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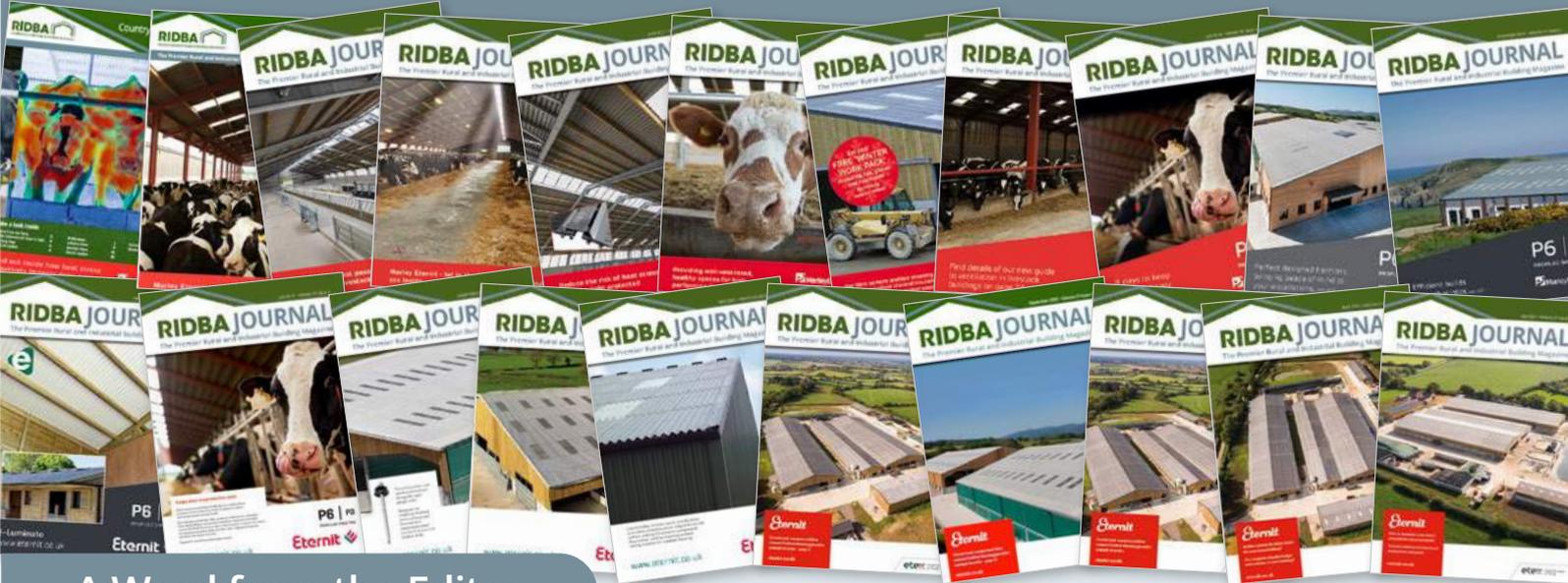
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## A Word from the Editor

### Changing Times for RIDBA

I can't believe this is my final Editor's Word in the RIDBA Journal! I've delivered 21 RIDBA Journals in my role as the Association's Manager since 2016, which has been an absolute pleasure!

The RIDBA Journal continues to go from strength to strength and I hand over the role of editor to Joe Chalk, from the Assoc Management Company (AMC). As their name suggests, AMC specialises in managing associations and helping to develop and improve them, so I have complete confidence that this is a positive next step for RIDBA.

All members have been contacted with the new Secretariat details and you will also find them in the right hand column.

Next, I would also like to give a special welcome to these new member companies who have joined this year:

- **Wedgewood Construction Services**
- **L F Pearce & Son**
- **Tek Clad Ltd**
- **Powell Gee & Co.**
- **Springfield Steel Buildings**
- **Mayfair Steel Buildings**
- **ARK Agriculture**
- **C&R Construction South West.**

Back in April, we held our second virtual AGM, and with new additions coming forward, we now have a full RIDBA Board, which underlines the strength of the association.

Since the last edition, we also announced the finalists for the RIDBA Building Awards 2021, and we have a special double-page feature on pages 4-5 highlighting these fantastic entries.

Thank you to our judges that took part in choosing the winners: Dr Martin Heywood (RIDBA), Jamie Robertson (RIDBA), Stuart Roberts (NFU), Joe Black (ACR), Andrew Brown (Visit Our Farm), and Nireesh Somlie (BM Trada).

We are all looking forward to hearing the winners announced at the Awards Ceremony taking place on Thursday 30 September at the Macdonald Hotel in Manchester. Bookings were launched in May and tickets are selling very quickly, so please get in touch if you would like to book a place.

In this edition you can also read the latest updates from the No Falls Foundation Charity, the issue of skills shortages in the roofing industry and much more.

We have our regular valuable contributions from RIDBA's consultants – on pages 7-8, Jamie Robertson (Livestock) writes about factoring the stress of animals into building design for livestock and on pages 15-16 you will find an article from Martin Heywood (Technical) looking at designing steel framed buildings for fire.

A special thank you to all our advertisers, many of whom have supported the RIDBA Journal since my first edition back in July 2016. As always, please take a moment to look at their products and services on offer.

I continue in my role as Operations Director for Build UK, and hope our paths may cross again.

If you need any support from RIDBA, please now contact Joe and his team through [admin@ridba.org.uk](mailto:admin@ridba.org.uk).

*Debbie Iley,*  
Trade Association Director

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# Shortlist Announced for the RIDBA Building Awards 2021

Last year, RIDBA launched the RIDBA Building Awards 2021, designed to recognise innovation and excellence amongst members in the industrial and agricultural buildings industry. After receiving a record number of award entries, we are delighted to announce the shortlisted projects.

Now in their fifth year, the Awards demonstrate the diversity of skills of our members, from schools and offices to cattle buildings and grain stores. There are seven categories on show this year including: Education & Leisure, Industrial & Production, Farm Storage, Public Services, Livestock, Residential & Offices, and Retail & Distribution. There is also an additional category to recognise Training.

**Head Judge, Martin Heywood said:**

*"I would first like to congratulate everyone who entered the RIDBA Building Awards this year. We received some excellent entries, demonstrating that members continue to exceed high standards of work in the industrial and agricultural buildings industry."*

*"Although a challenge, we are delighted with the results of this year's Awards and look forward to sharing them with you at the flagship event in September."*



**Aerotron Composites – M D Anthony**



**Bryan Salads – Wareing Buildings**



**Martin Commercials – Timmins Engineering & Construction**



**Project Horizon, Mustard and Mint Factory – A.C. Bacon Engineering**



**Tobi Produce – Timmins Engineering & Construction**



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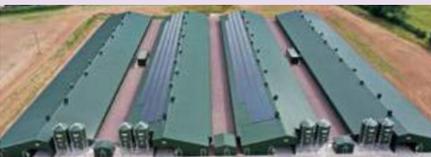


## LIVESTOCK

Centre of Dairy Science Innovation, New-Born Calf Building – Haston Reynolds



Elms Farm Poultry – Powell Co & Construction



Gt Horwood Cattle Building – L F Pearce & Son



Lower Tredrewen Farm Broiler Units – Powell & Co Construction



New Farm Steading – Glendale Engineering (Milfield)



Wharton Cattle Shed – S&A Fabrications



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## TRAINING



The winners will be announced at the Awards ceremony on Thursday 30 September 2021 at the Macdonald Hotel in Manchester. To book your places, please visit the website. We would like to thank our sponsors.

