

NePP Supplier Adoption Case study

Council: North Wiltshire District Council

Case study: Example of encouraging local suppliers

North Wiltshire District Council is within the Cotswolds stone belt and has about 3,000 listed buildings with stone tile roofs. National policies require local planning authorities to encourage the retention and development of sources of traditional roofing materials.

Within the Cotswolds area most traditional stone tile quarries ceased trading in the 1940's and it became very difficult to source the tiles for repair or new work. Cannibalising of other historic buildings for the tiles and architectural theft became commonplace.

By the late 1980's, French tiles became to be imported and although their colour was not typical, their use was preferable to encouraging a dubious second hand material.

During the late 1990's North Wiltshire District Council discussed and promoted with the Importer and English Heritage sourcing a supply of the traditional stone tiles in the Cotswolds. An initial venture failed to produce the quantity of material; however, a subsequent quarry location in the edge of the Cotswolds was identified as a geological match and a minerals application granted with the support of the local authorities and English Heritage.

The quarry has dealt sensitively with ecological and community issues and is now the only supplier of the traditional stone tiles in the region. This has allowed the procurement for several large roofing projects for North Wiltshire District Council and for private householders.

The local authority can now require the tiles to be used for all listed building repair work.

The lessons learnt are being applied to other English regions through a National Stone Slate Working Group led by English Heritage and involving North Wiltshire District Council.

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