



Supporting our Local Communities

THE 2025 YEARBOOK

Contents

3

Introduction



4

Supporting our communities in 2025



6

Tackling poverty



9

Helping young people flourish



15

Boosting social inclusion



19

Building happy and healthy communities



Welcome to the 2025 Yearbook.

At British Gypsum, our Building Better Communities programme remains central to how we do business and how we contribute to the places where we operate. Since its launch in 2020, the programme has focused on creating meaningful social and environmental value for the towns, cities and neighbourhoods connected to our sites.

Throughout 2025, our teams worked alongside a wide range of local partners, contributing materials, expertise, volunteer time and funding to projects that make a real difference. Over the year, I've seen first-hand the care and commitment our people bring to this work, supporting initiatives that address inequality, wellbeing, inclusion and diversity, and strengthening communities in practical, lasting ways.

Our commitment extends beyond our immediate surroundings. We are proud to be a founding patron of CRASH, the UK construction charity, supporting vital building projects for homelessness charities, hospices and this year, the DIY S.O.S. Big Build. These partnerships reflect our belief that the built environment has a powerful role to play in improving lives.

As part of Saint-Gobain Interior Solutions (SGIS), British Gypsum sits within a wider portfolio of interior brands working towards the same purpose: creating better, more sustainable spaces for people to live, work and thrive. That shared ambition underpins everything you will find in this yearbook.

Inside, you'll find an overview of the projects and causes we supported in 2025 and the positive impact achieved through collaboration and commitment. As we move into 2026, I look forward to building on this momentum and continuing our work with organisations that help create stronger, more resilient communities.

Mike Emson
Chief Operating Officer
Saint-Gobain Interior Solutions (SGIS)



Supporting our communities in 2025

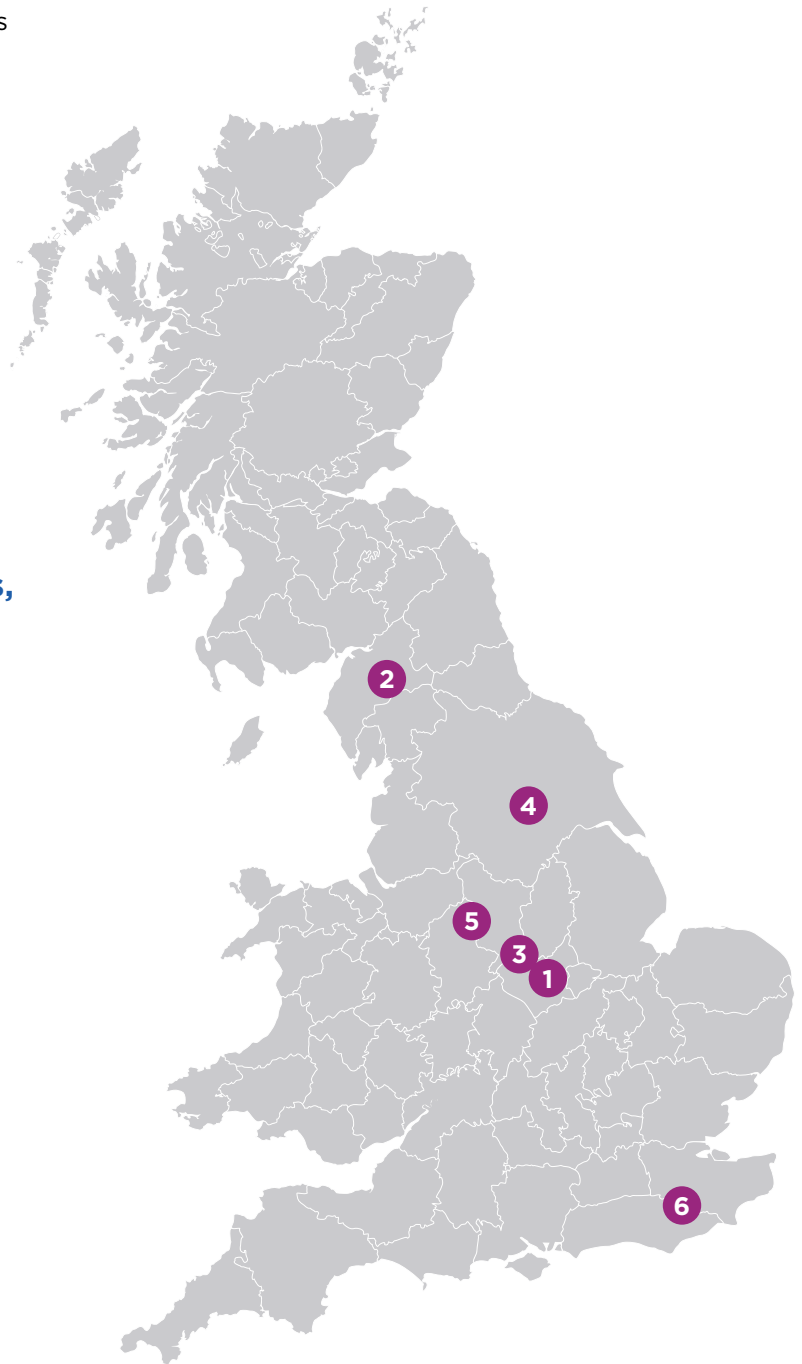
At British Gypsum, we're proud to support the communities closest to our operations. We work hard to see real change across Barrow upon Soar, Kirkby Thore, East Leake, Sherburn, Fauld and Robertsbridge. Our mission is simple: to make a meaningful and lasting impact in the places where we work.