### HEADLINE

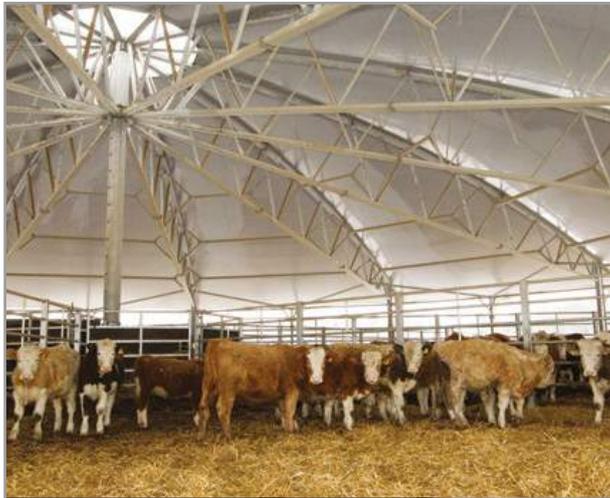


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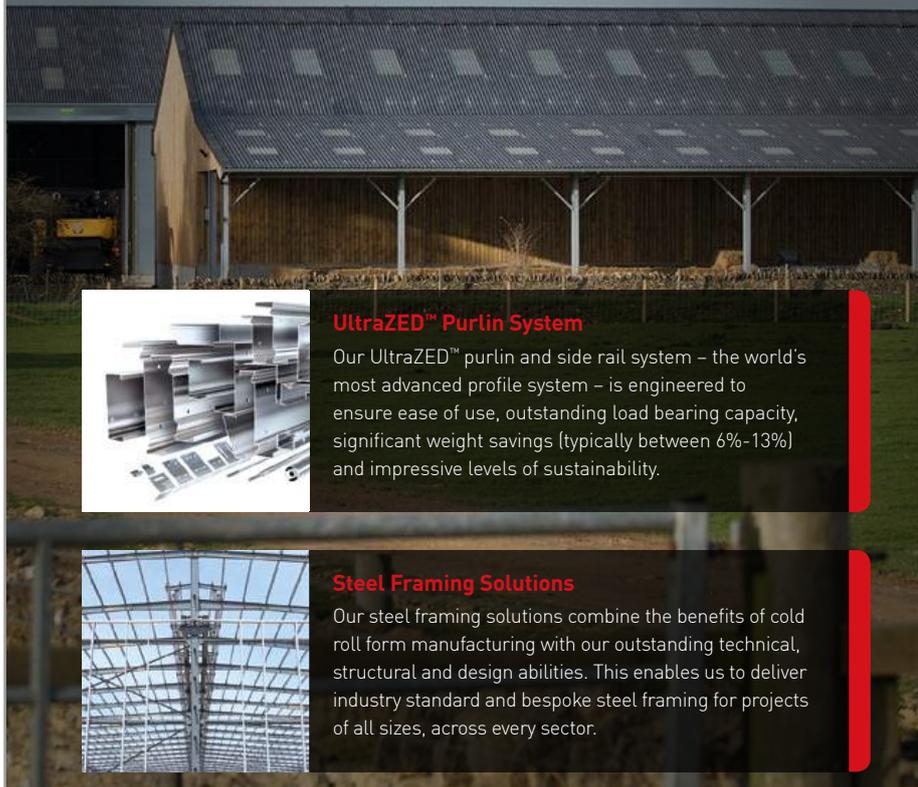
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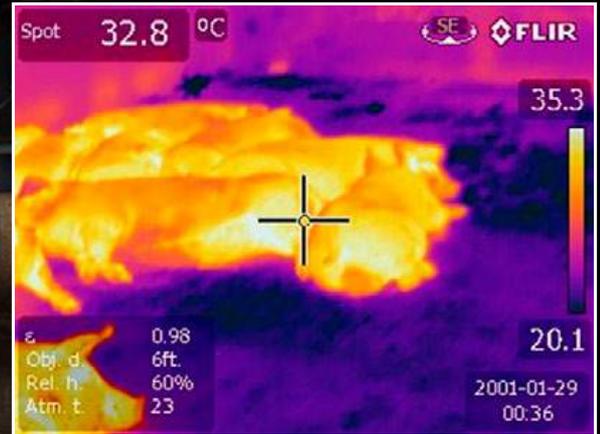
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SHAPING THE FUTURE IN METAL



## Stress, Design & Livestock

Stress is normal, and animals have evolved coping mechanisms that allow them to mitigate 'normal' pressures. The problem with stress is not its presence, but the duration. Our livestock systems have slowly evolved to manage the stress factors, and there is still progress to be made. The article below is a summary of a presentation made at the RIDBA AGM earlier this year.

### Space

The understanding of stocking density, whether for eating, drinking or lying down has increased steadily, and there is guidance on space per type and/or weight of animal from AHDB and RIDBA. The restriction of this approach is that it ignores the quality of space, so that for example the feeding or lying space at the ends of cattle buildings can be seen as low quality by livestock in wet and windy conditions, or the best possible locations during summer daytimes. Table 1 shows how the stocking density in a pig pen in kg/m<sup>2</sup> is influenced by i) taking pigs to a higher liveweight (LW), ii) the impact of the feeder in the pen, iii) the impact of the activity area in front

of the feeder, and iv) the area of pen that is wet or in a draught and therefore not a preferred space. Design and maintenance of a space is vital for health and productivity.

### Temperature

The basic understanding of the impact of air temperature on livestock was established in the 1970s and 1980s, with the idea of the thermal neutral zone (TNZ) of temperatures which did not cause an animal to either change behaviour or burn more/less energy to mitigate the impact of temperature. Animals within their TNZ have zero thermal stress. The pig and poultry sectors created building systems that recognised the cost in terms of inefficiencies and stresses of keeping animals outside their TNZ, and created controlled environment buildings. These changes sometimes and still do create other, new problems, but the thermal aspect was recognised. This has not taken place in the cattle sector, where there are large, significant and global benefits to be had for appreciating the TNZ of very young cattle. A potential role for the UK building sector is to

**Table 1. Stocking density: impact of LW, feeder space and areas of wet or draught**

Pen length m	Pen width m	Pen area m <sup>2</sup>	No. of pigs	Pig LW kg	Stocking density		100kg LW equiv
					m <sup>2</sup> /pig	kg/m <sup>2</sup>	No.pigs
5.07	3.83	19.42	30	100	0.65	154	30
		19.42	30	110	0.65	170	33
		19.42	30	115	0.65	178	35
Minus feeder@1.2m <sup>2</sup>		18.2	30	100	0.61	165	32
Minus feed space 2m <sup>2</sup>		16.2	30	110	0.54	204	40
Minus wet area?		14.7	30	115	0.49	235	46
Minus feeder@1.2m <sup>2</sup>		18.2	28	100	0.65	154	30
Minus feed space 2m <sup>2</sup>		16.2	25	100	0.65	154	30
Minus draught area?		14.7	22	100	0.67	150	29

**Stocking density standards; 85-110 kgs = 0.65m<sup>2</sup>/pig >110 kgs = 1.00m<sup>2</sup>/pig**

push the status quo on youngstock building design, as discussed in the last RIDBA journal. There is also a need to realise the impact of heat stress (HS) created under typical UK conditions. The list below outlines current scientific understanding of the impact of heat stress on calves and heifers.

- Dry matter intake and growth rate reduced
- Elevated blood insulin and protein catabolism
- Accelerated respiration rate and loss of CO<sub>2</sub>
- Altered blood-based chemistry and respiratory alkalosis
- Altered rumen activity and microbiota affects feed digestibility and rumen fermentation
- Decreased luteinising hormone, oestradiol and gonadotrophins disturb normal oestrus activity, depress follicular development, hence reduced conception rates
- Prenatal HS suppresses embryonic development via hypoxia and malnutrition
- Pre and peri-natal HS impacts on the growth, immunity and future production of newborn calves.

*Wang et al (2020) Journal of Animal Science and Biotechnology. Heat stress on calves and heifers: a review.*

Heat stress may sound unlikely under UK conditions, but will be taking place around 20°C, and lower during weather periods or in buildings with high relative humidity (>80%). There are increasing numbers of dairy cattle being housed all year round, with many benefits, but heat stress is being ignored by the status quo of building. The front cover of a leading building journal recently displayed an aerial view of a newbuild 600 cow plus diary unit, which a cursory examination of the image and reference to the RIDBA Farm Buildings Handbook shows has roof ventilation capacity of <25% of requirement. We need to get better at this type of detail, and explain to the client that in this case an additional £11-15k of capital on ridge vent design is likely to increase yields by 3% a year and reduce mastitis cases by 10%.

## Thermal dynamics

Livestock production is an energy based business. Put animals in a building and we can describe a lot of activity inside that built system in terms of energy dynamics; thermal dynamics. Thermal dynamics in a livestock building can be influenced by:

- Stocking density
- Level of nutrition
- Floor design and construction
- Drainage competence
- Bedding materials
- Building cladding U values
- Construction quality
- Ventilation system.

