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The Full

£6

CIRCLE

The journal of The Association of Scottish Hardwood Sawmillers

SCOTTISH FURNITURE MAKERS ASSOCIATION 20TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

Written by Simon Whatley

THE FIRST WORKING WOOD SCOTLAND COURSE

Written by Ben Moore



Scottish
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SCOTTISH
FURNITURE
MAKERS
ASSOCIATION

The Full CIRCLE

The journal of The Association of Scottish Hardwood Sawmillers

For those of you who are not already aware, I have taken over the production of this and the next Full Circle, to give Nick the space he needs to recover from his operation. I'm sure I can speak for everybody in wishing him a full and speedy recovery.

Seven years and 14 editions on, the Full Circle continues to inspire, with its stories from the front line of the timber industry. Whether you're a forester, a saw miller, a furniture maker or something in between there has been stories of struggle and success to entertain and educate alike. Its original remit to give all, regardless of company size or educational background an equal opportunity, to write their story in their own words, has clearly been embraced by its growing readership.

The climate emergency, Brexit and the pandemic have all contributed to localism becoming a thing again. Food miles now matter more, as do wood miles. In issue 14 of the Full Circle you will find some upbeat, positive and enlightening stories reinforcing the effects of buying locally. We also have a special 8 page centre spread celebrating the Scottish Furniture Makers Association's 20th anniversary as well as the usual Forestry Scotland, ASHS, SFMA and Scottish working woods news pages. So read on and enjoy.

Many thanks to all of our contributors and advertisers as well as our funders and members who enable the Full Circle to continue being published.

www.ashs.co.uk



PRODUCTION
EDITOR
Steve McLean



DESIGNER
Stephanie Christie

All the best, Steve
THE FULL CIRCLE EDITOR

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You can view all of our previous editions on our website...



Scottish Forestry / Coilltearachd na h-Alba



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FRONT COVER - "ISOLATION CHAIR"

A contemporary iteration of a 19th century piece of Scottish vernacular furniture found in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. The throne-like hooded armchair offers a refuge in COVID times. Timber used: Scottish elm and walnut

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PRODUCTIVITY AND SAVE OPERATION COSTS



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ASHS NEWS

Well it's been another busy time since the last magazine came out for me personally, the contract Milling has certainly been busy over the summer months as well as Wood-Mizer sales. There has certainly been plenty.

I hope it has kept busy for everyone else during these challenging times. I would like to use this opportunity to let everyone know about Nick Marshall our coordinator who has been off sick for the past month or so but is now on the mend and will be back to his duties soon.

In the meantime Steve Mclean has stepped in to get the magazine pulled together and all ready to go to the printers, I would like to thank him very much for doing this, as some of you might know Steve got the Magazine established. The other day to day business that Nick dealt with has been taken on by Catriona (Kitty) Birley, Jim Birley's daughter. I would like to thank her very much for this as well, as this has been a big help.

The other big news that has now happened is ASHS first Working Woods Scotland Course, which had been cancelled last year due to Covid. It was very well attended and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. There should be some testimonials and pictures in the

magazine. I would like to thank all who made this happen, especially Nick Marshall who got this all put together so that Kitty Birley could make it happen on the day. It was hosted at Scottish wood by Jim Birley and his workers who put up with everyone there. Thank you to you guys.

Also a big thanks to:

Gavin Munroe for coming and talking and training the group with his wealth of Knowledge on Hardwoods.

Paul Hodgekiss for coming along and giving a slideshow and talking about different timbers to the group.

Rick Worrell for his part in the middle day at Dalmally Estates taking us round and talking about growing trees etc.

Kelly Morss who came up from Cheltenham, she organises the Woodland Heritage courses at Hay on Wye and spent the week assisting Kitty and the rest of us for the course to run smoothly.

Jason Hubert from Scottish Forestry.

I wish everyone all the best for the rest of the year and look forward to the next magazine.



Written by,
Keith Threadgall
ASHS Chairman
keiththreadgall@gmail.com

A CONVERSATION

In February of this year I was asked to join in discussions with Jason Hubert from Forestry Scotland (FS), Nick Marshall, Jim Birley, Mike Whittall, Angus Ross and Ninian Stuart as Association of Hardwood Saw millers (ASHS) & Scottish Furniture Makers Association (SFMA) members. The topics on the agenda were:

- ***How can we upscale the small to medium sector businesses to provide employment?***
- ***How to get young people interested in the industry from a career perspective?***
- ***Ideas for joint initiatives between ASHS & SFMA***

These are not new topics as some of you may recall the article in the winter 2015 edition of The Full Circle by Jake Willis. A team of both SFMA & ASHS members led by Jake, who proposed the trip, travelled to the chair region of Italy, located in the province of Udine, in the north-eastern corner of the country. Their remit was to get a better understanding of how our counterparts in Italy managed to bring together and upscale their forestry and furniture making businesses so significantly. In the 70's the region had under 140 chair makers who employed approximately 1200 people. This increased to a staggering 1200 firms with more than 15,000 employees and annual sales amounting to around two billion Euros, 75% of which is from foreign markets. What they learned on that trip was subsequently conveyed in a series of Full Circle articles for anyone who may be interested in revisiting the journey.

