Unit 202: Changing practices over time

# Worksheet 3: Pre-1919 construction methods and materials

1. What are natural slates graded into?

Thick, medium and thin slates.

1. What were the three main quarried areas that slate was quarried from post-1919?

Wales, Cumbria and Cornwall.

1. What should the side lap of a slate be?

No less than the head lap of the slate specified for the roof.

1. What material could be added to lime mortar to strengthen it?

Horsehair.

1. What is the main reason that old slate roofs fail and slates fall out of place?

Nail sickness, where the copper slate nails have eroded over time and are no longer strong enough to hold the slate in place.

1. What are narrow slates on a diminishing slate roof known as?

‘Backs’.

1. How does installing reclaimed Welsh slate affect the carbon footprint of a roof?

Using reclaimed slates means that no new slates need processing from the quarries, as reclaimed slates can last for over 100 years. It is the copper fixings rather than the slates that fail, making reclaimed slates more ecofriendly and improving the carbon footprint of a roof.