 15mm depth of substrate then this is still okay, but only with the recommended maintenance, monitoring and annual load that every living roof requires.

You can't learn about roofing overnight, nor can you become a horticulturalist from a one-day course, but understanding the basics and looking at how the two trades come together are vital to a successful installation. Having the support of both industry bodies is also a vital resource, so the newly launched green roof training is a must for anyone in the industry.

We are incredibly fortunate that no major accidents have occurred in the UK green roofing sector but if an accident occurred or in the event of a fatality the question from the Health and Safety Inspector would be, what training did the operatives have? If there was not training available, the industry bodies would have to ask why was there no training available? For this reason, and to promote good standards, there is now a certification and CSCS cards available for green roofing.

To register for certification, or to find more information, visit www.lantia.co.uk or email info@lantia.co.uk or go to http://bit.ly/2y4d44y.
Green Roofs Call for Green Solutions

Green roofs, roof terraces and roof gardens bring nature into urban environments and will help our cities adapt to climate change. With green roofs becoming increasingly popular, what are the greenest options for specifiers working on converting existing flat roofs into green roofs? Justin Fitman of Protec Waterproofing outlines the benefits of green roofs and why an ingenious cold melt waterproofing system has potential to be the go-to solution for inverted green roof applications.

As cities continue to grow, roof spaces are an untapped resource. These future ecosystems can enhance biodiversity, reduce the risk of flooding (by absorbing rainfall) and improve a building’s thermal performance whilst mitigating the urban heat island effect and the loss of outdoor spaces. In central London alone, there are more than 700 green roofs, covering an area of 175,000m². They can provide a simple way to reduce energy costs and transform unused roof space into functional, usable space.

Green roofs are also cost-effective, as one of their many benefits is the fact that the roof structure is protected from temperature differentials and the resulting expansion and contraction that would normally shorten the lifespan of a roof. A green roof also acts as an insulator, protecting buildings from the cold in the winter and keeping the heat out in the summer, resulting in lower heating and air conditioning bills.

“Extensive or intensive

Green roofs can be intensive, with gardens on rooftops, with shrubs, climbers, perennials, bedding and even small trees. These are usually contained or raised bed gardens. They need at least 30cm (12”) depth of growing medium, much of which needs to be organic matter. Alternatively they can be extensive, with green carpets of low maintenance creeping plants. Extensive green roofs generally require an 815cm (34-4”) depth of growing medium that can consist mainly of lightweight inorganic materials such as perlite, lava, sand, rockwool and crushed tiles or concrete FL Guidelines (2000) and the GRO Code (2004) are of paramount importance when constructing any living roof.

The typical layers of an extensive green roof include: waterproofing and insulation layers, a root barrier membrane, a drainage/reservoir layer, a filter layer and then the growing medium above. It may be necessary to incorporate dains into the system, which should be boxed in to prevent them clogging up.

The greenest membrane

Whilst traditional bituminous and hot-melt modified bitumen systems are the most common waterproofing for inverted roofs, a cold-applied, two-part elastomeric polyurethane waterproofing system provides seamless protection and is particularly suited to inverted green roof applications. Offering last, value-for-money installation, it is installed in a similar way to hot-melt systems and mastic asphalt applications, offering the same seamlessness advantages without the use of mobile material or naked flame at roof level. BBA entitled to last the lifetime of the structure once covered, this system, called Cold Melt, is one of the greenest membranes in the world.

“In central London alone, there are more than 700 green roofs, covering an area of 175,000m².”

Quick, simple and safe to apply, this cold-applied membrane incorporates recycled rubber crumb, castor oil and other organically grown products to provide seamless roof protection. Exhibiting virtually no odour, it can easily be applied in urban or built-up areas without risk of disruption or annoyance to building users.

The cold-applied system can incorporate innovative hybrid roof insulation and, with or without insulation, can be designed as a paved, decked, ballasted, green or brown roof. Furthermore, the membrane does not become brittle with age and, when protected from UV exposure, is certified to last the life of the structure. It can be used on a range of decks including concrete, asphalt, timber/plywood and metal balustrades and roofs.

With climate change on the horizon, green roofs have the potential to contribute to the sustainability of buildings and their urban locations. Typically the same size as the building footprint, the roof surface can easily be transformed into a usable space whilst at the same

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H ere, Roofing Today joins an industry-wide drive to recognise, encourage and reward high standards, professionalism and exceptional customer service in the ranks of youngers entering this exciting industry. Schemes such as BMI Group’s Roofing Apprentice of the Year contest and the NRFC-organised SkillBuild competition and the UK’s entry in the IFD World Roofing Championship all help to encourage not just the professional aspirations of youngers starting out in the industry, but also to promote roofing as an enjoyable, worthwhile and rewarding career.

Lauren Politt, 29
Wythenshawe Community Housing Trust
Lauren is a roofer at Wythenshawe Community Housing Group. Starting as a lecturer, Lauren completed her NVQ 2 RST via the OSAT route, as well as lead welding and bossing training. Lauren is a Construction Ambassador and has attended many schools to promote roofing as a career. She also took part in DIY SOS to help build ex-forces housing in Manchester. Lauren is ambitious to develop her career and would like to run her own roofing team in the future. She says, “I’m confident in my roofing skills as well as communicating with clients. I’m proud to show my children what I can do and I know they’re proud that their Mum is a roofer.”

Alex Breadman, 22
Commercial Roofing & Facades
Alex has worked in procurement for one year and estimating for the last two years. Within the last year, he has estimated a total of £2M worth of roofing and cladding projects, whilst managing to secure four of these, valued at a total of £1.4M. Alex says, “Whilst coming into the industry completely green has, of course, been challenging, I’m currently focused on learning and improving every day. I am trying to gain further industry knowledge wherever possible by attending meetings and sites and learning I can from talking to people who are experienced in the industry.”

Christopher Jack Rees, 23
MA Hartley Roofing Contractors Ltd
At a young age, Jack decided to work alongside his father in the roofing industry. Eager to learn, Jack started his career as a trainee roofer, quickly gaining his NVQ 2 RST in 2015 at Allan College, followed by a Level 3 NVQ in Construction Contracting Operations. He opted to further his career, training to be a quantity surveyor/estimator and is now near completion of a HNC in Construction and Built Environment. Jack has excelled beyond his own targets, acquiring a wealth of experience. It’s the general consensus at MA Hartley Roofing that Jack will one day be running his own roofing company.

