



STORMFORCE
ROOFING & MAINTENANCE LTD

Menadue Cottage

Menadue Cottage lies on the outskirts of St. Austell and was built circa 1890. It is of Granite construction with lime mortar.

The existing roof, at approximately 85m² was made up of wet laid Delabole Scantle slate, laid to diminishing courses on a lime based mortar bed and hung with an Oak peg. Side Buildings were covered with a combination of profile 3 fibre cement and iron cladding. It was agreed with the client that all roof coverings had come to the end of their useful life with several riffles being apparent on the main roof.

WHAT IS A 'RIFFLE'?

This is a local term to describe what has happened when a large section of slates parts company from the rest of the roof. By the very nature of the system of wet laying - the slates are simply hung on a peg, not nailed down - they are at the mercy of strong winds as they get older. Sometimes you can tell a riffle has happened because of a large number of slates on the floor, but sometimes it may only be a jagged crack in the roof which can be quite hard to spot. A riffle usually happens on older roofs, sometimes the roof is so old that it is inevitable, and sometimes an otherwise good roof can be hit by a strong gust of wind in the right (or wrong!) direction and be a casualty.

After discussing several different options with the client, it was agreed to re-roof all structures using a hook hung Brazilian grey slate. The client agreed that the greenish hue would help blend the new roof into the natural surroundings.

First a layer of breathable membrane was installed, Followed by 50 x 25 tanalised battens. The slate were then hung using 100mm stainless steel hooks. These allow for more movement in the slate without breakage and are particularly suitable in high exposure zones. New lead was let into the stonework and patinated and the ridge was finished off with a terracotta coloured concrete ridge, laid in sand and cement.

The job was completed within a week with no disruption at all to the client.