

VALLEYS



FRONT COVER UNDERSIDE OF COLLYWESTON LACED VALLEY

WELSH VALLEY IN SANDSTONE



Valleys carry more water than any other part of a roof. Before the common availability of lead, slaters used skill and ingenuity to make a water-tight junction. They fall into three broad classes:

- double cut - those that form a raking cut in the main slates on each side and overlap a set of slates laid up a narrow strip;
- single cut - those that are cut on one side (the steeper pitch if there is a difference) and are swept on the other; and
- those that carry the slate courses across the intersection without a break.

The former include Welsh, collar and tie and chevron, and the latter swept and laced versions. The collar and tie and the half swept are hybrids. All of these types function perfectly well provided they are on a roof with a local traditional pitch. Because the valley pitch is less than the main pitch, roofs should never be designed at less than the local tradition.

Close mitred and open lead-lined valleys are common today but there is no reason to substitute them for the traditional types.



PENNINE CHEVRON



The mitred slates have been removed in the upper section to reveal the valley slates.



COTSWOLD SWEPT



COLLYWESTON
LACED



SWEPT AND SINGLE
OR HALF CUT IN
WALES



OPEN & CLOSE
MITRED LEAD LINED



Valley types are generally restricted to their own regions: chevron in the Pennine counties; Welsh in Wales, collar and tie in the West Country and South Wales. The swept valley has a wide distribution following the Jurassic limestone belt from Dorset to Yorkshire. Slate versions are seen in Wales and the hybrid half swept or single cut.

In the East Midlands where Collyweston limestone slates are produced the laced valley is the normal detail. But, because the slaters produced their own slates and traveled with them to wherever Collyweston slates were specified the laced valley went too. Even to America; to New York state.

COLLAR AND TIE DEVON & CORNWALL



COLLAR AND TIE PEMBROKESHIRE





COTSWOLD



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