Samuel Moore, 27
Samuel Moore Roofing
Samuel owns his own roofing business in Tteeside. He started as an apprentice at his brother’s company for seven years, training at Newcastle College. At 23, Samuel decided to set up his own business and says key to his success was ploughing profits into advertising his business, being active on social media and working long days and weekends. Now employing a full-time four-strong team, Samuel says, “I love being outdoors, meeting different people of all backgrounds and try to talk to as many people as possible to network for new jobs. It’s great having an apprentice of my own, showing them the right way to do things. One thing I say to our lads is, have pride in your work.”

Zaques McGough, 19
Longworth Building Services Ltd
Zaques attends the CITB National Construction College where he has already achieved a Level 2 Diploma in Roof Sheathing, IPAF, PASMA, VMD/Height at Work and Emergency First Aid qualifications. Zaques’ employer says he has made excellent progress in his introduction to roofing so far, applying himself to his work with an exceptional attitude. Zaques is always willing to develop himself further and apply himself to his role with a can-do attitude. His ambition is to progress to managing others in his trade and share the knowledge gained over his career with a team.

Dayle Mitchell, 22
Weatherproofing Advisors Ltd
Dayle is an apprentice at the National Construction College, Inchinnan in Glasgow studying for a NVO L2 in Built-up Felt Roofing. Focusing on flat roofing, Dayle has already gained experience in flat roofing disciplines, including built-up felt, liquid coatings, and steel profiled cladding. His boss comments: “Since starting his apprenticeship in 2017, Dayle has demonstrated an excellent work ethic and ambitious attitude and he shows great promise for a successful future in the roofing industry.” And he’s made a great start, achieving the CITB Scottish Apprentice of the Year, BUFAR category.

Jay Webster 22
Yorkshire Heritage Roofing
Training at LCB, Jay has NVQ 2 Property Maintenance. His list of achievements include winning BMI Redland Apprentice of The Year in 2018, Leeds College of Building Apprenticeship Award - Highly Commended (Yorkshire region). Jay wants to “Carry on training and learning new skills to improve on my career prospects and skill set, such as advanced leadwork courses, as lead is what I would like to specialise in. Eventually I would like to work for myself and set up my own business.”

Abigail Sunasky, 18
Bridgman & Bridgman
Currently an apprentice, according to MD, Chris Bridgman, Abigail is “a fantastic addition to the team” and works across all disciplines, from propagating Sedum cuttings for green roof projects, to installing and maintaining green roofs and roof gardens, as well as business administration. Abigail has a CSCS trainee card in green roof installations, making her the first woman in the UK to achieve this. Abigail is working on London’s largest green roof currently being constructed, and repeatedly receives glowing feedback from project managers and clients on her performance, indicating her future potential to be a contractor or project manager.

Freddie Wade, 24
Bracknell Roofing, South East Branch
Joining the company as a trainee, Freddie is now contracts manager, managing up to 10 contracts at any one time and is responsible for delivering projects on time, on budget and to high standards. An Associate of the IoT and studying for NVO L6 in Construction and Site Management, Freddie has his sights set on becoming a branch manager. He says ‘Bracknell Roofing has invested in me at every stage of my career and I’ve been lucky enough to work alongside Regional Manager Chris Beach, who has given me the benefit of his experience.” Braacknell’s Director Simon Smith adds, “Freddie’s a great example to other young people that roofing can be a rewarding career with lots of prospects and opportunities.”

Lewis Hill, 25
RL Lovatt Ltd
Lewis attends Bolton College where he is studying for a NVO 3 RST. Lewis had dreams of being a professional footballer and was with Bolton Wanderers Academy for 10 years. However, Lewis eventually decided that family firm as he wanted a more hands-on job where he could earn, money to enjoy holidays like his mates. Once qualified, Lewis led his roothing gang, completing some very prestigious jobs in the area to an exceptional standard. With maths being a particular strength, Lewis has progressed to training as an estimator for RL. Lovatt’s said that putting that cohort, Lewis has driven forward in his career, spotting a future in new-build work and the company is now working on 12 such sites, doubling its turnover.

Joe Osborne, 20
The Roofing Corporation Ltd
Joe is a dedicated, hard-working and trustworthy employee and is passionate about his work, say his Grimby-based employers. Joe is currently studying for a NVO 2 RST at LCB where he has developed his confidence and skills. Joe is taking part in the SkillBuild heants and hopes to compete on the company’s finals. Joe appreciates learning modern roofing methods at college, in contrast to the more traditional and heritage roofing focus at work. Learning these different ways of working has given Joe a breadth of knowledge and skills which he brings to the range of projects he works on.
Jordan Condren, 21
Hodgson Sayers
Jordan has completed his NVQ 2 RST at Newcastle College, receiving merit. He is an exceptionally talented apprentice, achieving silver at SkillBuild 2018. The award is particularly outstanding as Jordan was originally first reserve in the North East regional heat, but his determination and intricate problem-solving skills meant he stood out from fellow contestants in the final, proving he is one of the UK’s finest apprentices. He has been nominated for SkillBuild 2019 and is this time looking to take gold. To add to his bow, Jordan was voted Newcastle College Apprentice Champion 2019 and is set to complete his Advanced Level in Roofing Occupations in June 2019.

Tyler Pedrick, 22
Avonside Roofing, Braintree
As an apprentice roofer, Tyler is studying for a NVQ 2 RST with the Eastern Region Roof Training Group (ERRTG) and is the Eastern Region Roof Training Apprentice of the Year 2019. Right from the start of his apprenticeship, Tyler has been a model student, according to the ERTTG. He has a passion to learn and develop his skills as a roofer, demonstrating an attention to detail that results in an exceptional standard of work. Tyler is ambitious and sees his future lying in working continually to improve as a roofer and work his way up the career ladder at Avonside Roofing.

30 Under 30

Brad Hayes, 19
Hodgson Sayers
Brad has completed his NVQ 2 RST at Newcastle College, achieving a Distinction. The company has identified him as a ‘star in the making’ and one of its finest young talents. He displays great drive and a level of confidence one would not expect for his age, says his boss, having taken part in SkillBuild 2018 - where he returns again in 2019. As his career develops, Brad would like to progress to site manager and then contracts manager and Hodgson Sayers believe he can achieve anything he sets his mind to. Currently, he is on course to complete his Advanced Level in Roofing Occupations.

