TRUSSED RAFTER ASSOCIATION

TRA

TRA: Who we are

The Trussed Rafter Association (TRA) is the respected voice of the trussed rafter industry in the UK. The association is committed to stringent standards of quality and service and sets a professional benchmark for the industry.

Members include the principal manufacturers of trussed rafters, connector plate systems, industry suppliers and professionals involved in roof design and construction.

TRA requires all its manufacturing members to have third-party supervised quality assurance and professional indemnity insurance, helping to ensure quality and peace of mind for the customer.

TRA: Our objectives

- **ENCOURAGE architects, engineers and specifiers to choose trussed rafters as their preferred roofing product and recognise the benefits of using a TRA member.**
- **OFFER expert advice and technical information on trussed rafters.**
- **IMPLEMENT common design and safety standards.**
- **DEVELOP the professional status of members and their employees.**
- **SUPPORT members through a range of services.**

CASE STUDY

POUNDBURY

The village of Poundbury in Dorset, championed by the Prince of Wales, is a showpiece of traditional architecture and modern town planning.

One of its most striking buildings, the Fleur de Lis retirement apartments, incorporates French baroque and Scottish baronial styles – achieved with trussed rafters and associated timber elements created by a TRA member.

CASE STUDY

WATER TOWER

The conversion of a disused water tank into a luxury home set a challenge for one TRA member. Located in a prominent Nottinghamshire conservation area, the circular building posed a unique problem – trussed rafters provided the solution.

The architect, who created a conical roof with a sizeable living area and bedrooms below, said: "Trussed rafters were the only way to resolve the roof structure and avoid the use of steel; it was a work of art."

TRA: What we do

Marketing:
The TRA promotes the benefits of using trussed rafters in a wide range of projects, both domestic and commercial. An active presence in the trade, technical and consumer press ensures widespread recognition of the product. The association further promotes the interests of the industry by forging links with both the public and private sectors and through our easy-to-use website: **www.tra.org.uk**

Technical:
The TRA is a recognised source of specialist information about trussed rafters for specifiers, contractors and end users. It produces a range of publications including the Technical Handbook Site Installation Guide, widely regarded as the industry 'bible'. Close links with UK and European authorities help to ensure that new standards are practical and are implemented across the industry.

Health & Safety:
Safety is a key issue in the construction industry today. The TRA provides guidance on safe handling and storage of trussed rafters, specimen risk assessments and other useful information for its members.

Membership Services:
Links with industry forums and government bodies enable the association to provide members with regular updates on key policies, legislation and developments. It also produces guidance and specimen risk assessments to help members with health and safety matters, much of which can be found on the 'Members Only' section of the website.

Why choose trussed rafters?

Trussed rafters are individually designed components made from kiln-dried, strength-graded timber and joined together with steel nailplates. They provide a structural framework to support the roof fabric, ceilings and /or floors and can be used on a wide range of building types including timber frame, masonry and steel frame. Although most commonly used for domestic housing, they are increasingly chosen for commercial and industrial buildings such as offices, shops, hotels and leisure centres.

Trussed rafters stand out as sophisticated and highly-engineered products, with superior fabrication underpinned by high production standards. They are more flexible and cost effective than many other methods of roof construction.

- Suitable for a wide range of roof structures.
- Speed of construction allows just-in-time delivery to site.
- Space saving - no on-site storage area required.
- Prefabricated components mean reduced on-site labour costs.
- Up to 40% more energy efficient than traditional construction methods.
- More thermally efficient than alternative materials such as aluminium, steel or concrete.
- Made of timber - the only truly renewable building resource.
- Low-tech manufacturing process reduces emissions and pollution.
- Minimal environmental impact from installation.

ROOM IN THE ROOF

The ever-increasing demand for building space has highlighted the advantage of trussed rafters, which can create additional living areas within the roof.

So-called 'room in the roof' (RIR) trusses are a tried-and-tested solution which now account for a significant proportion of rafters produced and offering up to 65% more living space.

Trussed rafters -a versatile solution

Trussed rafters play an increasingly important role in small to medium size businesses such as hotels, schools, supermarkets etc. Architectural preference for pitched roofs, the ability to produce long spans, and the fact that they can be used on timber frame, masonry and steel framed buildings increasingly means that trussed rafters provide an ideal solution to roofing commercial buildings.

Long Spans

Super span trussed rafters were supplied by a TRA member for a supermarket chain. The trusses measured over 20 metres with a clear span of 17.5 metres.

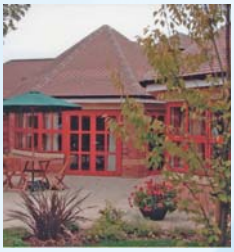
Curved Profile Trusses on Steel Frame

Nearly 1000 special timber trusses, manufactured by a TRA member, were used to create an attractive and unusual roofscape at the East Sussex National Golf Club Hotel. The versatility of timber trusses, together with their ability to create curved roof profiles, enabled a number of special features to be incorporated into the roofscape including large conical structures, which emulate the oasthouses of the surrounding area.

The East Sussex National Golf Club Hotel

Open Web Joists

As well as trussed rafters, many TRA members also manufacture open web joists. These precision engineered structures are lightweight, strong and versatile and can be used for both flooring and roofing applications. Their open web design allows for easier installation of services, faster speed of erection and greater design flexibility, saving time and money.



Why you should choose a TRA member

QUALITY, RELIABILITY & INSURANCE

All manufacturing members must register with an independent quality assurance scheme and carry professional indemnity insurance of at least £1 million.

STANDARDS

The TRA keeps its members ahead of the latest requirements and developments by participating in the drafting of all relevant industry codes and standards.

AUTHORITY

The TRA is involved in all major regulation and decision-making forums including the NHBC, the HSE and trade organisations.

TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

A multi-disciplined technical group keeps members up-to-date with developments through publications such as the TRA technical handbook.

TRAINING

Regular training sessions and seminars are run to ensure members are conversant with the latest designs and methods.

COMPLETE SERVICE

TRA members offer a complete package, from feasibility to final design and supply service, no matter how simple or how complex the roof design.

PEACE OF MIND

All members are committed to the TRA's stringent standards of quality and service.

TRUSSED RAFTER ASSOCIATION

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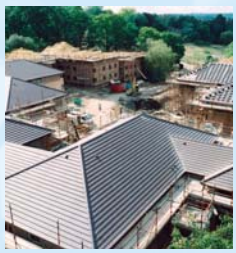

NATIONAL COVERAGE

A fully up-dated list of TRA members is available to users and specifiers directly from the TRA website.

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