Design Guides: Roofs

Natural Slates

Slate is the traditional roof covering of buildings in the Park. To maintain their distinctive character, natural slate should continue to be used for both new and old buildings. Large span agricultural or industrial sheds are an exception because of their low pitch.

Availability - historically, there were many small quarries but, now production of roofing slate is limited to 2 major quarry areas:

- **Penrhyn** near Bangor, and **Blaenau Ffestiniog**

Roof Colour - This is the most important factor in the choice of roofing slates and any new roof should match the predominant colour of existing roofs within vicinity.

- **blue** (Penrhyn) - no longer available. Re-claimed slates recommended for repairs, if clean. Use blue/grey for re-slatting unless purple is common locally.

- **Purple** (Penrhyn) - no longer available. Use re-claimed for repairs, if clean. Re-slate with heather where purple is common. Otherwise change to blue/grey.

- **Heather** (Penrhyn) current production is blue with reddish tinge.

**blue/grey** (Blaena Ffestiniog) - suitable replacement for Penrhyn Blue

Imported Slates - only by using the above local slate types can the maintenance of the present character of traditional roofs be guaranteed.

- "slate and a half" used on a verge or against an abutment.

Replacements on existing roof should be identical to remainder.

Terraced Dwelling Roofs - re-slatting should follow courses of slates on adjoining roofs.

Bitumen Coatings - treated slates cannot be re-used afterwards.

Adhesive methods which conceal fixing can be considered for temporary solutions.

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