In 2025, our Building Better Communities programme provided materials, funding and volunteer time to help drive local initiatives that improve people's lives.

This work enabled us to make a real difference for local people by tackling poverty, helping young people thrive, promoting social inclusion and contributing to happier, healthier communities.

The communities that we support are located in and around our sites, which are:

- 1 Barrow Upon Soar
- 2 Kirkby Thore
- 3 East Leake
- 4 Sherburn
- 5 Fauld
- 6 Robertsbridge



Saint-Gobain School Vehicle Safety Programme

Helping children stay safe around HGVs

Launched in 2024, the Saint-Gobain School Vehicle Safety Programme was created to help young children better understand how to stay safe around heavy goods vehicles (HGVs), reaching communities close to our operational sites where vehicle movements are part of everyday life.

Designed primarily for Year 2 and Year 3 pupils, the free one-hour workshops combine classroom learning with hands-on outdoor experience. Schools host an average of four sessions in a single school day, with two tailored formats that build knowledge progressively. For pupils returning in Year 3, the follow-up session reinforces and deepens their understanding, helping key safety behaviours become second nature.

A highlight of the programme is the opportunity for children to explore a real Saint-Gobain vehicle and see the road from a driver's perspective. Pupils learn about blind spots, understand what a driver can and cannot see, and practise how to cross safely in front of a large vehicle. By making safety practical and interactive, the sessions turn important messages into memorable experiences.

Our impact this year

Throughout 2025, the programme was successfully delivered to schools near our sites, reaching approximately 1000 pupils and generating positive feedback from both children and staff. The first year focused on establishing a high-quality, engaging format and building strong relationships with participating schools.

The experience gained during the launch year has created a solid foundation for future growth.

Looking ahead

Following a successful two years the programme is now expanding. In 2026, we plan to reach more than 2,000 children across the UK, extending delivery to additional schools and increasing the number of sessions throughout the year. Alongside this growth, we are exploring the development of a complementary programme for older children - particularly pre-teens who are beginning to navigate greater independence, such as owning their first smartphone or walking home alone for the first time.

By investing in early awareness and practical education, the School Vehicle Safety Programme reflects our commitment to acting responsibly within the communities where we operate, not only supporting them, but helping to keep them safe for the future.



Tackling poverty

Standing behind organisations that provide essential aid and resources to those facing financial hardship is a key part of our commitment. In 2025, our funding supported organisations assisting individuals in crisis, from veterans experiencing financial pressure, mental health challenges or risk of homelessness, to people recovering from addiction who face multiple disadvantages. By contributing to frontline services that offer personalised support, emergency financial help and safe spaces for recovery, we aim to give people the stability, dignity and confidence they need to rebuild their lives and move towards a more secure future



Walking With The Wounded

Helping Veterans in Cumbria



Walking With The Wounded (WWTW) supports ex-service personnel as they transition to civilian life, offering tailored, face-to-face support based on each individual's needs and circumstances. Since 2010, the charity has helped more than 20,000 veterans and their families across the UK.

British Gypsum's donation has supported WWTW's Care Coordination programme and Quick Reaction Fund in Cumbria, helping deliver practical assistance to veterans and families facing challenges such as mental health concerns, housing issues, financial pressure or social isolation.

