Mortar bedded verge incorporating verge undercloak strip

The traditional approach to producing a weathertight verge is to butt joint flat strips of material (undercloak) up the length of the last rafter, from eaves to ridge to support a bed of mortar. The verge should project 38mm to 50mm beyond the gable wall or barge board. The undercloak should be no less than 150mm wide over outer edge of bargeboard/gable wall. Slating battens should finish 25mm to 50mm from the outer edge of the undercloak.

The undercloak is gripped between the slating battens and either nailed to the bargeboard or flying rafter finishing 38mm to 50mm over outer edge of bargeboard/ gable wall. Slating battens should finish 25mm to 50mm from the outer edge of the undercloak., bedded in mortar of minimum 100mm width. Roofing mortar should be 1/3 cement sand with plasticiser. The mix should be based on sharp sand with soft sand added to achieve workability.The proportion of sharp sand should not be less than 1 /3 of total sand content. If the verge is brick (i.e. no bargeboard) the undercloak must be set on a mortar bed.

The gap between the undercloak and the underside of the slates is filled with mortar to seal the gap and protect the slate batten ends from rain saturation. It is good practise to wet the underside of slates prior to bedding and to ensure all surfaces are clean and free from release agents used in manufacturing.

Installation

The perimeter of the roof is the most vulnerable to wind suction loading. Secure fixing of the verge slates will contribute to creating a long lasting roof covering.
The verge is formed form alternate courses of slate and a half (cut from double slates) and single slates. See page 51.

The initial verge slate (2nd under eaves course) should be a slate and a half. It will require an extra hole in the tail, half the slate distance in from the verge, 25mm from the base to accommodate the rivet for the first full slate in the next course.

The first full slate will also require an additional hole (batten guage plus 25mm from the tail) to accommodate the rivet for the next slate and a half.

This next slate and a half will require three nail fixing holes on the batten line, two rivet holes to hold the tail and an additional hole to accommodate the rivet for the subsequent single verge slate.

When trimming to verges, valleys and hips avoid using pieces less than 150mm wide.

If possible use slate and a halfs with the cut edges protected to prevent cement run off due to exposure to weather.
At valleys and hips where raking cuts are required wide slates must be used to maintain adequate sidelap and bond.
At the ridge or top abutment an additional batten is required between the final slate batten and the ridge/abutment to accommodate head nails for the final course of slates.This final course will generally be cut to length. The slates in the previous course may also need to be cut to length if the rafter length and batten guage require it.