Andrew Emerton, 22
Emerton Roofing (Western) Ltd
Andrew has studied at both Bolton College and LCB where he qualified as NVQ 3 RST in 2016. That year he also won the bronze medal in the SkillBuild finals. In 2018, Andrew was the lead tradesman in two projects which were shortlisted in the UK Roofing Awards 2019. Now, Andrew has been promoted to contracts manager in the family business. Andrew says he wishes to keep traditional roofing and the use of heritage materials thriving, as well as playing his part in maintaining the reputation of roofing as a top trade.

Angus Blair-Park, 22
Bracknell Roofing, Burton-on-Trent head office
Angus joined Bracknell at 18, starting his apprenticeship by spending time in different departments, developing his skills and knowledge in areas such as estimating, purchasing and ordering. His potential was spotted by the directors and he was promoted to an apprentice quantity surveyor, giving him more exposure to larger commercial contracts. And it’s a role he has flourished in, streamlining and systematising the company’s commercial department to improve tracking tenders at every stage. Angus says ‘Bracknell Roofing is giving me a great opportunity to play a key role that meets the needs of the business but also supports my ambition to become a quantity surveyor’.

Jack Cullin, 22
Abbey Asphalt Roofing Ltd
Jack is a mastick asphalt spreader and trained at New City College, London. Jack completed a three-year apprenticeship in mastic asphalt at college, achieving a Level 3 Distinction. Having started college at just 16, Jack was thrown in at the deep end and having to lodge away from home 5 to 6 times a year for 2 to 3 weeks to complete his training, as Haxton College is the only UK venue offering a mastick asphalt course. In between college, Jack was working on projects gaining experience in site work and importantly, Health and Safety. Jack’s employer says he has progressed at a staggering rate, is now a charge hand, and has just completed the prestigious Fort Nelson project in Portsmouth.

Tom Knight, 25
TK Roofing and Property Services
Tom owns his own roofing company based in Truro. Tom’s rise began when he won the 2016 South West SkillBuild Regional heat, competing in the national finals. In 2017, he was Highly Commended at the BMI Roofing Apprentice of the Year competition, gaining his NVQ 2 RST in the same year. Personal development hasn’t stopped for Tom, and he has now studied for his Certificate in Assessing Vocational Achievement and he’s also become a CITB Construction Ambassador via the South West Roofing Training Group. Tom’s delaying his roof and high level of workmanship have ensured his success. He wants to encourage others into roofing as a viable and worthwhile career and eventually would like to teach roofing.

Oscar Miller, 18
The Roofing Corporation Ltd
Oscar is studying for NVQ 2 RST at LCB. He also possesses, first aid, working at heights, asbestos awareness and lead welding and bossing qualifications. Oscar is determined to succeed in his career in roofing and is punctual, eager and works in his own time on a roofing job to perfect techniques. He recently took part in the first heats of the SkillBuild competition and was among the youngest British to ever carry out a week-long ornamental slate course in Germany, alongside his father Chris Miller. He has also worked on Shrewsbury’s Floraville Maltings with Historic England on a two-week bursary placement.
Ashley Saxton, 26
Saxton Specialist Leadwork
Running his own company, Ashley provides leadwork services for a range of clients across London and Kent, taking great pride in his work. Ashley was the runner-up in the Lead Sheet Training Academy’s (LSTA) Leadworker of the Year 2019 competition. Having achieved his Level 2 NVQ Diploma in Roofing Occupations for his leadwork from the LSTA, he is now enrolled on their Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Heritage Skills for Metal Roofing. Ashley is committed to widening his skillset and says that investing in high-quality training has given him skills that have “set him up for life.”

Liam Dooley, 18
The Roofing Co (NW) Ltd
Liam joined the company in 2017 as an apprentice and studied for his NVQ 2 RST at Bolton College. His employers say he has really excelled, at an incredibly hard worker with a fantastic work ethic, going the extra mile to ensure that work is completed to a high standard. They’ve had very good feedback from customers about Liam’s positive, friendly attitude. He is taking part in SkillBuild and continuing his training to NVQ 3 RST at LCB. Liam feels that we need to encourage new apprentices and promote good standards of workmanship by motivating anyone coming into roofing to follow the training route. Liam’s employers add, “I am sure that one day he will be running the business!”

William Emerton, 24
Emerton Roofing (Western) Ltd
William studied at Bolton College and LCB where he achieved NVQ L3 Diploma in Slating and Tiling in 2016. In what turned out to be an amazing year for William, in 2016 he also won the Gold Medal in the UK SkillBuild Roof Slating and Tiling category, the “Slating Apprentice of the Year” at LCB, and he was also promoted to Contracts Manager in the family business. In 2018, William took his achievements even further when he won the ‘President’s Award’ representing the UK at the IFD World Championships for Young Roofers in Latvia. William says his career focus is, “to provide a quality service and preserve the skills associated with traditional British roofing.”

Ben Francis, 27
M A Witcombe Ltd
M A Witcombe has already notched up almost a decade of experience and is currently sub-contracted as an experienced roofer for M A Witcombe in Hertford, Devon. Completing a NVQ 2 last year via the Experienced Worker Practical Assessment Route with the South West Regional Training Group, Ben was commended for his high standards of workmanship, skilled use of tools and excellent finish to his work. Ben is also recognised for his commitment to on site safety, being well-organised and a polite and effective communicator, all of which tip Ben as having an exceptional future ahead of him.

Holly Morton Parker, 20
Proteus Waterproofing Ltd
Holly has been employed at Proteus since leaving school in 2015. She started as a Level 2 Business Administration apprentice and, having shown leadership qualities, was given the opportunity to undertake a Level 3 Leadership and Management Apprenticeship, which she successfully completed in July 2018. Holly is now Proteus’ Senior Sales Administrator and leads a team of three. She was also nominated for the Women in Roofing Rising Star Award in 2018 and was shortlisted as a finalist. Holly has gained valuable specialist knowledge of the roofing industry and her employer says she has a very bright future ahead of her.

Jack Johnson, 26
Commercial Roofing and Facades Ltd
Jack has been an estimator for two years with his Essex-based employer. Jack was drawn to the role due to his IT skills and previous experience in construction, installing drying and managing up to 15 men on site, as well as two years onsite experience as a fitter. As an estimator, Jack has, so far this year, estimated £2m worth of tenders and five projects, successfully securing five projects worth £1.1m in total. Jack says, “I have a very positive and optimistic working attitude where I believe there are always solutions to problems, and I enjoy implementing different ideas into the business, creating new ways to develop the company, and helping out wherever possible.”