The Care Coordination programme provides intensive one-to-one support, connecting individuals with welfare, mental health, housing and community services. Alongside this, the Quick Reaction Fund offers rapid, short-term financial support for veterans in crisis. These services are complemented by community initiatives, including the Cumbrian Challenge, which brings people together while raising awareness and vital funds.

“Every veteran we work with faces a different set of challenges, and having the flexibility to offer personalised support is vital. Contributions like this help us reach people who might otherwise fall through the gaps and give them the stability, confidence and practical help they need.”

Jennifer Bone

Walking With The Wounded



The Level Detox Unit

Allotment project that supports peoples recover journey

The allotment project at The Level Detox Unit supports people's wellbeing by giving them space, structure and purpose during recovery. The Level is a specialist inpatient service in Nottingham providing medically managed detox and recovery support for people experiencing addiction. British Gypsum's contribution will help transform an outdoor area into an allotment where service users can take part in gardening and growing activities as part of their wider treatment.

The Level is a 20-bed unit serving people from Nottingham and Leicestershire, many of whom face severe and multiple disadvantages, including homelessness, poverty and physical or mental health challenges. With limited medically managed detox services available nationally, demand for places remains high.

The new allotment forms part of the unit's holistic approach to recovery, offering therapeutic outdoor activity that supports mental wellbeing, reduces stress and helps individuals rebuild confidence and routine at a critical stage in their lives.

“Recovery is about much more than the clinical side of treatment. Creating opportunities for people to reconnect with themselves, with others and with the world around them is essential. This allotment project will give our service users a chance to experience calm, responsibility and achievement in a very real way.”

Richard Sparkes
Service Manager at The Level Detox Unit



Helping young people flourish

Young people are our future, and investing in them is essential to giving them the tools to overcome today's challenges and the best possible chance to succeed.

From funding programmes that protect important spaces and activities for young people in our communities, to investing in specialist outdoor areas and educational initiatives, British Gypsum is committed to supporting opportunities that help young people grow.

We're proud to back projects that help young people build skills, feel safe and supported, and preserve the places that matter most to them.



Netherhall Mead Academy

A new outdoor space to learn and explore

Netherhall Mead Academy, a special school for 138 pupils aged 5 - 19 with Severe Learning Difficulties or Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties, became an academy earlier this year. The school's curriculum is sensory and exploratory, with a strong focus on improving independence, communication and life skills. Many pupils use 'Signalong', a simple sign language for children with SEN.

Learning outdoors has always been a priority for the academy, which has developed a remarkable two-acre outdoor learning area since 2019. Once a barren spoil pile left from a building project, the site has been transformed into a sensory haven, with thousands of trees, willow arches and domes, bug houses and wildlife habitats.

The next step was to build a dedicated outdoor classroom to provide a sheltered space for lessons in all weathers, allowing students to enjoy the outdoors year-round. The idea to apply to British Gypsum came from Kevin Rylett, the classroom's engineer and designer, who suggested applying for funding as the school wasn't yet at the stage to confirm the materials needed.

The donation from British Gypsum provided a vital early boost to the school's fundraising efforts. It was the first donation secured and set the momentum for further support.



"Quite frankly, without the funding, we simply would not have been able to start. British Gypsum's donation allowed us to secure additional support and bring our vision for an outdoor classroom to life."

The school team
Netherhall mead Academy



HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE FLOURISH
EDEN VALLEY, CUMBRIA



Youthbuild UK

Supporting young people in education and futures in the construction industry

We were thrilled to support YouthBuild UK to help more young people take their next steps into education, skills programmes and jobs in the construction industry. The funding has contributed directly to YouthBuild's work with young people who have struggled in school, faced difficult circumstances or lacked access to opportunities many of their peers take for granted.

YouthBuild UK runs programmes that bring together training providers, employers and young people, creating practical routes into work and a support network that helps them stay on track. The

organisation also works closely with industry partners to make training more accessible, build confidence and show young people that there is a place for them in the sector.

British Gypsum's support builds on its long-standing commitment to improving the lives of people living in the communities around its sites. The company regularly provides funding, materials and volunteer time to local groups, with a particular focus on helping young people gain new skills and open doors to future careers, as reflected in its community priorities.

"Support like this makes a real difference. Many of the young people we work with have had a tough start, but they have a huge amount to offer. This donation means we can reach more of them, give them the structure and encouragement they need, and help them see a future they may not have believed was possible."

