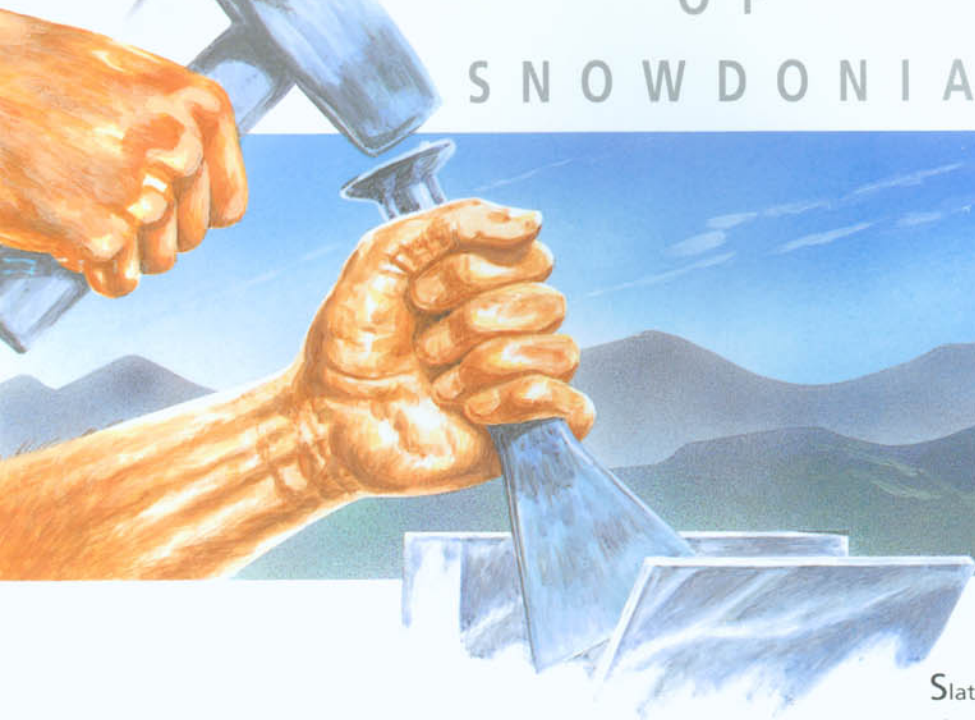




FFESTINIOG
WELSH SLATE PRODUCTS

OUT OF THE HEART OF SNOWDONIA



- COMES THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF WELSH SLATE

Slate has been formed by a process which is almost as old as the earth itself. It began when surface rocks were worn away by wind and water and deposited on the floor of an ocean that covered this area of Wales.



The deposits, through the Ordovician period,



some 500 million years ago, became buried beneath the earth and were subjected to intense pressure and heat, forming them into sedimentary rocks. Later movements in the earth's crust exerted immense forces upon these rocks, forcing them up into colossal stratas on the mountain sides as the waters receded.

The shale deposits, which contained minute mica crystals, had now been metamorphised into veins of rock, containing a "slaty cleavage" which had unique properties. They could be split into thin, smooth or textured sheets and richly coloured, either blue grey or heather blue.



The slate extracted from the quarries within the Ffestiniog group is renowned worldwide for its quality and strength.

ALMOST AS OLD AS THE EARTH ITSELF



SLATE



The Ffestiniog Welsh Slate Products Group is a multimillion pound group and exports worldwide. The quarry sites cover several thousand acres of spectacular scenery within North Wales. Geological surveys have been conducted and show that there are sufficient deposits of slate for many years to come.



The present family members are the fourth generation of quarry owners and operators. Previous generations have been responsible for enhancing the industry's role in the marketplace.

Mr T. O. Williams, from the second generation, was one of the founder members of the Institute of Mines and Quarries, this Institute has since grown to be an influential worldwide body.

This family tradition has continued, with the addition of a strong engineering background in this generation. This combined with the inherited dedication and commitment to development keeps the business at the forefront of Welsh Slate production.

Clients of Ffestiniog Welsh Slate Products receive the benefit of the company's tremendous experience which has been accrued over the years through the family.

To maintain the groups reputation for quality all employees undergo a comprehensive and rigorous training programme before they are allowed to enter their specific field of work, such as the demands of todays modern methods of quarrying.



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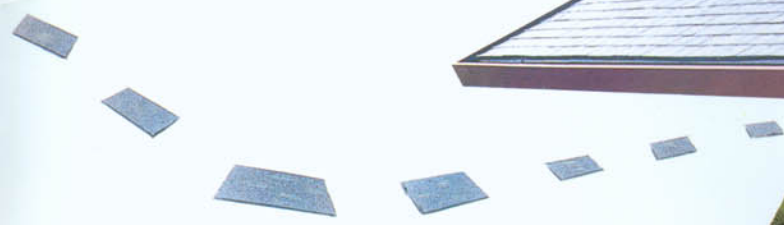


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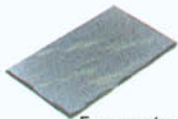


SLATE

FESTINIOG
WELSH SLATE PRODUCTS



Welsh slate is outstanding in quality and durability. It is inert, resistant to frost and acid, has no detrimental effects on the environment, is hard wearing and requires little maintenance,



For centuries slate from the heart of Snowdonia, in particular the Ffestiniog region, has been used for the roofing, cladding and flooring of buildings worldwide, from rural cottages to royal palaces.



Today, slate at Ffestiniog is quarried by open cast methods employing blasting and modern sawing techniques to remove blocks of slate for further processing. With the company's emphasis on quality, much time and money has been spent on incorporating advanced technological equipment such as diamond impregnated and computer programmable saws, laser technology, specialised polishing and profiling plant, together with computerised drawing and design facilities. However, human skill is still required in the extraction, loading, splitting and sorting of the slate and many tasks are still achieved by the skillfully trained, as well as experienced, hand and eye.



▶ *Welsh slate brings a high quality finish to a project.*

▶ *The versatility of slate lends itself to many uses.*

Due to the slates natural qualities, aesthetic and versatile characteristics it is ideally suited for prestigious projects such as public building and churches, industrial, commercial and residential developments of distinction.

Ffestiniog slate exceeds the requirements laid down by British Standard 680 and to ensure quality, all the processes during the manufacture of the slate are controlled by an exacting quality assurance standard. Testing is implemented by a rigorous and fully independent body.

far outlasting its foreign counterparts and synthetic substitutes as well as promising its own distinctive features of visual interest and character.

Due to its versatility, many new uses are being found for slate. Whilst it remains a favourite with architects for prestige projects-domestic, industrial and commercial - slate appeals to a wider public and not just for roofing. It can also be used for steps, pool surrounds, shelving, kitchen surfaces, window cills, vanity units, staircases and table tops, to name but a few.



As a result, slate production is both a craft and technology, offering the customer a vast array of specification choices.

In order to assist clients, a comprehensive technical advice service is available.





Cwt y Bugail
Slate Quarries Co. Ltd

Ffestiniog Slate Quarry
Co. Ltd

Gloddfa Ganol Slate Mine

Cwmorthin Slate Quarry (1994) Ltd

Nantlle Slate Quarry Co. Ltd

Cwt y Bugail Tile
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