Craig Ferguson, 28
Facility Service Group Ltd
Since joining Swansea-based FSG, Craig has progressed to supervising and leading projects and continues to deliver on time and to client’s requirements. His managers report that Craig offers innovative solutions, whether a new process or product that offers a safety benefit, cost saving or efficiency gain. Craig continually strives to improve his own skills and knowledge as well as the company’s work processes. He’s a proactive team member, leading from the front on safety, quality and skill set development. He is generous in sharing his knowledge with both experienced engineers and apprentices, his employer says, and has shown himself to be an asset to FSG with his work ethic, workmanship and thirst for betterment.

Grant Robinson, 27
LDN Leadwork Ltd
Grant has been doing leadwork for almost five years, based in Essex, but serving clients across London and the South East. Grant has already completed a City & Guilds accredited course in leadwork and is going to be starting the LSTA’s City & Guilds Traditional Advanced Leadwork course this year. He also plans to complete a course to train to be a supervisor and to start his NVQ 3 this year. In 2019, Grant was shortlisted for the LSTA’s awards and is also the LSTA’s Leadwork of the Year Award. Talking of the future, he said: “My ambitions are to become a contracts manager in years to come, but at the moment I’m just enjoying being on the tools and mastering my craft.”
The Need to Invest for Success

Andrew Money, Chief Operations Officer, Avonside Group

In Avonside’s last column Group CEO Tony Butle, commented on Brexit’s knock-on effects on the sub-contracting community, citing uncertainty and lack of transparency regarding both material supply and pricing in the context of long-term contractual commitments. It seems that our Westminster representatives have made no discernible progress since then.

The scenario Tony highlighted is most definitely not conducive to a sustainable business model and I would reiterate Tony’s plea to all parts of the supply chain to have a long-term strategy to ensure that members of staff are better trained, have a clearer direction and are more highly motivated than they are currently. This in turn can drive a business forward.

Training and development cost time and resources – it’s my view that the CTIB training levy is a welcome initiative, but somewhat narrow in its training and development focus, which may benefit by broadening its remit to all staff.

Notwithstanding that perspective, we each have a responsibility to improve our people’s ability to respond to the challenges of a dynamic and challenging sector, to which we must add the pace of technological change that is re-shaping business practices and capabilities at an ever-increasing pace.

Within every business there needs to be a clear view by each department about how it wants to operate, the technology that can support this and to identify the gap in knowledge of our people to take us there.

The gap is a fundamental challenge for us all. While the oncoming need to recruit and develop the technical skills our industry requires through increased apprenticeships is a subject that has been covered recurrently in this column and now the Avonside senior management team feel passionately about – this is only part of the equation.

We also have to look at all those areas of staff and management to ensure that we have the best people, we develop those people and retain them so we have a ‘win-win’ situation.

We are in the early stages of a technological revolution and are only just beginning to realise the implications of artificial intelligence, micro engineering and biometrics, which will impact upon every area of our lives and businesses.

Taking advantage of these developments usually happens for early adopters, and in order to join their ranks, we have to have a strategy to build these opportunities into our business models and ensure our teams are thoroughly prepared to deliver.

These gains will allow us to think more creatively about the supply chain issues we face, allow us to provide better value-added services to our clients, – better health and safety, improved logistics and superior quality of delivery.

Many areas of the supply chain are already thinking about these issues and striving for greater efficiency. Areas such as modular and off-site building will present challenges to traditional construction methods and we each need to be able to respond or even better, lead, in these critical areas.

In this fast-changing environment where change is taking place all around us and at an increasing speed, the focused development of our people is the only sustainable protection we have to being left behind.

Innovative Artificial Grass System Raises the Roof

EverRoof® is a unique and accredited artificial green roof system designed as an alternative and complimentary product to natural green roofs, helping to transform unusable and often ugly, flat roof spaces into beautiful green multi-use areas.

EverRoof’s artificial green roof systems are the only fire-rated and wind-tested roofing system on the market, providing a low maintenance roof area that can withstand natural turbulence without being damaged, requiring no resources once it has been installed.

EverRoof® has been tested for wind uplift resistance of at least 100mph without lifting or showing any signs of damage or distress. It is the only fire-rated system on the market giving complete peace of mind.

Low maintenance

The roofing systems look green and lush all year round, perfectly transforming ugly flat roofs into all-year round areas that maximise the outdoor space of a building. EverRoof® can also work harmoniously alongside living green roof spaces as evidenced in a number of recent, high-profile commercial projects undertaken by the team, and in fact provides low maintenance access routes to areas requiring more regular upkeep.

EverRoof® is the first of its kind multi-layered system combining the award-winning Witch? Best Buy Wonder Yarn® artificial grass with different underlay and drainage options, with the product setup depending on the roof type.

This innovative product also provides water attenuation and adds another insulation layer, which could save consumers money on their energy bills and extend the life of a roof.

EverRoof® recently took its technology to new heights with an installation of Wonder Yarn at Castle View retirement village for independent living in Windsor. This brand new development with stunning views over Windsor Castle was specially designed to incorporate a communal garden on its roof as they have plenty of space to play in. We’re even had Windsor Bowls Club come and visit to play a few games and the putting green area is ideal for when residents want to take in a few holes.”

Toni Kucuk, Business Development Manager for the EverRoof® brand, said: “Having been in the artificial grass business for three decades as part of the Evergreen UK group, we are proud to have launched a unique and innovative product in EverRoof®.

“EverRoof® provides fireproofing for rooftop areas on buildings and can be used on both new and existing rooftop designs. The system is also suitable for any existing rooftop location, making it easy to install and providing added protection for the building structure. It’s a game changer for the industry and we’re excited to see how it will be used in the future.”

The development’s iconic Sky Lounge and Bar opens up to the fabulous new green area where residents can relax, socialise, play games and enjoy time with family and friends. Ruth Wilson, Sales Manager for Castle View, said: “The installation of EverRoof® has been an excellent addition to this landmark new development, maximising the upward space and setting the standard for late-in-life living.

“Our residents can enjoy sitting on the terrace with a drink in hand taking in the fabulous views of Windsor Castle with a natural looking, green environment surrounding them.

“It’s also been great for when our residents’ grandchildren come to visit the development.”

For more information please visit www.everroof.co.uk or alternatively call 01753 768123.
Do You Know Your UK Roof Training Group?

Did you know that just 30 of the 90+ CITB-supported training groups across the UK are designated as roof training groups? Located across the UK, they provide an extensive range of services to all types and sizes of roofing contractors. Collectively, they have an impressive member base of around 1,400 roofing companies, both large and small, and although running as independent groups, they have common aims and objectives, which include providing local, cost-effective roof training and industry-recognised qualifications to upskill and qualify the workforce.