Following the trip both organisations were visited by the Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy, fisheries and Connectivity, Fergus Ewing. The secondary processing grant (40% towards equipment) was implemented shortly after these visits and was in part, a result of that particular collaborative initiative. ***Looking back, this was a key moment in the history of both ASH & the SFMA business groups!*** The recognition that the combined financial output of both groups is as significant as any multinational business which, would traditionally receive government attention and funding support! There is one significant difference however, we are unlikely to leave the country when the grants run out!

It was the considered opinion of the committee at the time that, to take the Italian business model idea forward would require:

- ***a clear 'Made in Scotland' business concept***
- ***a dedicated professional business team***
- ***government cooperation***
- ***realistic funding***



Six years, Brexit and a world pandemic later, Scotland now has its own bank, the Scottish National Investment Bank (SNIB), with a remit from the Scottish government to help ambitious small companies gain the finance they need to expand. There are also a number of initiatives in place to help businesses scale-up, most notably the Scale Up Scotland, and Unlocking Ambition Programmes. Scale ups are also described by the Scottish Government as an area of interest!

With what looks like a significant shift in the political landscape over the past 6 years, is it now time to revisit the Italian business model? Could we create a 'Made in Scotland brand' utilizing our Scottish woodland resources and skilled craftspeople? To my mind an ideal collaboration between ASH & SFMA members.

Scale up Scotland is a partnership between the Hunter foundation, Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Edge and Entrepreneurial Scotland. This could be the professional business group capable of taking this idea forward. If we could come up with the right idea to kick it off, it could tick all the boxes in one go. Upscale, employment and joint initiative.

The conversation continues. If you think you have an idea or something to contribute to the discussion please get in touch.

Oak trees from acorns grow!



Written by,

Steve McLean

dovetailscotland@gmail.com



WORKING WOODS COURSE

Gavin Munro kicked off proceedings by explaining to the group what a hoppus foot was. A measurement used by timber merchants to work out the volume of a tree or log. The hoppus foot is slightly bigger than a standard cubic foot. You first measure the girth of the tree using a hoppus tape, which goes up in quarter inch increments. Are you keeping track?... Good. Then the length of the log needs to be determined, thankfully a grounded log could be measured with a normal tape measure, a standing tree however required Gavin and his cigarette lighter to produce a reasonable value. Then comes the maths. The girth must be multiplied by the length, and then divided by 144. That produces the hoppus feet of the log and can finally be multiplied by the price per hoppus of the species of wood. All clear as mud? It all sounds better coming from Gavin.

This information hit the unsuspecting group of foresters, sawyers and furniture makers on a Tuesday morning, in the rain, during one of what felt like the coldest days of the year. Huddled up in one of Scottish Woods lean-to's, the group was totally focused on Gavin. Our attention was held using various anecdotes and jokes that brought the subject alive and highlighted the importance of this allusive hoppus foot.

This introduction really set the pace for the rest of the course. The tutors, Gavin Munro, Paul Hodgkiss, Rick Worrell and Jim Birley were all able to delve deep into their areas of expertise while keeping the conversation light, and jovial, even through the cold and wet. We were able to work in small groups to put into practice what we had been learning, and discuss each subject from the various points of view that came from our respective workplaces.

For me the main take away from the course, quite comfortingly, is that there is a community of people in the timber industry. I was amazed at the generosity in which every question was answered, even about pricing which in my experience in the forestry world is often kept a very close secret to potential competitors. One of the main driving points behind creating this community is to allow for a greener method of producing timber. Our small local sawmills, working with local furniture makers and foresters have the potential to drastically cut fuel usage in the industry. It was a great feeling knowing ASHS is really striving to alter timber production for the better.

Written by,
Ben Moore
CEO of Moore Timber Co.

“The course was fascinating, and I met so many likeminded people who I hope to keep in touch with. Taking part has given me so much more confidence with setting up my own sawmilling business.”

BEREN YESHUA, TINY TEMPLE
Cabin builder and sawmiller

“The WWS was delivered very professionally with great humour, friendliness and fantastic educational content. I would strongly recommend attending this course. The course content has inspired me to go back to my business and implement positive changes that will improve our working life and make our business more profitable.”

MALCOM MORRISON, GMG ENERGY

“One of the first things said on day one was that following the course, attendees would never look at trees and logs the same way again. Having had a few days back at work since, I can admit to being forever changed!”

The standout strength of the course was the variety of backgrounds and skill sets in both the tutors and the attendees. We were guided by true experts through each part of the process, right from choosing the best seed all the way to a finished piece of furniture. This really consolidated the idea that to get the best out of any tree, everyone in the chain needs to play their part, however small, which in turn creates the best value and the means to support as many livelihoods as possible.

I wouldn't hesitate in recommending the course to anyone with an interest in growing or working with Scottish Hardwoods.”

ANDREW MAQUEEN, AM SILVICULTURE
All Forest Management





Local. Ethical. Sustainable.

THE SCOTTISH WORKING WOODS LABEL IN PRACTICE

Dovetail Scotland was set up in 2000 with the specific policy to only use local hardwoods and quality softwoods and procure all materials as close to home as reasonably possible. Our view was to spread any money we made from our business locally and encourage a wider use of home grown timbers and locally produced materials. This we hoped in turn, would contribute to the revitalisation of the local woodland culture and related industries. Using local timber and other home made products is a good thing. It also contributes to the local economy. It benefits the environment - leading to better managed woodlands, and reduced transport. And it generates local jobs.