Shenaaz Chenia

Founding CEO of YouthBuild UK



Millside Spencer Academy

Expanding access to books through their new library

Millside Spencer Academy, located close to British Gypsum's East Leake site, is completing a new library designed to enhance learning and create more opportunities for children to explore stories, build confidence and develop strong literacy skills. The project includes furnishing the space and providing a wide range of high-quality reading materials to support both classroom learning and independent reading.

The new library represents an important investment in the school community, creating an engaging and inclusive environment where pupils can develop a love of reading. By ensuring every child has access to books and resources that enrich learning, the project will help bring the space to life and support positive outcomes for pupils now and in the future.

"Millside Spencer Academy is a valued part of our local community, and we're pleased to support a project that will benefit so many children. Reading opens the door to curiosity, confidence and new opportunities, and we're proud to help the school create a space that encourages all of those things."

Greg Beré
Plant Manager at British Gypsum's
East Leake site

Barrow Scout Group

Improving safety for young people

Formed over 90 years ago, the Barrow Scout Group is the largest in the Charnwood area and supports around 150 young people aged 4-14 across seven Scout sections, including Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. The Scout Hall is also a valued community hub, hosting Rainbows, Scout Explorers, baby and dance groups, Pilates sessions, birthday parties, charity events, and even serving as a local polling station. In a typical week, the site welcomes over 200 young people.

The funding has contributed towards the installation of a 75-foot protective fence along the rear garden of the Scout Hall, screening off an ageing granite stone wall that has become unstable over time. Several sections of the wall had deteriorated, with one high-level area leaning dangerously, posing a potential risk to the many children and adults who use the building and grounds.

“The safety of our Scouting Sections and the Community Groups who use the building is our top priority. British Gypsum’s support allows us to address a serious safety concern and continue providing a welcoming space for our Scouts and the wider community. It also means a great deal to our volunteers, who dedicate so much time and effort to maintaining the building.”

Adam Sharpe
Barrow upon Soar Scout Group



Barrow Scout Group

Offering young people opportunities to learn new skills, build confidence and form friendships

We had the opportunity to collaborate with Barrow Scouts Group twice in 2025. The funding will help the group continue delivering activities, skills development and outdoor experiences for children and young people in Barrow upon Soar and the surrounding area.

Barrow Scouts Group plays an important role in the local community, giving young people opportunities to learn new skills, build confidence and form friendships through hands-on activities and teamwork. From outdoor adventures and practical skills to community events and volunteering, the group provides a supportive, structured environment where children can try new things and develop independence safely.

Support from British Gypsum helps the group maintain and strengthen its programme of activities, supporting leaders and volunteers while ensuring opportunities remain accessible to local families. As a volunteer-led organisation, contributions like this enable the group to plan ahead, invest in equipment and resources, and continue delivering high-quality experiences that benefit young members and the wider community.

“Barrow Scouts Group gives young people fantastic opportunities to learn, grow and get involved in their community. We’re pleased to support them again and to help them continue the great work they do. Being able to contribute to projects like this is an important part of how we support the communities around our sites.”

Stuart Beniston

Plant Manager at British Gypsum’s
Barrow upon Soar site



HELPING OUR COMMUNITIES

Boosting social inclusion

Social inclusion is all about creating and maintaining spaces where everyone feels welcome. These spaces are the foundation of strong communities. Spaces like community halls, sports arenas and village spaces bring the community together. Funding to maintain and improve these venues are essential to keep these venues open, and accessible well into the future.



BOOSTING SOCIAL INCLUSION
PENRITH, CUMBRIA



Penrith's Wheelchair Rugby Players

Game changing support

Promoting Unbelievable Mental Attitude (PUMA), the club behind Penrith Pumas, has introduced the fully inclusive sport of wheelchair rugby to the region, filling a gap within 150 miles of Penrith. The club delivers high-quality training and team experiences for people living with long-term health conditions and both visible and hidden disabilities, using sport to support physical, emotional and mental wellbeing.

A shared commitment to inclusive, healthy communities led the club to approach British Gypsum, reflecting both its proximity to the Kirkby Thore site and aligned values around tackling inequality, promoting diversity and supporting wellbeing.

With financial support from British Gypsum, the Pumas have been able to subsidise attendance at the 2025 Domestic GBWR Wheelchair Rugby 5s Championship tournaments. The funding also supports essential costs including coaching, equipment and travel, helping ensure safe, accessible participation and preparation for a national tournament later in the year.

“Our resilience, teamwork and determination have fuelled our success and it is a mark of all the hard work done by the players, volunteers and families associated with the club. As we celebrate five years of achievements, we’re excited for the future and the new heights we will continue to reach.”