The groups collaborate with all trade associations, colleges and CITB, with the latter awarding them an annual administration grant, providing agreed targets are met. Several groups have their own training centres, where they provide a variety of training, including roofing apprenticeships, up-skilling and health and safety training. Recently, following a bidding process, groups have been allocated additional funding to either full-time or part-time roof training courses to take place during the coming year.

Working hand in hand with employer members, groups can also help and support with CITB grants and funding bids, so if you haven’t already benefited from the many services offered, get in touch with your regional training group today.

Clive Coote, Chairperson, National Roof Training Groups

South West Roof Training Group

The SWRTG is a not-for-profit, CITB-funded training organisation providing free and subsidised training and qualifications for roofing companies throughout the South West of England. It has two dedicated training centres in Exeter and Melksham and regularly runs fully funded NVQ Level 2 apprenticeships for Roof Slating and Tiling, and Shingling and Cladding, and the five-day Lead Welding and Roofing course. We provide all training including UKATA asbestos, all site safety, NVQs via On-Site Assessment or the Experienced Worker route, IPAF and much more. As a CITB Approved Training Organisation we update the training log and claim all grants back on your behalf. To access funding, we simply ask that you are CITB registered and a SWRTG member.

CONTACT
Nichola Smith
T: 01395 233667 / 07625 129598
E: gtnswrtg@co.co.uk
W: https://www.swrtg.co.uk/

Eastern Region Roof Training Group

n 2001, the Eastern Region Roof Training Group Ltd was formed to assist with the provision of local cost-effective training to all types and sizes of roofing companies within Notits, Suffix, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Northampton.

Since then, the group has grown considerably, with our membership base growing from 20 contractors to now over 100. Our services include apprenticeships in Slate & Tile and Flat Roofing, NVQs from Level 2 to Level 6. Health & Safety accredited training, plus work with local schools and trusts, encouraging careers in the roofing industry.

CONTACT
Sophie T: 01473 744412 E: sophie@eastern.rooftraining.co.uk W: www.eastern.rooftraining.co.uk

Wales National Roofing Training Group

WRTG has over 70 members who receive assistance with funding for training through local or CITB funding. Recently WRTG has worked successfully in securing three-year tenders to deliver NVQ 2 Roof Slating and Tiling from Wales and Debshyshire. This course is run over 23 days per year and delegates are assessed on site. WRTG also manages the NVQ 3 Heritage Roof Slating and Tiling training for the UK. This course is run over 30 days per year and is assessed on site. WRTG is approved by the ISTA to deliver the five-day lead welding and cowling courses and has coursework running throughout the year, having successfully gained funding of over £140 per person. The group works closely with the Frontliners and can offer manufacturing training from its centre in South Wales.

CONTACT
Lesley Hughes Alor M: 0731 614 984 W: www.wrtg.co.uk T: e-wrtg

London & Southern Roofing Training Group

SRTG covers London, Kent, East Sussex, West Sussex and Surrey and is one of the training groups supported by CITB funding. We are here to assist in the provision of quality training, advice on qualifying the workforce, identifying training, information on funding and CITB Grants. We encourage new talent to the roofing industry and offer guidance on roofing apprenticeships. Training can be delivered in company or booked with local providers. We facilitate training courses ranging from Health & Safety, First Aid, Management and NVQs. In collaboration with our members, we are a strong voice within the roofing industry and work closely with the roofing federations.

CONTACT
Michelle Workman Tech IOSH Group Training Officer E: michelle@londonroofteraining.co.uk W: www.londonandsouthroofteraining.co.uk

Midlands Roof Training Group

MRTG works with its roofing contractor company members to ensure that all of their training requirements are sorted - and at the best price! Training of all types can be delivered including Health & Safety and practical roof courses, and qualifications for experienced staff can also be arranged via onsite assessments.

MRTG works with training provider partners throughout the Midlands area and has agreements in place that help ensure best discounted prices for our member companies. In addition, MRTG is approved and supported by CITB who provide additional funds that are used to further subsidise the costs of training for eligible companies.

CONTACT
Paul Harper T: 07876 168161 E: paul@midlandsmrtg.co.uk W: https://midlandsmrtg.co.uk/

Independent Roof Training Association Scotland

The TRAINING Group’s primary function is to service the needs of the Scottish roofing industry across all industry sectors. Whether you need advice on apprenticeships, upskilling the existing workforce, keeping existing skills and certifications up to date or maintaining company training records, IRSTA Scotland are here to assist. IRSTA Scotland also offer a full suite of online H&S and Business Development courses. Visit our website for the full list. In consultation with company owners and managers, we can assess your training requirements to build your training programme to suit your business. We will help to identify grants/lends to offset training costs, working very closely with CITB and other funding agencies.

CONTACT
Ian Letham FlSr T: 0141 433 8867 E: sales@irsta.co.uk W: www.irsta.co.uk

Yorkshire Independent Roof Training Group

Yorkshire Independent Roof Training Group supports 130 member companies with training, qualifications and funding. YIRTG has had considerable success in supporting companies through applications of funding through the CITB Skills and Training Fund, facilitating training with a value of approximating £500,000 since the start of the fund. The group is also active in promoting roofing careers to young people, with a positive focus on those who are currently under-represented in the industry. YIRTG supports other local training groups to promote careers and best practice across the construction industry and is active in region and national networks.

CONTACT
Deborah Cherry T: 01234 567 890 E: contactenquiries@yirtg.co.uk W: www.yirtg.co.uk

North Western Roof Training Group

The NWRTG was established in 2001 through the collaboration of a number of local roofing contractors who wanted to address the lack of roof training in the region. We work closely with Newcastle College who offer apprenticeships in Roof Slating & Tiling and Built Up Felt Roofing.

We use both local and national training providers, including the Lead Sheet Training Academy, to offer short duration training in the region. We also have provision for the Liquid SAP delivered by the LRWA. Funding and grants from CITB enable us to provide cost-effective training for our members.

CONTACT
Helen Wilson T: 07771 920996 E: nwrtginfo@nrtg.org W: www.nrtg.org

South East Roof Training Group

The SERTG is a not-for-profit, CITB-funded training organisation providing free and subsidised training and qualifications for roofing companies throughout the South East of England. It has dedicated training centres in Exeter and Melksham and regularly runs fully funded NVQ Level 2 apprenticeships for Roof Slating and Tiling, and Shingling and Cladding, and the five-day Lead Welding and Roofing course.