When we started Dovetail Scotland it was difficult to find local hardwoods to build our furniture. We had only two sawmills close to us, who rarely stocked or processed local hardwoods. This was a clear indication that our local hardwoods were undervalued and underutilised. Both of those mills are now gone and we have had to travel a reasonable distance to Falkirk, Dunfermline, Edinburgh and South Lanarkshire to procure the timber we needed. 21 years on, there is a new generation of small and medium sized hardwood sawmills operating across Scotland, ourself included - with room, I believe for many more.

Scottish timber is a valuable and beautiful resource, and so are the woodlands it comes from. Yet there are always questions about the sustainability of using timber.... "Will the use of wood promote deforestation?" And across the world there are devastating stories about the loss of habitat and huge scale deforestation from illegal logging. So could this really happen in Scotland?

Scotland's forests are covered by protective legislation, except in a few specific cases. In order to cut down a tree you will normally require a felling licence. We have recently gone through this process to obtain the timber we will need to build our house. The timber we finally fell will move from the woodland to our yard. It will then be converted into post and beams for the house frame and finally erected next to the same woodland. To get that felling licence you need to state what the felled trees are getting replaced with, in our case oak, which will be planted at a density of 1600 stems per hectare. On top of this the Scottish government has an ongoing woodland expansion strategy with 80% of all trees planted in the UK last year being in Scotland. This puts Scotland at "Low risk" on an international scale for the possibility of illegal felling which is a reputation we should be proud of.

So timber that is legally felled in Scotland is not destroying our environment. On the contrary, it makes up part of a sustainable and local resource, and the more we can add value to this timber at source (i.e. near to where it is grown), the better it all works. However sustainability is not just about the environment, it is also about local communities and the economy. To be truly sustainable we have to make the most efficient use of our natural resources, and this is something ASHS & some SFMA members excel at - adding value at source, contributing to a vibrant and diverse local economy rooted in our environment.





This is why at Dovetail Scotland, along with other ASHS & SFMA members, we use the Scottish Working Woods label.

It's all about local... doing as much as possible with our local woodlands in a local context. True, it isn't hugely known about, and it cannot hope to compete with world wide brands such as FSC (The Forestry Stewardship Council), but it plays an important role for small yards and workshops in both promoting our ethos and fulfilling the criteria for public procurement contracts.

UK Public Procurement Rules state that "timber must come from a legal and sustainable source". This means that most large company or Local Authority timber specifiers simply make a blanket demand for all timber to be supplied as FSC certified.

This is one of the areas where the SWW label comes into its own.



Although most of our work to date has been on the furniture making side of the industry we have had a number of projects for local authorities over the years where our sawmill comes into use. We simply explain that we support the Scottish Working Woods label as a better and more appropriate alternative for Scotland's woodlands; outlining its benefits of sustainable timber, reduced carbon miles, support for local communities and making best use of an otherwise often under utilised resource. In our case the local council's were more than happy with this approach and welcomed the additional elements that the SWW label promotes. It has also helped us when dealing with the general public who are now more interested than ever, where the timber for their kitchen or piece of furniture or oak frame comes from. Through our promotion of the SWW label and it's ethos of sustainability and environmental credentials we have more often than not secured that contract. So put simply;

'It's good for your business'

The Scottish Working Woods label is free to join as long as you meet the criteria and open to members of;

- ***The association of hardwood saw-millers (ASHS)***
- ***The Scottish furniture makers association (SFMA)***
- ***The Scottish basket makers Circle (SBC)***

scottishworkingwoods.org.uk



Written by,
Steve McLean
 dovetailscotland@gmail.com



NEW ONLINE MARKETPLACE FOR UK GROWN WOOD LOOKS TO INCREASE THE USE OF LOCAL TIMBER

This year, in the Scottish Public Opinion of Forestry, 81% of those surveyed agreed a good reason to support forestry with public money was "So that Scotland can buy less wood products from abroad", an increase from 45% in 2017.

So how can we capitalise on this growing support for the forestry economy?

This summer, CloudForest launched an online marketplace for UK grown wood. Aiming to make it easier for people to sell and buy small volumes of timber, processed wood, and wooden products. The marketplace offers a free business directory and product listings, those looking for wood can search using wood-specific filters, high resolution photos of the products, and are able to set up notifications for when products meeting their specific requirements become available.

The CloudForest Marketplace aims to both make it easier to find home grown wood, and to make it easier to bring timber to the market. ASHS and SFMA members already form a valuable network of local wood processors, making efficient use of local resources and supporting diverse forestry management. However, finding home grown wood can sometimes be a challenge. Current timber shortages (linked to a recent enthusiasm for DIY) aside: for those in the industry, it often ensues on a series of well-timed phone calls; for those outwith, whatever a quick google brings forth.

So how could CloudForest Marketplace help?

CloudForest Marketplace

What – online marketplace for UK grown: hardwoods, softwoods and wood products

Why – increase the use of local wood and support diverse forestry, small-scale timber extraction and processing

How – make it easier for people to find local wood that matches their needs

Lockdown restrictions have accelerated the shift to online shopping; a trend set to continue with increasingly customer-friendly websites, growing trust of consumers and the convenience this brings. Conversely, the consequences of lockdown on small high street businesses has additionally spurred a desire to shop with local, independent businesses, with reasons given: to strengthen the local economy, support entrepreneurship, buy

unique or sustainable products, and experience good customer service. However, this is not yet fully reflected in online purchasing habits, with more consumers choosing big retailers for their good product selection, price, reliability and convenience. CloudForest Marketplace looks to offer the online presence, convenience and selection of a large retailer, enabling its members to compete against alternatives whether that be imported wood, or indeed plastic, concrete and steel, whilst supporting the desire to support local independent

businesses. Collectively small businesses can benefit from many of the efficiencies available to larger businesses, whilst maintaining their flexibility and personal touch.