All factors listed above are within the influence of the building sector, albeit that a client may choose to make a different choice from one promoted by best practice and design. During the RIDBA AGM one of the members asked whether the livestock building design process included consideration of building U values, as it is in industrial new builds. This made me smile, and is hopefully part of the future, because although the answer (except for the pig and poultry sector) is “no, it is not”, it should be, and it will be. It is a good example of how the progressive end of the building sector will help UK agriculture.

The one specific example given at the RIDBA AGM on building design factors that can contribute to livestock health and productivity related to Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis, (IBR), a lingering chronic respiratory infection that appeared in the 1960s and has

crept through UK cattle herds in spite of widespread vaccination. Examination of the critical control points on dairy units which can contribute to thermal stress on cattle and both reduce immune competence and support the transmission of the virus produced a simple building design checklist:

- Roof slope
- U value of roof cladding
- Natural ventilation design
- Solar gain
- Air speed
- Moisture management detail.

Moisture management is not directly quantifiable, but all the others are, or can be directly measured. The pig and poultry sector have evolved building systems that have mostly produced ‘controlled environment’ buildings, and 30 years ago at R&D level buildings were designed including all of the factors in the list above. However, intelligent design does not always create optimum buildings, and animal health and welfare can still be found below target in pig and poultry buildings for predictable reasons. The first reason is the reality of decision-making, whereby material and construction costs drive choice towards short-term gains that are long-term compromises. We need to get better at explaining the long-term compromises. The second is construction quality, particularly around air tightness of panel structures, and the third is the understanding and maintenance requirements of building components by the user. Livestock production can produce a very demanding physical and chemical environment. A study of environmental factors in commercial UK pig facilities in 2020 found that successful management of a chronic respiratory issue included robust maintenance and hygiene practices, and was in no way related to building age.

## Moisture

Moisture management is a key aspect of livestock systems. Livestock buildings ‘process’ tonnes of moisture per day, before we pay attention to rainfall, and loss of control of the ins and outs of water has a direct association with animal health and production efficiency. Access to water, water quality, water flow rates and the other side of the equation, management of urine, faeces and dirty water, all matter and impact on animal health. The targets are unfettered individual animal access to good quality water above a minimum flow rate, and waste disposal that does not significantly increase environmental moisture levels in the building. Animals lie down for 12-17 hours a day, so a dry bed is an absolute target, as is a period of dryness after washing out and cleaning a livestock space. The latter is not easy in the middle of winter in the UK climate, but is made easier by correct design of facilities.

There are many aspects of building design that impact on animal health and productivity, but space, quality of space, an appreciation of temperature, moisture and thermal dynamics are all vital aspects that need consideration from the start. There will be stress on livestock in our systems, so we should design to mitigate duration of stress, and acquire the benefits of doing so.



Jamie is an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Aberdeen, and has worked in the area of environment and animal health for 35 years. Jamie is available to RIDBA members for discussion and guidance on matters related to building design and animal health.

Jamie Robertson. Livestock Management Systems Ltd.  
Contact [jamie@ridba.org.uk](mailto:jamie@ridba.org.uk)



## What Building Occupiers, Owners and Managing Agents Need to Know About Their Responsibilities for Fragile Roofs

Last year, RIDBA produced a Guidance Note on Fragile Roofs and following the article from the last edition on safe working in agriculture, highlighting falls from height as one of the top causes of fatal injuries in agriculture, here is a timely reminder.

### Definition of a Fragile Roof

- A roof must be considered fragile if it, or the materials forming it, will not take a person's weight.
- This includes, old roof lights (possibly over painted), fibre and asbestos cement sheets, old or thin metal sheets, all glass panels, slates, and tiles in poor condition.
- **If you are unsure then you must always treat a roof as though it is a fragile roof.**

### Steps to Take to Meet Your Responsibilities

- Assume any roof is fragile unless you can prove it is not.
- Do not go onto a roof or allow anyone else onto the roof without the correct training, experience, and suitable safety equipment.
- Engage a specialist roofing company who have the training, experience, and correct equipment to access the roof safely. The RIDBA website [ridba.org.uk](http://ridba.org.uk) offers a direct link to such specialists near you.
- Tasks such as clearing low level gutters, and unblocking downpipes can be done from the ground level, from a Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP) or, for very short duration work (30 mins max), a properly secured, footed and tied-off well-maintained ladder.
- **Ultimately, it is your responsibility to ensure that only fully trained and experienced people who understand the risks go onto a roof of any type and only then with suitable safety equipment for the task.**

### Preparation for Maintenance

- Do not wait until your roof leaks or gutter overflows – plan maintenance to be carried out before problems arise and preferably during better weather in the summer. This not only is safer but quicker and more efficiently undertaken on the longer, dry days in summer.
- Allow sufficient time to plan the works.

- Check the contractor has produced a method statement and risk assessment for the whole works and that this is available on location before works commence and for the full duration of those works.
- Monitor the progress of the works and that the contractor is working in line with the method statement and risk assessment. If there is any doubt, cease works at once and review accordingly.

### Employing a Recognised and Competent Contractor

- Ensure you are clear about the works that you want done and when you want them done.
- If possible, specify non-fragile assemblies.
- Only consider contractors that have the necessary training and experience. Once again, reference to the RIDBA website will put you in touch with suitable contractors near you.
- Ensure the quotation for the works is written, includes everything you have asked for and includes provision for safety equipment suitable for the task as well as the provision of a method statement and risk assessment.
- Ask for references and follow them up.
- Allow the contractor enough time to carry out the works safely.
- Always challenge and stop works that do not comply with the method statement or seem unsafe.

### Further Information

*Health and safety in roof work* HSG33 (fifth edition) HSE Books 2020 <https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg33.pdf>

*Safe working on fragile roofs or roofs with fragile elements* ACR (CP) 002: 2017 (third edition) The Green Book) Advisory Committee for Roofsafety <https://www.the-acr.org/publications/the-green-book/>

*Planning minor works* Information Sheet No 3: 2017 Advisory Committee for Roofsafety <https://www.the-acr.org/publications/is3-minor-roof-works/> (aimed at clients and building owners).

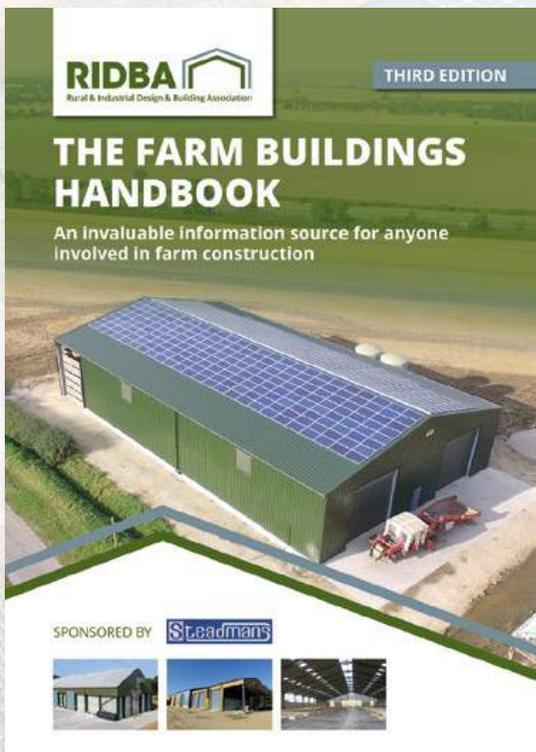


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## Industry News

# Work-related Stress and How to Tackle It

Employers have a legal duty to protect employees from stress at work by doing a risk assessment and acting on it.

### What is stress?

HSE defines stress as 'the adverse reaction people have to excessive pressures or other types of demand placed on them'.

Employees feel stress when they can't cope with pressures and other issues. Employers should match demands to employees' skills and knowledge. For example, employees can get stressed if they feel they don't have the skills or time to meet tight deadlines. Providing planning, training and support can reduce pressure and bring stress levels down.

Stress affects people differently – what stresses one person may not affect another. Factors like skills and experience, age or disability may all affect whether an employee can cope.

There are six main areas of work design which can effect stress levels. You should manage these properly. They are:

- demands
- control
- support
- relationships
- role
- change.

Employers should assess the risks in these areas to manage stress in the workplace.

### How to help

The earlier a problem is tackled the less impact it will have. If you think that an employee is having problems, encourage them to talk to someone, whether it's their line manager, trade union representative, GP or their occupational health team.

Help for line managers to have simple, practical conversations with employees which can help prevent stress is available in our Talking Toolkits (PDF).