We provide all training including UKATA asbestos, all site safety, NVQs via On-Site Assessment or the Experienced Worker route, IPAF and much more. As a CITB Approved Training Organisation we update the training log and claim all grants back on your behalf. To access funding, we simply ask that you are CITB registered and a SERTG member.

CONTACT
Nicola Smith T: 01395 233667 / 07625 129598 E: gtnswrtg@co.co.uk W: https://www.swrtg.co.uk/
Choosing the Right Product for the Right Application

When it comes to choosing the right material for a flat roof there are multiple factors to consider: size, budget, aesthetic, complexity, ease of installation and safety. And while the development of GRP composite, which requires no hot works permit, is a popular choice, advances in torch-applied felts mean any suggestion of their demise is premature. Here Chris Page, Product Manager – Flat Roofing for SIG Roofing, offers some expert insight.

What is the best flat roof? It’s a straightforward question but the answer is more complicated. And it is one that needs to be decided at the design stage.

Budget is always a consideration but risk, practicalities and aesthetics are equally important, if not more. Each of the different products has their advantages. So in the end it’s about choosing the right material for the right application.

Cold-applied systems such as GRP are great on smaller domestic roofs that interface with flammable materials, such as roof joints, wooden shingles or any thatched roof.

An example would be a small dormer roof opening with three sides but interfacing with a pitched roof, where it would come into contact with timber and left installation. This would be deemed a high risk area so you could not use a torch-on felt (according to the technology of roofing felts has advanced considerably, making them more attractive for larger areas, such as standalone office complexes or blocks of flats where there is no interface with either pitched or flammable membrane.

The days are gone when these felts became brittle with age and tore easily. Today’s polyester-reinforced membranes are longer lasting and more durable bitumen blends, modified with either aliphatic polypropylene (APP) or styrene butadiene-styrene (SBS).


df

Thanks to the development of roof resins, Grass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) has really taken off in recent years. Its major benefit is that a liquid ‘cold’ solution no hot works permit is required and it comes to a hard, very attractive, seamless finish that can require, be made non-slip, for example for a balcony finish.

You will need a detergent to add catalyst, along with special sealers to apply the resin and topcoat, but overall installation is quick and easy. GRP will also form any shape, although it can only be applied to dry OSB board.

NFRC Safe2Torch Guidelines - but GRP being totally flame-free would be ideal.

Also, being seamless, if there’s any standing water it will not be an issue, unlike with a felt roof where standing water will put a greater strain on the laps of the felt, particularly after years of freeze-thaw cycles.

One area where torch-on felts have an edge over GRP is that it can be applied over an existing roof system, whereas GRP can only be used with a brand new timber deck.

APP is a plastic bitumen blend with a high temperature tolerance that melts at 30 °C, becoming a liquid, wax-like substance.

SBS is a synthetic rubber modification that offers more of a sticky melt at lower temperatures, which means it can be installed more quickly than APP. It is also more flexible and is not affected by oxidation.

GRP is more costly than a torch-on felt but it can be any colour to suit aesthetic tastes, while the insulation sheet (or two layers on a bitumen roof) can still be pleasing to look at but the range of colours is limited.

In support of contractors working with torch-applied materials, the National Federation of Roofing Contractors has launched a Safe2Torch campaign promoting safe2torch, which SIG Roofing is backing its aim is to significantly reduce the risk of roof fires when using gas torches, either to dry out roofs or when used to install torch-on membranes.

If a contractor chooses to specialise in torch-on systems only, then they will need hot works insurance cover, while a GRP installer will need to ensure against public liability without the fire hazard.

Of course, an all-round roofer will probably utilise several different systems depending on the project - torch-applied, GRP, single-ply or EPDM rubber and will need to organise their insurance accordingly.

Warranties are also an important consideration. There are available for up to 25 years and longer, but again there is an element of choice. If a householder is considering moving in the next 10 years they may opt for something shorter term. The roofer will need to work that out with the house owner.

External coverings of roofs may need to be fire rated, from A to D, with AA being the best. The roofer will need to take this into account when making a recommendation to a client.

For further advice on flat roofing products and their applications speak to your local SIG Roofing distributor or visit www.sigroof.co.uk

For further information or a hire quotation call

01858 410372

Fully serviced prior to delivery. Full operator training available.

That’s the Danelaw difference.

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PROTECT ANY ROOF FROM THE HARSHEST WEATHER WITH DANELAW UNDERLAYS

The British climate demands that roofs are built to withstand the many different conditions that can cause damage. Our underlays provide an effective solution to protect any building from the harmful effects of condensation and weather conditions including wind, snow and rain. Our tile and slate underlay range includes 120, 125, 130 and 160 weights, with 120 and 150 having an optional, integral tape. They can be used for warm and cold roof applications, unsupported, draped over timber rafters or counter battens, or fully supported over timber boarding and rigid insulation. They have been independently tested by the BBA for wind zone suitability, and have full BBA approval.

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SIG Roofing are Regulars at National Roofing Events

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Maximising the Benefits of Safety at Height Installations

Simon Mceolor from working at height experts, Altus Safety, discusses the benefits of building safety at height installations into roofing projects.

Whether you’re working for a main contractor or directly for the end user, the chances are that, as a roofing contractor, any edge protection of safety at height installation required for the project may be included in your package of works. In our experience however, some roofing contractors are reluctant to take this element of the project on. This may be because it doesn’t fall within your team’s core skills or because it keeps you on site for longer, or even because you’re nervous about the due diligence involved in getting the specification and installation right.

If any of these reasons are holding you back from accepting safety equipment installation work, there are two important considerations you should bear in mind:

- You can subcontract the specification and installation to an expert specialist with complete confidence that the due-diligence will be taken care of and your own team can focus on completing the job or moving on to the next while the specialist’s team carries out the work.
- You can take advantage of the opportunity to build additional margin into the project from the safety installation, or even up-sell the client to a more expensive system.

Specification considerations

It is useful to understand the types of systems available and where they fit with the safety at height hierarchy. If a collective measure is viable we would always recommend this, specifying a guardrail that fits the parameters of the brief. We reserve fall restraint systems for buildings that will only require occasional maintenance and fall arrest systems for buildings where no other option is possible.

Guardrail options

The most likely approach to permanent safety at height solutions is the installation of a guardrail and we provide a complete guardrail design and installation service, assessing the site-specific loading and structural parameters to ensure the guardrail is fit for purpose and meets the specific requirements of the building and the needs of the personnel who will access the roof.