Further development of the marketplace could create logistics and operations synergies, increase purchasing and marketing power, and support supply chain planning. It could also help bridge any mismatch between buyers and sellers in terms of scale, specifications, sales terms, and timing. Efficient processes can free up time for creating and cultivating customer interaction. This is important, as something customers seek, but also given the knowledge barriers, and variability of wood. In turn, small businesses collectively can offer a more resilient and flexible supply chain, with heightened use, reuse, remaking and recycling of wood. Ultimately we want to see more ASHS and SFMA members and more diverse forests, supporting a circular wood economy.

Visit our marketplace to find out more, advertise your business, and find the best home for your wood.

www.cloudforest.market

Set up in 2017, CloudForest Ltd. is driven by a love of landscapes, and by an ambition to create diverse forests that deliver a wide range of benefits for both the environment and across society. As CloudForest looks to further develop the platform to best support businesses they would love to hear from you, feel free to drop them a line at

hello@cloudforest.market.



Written by,

Hester Robertson
Founder of CloudForest

The screenshot shows the CloudForest Marketplace homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Listings', 'Directory', 'Log In', and 'Join Now' buttons. Below the navigation bar is a section titled 'About CloudForest Marketplace' with a sub-header 'Trees and Wood For Sale'. This section features two image-based listings: 'Hardwood sawn timber' and 'Oak logs'. To the right of these listings is a text box that reads: 'Find quality UK grown hardwoods, softwoods and wood products for sale near you. Search for available and upcoming standing timber. Our listings page makes it easy to find the wood or trees you need for your next project or job.' Below this is a 'Browse all listings' button. The second main section is 'Wood Business Directory', featuring a listing for 'Forest Direct Ltd' with a photo of a man and a listing for 'Abbey Timber' with a photo of a sawmill. To the right is a text box: 'Find local businesses working with UK grown wood and trees. Our directory makes it easy to find sawmills and makers who specialise in quality UK grown wood products. If you have trees to manage, quickly find businesses near you who can help.' Below this is a 'Search the directory' button.

The screenshot shows the search results page on CloudForest Marketplace. The left sidebar contains a 'Filter By' section with various categories and species filters. The main content area shows two search results for 'Sawn Timber' and 'Logs'. The first result is for 'Hardwood sawn timber' from 'Forest 2 Furniture Eakring, Nottinghamshire', with a price of 'per sawn planks various timbers' and '1826 available'. The second result is for 'Oak logs' from 'Logsnstuff Perth, Perthshire', with a price of '£8.00 per Hoppus' and '550 available'. At the bottom, there is a yellow banner that says: 'Can't see what you're looking for? Join CloudForest then you can save this search. We'll email you when we find new matches.'



Scottish
Forestry

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na h-Alba

FOREST INDUSTRIES ADVISOR, SCOTTISH FORESTRY

An Introduction

I started my working career as a freelance stage manager in theatre and opera. In 2005 I swapped the wooden boards of the stage for the real thing and studied forestry at

Newton Rigg. Since then I have been working across south and central Scotland in a variety of operational roles within Forestry and Land Scotland and more recently Scottish Forestry. My current role sits within the business development team, led by Jason Hubert.

The main areas of focus are:

- the support and development of small businesses/social enterprises in any activity linked to forestry or the woodland setting, and work with small-scale timber processing to encourage new entrants and support sustainable growth.
- the promotion of forestry in delivering environmental, social and economic benefits and associated employment opportunities.

Of late this has included:

- Working with the youth panel for Scotland's Young People's Forest, delivering a site visit to illustrate multi-purpose forestry and the resulting timber products.
- Supporting Young Scot to produce a social media campaign designed by and for young people all about trees, timber and forestry.
- Providing online career talks to schools and youth groups across Scotland through DYW (Developing Young Workforce) always asking the young people to take a look around and identify all the objects made from wood in their classrooms and homes.
- Working with the Scottish Woodlot Association to expand the initiative through-out Scotland and attract a wider range of tenure arrangements increasing access and availability to a more diverse range of people and businesses to participate in active forest management.

Working Woods Scotland course

There has been a long ambition within Scottish Forestry to get the Working Woods course up and running in Scotland. Scottish Forestry would like to express a huge thank you to those who facilitated the course at Scottish Wood, Fife and enabled the participants to experience such a wealth of knowledge.

I was lucky enough to attend days 1 and 3 which were based at the sawmill. The course was highly interactive, enabling the participants to put into practice the information gained during the classroom sessions. It is essential for our industry professionals to have the opportunity to share knowledge, learn new skills and refresh old skills whilst networking with sector peers. The participants were a range of foresters, sawmillers and furniture makers which provided diverse and lively discussion.



Written by,

Ros Wardman

Forest Industries Advisor,
Scottish Forestry



- Healthy ash tree

ASH DIEBACK IN SCOTLAND

Ash trees across Scotland are under threat due to 'Chalara' ash dieback disease, caused by the fungus *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (formerly known as *Chalara fraxinea*). This disease has been known to be present in the UK since at least 2012, and is now spread primarily by fungal spores that can be carried on the wind. In the last two years, symptoms of ash dieback have become increasingly visible in Scotland, including on large, mature ash trees. This follows a similar pattern to that seen previously in areas of Europe where the disease has been present for longer, and over recent years in some areas of England. Although there will be some natural disease tolerance within the ash tree population in Scotland, it is likely that at least 50% - 75% of the country's approximately 11 million mature ash trees will decline and die over the course of the next two decades.