### Causes of stress at work

There are six main areas that can lead to work-related stress if they are not managed properly. These are: demands, control, support, relationships, role and change.

For example, employees may say that they:

- are not able to cope with the demands of their jobs
- are unable to control the way they do their work
- don't receive enough information and support
- are having trouble with relationships at work, or are being bullied
- don't fully understand their role and responsibilities
- are not engaged when a business is undergoing change.

Stress affects people differently – what stresses one person may not affect another. Factors like skills and experience, age or disability may all affect whether an employee can cope. By talking to your employees and understanding how to identify the signs of stress, you can prevent and reduce stress in your workplace.

### Signs of stress

If employees start acting differently, it can be a sign they are stressed. Managers should look out for signs of stress in teams and employees, listed below. Think about whether the stress could be linked to work pressure.

Acting early can reduce the impact of pressure and make it easier to reduce or remove the causes. If managers are worried that an employee is showing some of these signs, they should encourage them to see their GP. These signs can be symptoms of other conditions. If there is something wrong at work, and this has caused the problem, managers should take action.

### Signs of stress in teams

There may be signs of stress in a team, like:

- arguments
- higher staff turnover
- more reports of stress
- more sickness absence
- decreased performance
- more complaints and grievances.

Employers must assess the risks of work-related stress in their workplace and take action to protect employees.

### Signs of stress in an employee

A change in the way someone acts can be a sign of stress, for example they may:

- take more time off
- arrive for work later
- be more twitchy or nervous.

A change in the way someone thinks or feels can also be a sign of stress, for example:

- mood swings
- being withdrawn
- loss of motivation, commitment and confidence
- increased emotional reactions – being more tearful, sensitive or aggressive.

Employees can help look after their own stress levels at work - if you think you have a problem talk to your manager, a colleague or your GP.

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/stress/resources.htm>



## Industry News

# Saving Lives by Stopping Falls

The No Falls Foundation draft standards to regulate it, produce guidance on how to do it correctly, and even train people to carry it out safely, but falls resulting from working at height remain the single biggest cause of fatalities in the UK workplace. In the 12 months to March 2020 - the latest confirmed figures available - 29 people died and there were 5,214 non-fatal falls reported under RIDDOR. Significantly, it is estimated that only half of non-fatal accidents are actually reported, so the figures for falls from height are likely to be much higher.

British industry, in every sector, is usually pretty resourceful when it comes to solving problems, and that holds true when it encounters issues around working at height. Unfortunately, what it does not always do, is properly consider how that problem can be resolved safely. As the figures show, that failure can result in death or serious injury, with shattering consequences for the individual concerned, his or her family and colleagues.

HSE research - including accident investigations carried out by its own inspectors - shows that all accidents, including those involving working at height, result from failures in one or more of the following: planning, organisation and management.

"It's essential to take time and plan the work from the very start," says Ray Cooke, the health and safety advisor to the No Falls Foundation, the UK charity dedicated exclusively to preventing falls from height and helping people affected by the life-changing consequences of a fall. Supported and championed by the Access Industry Forum (AIF), the Foundation has three principal objectives: raising awareness of the risks, researching the causes of falls and providing advice and support to those affected by a fall.

The Foundation enthusiastically supports the work of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Working at Height, which brings together Parliamentarians, industry leaders and trade associations to campaign on the issue of height safety. In May 2021 the APPG was pleased to hold its annual general meeting and a virtual business session. The focus for the session was the new campaign launched by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Discovering Safety, which aims to deliver health and safety benefits through a 'data-driven global community'.

Guest speaker, Sarah Newton, chair of the HSE, explained to the APPG how, using data insights, HSE hopes to improve health and safety performance and reduce workplace deaths. Sarah Newton explained that the success of the initiative will depend on partnerships with academia and industry, combining scientific expertise and knowledge, to ensure the HSE remains proactive rather than reactive. She encouraged attendees to get in touch with the HSE via the dedicated website to see how they can get involved.

The Foundation also continues to advocate its support for a more comprehensive system of recording falls from height - as recommended by the official inquiry report of the APPG - to better inform policy and decision making going forward. Work is currently underway on framing and developing a research project to investigate issues around current accident reporting and how enhanced reporting can assist.

Just launched by the charity is a Support and Information Pack signposting those organisations and resources available to provide advice and assistance following a fall from height. The pack covers a wide range of topics. These include: what to do immediately; what financial assistance may be available; how to begin a personal injury claim; support with transport and home adaptations, using the No Falls Befriending Service and organisations that can help with issues of mental health.

Comments the charity's manager, Hannah Williams: "What should have been a perfectly normal day has ended in a potentially life-shattering accident. What do you do now? Who can you turn to? What help is available? The pack attempts to answer these questions and provides contact details for the charity. A unique resource, it fills a significant gap in the sector and is specifically written to assist anyone suffering the immediate aftermath of a traumatic fall from height.

Looking ahead, 2021 will see the Foundation begin work on a landmark project - creating the No Falls Charter, an initiative which embodies best practice taken from existing regulations, policies, standards, guidance and a wide range of industry bodies. Intended for adoption and implementation by industry at large, it will enable companies to make a tangible commitment to height safety, and to make that commitment both transparent and demonstrable.

Currently the charity is inviting people to share their personal stories having suffered a fall from height and experienced its consequences. The aim is to develop a series of case histories in the 'Shattered Lives' section of the charity's website that highlight the circumstances and repercussions of a fall from height. No one expects it to happen to them says the charity, but these stories sadly prove it can.

[www.nofallsfoundation.org](http://www.nofallsfoundation.org)



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## Industry News

### Government Increases Steel Requirement Forecast

Newly published statistics from the UK government show that an estimated 7.6 million tonnes of steel will be needed for its public infrastructure projects over the next decade. This total is up from last year's forecast of 5 million tonnes.

In 2019-20 at least £108M of the reported £148M of steel purchased by the government was sourced from UK producers

Projects that will need steel include HS2, which will require an estimated 1.3 million tonnes, and Network Rail's track renewals

programme that could need an estimated 1 million tonnes.

The government wants to promote the participation of local steel and fabrication suppliers in forthcoming major public contracts. To this end, it has reconstituted the UK Steel Council whose members include the UK steel manufacturers and government departments.

<https://www.newsteelconstruction.com/wp/government-increases-steel-requirement-forecast/?platform=hootsuite>

### Roofing Industry Reports a Positive Start to 2021 but Skills Shortages Cause Headache for Contractors

Roofing contractors reported a significant growth in workloads during the first quarter of 2021 but were hampered by recruitment difficulties and continued material shortages and price rises, according to the Q1 State of the Roofing Industry survey produced by Glenigan for NFRC.

Over half of roofing contractors surveyed reported a rise in workloads (51 per cent) in the first three months of the year, with only 11 per cent reporting a decline. This trend is set to continue, with a balance of 35 per cent of firms reporting a rise in enquiries and a balance of 47 per cent expecting growth over the next year.

Growing workloads meant that a net balance of 8 per cent of firms grew their direct headcount on the previous quarter, and 17 per cent took on more sub-contractors. However, over half (56 per cent) of contractors reported recruitment difficulties. Roles that were hardest to fill included roof slaters and tilers (39 per cent), felters (33 per cent), and specialist slaters (29 per cent) and tilers (22 per cent).

Material shortages also exacerbated over the quarter, with over two thirds (68 per cent) reporting a deterioration. In particular, concrete roof tiles remained the top shortage area closely followed by timber battens, insulation, slate, and clay tiles. Shortages, as well as the rising prices of raw materials, has meant 89 per cent of respondents reported price inflation.

#### The survey also found:

- All sectors of the roofing industry saw growth in Q1 2021, with the domestic repair, maintenance and improvement and new build residential sectors showing the strongest growth;
- Northern roofing contractors, those in London, and the Southern Counties and those who operate nationwide saw the

sharpest rise in workloads. Scotland and Wales both saw falls in those reporting rising workloads, following a busy end to 2020;

- Government spending on public sector construction projects is expected to drive positive workloads for roofing contractors over the next year, with 70 per cent of contractors in this sector predicting growth over the next twelve months—far above any other sector;
- Payment continues to be slow—whilst 62 per cent of roofing firms have contractual payment terms of 30 days or less, only 42 per cent were paid within that period, on average.