Freestanding guardrails have become a popular solution as these are weighted and don’t need to be fixed to the roof. This not only makes them faster and easier to install, it also means that the warranty for the roofing system will not be compromised and there are no provisions to increase the roof’s vulnerability to leaks. The absence of fixings also ensures that the guardrail requires no detailing, reducing site time for the roofing contractor.

Where a freestanding guardrail is not viable, either due to aesthetic stipulations or space restrictions, there are a number of alternative guardrail options. A collapsible guardrail is a popular choice for buildings where the architect or end user wants to limit the visual impact of the safety protection as this can be collapsed and out of sight when not in use. A powder-coated guardrail, which effectively camouflages the edge protection against the roof surface, is another option for a more subtle approach.

Where space is limited, a fixed guardrail may be necessary, and on very congested roofs, a parapet or clamped system offers a robust solution without encroaching on the actual roof area. Additional guard rail protection may also be needed for roof features such as skylights, attic and lightwells, as the danger of falling through a glassed feature is just as significant as that of falling from the edge of the roof. Here, modular guardrails can be used to create skylight protection units, creating a barrier to prevent falls.

As height safety experts providing site access and fall protection solutions for customers across the UK, Altus Safety is based in Creative and Reading. An MSG Latchways Registered Installer, the company provides robust and reliable safety solutions for customers across the construction, roofing, FM and industrial sectors, supporting excellent product quality with a service-driven approach to specifying a best-fit solution, aligned to site survey results.

www.altussafety.co.uk | Tel.: 0330 113 0870

Gas Nailer for Concrete and Clay Tiles

Young Black Ltd has introduced a Gas Nailer and aluminium nails for nailing concrete and clay tiles.

This tool positively locates the hole of the tile and then shoots the aluminium nail into the batten through the hole without breaking the tile - unlike using a hammer when this can occur regularly.

The depth control on the tool allows you to accurately control how deep the nail goes into the hole.

Young Black estimates that using this system can easily save 30% of labour time - which is of course, a huge saving.

Aluminium nail lengths from 38mm-65mm are available covering 95% of tile types and the company has also introduced a 31x63mm service class 2 nail that will also fire through this tool, so you can nail the battens on, making this one tool for all your nailing needs.

For more information or a demonstration, please contact Young Black Ltd on 01793 838400 or email brianm@youngblack.co.uk

FEATURES

- Drives up to 65mm round head hardened strip nails
- Single Fire
- Easy Jam Clearance
- Lightweight and Compact
- Ergonomic Design
- Adjustable Exhaust Deflector Belt Hanger
- Timber Frame Metal Connector
- Roof Trusses Metal Connector

SPECIFICATION

- BATTERY LIFE approx. 5,500 nails
- GAS CELLS CAPACITY Appro. 1,100 nails
- VIBRATION Characteristic value = 2.77m/s². These values are determined and documented in accordance to ISO 8601-1+A1:2001
- NOISE A weighted, single-event

Head Diameter
- 7mm

Shank Diameter
- 3.8mm

Nail Length
- 38 - 65mm

MODEL MONG5/50-45MC/CE

Weight: 3.3kg

DIMENSIONS 37(h) x 188(w) x 371(l)

LOAD CAPACITY 45 nats/strip

BATTERY RECHARGE TIME Max 120

minutes

Young Black Industrial Stapling Limited Thistle House, Radway Road, Britannia Business Park, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN1 4ND
Tel: +44(0)1793 838400 | Fax: +44(0)1793 838461 | Email: sales@youngblack.co.uk | Web: www.youngblack.co.uk

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Sika Appoints New Head of Sales

Sika has appointed Ryan McEnoy to head of Sales for Liquid Applied Membranes (LAM) with responsibility for further growing and delivering the sales strategy for the Sika Liquid Plastics portfolio of roofing and balustrade systems. Since joining Sika UK in 2011, Ryan has already had a varied career with the company, first as part of the sales team for the UK’s oldest and well-established Dreadnought Roof Tiles, one of the many Sika Roofing business, specialists and contractors make Sika ideally placed to understand the challenges and opportunities for Sika LAM portfolio. Working collaboratively with colleagues across the business on all aspects of applications, technical, marketing and customer services, within Sika, Ryan will be responsible for ensuring that market feedback is integral to Sika’s product development and technical support functions. Ryan comments: “My remit is to continue to nurture relationships with contractors, and to build on specific expertise by sharing ideas and offering useful suggestions – we are proud to have been involved in this impressive restoration and that the historical authenticity of our traditional Staffordshire Blue clay plain tiles has helped preserve the building.”

SLIMVAC® Offers Smarter Route

SLIMVAC® is a range of vacuum insulated panels from Promat UK which offer next generation materials technology to manufacturers. SLIMVAC® offers the possibility of warm air ventilation without the buckles and disadvantages of traditional insulating products. With standard thicknesses of between just 20mm and 40mm, SLIMVAC® panels are ideal for a wide range of applications. The panel consists of a manufactured by Promat in ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015 factories for throughout the rest of the world, SLIMVAC® is now available to UK customers. SLIMVAC® panels are gaining in popularity, and now with the launch of SLIMVAC® in the UK, the market can apply the advanced insulation technology with total confidence thanks to the technical and corporate backing of a global market leader.

Kingspan Launches Ocean Plastic Clean-Up

Kingspan, the global leader in high performance insulation and sustainable solutions for low carbon buildings, has committed to recycling 500m plastic bottles each year by 2023 for use in its insulation with a further target of 1bn bottles each year by 2025. This recycling initiative is part of a broader Kingspan partnership, together with the company’s 2020 Net Zero Energy manufacturing target, to produce its energy-saving products in a low carbon and sustainable fashion. By the end of 2020, Kingspan has already recycled over 1.1m bottles and is aiming to recycle far more than that in 2021. This work is supported by Evergreen, and the project uses the plant waste from the Mediterranean each year which is turned into energy-saving products in a low carbon and sustainable fashion. Kingspan will use the rest of the waste from the Mediterranean project to recycle their ocean plastic waste and use it in the production of their products. Kingspan will also work with the local communities in the Mediterranean to help reduce the amount of waste that goes into the sea. Kingspan’s partnership with Evergreen is part of a wider effort to reduce the amount of waste that goes into the Mediterranean and to help improve the environment in the region.
Cromart-Marsh of A New Dawn
Cromart, market leaders of a flat and pitched roofing products, are pleased to unveil their new, biggest ever catalogue, which is now available to order online.
Cromart Roofing Group has continued the tradition of creating the new Alpha/Alphard Thicker range to create a new company’s biggest and best catalogue yet. Packed full of information on the latest products and catching adverts all look great, the catalogue has been designed and printed in clean design style for the catalogue. The catalogue has already been well received by its customers and is not only available on request but also available on the company’s website.
To download, visit www.cromart-uk.com