- Ash trees with crown dieback

The loss of the majority of ash will have a very significant impact on our rural and urban landscapes. Ash dieback and associated secondary pathogens such as *Armillaria* (honey fungus) can lead to root weakness, tree brittleness, potential branch shedding and eventually tree death. Therefore, infected ash trees growing in higher risk locations, for example along busy public roads and paths or utilities infrastructure networks, may need to be pruned or felled as symptoms of ash dieback become more severe.

However, trees with slight to moderate symptoms can survive for many years, underlining the need to monitor the health of ash trees and focus action on those trees showing significant health issues in higher risk locations. Ash has a high environmental value, supporting many species of bats, lichens, fungi, birds and mammals. Assessing the risk posed by ash trees with advanced symptoms of ash dieback must consider the location as well as the condition of trees. In many cases in woodlands, or other areas away from frequent public use, leaving trees to decline and die naturally will be the best option. This will reduce the impact on ecosystems and provide more chances for potentially resistant or tolerant trees to be identified for future breeding efforts.

Where ash is grown for timber production, the effect of ash dieback on timber quality will also affect management decisions. Crown dieback reduces growth rate, and can lead to narrower annual rings and lower proportion of late-wood in ring-porous species such as ash. This has the potential to reduce basic density, elasticity and strength. Stem wood discolouration and rot are also key concerns. Basal lesions, epicormic branch growth and secondary infection with *Armillaria* can all exacerbate these issues.

Although it is not yet possible to accurately predict the future pace and scale of felling, as the impact of the disease escalates in Scotland there will certainly be significant increases, particularly where trees in higher risk locations have become hazardous, or where realisation of the value of ash timber is a key management objective. It is desirable that timber from trees lost to this disease is utilised to best effect. Use for purposes such as firewood or processing for biomass fuel is, of course, another option for ash trees with more advanced symptoms of ash dieback or where other factors preclude higher value timber utilisation.

Currently, local authorities and other land owners across Scotland are increasingly starting to undertake assessments of ash trees in their ownership, to better understand the location and condition of ash trees and to plan and budget for their ongoing monitoring and management. Until this work is completed it is difficult to predict what the impact will be on ash as a timber commodity or as firewood. In the meantime, early dialogue at national, regional and local levels between sawmillers and those owning or managing ash trees would be extremely beneficial in terms of helping to develop an understanding of market supply and demand for ash timber.

Scottish Forestry has developed two useful guidance documents covering many areas relating to the management of ash dieback in Scotland in more detail. It is important to be aware that ash trees affected by ash dieback are not exempt from felling permission regulations (or other regulations such as Tree Preservation Orders). More information on felling permissions and exemptions can be found on the Scottish Forestry website or contact your local Scottish Forestry Conservancy Office

Useful links for further information

SCOTTISH FORESTRY GUIDANCE – The management of individual ash trees affected by ash dieback in Scotland: <https://forestry.gov.scot/publications/1011-the-management-of-woodlands-affected-by-ash-dieback-hymenoscyphus-fraxineus-in-scotland/viewdocument/1011>

SCOTTISH FORESTRY GUIDANCE – The management of woodlands affected by ash dieback in Scotland: <https://forestry.gov.scot/publications/1013-the-management-of-individual-ash-trees-affected-by-ash-dieback-hymenoscyphus-fraxineus-in-scotland/viewdocument/1013>

INFORMATION ON FELLING PERMISSIONS: <https://forestry.gov.scot/support-regulations/felling-permissions>

CONTACT DETAILS FOR REGIONAL SCOTTISH FORESTRY CONSERVANCY OFFICES: <https://forestry.gov.scot/contact>



Written by,
Clari Burrell



- Roadside ash trees

Image credit for all 3 ash photos is The Tree Council.



Scottish Forestry
Coilltearachd na h-Alba

**CHRIS LITTLE,
FOREST SECTOR
DEVELOPMENT
ADVISOR, SCOTTISH
FORESTRY**

Like Ros, I arrived late to Forestry, having spent the first 15 years of my career working in IT. In 2009 I took a leap of

faith and enrolled in a Masters in Forestry at Aberdeen Uni. Although starting over from scratch was a daunting prospect, the forestry sector proved (and continues to be) an enormously rewarding area to work within, and it remains the single best decision I've made with regards to my career. My first couple of years was spent working in the private sector, after which I took up a role with FES/FLS - initially as a Planning Forester and then later on moving into the national planning team.

I joined SF at the start of this year and my main remit is to work with the wider forest industry sector on woodfibre supply and utilisation (particularly around increasing the amount of wood fibre going into construction), and to provide the link

between Confor, Scottish Enterprise/ Highlands & Islands Enterprise and the Scottish Forest and Timber Technologies Industry Leadership Group.



Written by,
Chris Little

FELDER GROUP IN SCOTLAND



Felder Group UK Ltd would like to take the opportunity to introduce the readers of the Full Circle magazine to our Scotland Sales Representative, Fraser Young.