Megan Fearnley

Managing Director of the Penrith Pumas



Supporting DIY SOS

Life-Changing Transformation for Glasgow Family

We are proud to have supported the latest BBC DIY SOS project in Glasgow, providing essential materials that helped transform the home, and lives, of the Connolly family.

The build brought together the DIY SOS team, local trades and volunteers to renovate the Connollys' house and add a single-storey wraparound extension, creating a safe, fully accessible home where Raymond and his daughter Nell can rebuild their lives.

Nell was born with a condition that affects her limbs and joints and will be a wheelchair user for life. Her parents adapted their working lives to care for her, but in July 2024, as the family began adapting their home to meet Nell's needs, tragedy struck when her mum, Gill, passed away following complications from an emergency liver transplant.

Left grieving and caring for Nell in an unfinished home, Raymond received support from the DIY SOS team. The renovation involved stripping the property back to brick before re-boarding and skimming throughout. British Gypsum supported the build by supplying plasterboard and finishing materials, helping to create a warm, fully accessible home with features designed to make everyday life easier.



“British Gypsum has supported DIY SOS for many years, whenever I know what project we’re taking on and where we’re going, it feels natural to reach out to the team. DIY SOS attracts positive companies that do good, and British Gypsum encapsulate this completely.”

James Cleave
Build Producer at DIY SOS



Rushcliffe Golf Club

Upgrades to accessibility and community facilities

Rushcliffe Golf Club plays an active role in the local community, supporting a wide range of charities and programmes. The club works closely with DMRC and Battle Back Golf, offering free use of the course and subsidised coaching, and partners with organisations including the Tomorrow Project, Rainbows Children's Hospice and local schools. Each year, it raises significant funds for its Captain's chosen causes.

British Gypsum supported the club as it upgraded its accessible facilities, including improvements to its disabled toilet and baby-changing room and the replacement of its wheelchair ramp. These upgrades will help create a more welcoming environment for members, visitors and community groups, enabling the club to host more events and better support people of all ages and abilities.

"The club isn't just a place to play golf, it's a community hub used by charities, families, schools and organisations who rely on accessible facilities to take part fully. Support like this helps us provide a better experience for everyone who comes through our doors, and we're extremely grateful."

Lynn Priestly
Rushcliffe Golf Club

Building happy and healthy communities

Community health plays a role in bring people of all ages and abilities together. Local facilities for sports, culture and wellbeing help improve the lives of those involved, making them happier and healthier. In 2025 we supported restoration projects, the creation of community spaces and volunteer initiatives, this kind of support makes it a little easier for these facilities to continue to offer vital support to the community.



The Ledward Centre

Supporting ongoing community refurbishments

The Ledward Centre is Brighton's dedicated LGBTQ+ community hub. The contribution forms part of a collaborative effort to create welcoming, accessible spaces for the local community and reflects British Gypsum's commitment to supporting organisations that make a meaningful difference.

The Ledward Centre has been gradually transforming its building into a safe, inclusive environment where community members can gather, access support services and take part in activities. With help from project partners and supporters, including British Gypsum, the centre is continuing to develop rooms and facilities that meet the varied needs of the local LGBTQ+ community. Materials supplied by British Gypsum will assist with upcoming phases of internal works, helping improve spaces used for events, wellbeing sessions, social connection and community support.



“We really appreciate the partnership with British Gypsum on the Ledward Centre project. Their support has helped us progress important refurbishment work and ensure the space can continue to serve the community in the way it was intended. It’s great to work with partners who share the same commitment to supporting inclusive, community-focused projects.”

Steve Sear
Senior Operations Manager
at Morgan Sindall



Revival of Nottingham Transport Heritage Centre Signalbox

Supporting a dedicated team of volunteers

Originally built by the London and North Eastern Railway to manage freight for the adjacent Gypsum factory, the East Leake's 1947 railway signalbox later served as a train crew mess room before falling out of use in the early 1980s. Now, thanks to the dedication of volunteers and the support of British Gypsum, the building is being carefully restored to once again control trains on the revived heritage railway.

Volunteers have already carried out extensive repairs to make the building weatherproof, including concrete and brickwork restoration. The current focus is preparing the interior to a high standard before the signalling equipment is installed.

The collaboration carries a special symmetry: the signalbox was built to serve the factory, and today the factory is helping bring the box back to life. The plasterboard, supplied by British Gypsum's nearby site, fits perfectly with the period style of the building and has helped the volunteers complete the interior to a professional standard.