Velux Introduces New Ebauer Landscaping Collection
Hot on the heels of the new Ebauer Power and Ebauer Active products, Velux has introduced the exciting Ebauer Outliner that is now available in the new spring catalogue that’s out now.
The high-quality new Ebauer landscape tools are perfect for designing and building projects and are feature the same innovative mechanisms as other Ebauer EX battery technology that has made Ebauer landscape tools the popular choice for many.
The Woodbridge region of the country with great support from Velux’s distribution network allows people to have access to chisel the freedom to good access and does not need to buy more batteries and have more tools on the job.
To find out more visit www.velux.co.uk or pick up a copy of the new catalogue at a local Velux store.

Sika-Trotal Appoints Roofing Division Area Technical Manager
With more than 20 years’ construction hands-on sales and development experience to call upon, Donna Owen is perfectly suited to the role as Area Technical Manager for the Midlands region. She joins Sika-Trotal from Building Innovations Ltd where she held the position as Key Account Manager for roofers and flat insulation.
Donna, who will be working with companies across the region and the company’s marketing team, says, “Sika-Trotal is a leader in the roofing industry and presents an opportunity to deliver a high-quality service to our customers that will help me progress in my chosen direction.”
I’m looking forward to meeting my new colleagues and broadening my product and technical knowledge base in my new role.
Donna moved to the Midlands from the south-west areas of the UK, so the matt black colour provides an additional solution especially for extension projects where the existing build is made up of darker slate or tiles. Furthermore, with a minimum pitch of 17.5°, so no specialist skills are required as installation is the same as installing any concrete interlocking tile. Furthermore, with a minimum pitch of 17.5°, so no specialist skills are required as installation is the same as installing any concrete interlocking tile.

New and Improved Website for CUPA PIZARRAS
With an emphasis on providing a better user experience, as well as the ability to make it easier to access new features and current information, the new website design has been created with the aim of providing a more in-depth product guide. The new site features a number of new features and improvements that have increased the visibility of products and Services by Sika-Trotal.

Professional specific pages have been added to the site, which enable users to explore and compare products in more detail. In addition, the site includes an online training area where users can register for free courses and watch videos.

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Marley Launches Latest Addition
With increased demand for building products which focus on ease of installation, without compromising aesthetics or quality of finish, Marley has extended its range of Maxima clay interlocking tiles, introducing a new range of Maxima Black. As the ongoing shortage continues to affect the roofing sector, the new Maxima Black range offers a traditional look without the traditional installation time due to their interlocking style, while the Maxima range features an open gauge and interlocking so no specialist skills are required as installation is the same as installing any concrete interlocking tile. Furthermore, with a minimum pitch of 17.5°, so no specialist skills are required as installation is the same as installing any concrete interlocking tile.

Veilux Active For Smart Home Innovation
Veilux Active is a new smart home roofing solution that is available in the UK. Veilux Active is the perfect solution for homeowners who want to reduce their energy bills and increase their home’s value.

Veilux Active offers a range of features that help to reduce energy consumption and increase the value of your home.

- Veilux Active’s solar panels are designed to maximise energy production and can be installed in a variety of locations
- Veilux Active’s system is compatible with a wide range of systems, including solar panels and air conditioning units
- Veilux Active’s system is easy to install and can be customised to fit any roof shape or size

Veilux Active is a great solution for homeowners who want to reduce their energy bills and increase the value of their home.

WYBIS Insulation Appoints New Marketing Team
YBS Insulation is pleased to announce the appointment of a new marketing manager. Daniel McKane has been appointed as the new Marketing Director for YBS Insulation, bringing with him knowledge gained from Grpct, where he was Sales Director. Before this, Dan was Centurion Europe Ltd. on the sales and marketing side. Since his appointment in October, Dan has already formed a new and highly motivated sales team, and has set the team the target of breaking the sales record of the UK.

A Seth Superior New Dry Venge System
Installers can now build on the success of the new Conexis Livo system with the release of the new Seth Superior Venge system. This system is compatible with an existing roof structure and can be installed on a wide range of building types. Developed, re-engineered and designed in the UK, the system is an easy-to-install solution that can be used on both new and existing roofs.

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News, Projects, Products & People
Langley Pledges Support for the 100% Hackitt Campaign

100%
H A C K I T T

Langley Waterproofing Systems Ltd has pledged its support to the 100% Hackitt campaign, an initiative which aims to ensure that all recommendations made in the Hackitt Review of fire safety and building regulations are fully implemented. The 100% Hackitt campaign was launched by Local Authority Building Control (LABC) and the British Board of Agrément (BBA) to bring together key individuals and organisations across the sector. Its rationale is to encourage the government to implement all 53 recommendations made by Dame Judith Hackitt in the Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety report.

Dean Wincott, MD of Langley Waterproofing Systems Ltd, commented: “The report that major changes are required, there is a risk stated. Despite the recommendation in the Hackitt Review of fire safety and building regulations will not go far enough to prevent potential fire incidents.”

It has been announced that Kingspan has partnered with Premsafe in a bid to improve national coverage and efficiency of their SafePro2 installation service. This is a significant move from Kingspan and highlights their commitment to help their customers retain their single-point warranty, which can be up to 25 years. Kingspan is the global leader in high performance insulation and building envelope solutions. Premsafe is a leading fall protection supplier and installer, covering the whole of the UK. The Kingspan SafePro2 is the only horizontal safety fall system which can be installed on a Kingspan roof which enables the building owner to retain their single-point warranty. Premsafe’s Director, James Turvey, describes SafePro2 as ‘a step forward in height safety’ and commented: “Having worked with Kingspan for over a year to establish this partnership, we are delighted to be named as Kingspan’s go-to installer for SafePro2 on their roofs and we look forward to helping their customers achieve peace of mind with a long-term fall protection solution.”

Over the next 12 months, Premsafe plans to install up to hundreds of SafePro2 systems across the UK, using their presence in Portsmouth, London, Manchester and Lancaster to ensure maximum geographical coverage.