Fraser joined Felder in 2019, having previously worked for a leading tooling supplier with sales/service for over 10 years in the Woodworking/ plastics/ non-ferrous Industry. This experience of dealing with varying businesses in this sector, visiting all manor of types of production on a daily basis gave Fraser a unique experience that allows him to now help customers with machinery from Felder get the most from their production needs, whether the business is a 1 man band to large enterprises consisting of multiple sites & employees.

Fraser comments, "It was important for me to join a company that provides it's customers with the best quality of product and to have a range that could suit any type of business, whether it was a Combination machine for a woodworker with limited space, to factories that required CNC's or Beamsaws... Felder cover all the these bases and it makes sure the products I'm associated with supplying are always to the highest of standards, making my customers benefit from better and more efficient manufacturing machines and their processes, which will in turn lead to a better bottom line for them".

For the last 65 years Felder have been innovating, manufacturing and distributing woodworking machinery from Tyrol in Austria. They have the ability to tailor the machinery to the individual needs of any type of business without compromise, through consistent innovation and expert engineering technologies which can be seen in the Felder Group brands.. Felder, Hammer, Format4 and Mayer. Please visit the website to see all the latest product range and services, www.felder-group.com

Felder Group UK operates from its Head Office in Milton Keynes. With state of the art showroom we can offer customers live demonstrations of machinery, from panelsaw's and planers to 5 Axis CNC's and Edgebanders. As a customer of Felder

you will also benefit from access to service desk technicians who provide immediate and free support. The field service team has Factory trained engineers that will also commission/service/repair your machinery, no matter where you are in the UK.

Fraser is based in the Central Belt in Scotland and is more than happy to discuss any requirements you have. He can visit, call (telephone or video) or can be reached by email.

His mobile number is 07713 308357 or email f.young@felder-group.com

**FELDER GROUP UK LTD,
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FUTURE SFMA PLANS/NEWS

“For a third year running SFMA will sponsor annual prizes for furniture design and making.”

1. Craft Excellence Award £250
2. Design Innovation Award £250

SFMA's Aims are:

To place furniture design, furniture making and related activities in the spotlight.
 To raise the profile of the winning artisans and designers - generating interest in their individual, creative practices.
 To raise the profile of the Association, awareness of its work; promoting and developing craft, design and sustainability practice.

Eligibility:

The competition is open to members and non-members alike, currently based in Scotland.

Venue:

Visual Arts Scotland Annual Open Exhibition

10 January - 1 February 2022

Celebrating the best innovative contemporary visual and applied arts, and with an expected audience of 30,000 the show will take place at the Royal Scottish Academy, The Mound, Edinburgh.



“ISOLATION CHAIR”

A contemporary iteration of a 19th century piece of Scottish vernacular furniture found in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. The throne-like hooded armchair offers a refuge in COVID times. Timber used: Scottish elm and walnut.

TOM ADDY

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www.torworkshop.com

Reforesting Scotland



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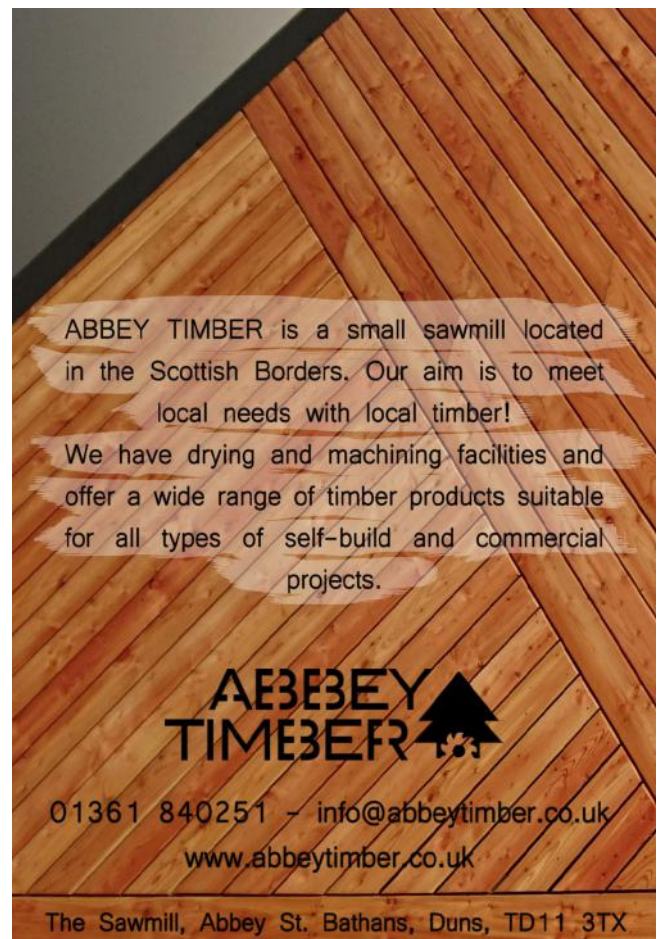
We work for progress on sustainable forestry, land issues, rewilding, huts and hutting, foraging and much more.

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SFMA 20th anniversary special

The Scottish Furniture Makers Association is a membership body which promotes and supports independent furniture designers and makers across Scotland, celebrating their art, craft and creativity.

A members-led organisation of 70+ stretching from the Scottish Borders to Orkney & Shetland; creative, committed people who recognise the benefit of working together collectively.

The Association provides a network of support and sharing for designer-makers who all have the same objective of self expression, enterprise and a love of craft, materials (timber in the main) and furniture.

