

How can I use local timber?

By specifying environmentally responsible wood products, architects, designers, developers, planners and building owners can take full advantage of wood's exceptional appearance and performance properties. To go one step further is to specify locally sourced, responsibly managed timber.

Use timber when it is suitable for the project:

- Timber has lower embodied energy than most other material
- If possible use locally produced timber
- This generates employment and diverse economic activity, a vital part of sustainable development

Architects and builders can contribute significantly to environmental conservation by building green. A "green building" is built by carefully taking into consideration the location, the way it is constructed and its source of energy, as well as materials used, to ensure that resources are used most efficiently and impact on the environment is minimised. The following is a useful web site offering guidance on "green" building WWF Guide for Builders, Architects and Designers

Follow the link below to 'The Good Wood Guide' which will help you make the best choice when buying or using wood for your next DIY, self build or construction project:

http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/biodiversity/resource/good_wood_guide/index.html

A construction materials report from the Beddington Zero (Fossil) Energy Development, more usually known as the BEDZED project, is available at the following website: <http://www.massbalance.org/downloads/projectfiles/1640-00195.pdf>. This offers an insight into a real project using timber sourced locally along with a wide range of other materials.

You can also access the FSC-UK products database to search by product, outlet or location at <http://www.fsc-uk.org/product-search>. This product database contains details of products that can be found on sale in the UK. It is for both trade and retail suppliers.

Structural Grading

Specifiers should be aware that all timber to be used for structural purposes in the UK must be strength graded and marked in accordance with the relevant British/European Standards.

Structural grading must be visual grading, machine grading or a combination of the two by trained personnel to British standards; all this is under the auspices of the UK Timber Grading Committee. Further information is available at the following web site: <http://www.stta.org.uk/makingthegrade.html>.

A descriptive leaflet on the subject produced by BM TRADA Certification can be downloaded from the following site: <http://www.stta.org.uk/Resources/Trada2a.pdf>

A useful publication is 'Making the Grade' - guide to UK hardwood timber

The aim of this guide is to encourage greater use of UK grown hardwoods. It provides information on the range of quality available from our sawn hardwood timber and highlights the special features of UK grown hardwoods that are often difficult to obtain from imports. The guide also gives information on timber measurement, the properties and uses of UK hardwoods, and an illustrated technical glossary.
[http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/MTG-WEB.pdf/\\$FILE/MTG-WEB.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/MTG-WEB.pdf/$FILE/MTG-WEB.pdf)