

PROJECT NAME

THE VYNE

SHERBORNE ST. JOHN,
BASINGSTOKE

PRODUCT TYPE

KEYMER TRADITIONAL ANTIQUE PLAIN TILES

ARCHITECTS

NICK COX ARCHITECTS

CONTRACTORS

KEN BIGGS CONTRACTORS LTD



Wienerberger

The Vyne is a popular National Trust visitor attraction.



INTRODUCTION

CONSTRUCTED BETWEEN 1500 AND 1520, THE VYNE IS A SPECTACULAR TUDOR MANSION STEEPED IN RICH HISTORY, WITH MANY FASCINATING STORIES TAKING PLACE UNDER ITS ROOF.

This family home was built for Lord William Sandys, one of King Henry VIII's Lord Chamberlains who hosted the monarch on several occasions along with two of his wives, Catherine of Aragon and Anne Boleyn.

After acquiring the property in 1842, the Chute family cared for the house and the estate for over 300 years, investing heavily in the property to save it from falling into disrepair. Surrounded by ancient woodlands and 13 acres of stunning gardens, this beautiful Hampshire home has also inspired great authors such as Jane Austen.

The Vyne was passed to the National Trust in 1956 and since then visitors from far and wide have visited this precious piece of historical architecture. However, when storms hit hard in Winter 2015, the roof started to fail and The Vyne had to be rescued.

The completed roof renovation at The Vyne.



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THE CHALLENGE

THE 1,600M² ROOF OF THIS FORMER TUDOR “POWER HOUSE” WAS SUFFERING FROM A LEAKING ROOF, A CRUMBLING CHIMNEY AND ROTTEN ROOF TIMBERS.

The National Trust team sprang into action to protect the valuable and irreplaceable contents of the house as rainwater started dripping through the ceiling.

They embarked on a £5.4 million project to construct a brand new roof, which would mean replacing all 71,000 tiles, rebuilding chimney stacks, fixing battens and leadwork and installing new insulation. Having carried out small patch repairs in the past, this was the first major roof refurbishment since 1842.

For this 18 month restoration project, The National Trust needed to source roofing materials that would help protect The Vyne from elements and authentically replicate the original aesthetic of the roof.

Part of the refurbished roof at The Vyne.



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Aerial view of The Vyne manor house:



Keymer tiles made from Weald clay.



THE SOLUTION

KEYMER HANDMADE CLAY TILES WERE CHOSEN TO HELP RETURN THE ROOF OF THE VYNE TO ITS FORMER GLORY.

Keymer is the only manufacturer still using Weald clay to craft roof tiles by hand. This material was a natural choice for the project as it is native to the local area and would have likely been used on the original roof as it can be found in the ground deep beneath The Vyne estate. Keymer Traditional Antique plain tiles were selected for their inherent character which will age beautifully over time.

Experienced in working on restoration projects, the Wienerberger Heritage Services team were on hand to offer their advice and support, working closely with the National Trust to ensure that the roofing products supplied met all the required regulations.

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The Vyne estate in Hampshire.



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THE TRANSFORMATION

THE VYNE ROOF IS A COMPLICATED AND VAST STRUCTURE FEATURING MANY ELEVATIONS. A TEAM OF SKILLED ROOFERS FROM KEN BIGGS CONTRACTORS LTD FITTED THE HANDMADE TILES.

A rooftop walkway with viewing platforms was built around the scaffolding to give over 140,000 visitors the unique opportunity to take a closer look at the roof conservation project while work was underway.

Archaeologists and heritage science researchers from the University Oxford worked alongside the contractors to discover the secrets of how the 500 year old building was constructed.

Once the scaffolding was taken away, the finished roof was revealed.



The Vyne rooftop walkway was open to visitors during the renovation works.



Keymer clay plain tiles were an excellent match to the original roof tiles.

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The Vyne was reopened to visitors in Autumn 2018.



FUNDRAISING

THE KEYMER TEAM DON'T JUST MAKE TILES, THEY IMMERSE THEMSELVES ON EVERY PROJECT THEY WORK ON AND HELP BRING OLD BUILDINGS BACK TO LIFE.

On this project, they gave additional support to National Trust's fundraising efforts which proved vital for the progress of the roof restoration.

At a number of special "Make a Tile" and "Tag a Tile" events held at The Vyne, our team invited visitors to try clay tile-making for a small donation. Visitors could make a tile, marked in traditional Keymer fashion with a hand print, or write their own message on the back of a pre-fired tile which would be installed on the new roof. This proved extremely popular with visitors and raised £64,000 for the renovation project. 12,885 tiles that were either made or tagged by members of the public have become part of The Vyne's new roof.

Hollie Ryan, Visitor Experience and Fundraising Manager at The Vyne commented, "Working with the team from Keymer was a lovely experience as they are as passionate about heritage as I am. When the team came to make tiles with our visitors, they put in a great amount of enthusiasm and energy, which really helped us with fundraising to make the project possible."



Roof renovation made possible by visitor donations.

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Aerial view of the project.

CREDITS

Project	The Vyne
Site Address	Vyne Road, Sherborne St. John, Basingstoke
Contractor	Ken Biggs Contractors Ltd
Architect	Nick Cox Architects
Product	Keymer Traditional Antique Plain Tile
Order size	1,200m ²
Wienerberger Project Managers	Christine Leadbeater, Business Development Manager Heritage Service & Keymer Tiles Nigel Dyer, Heritage Services Manager



Wall Solutions

 **Terca**

 **Porotherm**

 **Corium**

Roof Solutions

 **Sandtoft**

 **Koramic**

KEYMER

Landscaping Solutions

 **Penter**

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