#### Commenting on the report, NFRC said:

*"The roofing industry continued to perform well in the first quarter of this year, with roofers reporting that workloads, enquiries and employment were all up. The residential sector is doing particularly well, driven by the strong new build housing market, and homeowners continuing to spend their extra disposable income on upgrading and replacing their roofs*

*"However, there are simply not enough roofers to deliver the amount of demand we are seeing. One in every two roofing contractors are currently struggling to find skilled operatives. This is exacerbating the other challenges roofing contractors are also facing, such as finding materials and managing their cashflow.*

*"If the government want our industry to help put roofs on 300,000 new homes a year by the mid-2020s, retrofit 27 million properties and build brand new schools, hospitals and prisons, then it needs to work with us to help to train, develop and upskill the next generation of roofers."*

<https://www.nfrc.co.uk/article/2021/05/05/roofing-industry-reports-a-positive-start-to-2021-but-skill-shortages-cause-headache-for-contractors>



## Technical Update

# Designing Steel Framed Buildings for Fire

## Introduction

I'm writing this article on the 4th anniversary of the Grenfell Tower tragedy, an event that shocked the entire nation and shone a much needed spotlight on the issue of fire safety in buildings. Of course there are several significant differences between a high-rise residential block and a single storey agricultural building and many of the issues identified at Grenfell Tower do not apply to grain stores or animal housing. Nevertheless, fires do break out on farms, sometimes with tragic consequences, so it seemed timely to dedicate this article to the subject.

## Regulations and fundamentals

As most readers will be aware, agricultural buildings that are not used as dwellings are exempt from the Building Regulations provided that they meet certain conditions. RIDBA members, however, also supply a wide range of non-agricultural buildings (e.g. buildings for industrial, retail or educational applications), so knowledge of the basic requirements of *Approved Document B*, the part of the Building Regulations in England and Wales dealing with

fire, is important. Furthermore, farm buildings are sometimes built close to dwellings (e.g. a barn next to the farm house) or are converted for other uses (e.g. a riding school), so the Building Regulations exemptions don't always apply. Fortunately, even when a single storey building falls within the scope of *Approved Document B*, the rules are far less onerous than they are for multi-storey buildings.

There are two fundamental issues that need to be considered when designing a building against the risk of fire:

- Saving the lives of occupants within the building
- Preventing the spread of fire to neighbouring buildings.

The former is usually critical for multi-storey buildings, where there is an emphasis on preventing the spread of fire within the building (compartmentalisation), providing escape routes, the installation of sprinklers and preventing collapse of the structure by protecting critical structural elements. By contrast for single storey buildings, the emphasis is very much on preventing the spread of fire to neighbouring buildings, in particular through the collapse of a burning building onto its neighbour.

## Saving lives

The overriding priority of *Approved Document B* is saving the lives of building occupants in the event of a fire. This is achieved by a combination of minimising the time needed to egress from the building and maximising the time taken for the fire to spread. The former is enabled through the provision of escape routes leading to fire exits, while the latter is often achieved by the use of fire doors, fire-proof barriers, compartmentalisation and sprinklers. Since the majority of agricultural buildings are single storey, the simplest way of saving lives is to ensure that everyone within the building has easy access to an exit. For this reason, the exemption of agricultural buildings to the Building Regulations states that nowhere within the building may be further than 30m from an exit.

## Preventing the spread of fire

Of greater concern for single storey buildings is the spread of fire to neighbouring buildings, especially where a neighbouring building is a dwelling. Preferably, agricultural buildings (i.e. those that are generally exempt from the Building Regulations) should be at least one and a half times their height from any building with sleeping accommodation. Where this is not possible, or for industrial or commercial buildings where there is no exemption from the regulations, it is necessary to design the building such that



Image courtesy of A.C. Bacon Engineering



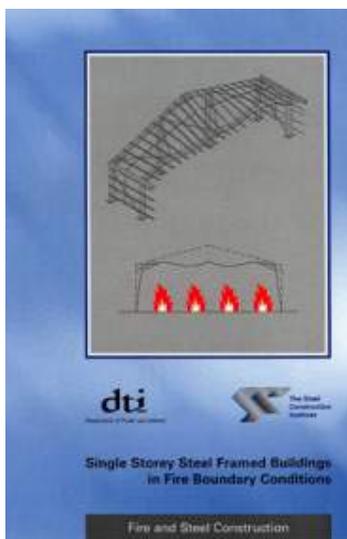
## Technical Update

Image courtesy of Yorkshire Steel Buildings

the external walls will not collapse or allow the passage of flame in the event of a fire. For braced frames, this could be achieved by protecting the external walls only (i.e. the columns and bracing), but this approach is inadequate for portal frames, because the columns and rafters act together as if they were a single structural element. For standard frames with nominally pinned bases, if the roof structure were to collapse in a fire, the walls would also collapse allowing the fire to spread. Of course, in theory, this problem could be overcome by applying fire protection to the entire portal frame. However, applying fire protection to rafters is difficult and expensive so an alternative solution is needed.

SCI publication *Single Storey Steel Framed Buildings in Fire Boundary Conditions* (SCI-P-313) presents an alternative method in which engineering principles are applied to the design of the columns and bases to demonstrate that the columns alone could withstand the overturning moment applied to them even if the entire roof structure

were to collapse in a fire. In this method, the overturning moment at the point of rafter collapse is calculated for a special fire limit state case, in which the loading is less severe than that normally used to design the structure. The column base strength and stiffness are estimated based on the actual base dimensions and thickness and the size and strength of the holding down bolts. Sprinklers are recognised to have a considerable beneficial impact on the intensity and spread of fire and a significant relaxation in the rules is permitted when they are used.



### Fire protection

Where columns along external walls require fire protection, this should extend up to the underside of the haunch, or to the rafter where there is no haunch. The level of fire resistance of the protected columns should be the same as that of the wall. Values of fire resistance (i.e. duration in minutes) are given in *Approved Document B*.

Building designers and frame manufacturers have several options when it comes to the means of fire protection. The most common are summarised (right).

- **Boards** – This is probably the simplest solution and is especially suitable for commercial and retail premises, where the boards provide the additional benefit of hiding the steelwork within a neat box. The boards are fitted as a dry trade after the completion of the structure, so do not interfere too much with the construction programme.
- **Sprays** – This solution is less common in the UK, but is sometimes used where complex shapes would be difficult to protect using boards. The end result, while effective as fire protection, is not aesthetically pleasing, so sprays are not used where appearance is important. Sprays are messy to apply and no other construction work is possible during this operation.
- **Blankets** – This solution combines the advantages of boards and sprays. In common with boards, blankets are applied as a dry trade to the completed structure, but like sprays they are suitable for complex shapes. They are especially useful for protecting truss structures, since the blankets can be wrapped around the individual elements of the truss.
- **Intumescent coatings** – Unlike the first three options, which all offer passive fire protection, intumescent coating react to temperature, foaming up to provide fire protection in the event of a fire, but otherwise resembling a painted finish to the steel. Intumescent coatings can either be thin or thick film and may be applied in the frame manufacturer's workshop or on site. Off-site applied thin film intumescent coatings are probably the most appropriate for portal frame structures and have a significant market share in the UK.

#### Dr Martin Heywood RIDBA Technical Consultant

A specialist in the structural engineering of agricultural and industrial type steel framed buildings, Dr Martin Heywood, is the technical consultant for RIDBA members.

Martin represents RIDBA on the B/549 committee and the sector on B/525/1 and CB/203.



**For further information contact: [Technical@ridba.org.uk](mailto:Technical@ridba.org.uk).**

## Made in North East Awards Winner



S&A Fabrications Limited, based in Barnard Castle have been announced as the Manufacturer of the Year (under £25m) winners at the Insider Made in North East Awards.

The awards celebrate the best and most innovative manufacturers in the region and S&A, who design, manufacturer and erect steel framed buildings throughout the UK from their base in Barnard Castle, took the award as the judges were impressed by it constantly looking to innovate and improve its products, as well its commitment to never cut corners in order to save costs.

Simon Pelly, Managing Director of S&A said it was a great honour to accept the award “we work hard at S&A and at times we are really under pressure, especially in the last twelve months, having to find new working practices to deal with the pandemic. It’s therefore hugely satisfying to win an award like this that recognises not only our passion for our industry, but also for the North East where we’ve been based since we were formed, back in 1978. We’re very proud of our staff in all departments, who continue to push the business forward and ultimately helped us win this award.”