An ecosystem that allows us to share, to learn from each other and pass on our skills and knowledge to the next generation of furniture makers and designers.

Sustainability and the provenance of the materials we use is at the forefront of the minds of the majority. Sourcing local and FSC timber is a way in which our creative practice can have positive effects on the planet.

Provenance is a narrative that our clients can engage with; when commissioning furniture, you are buying functional art with a story, that can be passed on through the generations. Public engagement is primarily through the website and the annual open entry exhibitions at major venues including: the Lighthouse in Glasgow; St. John's Episcopal Church; The Dovecot; Custom Lane; RBGE John Hope Gateway; and the City Art Centre in Edinburgh.

Close ties are maintained with ASHS and Scottish Forestry, with initiatives such as Local Wood for Local Makers, After the Storm and Full Circle. To further raise the profile of the Association, SFMA's annual prize's for Craft Excellence and Design Innovation are hosted at Visual Arts Scotland's annual show at the Royal Scottish Academy on The Mound, Edinburgh.

Duke Christie *Speyside Cabinet (detail)*

the love of craft



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www.scottishfurnituremakers.org.uk

beginnings

Ross Samson talks about the founding of our Association

Interview by Mike Whittall

Two decades ago the concept of an association for furniture makers based in Scotland was born. We caught up with Ross Samson, one of the Scottish Furniture Makers Association's founding members, for a chat about how it all started and how it's developed over the last 20 years. And this is what he told us.

M: I understand the SFMA was created by three makers enjoying a pint in a bar. Is that correct?

R: Not quite. It actually started as an idea in my head while I was moving my business from furniture restorer to furniture maker. But it was a conversation with Tony Gill at a show in the SECC that was, I'd say, the moment when it all came into being. I was there with my little stand and had just sold a bookcase and we started chatting away... I told him about my idea and he straight away said "Yes, count me in". Following that, yes, I believe there was a chat in a bar and the idea developed further.

Who was involved at the start?

As well as Tony, there was Toby Vint and Ronnie Morland; and so we became an association of four. Then David Samuels, Angus Ross and Rob Elliot came on board and after a few years we'd grown to twelve members.

What motivated you to set up the SFMA?

Essentially it was because I really wanted to be able to help others and have others help me. To share experiences and costs with others, pass on work, buy and sell equipment among ourselves and to advertise together through holding exhibitions.

What did you hope to achieve by forming the SFMA?

I really hoped to increase the amount of cooperation between makers. Cabinetmakers can be quite solitary creatures – but I thought more could be achieved by people collaborating and helping each other towards the single goal. I think they call it the power of the collective!

What do you see as the key benefits of belonging to the Association?

For me it was all about collaborating – which I guess gave me greater confidence to proceed. Seeing these other guys making beautiful things made me think 'Yeah, I want to be doing that too'. And then there was also the camaraderie – which doesn't necessarily increase your sales – but I've always found really important.

How did the Association impact your business?

It's a little hard to say really, as I've only ever been a furniture maker while also being an SFMA member. But I would say it motivated me to achieve, to share and to pass on the legacy – which I've now done.

What has been the most notable event of your time in the SFMA?

It would have to be one of the exhibitions, I think. The one we held at the Dovecot in Edinburgh for the SFMA 10th anniversary particularly stands out. For one thing, it was a great venue, but also it was the first exhibition which the association held which I had very little involvement in organising. Which, to me, meant SFMA had grown beyond me – which I felt was a success!

How has the Association changed over the last 20 years?

Something I've noticed is it has become far more diverse; having such a large membership as it now does, which has drawn in a wider range of approaches; some very niche, others more mainstream. But the thing I've always liked about it, is that everyone in it makes lovely things.

What would you hope the Association might achieve during the next 20 years?

One thing I'd like to see would be a return to running some smaller exhibitions where we can get our work seen by local people – as in my experience, these result in more commissions. But overall, a continued evolution of that community and camaraderie, which have created such a buzz ■



