

Ashbury hand-made clay roof tiles chosen for spectacular two-storey home in the Chilterns

Midland Slate and Tile, the specialist suppliers of high quality building and roofing materials, have supplied over 15,000 hand-made clay roof tiles and accessories for a breathtaking two-storey new-build project in rural Wendover.

The tiles were selected from Midland Slate and Tile's Ashbury range and were chosen for their high quality, traditional, slightly random appearance and wide range of available accessories.

Owned by Mark and Liz Ward, and situated on a magnificent three-quarter-acre plot, the property in question was built to replace a 1950s bungalow that had previously occupied the site.

Ambitious project

"The old bungalow belonged to my wife's late father," comments joint property owner and Chartered Surveyor Mark Ward. "When he passed away, there were so many happy memories connected to the bungalow that we simply couldn't bring ourselves to sell the place. Instead, we embarked upon an ambitious project to replace the bungalow with a new house, one that would make the very most of the wonderful views."

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

However, as the bungalow stood in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and adjoined a Site of Special Scientific Interest, the Wards were aware that their new home would need to have considerable empathy with its surroundings. Consequently, they settled on a traditional cottage-style, timber-framed design with red-brick, knapped flint walls and a rustic entrance porch.

Planning requirements

Because of strict planning requirements, however, Mark and Liz Ward were only able to raise the roofline of their new home by an additional 1.5 metres above the original roof height of the bungalow.

Adds Mark Ward, “With the roofline clearly going to be one of the most striking features of our new home, we wanted it to look totally authentic and breathtaking – as if it genuinely had been installed over a century ago.

Hand-made solution

“Not particularly wanting the wastage and laminating issues that can often be associated with using a reclaimed roofing product, however, we began our search for a hand-made tile that would not only look one-hundred years’ old, but would clearly stand the test of time.”

After meeting representatives of Midland Slate and Tile at the 2003 Peterborough Homebuilding and Renovating Show, and arranging to view samples of various Ashbury tile colourways, the Wards settled on Midland Slate and Tile’s popular Ashbury ‘Multi’ blend, along with a full complement of valleys, ridge and bonnet tiles.

Kept us fully informed

“Midland Slate and Tile were absolutely superb to deal with,” concludes Mark Ward. “They were helpful, genuinely interested in the project, and provided the locations of various finished projects where we could view different tile blends in context. With a tile that looked as though it was at least a hundred years old when fitted, and the peace-of-mind of being able to purchase everything from one supplier, choosing Ashbury tiles couldn’t have been easier. Out of 15,000 tiles, I think there was only one breakage – and our roofer, who’d never fitted Ashbury before, couldn’t fault the product. Midland Slate and Tile worked out precise quantities, kept us fully informed at all stages and worked in association with our timber-frame providers, Potton.”

Comments Midland Slate and Tile Managing Director, Jason Hughes, “With two storeys, a glass-floored conservatory and a basement swimming pool, Mark and Liz Ward’s new home is breathtaking. It, therefore, goes without saying that we were delighted to be invited to supply the roof tiles and accessories for such a wonderful new family home.”

About Ashbury tiles

Those looking to create the effect of a time-weathered roofscape no longer need resort to searching out quantities of reclaimed tiles or settling for an all-too-uniform machine-made clay tile.

Offering all the aesthetic appeal of old weathered tiles, with the reassurance of a 30-year insurance-backed guarantee, the Ashbury range of genuinely hand-made clay roof tiles, offers architects, specifiers, self-builders and roofers a choice of traditional roofing products that provide all the beauty and durability of a natural material and will look equally at home on both renovation and new-build projects.

Hand-made at a high quality production facility in the heart of the brick and tile producing region of Turkey, the Ashbury range offers tiles with distinctive shades and slight variations in size, camber and texture that cannot be achieved by a machine made product.

Choice of highly authentic blends

Rapidly becoming the premier choice for both character and period properties, Ashbury hand-made clay roof tiles are available in ‘Multi’, ‘Restoration’, ‘Cambridge Buff’, ‘Red’ and ‘Huntingdon’ blends.

The 'Multi' tile offers a mix of subtle reds, warm browns and oranges. The 'Restoration' blend has been created to provide a darker, more weathered appearance as found on old, hand-made tiles across urban and rural Britain. The 'Red', 'Cambridge' and 'Huntingdon' blends are produced for customers requiring a particular regional vernacular. All tiles are available in peg tile format and special colourways can be created on request.

Outstanding frost resistance

As proof of their durability, having previously passed the Method D 100-cycle frost test during independent testing conducted by CERAM Building Technology - and having also exceeded the more severe European Method E 150-cycle test by 100 cycles – randomly selected Ashbury tiles have also recently been tested to 300 cycles at Method D with no signs of damage.

An organisation committed to providing the highest quality building and roofing products, Midland Slate and Tile regularly arranges for its Ashbury tiles to be tested by CERAM. Indeed, the Ashbury range is subjected to more regular independent testing than most UK-made tiles.

30-year insurance-backed guarantee

As a consequence of this focus on product quality, long service life – and possibly being the most quality-tested tiles in the country – Ashbury is also the only roofing tile available in the UK that is covered by a 30-year guarantee.

The facts behind Ashbury hand-made clay roof tiles:

- Ashbury tiles meet current Method D and E for frost resistance – copies of CERAM test reports are available on request
- Ashbury tiles are subjected to more regular independent testing than most UK-made tiles
- Ashbury tiles are covered by the industry's most comprehensive 30-year guarantee – underwritten by Royal Sun Alliance
- Ashbury tiles are produced at a high quality, closely monitored production facility in Turkey
- Ashbury tiles are imported by Midland Slate and Tile – a wholly reputable UK-based building products supplier with a proud reputation to uphold

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