Simon and his business partner, Jonathan Kirk, took over the business in 2018 under a management buyout from the founders Geoff Simpson and John Allinson. Since then the firm has invested heavily in new computer software, processes and a 384 square meter extension to their factory, to house new machinery and employs over 40 staff.

For more information, please contact **Alistair Bell, 07855 475 119, marketing@s-and-a.co.uk.**



## Digitalisation of Steel Fabrication and Associated Benefits

“Who did what, when, where and why and how long did it take them?” – Questions we hear all too often and more often than not the answers may be vague at best.

For many years STRUMIS has provided software capable of tracking and recording man-hours labour in a steel fabrication environment. Conventional methods used could involve bar-coding which was all the rage 15 years back but bar-coding steel assemblies naturally requires a bar-code scanner which can be very expensive.

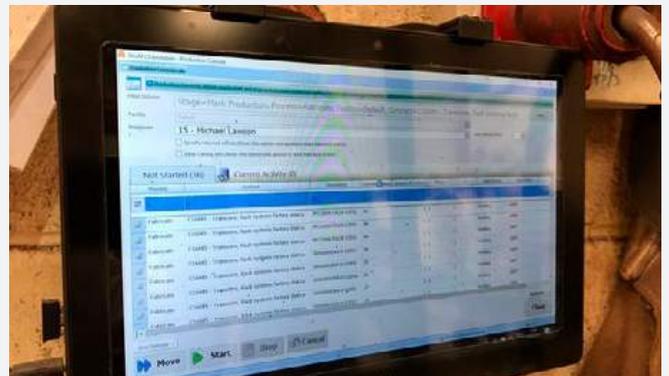
Bar-code scanning provided practical real-world challenges in addition to the considerable cost. Many users found workarounds which just about managed to overcome the practical issues of avoiding radio frequency interference from overhead cranes and welding units but steel fabricators operate in aggressive workshop environment not always suitable for delicate radio frequency signals.



Now, we thankfully have an alternative to expensive and sensitive bar-code scanners – STRUMIS Mobile Application & Production Console both utilised on portable low-cost devices.

The Production Console & Mobile Application can now be found in many STRUMIS customers’ workshops and erection sites providing real-time updates of part and assembly progress, hours recorded by process and employee, traceability and accountability and the added bonus of portability to work anywhere anytime.

The Tablets available today can be sourced for as little as £100 each and are perfect for most uses within a fabrication workshop. Compared to bar-code scanners and especially RF scanners



this is a serious cash saving and guaranteed real-time project updates. The Mobility Application is completely free of charge and operates on iPhone and Android phones so no cost at all to the fabricator.

Due to the extensive connectivity offerings a Tablet and the Mobility App provide, they are not restricted to factory locations, they are great for job site recording of hours spent erecting and progress tracking and reporting of what assemblies have arrived at site and been erected during any particular shift. Total portability and real-time updates on your contract progress for £100 – how good is that or even better the Free Of Charge Mobility App on your phone!

To see how STRUMIS tracking and time recording capabilities can benefit your company visit

**www.strumis.com** or  
contact us on  
**01332 545800** and  
**sales@strumis.com.**





## Wolfenden Concrete Celebrate Best of British Agriculture at Great Yorkshire Show

The Great Yorkshire Show is one of only a handful of large agricultural shows being held this year and Wolfenden will be exhibiting - from 13th to 16th July - showcasing exciting new products, all with a focus on helping dairy farmers reduce emissions while maintaining healthy, happy herds.

The NFU's ambition of reaching Net Zero emissions for farming by 2040 is ambitious. As a transition plan for agriculture, this policy signals a new approach, including the funding streams that will support farmers - and contractors, agricultural engineers and designers - towards emission reduction. For 2022, the plan looks to slurry with,

*"... a slurry investment scheme from 2022, to help reduce pollution from farming and contribute to the 25 Year Environment Plan, and net-zero commitments, and help farmers prepare for increasingly effective and comprehensive enforcement of the rules about slurry management over the transition period."*

Focused on these environmental targets on-farm, Wolfenden continually invest in product development to help dairy farmers meet and exceed environmental requirements, while also helping to improve herd health and reduce costs. The new SUPA GREEN product range is the result of extensive development and Wolfenden are working with the multi-award winning DB Group, harnessing the unique properties of their innovative Cemfree® technology. The first products in the SUPA GREEN range, including diagonal slats and slurry channels were launched this Spring.

Year-long, comprehensive testing demonstrated that ultra-low carbon technology - when combined with the latest in product design specific for the dairy sector - offers greater durability through improved acid resistance, with up to 62% carbon emission reduction. This improved acid resistance means greater product longevity which, in turn, leads to cost savings on-farm and further potential emission reduction, avoiding the unnecessary early replacement of slats and channels. For a typical dairy installation, this represents an embodied CO<sub>2</sub> reduction of nearly 5,000kg, equivalent to driving an average car nearly 25,000 miles.

As a totally cement-free alternative to conventional concrete, Cemfree is a ground-breaking milestone in low-carbon concrete technology and this, combined with Wolfenden's innovative product design and expertise, represents a significant and timely development, given the announcement of the DEFRA roadmap and associated funding for farm development and improvement.



In addition to the SUPA GREEN products, Wolfenden will be launching their new ultra-low carbon portable cow cubicles, designed in conjunction with EASYFIX, world leaders in livestock housing solutions. Wolfenden have a significant track record for innovation, having launched the SUPA range in 2019, to help dairy farmers improve herd health through better housing, and to improve emission reduction through more effective slurry management. These SUPA products are found in some of the country's leading dairy units and the company is respected by both farmers and academics alike, having won a higher education New Product Innovation Award in the year the range first launched.

Richard Moody, Wolfenden's managing director, explains the rationale behind SUPA GREEN and the new product ranges,

*"With more than 40 years' experience of working with dairy farmers, it's always been our policy to listen to our customers, to understand their issues as well as the regulatory landscape. The impact of Brexit on agricultural policy, combined with the sector focus on emission reduction, led us to invest in the development of products that would meet farmers' needs in a cost-effective way, while also helping them to achieve the carbon and emission reduction that is increasingly important - imperative, in fact. Our new products are designed to meet these objectives - more durable products with a longer lifespan combined with massive reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Like everyone working in agriculture, Wolfenden are delighted to be celebrating British farming and showcasing the innovation and excellence of our industry at GYS. We have a portfolio of products for dairy that we're extremely proud of - particularly the help they offer to farmers working towards net zero and emission reduction. We are very much looking forward to catching up with our customers and to showcasing our products over the four days of the Show."*

For more information about Wolfenden's new product ranges for dairy, contact Wolfenden Concrete:

**T: 01282 844213 F: 01282 843336**  
**E: [jade@wolfendenconcreteltd.co.uk](mailto:jade@wolfendenconcreteltd.co.uk)**  
**[www.wolfendenconcreteltd.co.uk](http://www.wolfendenconcreteltd.co.uk)**



# STAY SAFE

with *GRP* rooflights from Filon

## Safety is at the front and centre of our product policy:

- ✔ Our technical expertise has contributed directly to UK rooflight **non-fragility** classification over decades, with Filon personnel playing key safety roles in influential trade associations including NARM (National Association of Rooflight Manufacturers) and ACR (Advisory Committee for Roofsafety).
- ✔ Our unique, patented **Fixsafe system** is the only solution that allows profiled rooflights to be safely installed from within the building envelope, without the need to access fragile roof areas.
- ✔ We offer a range of **fire grades** to provide compliance with Building Regulations.
- ✔ Our **Supasafe** triple reinforced rooflights provide high impact resistance, spanning and load-bearing capabilities.
- ✔ We're the UK's longest established manufacturer of profiled rooflights by continuous process, with a successful track record of excellence in design, product performance and customer support. As you'd expect, we're also currently employing **Covid-secure** working practices throughout our operations.
- ✔ Filon: truly a '**safe pair of hands**' for specifiers.

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## Trusted Solutions for Your Building Needs

Eternit is the only producer of semi-compressed fibre cement profiled sheeting in the UK, with roofs that are specifically designed for the needs of British farmers and our unique climate.

### Eternit history

For over 100 years, Eternit's innovative high-performing roofing solutions have been helping farmers to future-proof their businesses for the next generation. Working side by side with farmers, they've invested their experience and expertise in helping the agricultural community build better buildings to improve profitability.

