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Version One - APPROVED

**MST02 – (03/08)**

**Ashbury tiles**

**- all the aesthetic appeal of old weathered tiles, with the peace-of-mind of an insurance-backed guarantee**

**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.**

Following the introduction of the Ashbury range of genuinely hand-made clay roof tiles, architects, specifiers, self-builders and roofers now have a choice of traditional roofing products that offer all the beauty and durability of a natural material and will look equally at home on both renovation and new-build projects.

**Need for hand-made product**

Comments Jason Hughes, Managing Director of Midland Slate and Tile, the company behind the Ashbury tile range: “Dealing almost daily with those involved in both new build and restoration projects, we had become increasingly aware of the need for a high quality, natural clay roofing product in the UK market.

“Following considerable research,” he added, “we were able to establish a high quality production facility in the heart of the brick and tile producing region of Turkey that offered all the skills, clay selection capabilities and firing technologies necessary to create a premium hand-made tile. Needless to say, the result is the Ashbury range – tiles with distinctive shades and slight variations in size, camber and texture that cannot be achieved with a machine made product.”

### **Choice of highly authentic blends**

Already 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.

### **30-year insurance-backed guarantee**

One of the only genuinely hand-made natural clay roof tiles available in the UK, Ashbury tiles are also the only ones to be covered by a comprehensive 30-year insurance backed guarantee.

### **CERAM tested**

Continues Jason Hughes, "In creating the Ashbury range, we wanted to make sure that it was not only the most authentic natural clay roofing product in the UK, but also one of the best.

"For that reason, in addition to regularly sending randomly selected batches of Ashbury tiles to CERAM - the independent organisation offering construction industry-related research and development - for testing to current Method D and E frost resistance standards, we also cover them with the industry's most comprehensive guarantee, one that is backed by both the tile manufacturer and Royal Sun Alliance. This ensures that customers can purchase this high quality product in complete confidence, knowing that it not only meets all current frost resistance tests, but is also guaranteed to last."

Produced at a state-of-the-art facility in Turkey, Ashbury tiles are hand-made in a six-stage process, whereby:

1. Enough raw clay for annual production is taken from a specially selected quarry in late spring and left to rest for 12 months.
2. Once dry, the clay is then crushed, washed and filtered to remove any impurities and ensure a high quality material for hand moulding.
3. The filtered clay is then poured into drying tanks where excess water is filtered out to reduce moisture content and enable the clay to be worked at the correct consistency.
4. The clay is marked out into convenient sized blocks for turning during drying and moving to the factory for working.
5. The moulders hand-throw the clay blocks into sanded moulds to form the tiles which are then transferred to the drying rooms in readiness for firing.
6. The dried tiles are then fired at temperatures in excess of 1050°C.

**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 currently being tested in excess of the current Method D and E standards – details will be published shortly
- 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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For more press information please contact:

Rachel Jones – BHL Marketing

E-mail: [rachel@bhlmarketing.com](mailto:rachel@bhlmarketing.com)

Tel: +44 (0) 1244 851850

Fax: +44 (0) 1244 851888

For more product information about Ashbury hand-made clay roof tiles, please contact:

Jeremy Williams – Marketing Manager, Midland Slate & Tile

Tel: +44 (0) 1952 614400

Fax: +44 (0) 871 4743184