Unit 202: Changing practices over time

# Worksheet 1: Pre-1919 construction methods and materials

1. Research the difference between cruck roofs pre-1919 and modern roof truss roofs.

Cruck roofs were made by hand and held together with oak pegs; modern truss roofs are factory made and held together with gang nails.

1. Write a definition of the term ‘dressing’ in relation to working with slate as roofing material.

Dressing slates is the term used when shaping slates to the correct size and shape to be fixed to the roof.

1. Timber was an important structural material in many pre-1919 buildings’ cruck roofs. Describe how oak pegs are used to hold a cruck roof together.

Oak pegs are bevelled to be slotted into pre-drilled holes in the mortice and tenon.

1. Research online and describe how oak beams were shaped to form pre-1919 cruck roofs. Explain why these skills are still required today.

Oak was readily available pre-1919 and shaped by traditional tools to create a strong, durable structure. Restoration projects require the traditional skills needed to re-construct this type of roof, which may date back over 500 years.

1. Explain the term ‘head lap’ of a roof slate.

Head lap is the distance the slate overlaps, not the slate below, but the slate below that to keep the roof watertight.

1. State the benefits of lime mortar in pre-1919 roofs.

Lime mortar hardens at a slower rate than modern sand and cement mortar.

1. Power tools as we know them today were not available in the past. A range of hand tools were used. Research hand tools that a pre-1919 slater might use.

Hand tools such as adze, hand-adze, slate break iron, slate axe, slate ripper and slate pick hammer were used.