### Eternit products

Eternit have specialist knowledge of roof requirements across an extensive range of agricultural buildings - from dairy, beef, pigs, poultry and equestrian to grain barns - with a range of profiled sheeting to suit every need.

Their market-leading fibre cement roofs are designed to suit a full range of agricultural buildings. They are engineered to regulate temperature and humidity and reduce noise levels to maximise animal comfort, production and profits.

### Eternit team

The Eternit technical team has over 60 years of combined farming and building experience and they will always help you find the most cost-effective solution for your project. They are committed to creating value for our customers, alongside protecting animal welfare.

### Helping farmers grow their business

Eternit know that uncomfortable and damp environments lead to animal stress, sickness and a drop in productivity, so our roofs are designed to absorb up to 25% of their weight in moisture. No other product on the market can match this.

They also know that expanding existing building facilities or investing in new builds is an important investment so getting it right is key and has long term benefits for profitability, animal welfare and the environment. Like the communities they've been serving for over a century, they too are focused on value and animal welfare.

That's why Eternit's design innovations are focused on keeping your animals comfortable and performing at their best. Their products achieve this by:

- Regulating temperature by absorbing excess heat
- Reducing the stress caused by noise
- Maximising light to increase milk production

Happy animals perform better. It makes sense and is backed by science.

### Regulating temperature: absorbing heat

Long term heat stress can cause serious illness. In higher temperatures and humidity, a cow will accumulate heat in the day, causing potential loss of production levels which may result in a loss of appetite. This is why moisture absorption is a key factor in Eternit product design. Research shows that cows feel most comfortable at temperatures between 5° and 20°C, while new-born calves ideally need a minimum temperature of 7°C.

### Regulating temperature: thermal technology

As well as high absorption levels, Eternit roofing sheets offer high performing thermal technology. They absorb heat from the sun on hot days to keep temperatures inside lower, while retaining heat on cold days. Eternit products are designed for maximum animal welfare because healthy animals grow faster and have a higher rate of production.

### Reducing noise stress

Noise is another key consideration for us when designing our roofs. Cows have a well-developed hearing ability and they experience stress at sound levels above 80dB - similar to the noise of a lawn mower or loud rain drumming on a roof. Eternit profiled sheets have a very high acoustic damping performance, which reduces the stress caused by noise for the animals and also creates a more pleasant working environment for the farmer. Tests show that the noise of heavy rainfall is only half as loud under our fibre cement roofs compared to metal roofs.

### Optimising light

Research shows that brighter dairy buildings boost milk production, with measurable increases in extended periods of light (16 to 18 hours per day), compared to natural periods of light (8 to 14 hours per day). Optimising light in the building can increase milk production by circa 5%. For this reason, Eternit have designed translucent roofing panels to sit alongside our standard corrugated sheets.

### A promise to you

Eternit fibre cement corrugated sheets do not rust or rot, are insensitive to fungus, bacteria and vermin and resistant to all chemical influences, including ammonia. Fibre cement is a fire resistant material and Eternit roofing sheets have one of the best fire classifications possible for roofs. They are suitable for all types of weather and built to create the most comfortable working environment for both animals and farm workers.

**Visit the website at [Eternit.co.uk](http://Eternit.co.uk) for full product details and to request more information, call +44 01283 501 555 or email [infouk@etexgroup.com](mailto:infouk@etexgroup.com).**

## Quality Farm Buildings Designed and Built by Rose Engineering

Engineering your business's future in Agriculture and Industry by bringing visions to life through quality design and construction.

At Rose Engineering we have been experts in providing quality building solutions for over 35 years. We are proud of our outstanding reputation within the industry, always putting our clients at the forefront of everything we do. Whether your new project is a Livestock or Equestrian building; Parlour building, Workshop, Grain Store, Commercial or Industrial Unit or any other steel framed building, we can design and build it.

Starting with the initial design and planning process we can carry out all aspects of a project. Our goal is to provide you with buildings that work for your business, from protecting your assets such as machinery, grains and livestock to providing environments to enable businesses to thrive. With this in mind, we design our buildings to give our clients the scope to produce bespoke solutions that work for their farming and business practices; whether dairy, poultry, livestock, equestrian, arable or commercial.

We understand that animal welfare is a crucial focus when designing a new livestock or equestrian building. We believe happy livestock are more productive which is why we strive to create an optimum environment for cattle, horses and other livestock allowing them to flourish and improve productivity. Our In-House design team can design buildings to provide the most effective solutions for animal housing, keeping welfare a top priority. Maintaining air quality within livestock housing is vital to reduce negative effects such as heat stress and excess water vapour – this all starts with the design process.

Our team of Fabricators, Steel Erectors, Groundworkers and Cladders are experienced to take on a variety of projects, large and small, completing projects with the highest standards of workmanship and safety. As a family run business, we aim to provide a friendly and professional service to all our clients with a flexible approach. To



Training Room



Concrete Processing Plant

# ROSE ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION

SINCE 1986



Grain Store

provide consistency and quality, we have the expertise to carry out all aspects of your project - from the initial design and planning process, through to fabrication in our modern workshop to all groundworks and steel erecting to final completion. With a dedicated Contracts Manager assigned to each project, you can be assured that your building project is in safe hands.

All our buildings are constructed to the highest possible standard within our client's budgets using appropriate materials for their needs, from roof sheets to provide optimum ventilation to access solutions and adequate spacing for livestock, all incorporated into the building design. Our buildings are UKCA Marked to ensure high standards of production for quality structures that last. Working with industry leading suppliers we use the most efficient materials available to provide the best solutions from concrete solutions for floor finishes to cladding for secure and effective storage facilities.

As well as constructing new buildings and extensions, we also offer a comprehensive repairs and refurbishment service. From small repairs to new a new roof, we have an experienced team that will help you get the most out of an existing building, to improve performance, efficiency and animal welfare. Updating insulation or re-cladding can breathe new life into an existing building or change the use to utilise current building space.

Let us design and build your next project. Contact a member of our team today on **01258 472866** or email us at **info@rose-engineering.co.uk**. You can also visit **rose-engineering.co.uk** for more information.



Palmer Steel Frame & JCB

# WHY JOIN RIDBA?



Membership of RIDBA provides access to a range of useful products and services that can help your business, and that means...

- ✔ **BUILDING TRUST** ✔ **GENERATING LEADS** ✔ **NETWORKING**
- ✔ **STAYING UP TO DATE** ✔ **SAVING MONEY**



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Extensive **information resources** and **guidance**



Use of the **RIDBA brand**



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Access to the RIDBA **Technical Consultant**



**Events and networking opportunities**



Access to the RIDBA **Livestock Consultant**



Free and unlimited **credit checks**

Membership is open to fabricators, contractors, suppliers, consultants, and colleges – for more information visit [ridba.org.uk/join](http://ridba.org.uk/join)

## Faster Order Fulfilment Than You Can Imagine

As we all know only too well, many suppliers in the building industry are battling with supply and demand challenges resulting from shortages and delays caused by the pandemic, as well as Brexit. At Briarwood Products, we are one of the few suppliers in the industry to be unaffected by these constraints, allowing us to continually provide our customers with fast order fulfilment, offering a rapid 5-7 day turnaround on our entire product range.



### Why is Fast Order Fulfilment Important to us?

As a British family-owned business, supporting economic growth within the UK is a key driver in our decision making and we have implemented a robust supply chain which allows us to continually supply the building industry across the country with materials that other suppliers would normally take weeks to fulfil.

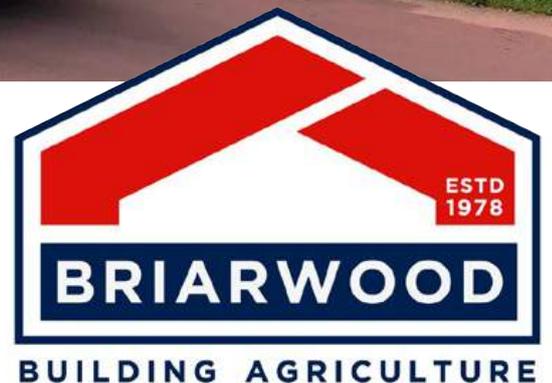
### How do we Manage to Operate Such a Rapid Turnaround?