"Restoring the signalbox is about more than preserving a building, it tells the story of East Leake's post-war industrial growth and keeps our railway heritage alive. British Gypsum's support has been incredible. They not only provided the plasterboard but also helped install it, giving us a safe, dry, and functional space to work in. It's a huge step forwards for the project."

Chris Stone

Lead volunteer on the project

Appleby Archaeology Group

Uncover significant Iron Age and Romano-British settlements in the Eden Valley

Originally thought to be a Roman signal station, the site revealed a homestead with two roundhouses, drainage ditches, post holes, and pottery fragments, providing valuable new insights into early settlement and land management in the region. Despite challenges posed by Storm Amy, the project was successfully completed in October 2025.

The decision to approach British Gypsum stemmed from the organisation's commitment to supporting local communities and initiatives. The funding enabled Appleby Archaeology Group to mobilise 40 volunteers, manage logistics, and conduct detailed excavation work, as well as fund the analysis of soil, carbon, and pottery samples for dating and research.

Volunteers played a key role in the project, with places filling up within two days. Participants described the experience as both educational and socially rewarding, offering a unique opportunity to connect with local history.

"On behalf of Appleby Archaeology Group, I would like to thank British Gypsum most sincerely for their support. Their contribution helped us bring this project to life, engage volunteers from across the region, and make discoveries that will improve understanding of early settlement in the Eden Valley for years to come."

Richard E. McGregor
Chairman of Appleby Archaeology Group



Battle Town FC Runners

Support that keeps the community moving

Run entirely by volunteers, Battle Town FC Runners isn't just a running group, it's a movement built around wellbeing, inclusion and community spirit. Based in the heart of East Sussex, the group is passionate about helping people of all fitness levels get active. Their regular Couch to 5K courses are a gateway for beginners to find confidence in movement, and their post-run tea meetups offer much-needed opportunities to socialise, connect and support one another.

With no membership fees and no overheads, the group relies on community goodwill to keep sessions going. When the need for essential first aid training became clear, organisers sought support to ensure the safety and sustainability of the club.

We are proud to support Battle Town FC Runners with a community grant. Thanks to grants like this volunteer coaches have now completed vital first aid training, knowledge that has already proved beneficial during minor incidents on sessions, such as trips and falls.



“Without this grant, we wouldn't have been able to afford the training. And without qualified coaches, we wouldn't have been able to safely continue offering these sessions to the local community.”

Esther Dunn
Club organiser

Gotham Bowls Club

Restoring facilities with vital donation

Gotham Bowls Club, based on the Village Memorial Ground, has been part of the local community since 1930. With a small but active membership, the club plays an important role in village life, relying on subscriptions and fundraising events to maintain facilities and fund larger projects.

In spring 2023, a fire at the Memorial Hall left the village without a dispensary. The club offered its pavilion as a temporary location for medical services for nearly a year, supporting the wider community but limiting its ability to run fundraising events.

As a result, the club faced challenges replacing a damaged water tank needed to maintain the bowling green. British Gypsum contributed £1,500 towards the project, working alongside Gotham Parish Council and other local organisations to secure funding for a new tank and protective fencing.



“Good irrigation is essential, and without this funding, it would have been extremely difficult to maintain the green to the standard our members and visitors expect.”

Gotham Bowls Club





Find out more about our Building Better Communities programme and apply for support here.



"Gyproc", "Thistle", "ThistlePro", "Gypframe" and "Glasroc" are all registered trademarks of Saint-Gobain Construction Products UK Limited. "Isover" is a registered trademark of Saint-Gobain Isover (French legal entity) and "Artex" is a registered trademark of Saint-Gobain Construction Products UK Limited.

Saint-Gobain Construction Products UK Limited is a limited company registered in England under company number 734396, having its registered office at Saint-Gobain House, East Leake, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE12 6JU, UK. Saint-Gobain Construction Products UK Limited trades as British Gypsum for part of its business activities.

British Gypsum reserves the right to revise product specification without notice. The information herein should not be read in isolation as it is meant only as guidance for the user, who should always ensure that they are fully conversant with the products and systems being used and their subsequent installation prior to the commencement of work. For a comprehensive and up-to-date library of information visit the British Gypsum website at: british-gypsum.com. For information about products supplied by Artex Limited or Saint-Gobain Isover please see their respective websites.

"British Gypsum" is a registered trademark of Saint-Gobain Construction Products UK Limited.