



## Northcot Sustainability Statement

Northcot Brick Limited is a small traditional brick manufacturer whose operations are based in an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the Cotswolds. Clay for brickmaking is excavated from the immediately adjacent Wellacre quarry resulting in zero “clay miles”. This is an SSSI (site of special scientific interest) for geological reasons.

Northcot produces 12 million bricks per year: Traditional, Reclaim and genuine Handmades, and has in recent years introduced production methods using materials from alternative recycled and secondary sources for several product types. We apply continuous improvement techniques to all our processes.

Northcot is a member of industry organisations, including the Brick Development Association and British Ceramic Confederation, working towards a sustainable future.

### **Building a sustainable resource for the future with Northcot bricks**

Fired bricks have been around for millennia and are one of the longest lasting and strongest building materials available. Despite their longevity they are still considered to have strong green credentials with the lifespan of an average brick being calculated at approximately 500 years. Recent research has found that the embodied energy of clay bricks in a modern semi-detached home equates to just 1.87% of the overall heating requirement for the home over its lifetime of 150 years.

The BDA have been awarded an EPD (Environmental Product Declaration) in respect of the “generic brick”. The EPD is awarded by the BRE Centre for Sustainable Products and is the first building product to be successfully verified under this scheme.

Brick structures have an A+ rating awarded by the building research establishments (BRE) Green Guide, which demonstrates that sustainability is not just about the use of carbon free materials but about the total impact of a product over its whole life.

Entire bricks can be reused or adapted to suit changing requirements.

Bricks have been given an Ecopoint rating of just 1.07, cradle to gate (BRE)

Bricks can achieve all levels of the code for Sustainable Homes and fulfils all requirements of part L 2010

### **Environmental Overview 2015/2016**

Northcot Brick Limited has now held the BS EN ISO 14001 for the past eight years, complying with its environmental management systems for the manufacture and provision of facing bricks. Less than 1% of UK businesses achieve this prestigious award, which requires annual auditing by specialist third parties to be compliant (Certificate Number 14129876).

Northcot Brick successfully complies with its Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Permit being regularly audited and inspected by the Local Environmental Protection Officer. We have decreased our landfill waste over the last six years, as all brick packaging is now 100% recyclable.

2013 saw the installation of a Solar Park on site, Northcot Brick Ltd are one of the first UK brick manufacturers to achieve this. The site is now operational and working towards lessening our carbon footprint.



Northcot Brick Limited also successfully participates in the European Emissions Trading Scheme, constantly monitoring total carbon emissions. For this too, annual audits are carried out by a special third party (CICS) ensuring that verified carbon figures are reported and we have been commissioned to use the official assurance mark. Emissions have been reduced through efficiency savings.

### **CICS verification and certification**

Northcot Brick has also participated in the Climate Change Agreement for the last ten years, reporting energy usage via the British Ceramic Confederation, and participating in a national industry monitoring scheme. The company's energy usage is monitored by CERAM. Northcot also participates in its parent group's Energy Efficiency Scheme and ESOS.