Operating as a combined manufacturer and supplier of fibre cement sheeting gives us complete control over our production facility. With careful production management, we consistently hold Europe's largest fibre cement stock at any one time. Our extensive stock holding benefits and our customers giving us the capacity to support even the most ambitious project with maximum efficiency, keeps lead times to a minimum.

### How do we Deliver as Quickly as Possible?

All our orders are delivered by the Briarwood transport fleet of specialist vehicles. Our dedicated fleet facilitates make swift deliveries to anywhere in the UK and our experienced transport and logistics team will ensure materials are on site to help manage a seamless build.

To find out how we can help you call us on 01934 641446 or visit [www.briarwoodproducts.co.uk](http://www.briarwoodproducts.co.uk).





A sloping wall clamp design is a very robust system for modern machinery weights

## Silage Clamps Need Careful Thought

Silage clamps are the overlooked work horses of UK Agriculture and with ever increasing weights of compacting machinery and increased awareness of the potential environmental impact of a silage clamp leaking, is it time to look again at their design?

“Working with Cambridge University we have identified that most clamps in the UK are over 10 years old, with 44% over 20 years old” says Mr Wilson, Business Development Director for silage clamp specialists ARK Agriculture.

A lot has changed in the way we farm since then with tractor weights increasing significantly, more use of contractors with larger equipment and of course increasing herd sizes. The biogas sector brings another element with requirements on another scale entirely.

“It is therefore very likely that these clamps are being overfilled and potentially failing as they were built for a completely different use.”

New clamps will increasingly be of interest to farmers, especially with the potential for grants and the increasing awareness of the importance of silage quality.

“I don't think we can rely on the traditional design for clamps anymore as these might have been based on old British Standards,

if any, using a compacting vehicle to 8 or 10 tonnes, most compacting vehicles used on clamps weigh a lot more than this.”

“There is a real chance that a failure of a clamp wall could cause a fatal accident and if you consider the danger of working from height then a silage clamp is easily the most dangerous structure on a farm.”

Alternative wall options might be considered include sloping concrete walls supported by earth banks or L and T panels which are designed as an off the shelf solution for a specific tractor weight and fill height.

Both solutions are designed only for use as silage clamp walls and the associated loadings, they do not require steel beams or foundations and work well with asphalt bases.

It is also worth remembering that unless you tell the user of the clamps the limitations of the design then they will push to fill the clamps higher, use heavier machinery and ultimately damage the walls. It is very simple to sign post this info on to the clamp.

Often, we can learn more about these options from other countries where the importance of silage storage is properly understood, and their designs are a long way ahead of ours.



There are several options for improving the safety and stability of vertical wall clamps

ARK Agriculture is a new RIDBA member, and they have built silage clamps using their patented sloping wall and vertical wall designs in the UK for farmers and AD plants across the country.

“Silage clamp design is a real niche and an area I think with some new thinking we can really improve as an industry” says Mr Wilson.

“We look forward to being RIDBA members and making some great contacts!”

You can find out more about ARK online [www.arkagriculture.com](http://www.arkagriculture.com).

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## Membership Updates

### Common Assessment Standard Rollout



The new pre-qualification (PQ) system developed by Build UK is now fully up and running following the introduction of data sharing, and its roll out will significantly reduce the duplication of time, effort and resources

that is costing the industry up to £1 billion a year. Major contractors and clients – including Balfour Beatty, HS2, Keltbray, Mace, Multiplex, Osborne and Skanska – all now require the Common Assessment Standard meaning that members of their supply chains will need to obtain just one certification to tender for work with them.

The Common Assessment Standard, which is endorsed by the CLC, has two levels of certification – desktop and site-based – and companies should apply for the appropriate level dependent upon their trade, size, and the requirements of their clients. If you have any questions or would like further information on getting involved, please email [pre-qualification@BuildUK.org](mailto:pre-qualification@BuildUK.org).

### New Super-Deduction

Until 31 March 2023, companies investing in qualifying new plant and machinery assets will be able to claim a 130% super-deduction capital allowance and a 50% first-year allowance for qualifying special rate assets. This will allow companies to reduce their tax bill by up to 25p for every £1 they invest. Qualifying plant and machinery include lorries and vans, ladders, drills and cranes, as well as computer equipment and servers, and office chairs and desks.

With much of the UK's productivity gap attributable to low levels of business investment, the Government is hoping that the super-deduction will give companies a strong incentive to bring planned investments forward and make additional investments. Further information can be found in the Government's factsheet.

### Third People Survey

The results of the third cross-industry 'People Survey', carried out by Build UK on behalf of the CLC in April, have now been published. Providing an up-to-date snapshot of the ongoing impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the construction workforce, 'Maintaining Employment in Construction' indicates that there will be a reduction of 1.2% in the size of the workforce by July. However, the number of apprentices employed is expected to increase by 2.7% over the next three months, and the number of graduates taken on this September is expected to be 17% higher than last September.

### Employing Foreign Workers

Following the introduction of the Points-Based Immigration System, Build UK has produced a simple flowchart to guide members through the process of employing a foreign worker. The new flowchart covers the EU Settlement Scheme, which closed for applications on 30 June 2021, the Points-Based Immigration System and the Skilled Worker Visa, which is required from 1 July 2021, and provides links to further guidance on a particular area if required.

### Brexit Resources

Following the end of the Brexit transition period, there are now new rules for doing business with the EU. Build UK's dedicated Brexit webpage collates all the latest information for members, including the new Points-Based Immigration System, importing and exporting, and product marking and availability.



### Flexible Apprenticeships in Construction

The Department for Education (DfE) has published guidance on how the on-site and off-site elements of construction apprenticeships can be delivered in different ways to offer more flexibility for employers, providers and apprentices. Case studies show how the content and duration of apprenticeships can be front loaded, adjusted to suit day or block release programmes, and take prior learning into consideration to accelerate them where appropriate.

### Help to Grow for SMEs

As part of the Government's Help to Grow scheme, a free 12-week programme for small businesses was launched in June. 'Help to Grow: Management' is designed to be manageable alongside full-time work and covers key areas such as financial management, innovation and digital adoption, with one-on-one support from a business mentor. Delivered by leading business schools across the country, the programme will help business leaders to develop a tailored growth plan, and businesses with between 5 and 249 employees can register their interest now.

Contact Build UK at [info@builduk.org](mailto:info@builduk.org) or follow on social media for all the latest updates:



# TRANSFORMING CONSTRUCTION



## **BUILD UK DOES MORE THAN REPRESENT THE UK CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.**

By focussing on three strategic priorities, we work with our members and partners to drive real change that strengthens the sector.

**Improving  
Business  
Performance**

**Increasing  
Productivity**

**Recruiting,  
Training &  
Retaining Talent**



For more information, visit [BuildUK.org](https://www.builduk.org)

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**Yorkshire Steel Buildings (Holdings) Ltd**

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### ARK Agriculture

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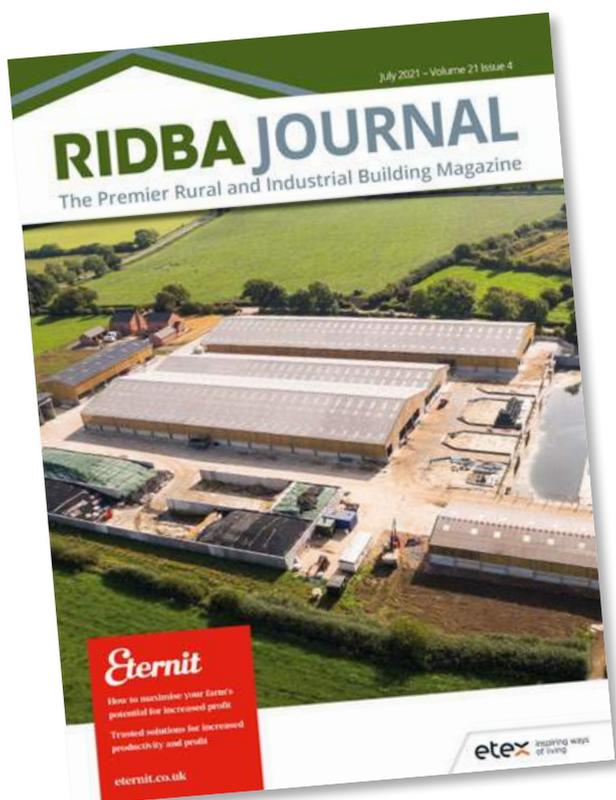
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