

What local timber shall I use?

There are many different timber species, each with its own particular physical, mechanical and environmental properties. Correctly specifying timber and wood-based products is essential for effective performance in use so it is important to know what species best fit your specification and make sure it is available locally or substitute it for a local species.

Try to understand the supply and characteristics of local species, some species are not available in quantities large enough for national markets but can service local projects.

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 imported wood. 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)

The following web site contains a table showing a full range of different types of timber which can help you to determine to the best alternative if you can't buy Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified timber.

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