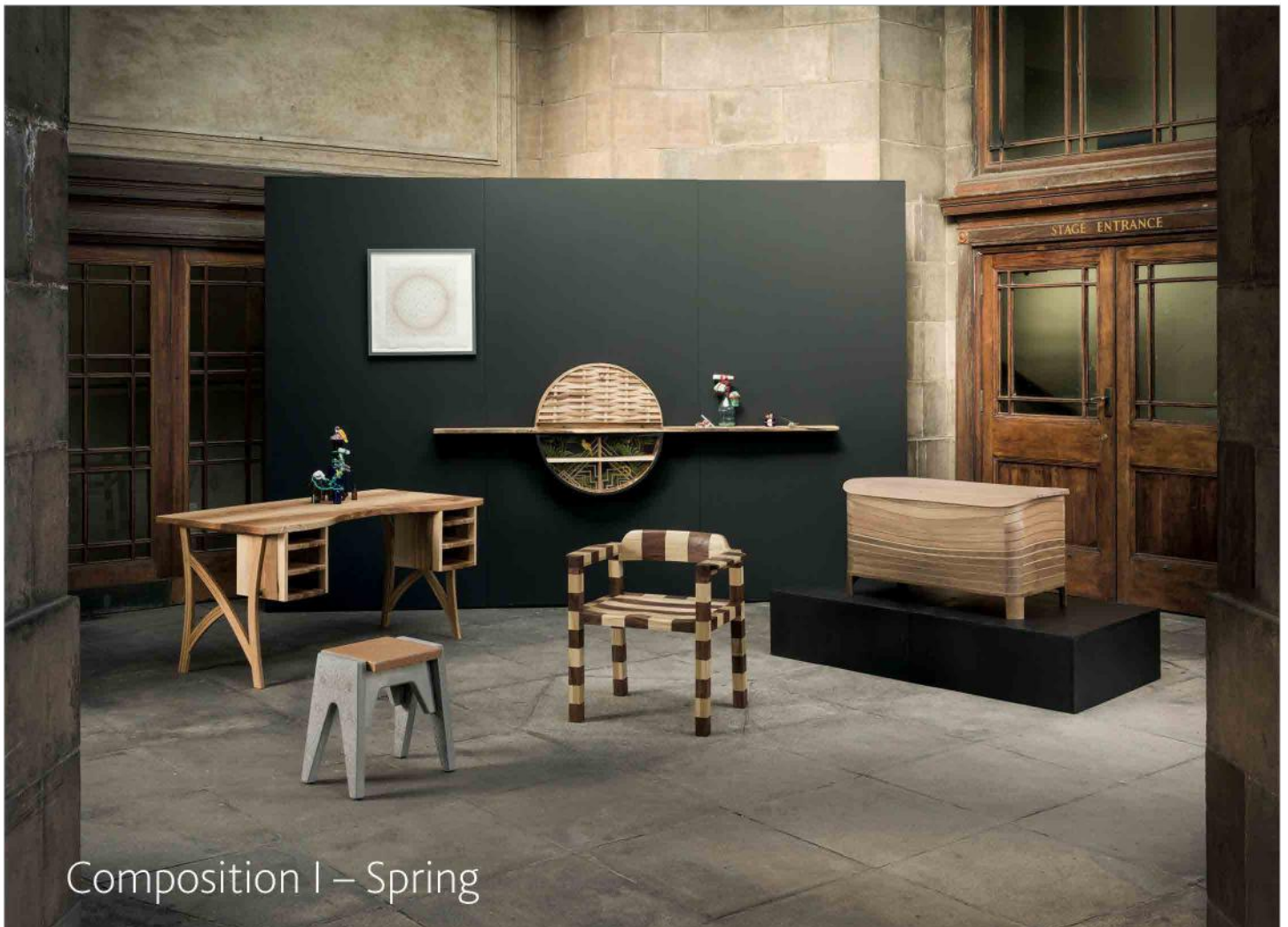
adjust | adapt

By Simon Whatley

In an unprecedented move, the Scottish Furniture Makers Association forged a partnership with Visual Arts Scotland and the City Art Centre, Edinburgh, to present a landmark exhibition to showcase and celebrate the transformative power of creativity, craft and art. In another first, SFMA engaged a professional Creative Producer, Janine Matheson, to help deliver an ambitious project within tight financial and time constraints, whilst negotiating the challenges and complexities of a worldwide pandemic.

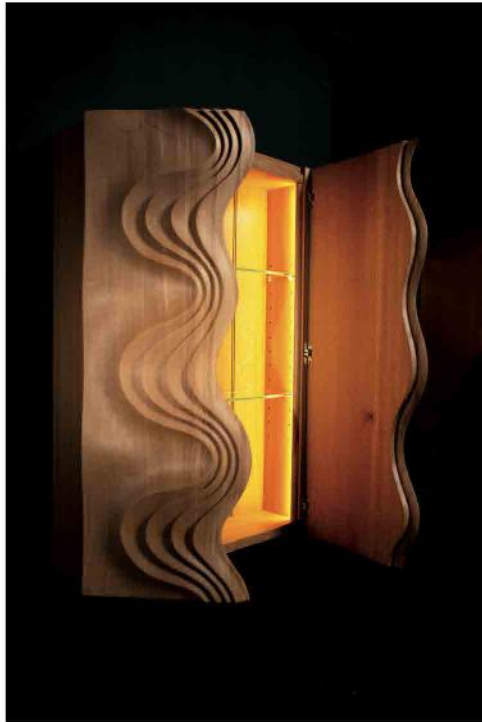
Marking the 20th Anniversary of SFMA's founding, ADJUST/ADAPT featured work from two dozen SFMA members and a dozen VAS members. Unable to proceed with a physical show at CAC, a venue

Photo Gabriela Silveira



Composition I – Spring

Photo: Tina Sorensen



Duke Christie
Speyside Cabinet
Craft Excellence Award and the Makers Choice Award

for a COVID-safe photoshoot was sought. A great deal of work then went into the planning and logistics of a highly choreographed operation at the Leith Theatre. Ultimately, five carefully curated groups of furniture augmented by examples of contemporary applied and fine art were composed as a series of 'still life' arrangements.

Compositions I – V were curated by Janine, Sarah Calmus (VAS President) and Simon Whatley (SFMA Exhibition Curator). The stunning architectural backdrop of the theatre's top-lit rotunda had been identified as the preferred location of the photographer and each collection was placed in front of the boldly minimalist, theatrical staging. These beautiful editorial photographs were captured by Gabriela Silveira and the video footage – emulating a drone flying above and through a landscape – was shot and edited by Easydays Creative and is accompanied by atmospheric soundtrack by composer, Kim Moore. Individual pieces of furniture were photographed by Tina Sorensen. All still and moving images may be enjoyed via the new SFMA website www.scottishfurnituremakers.org.uk

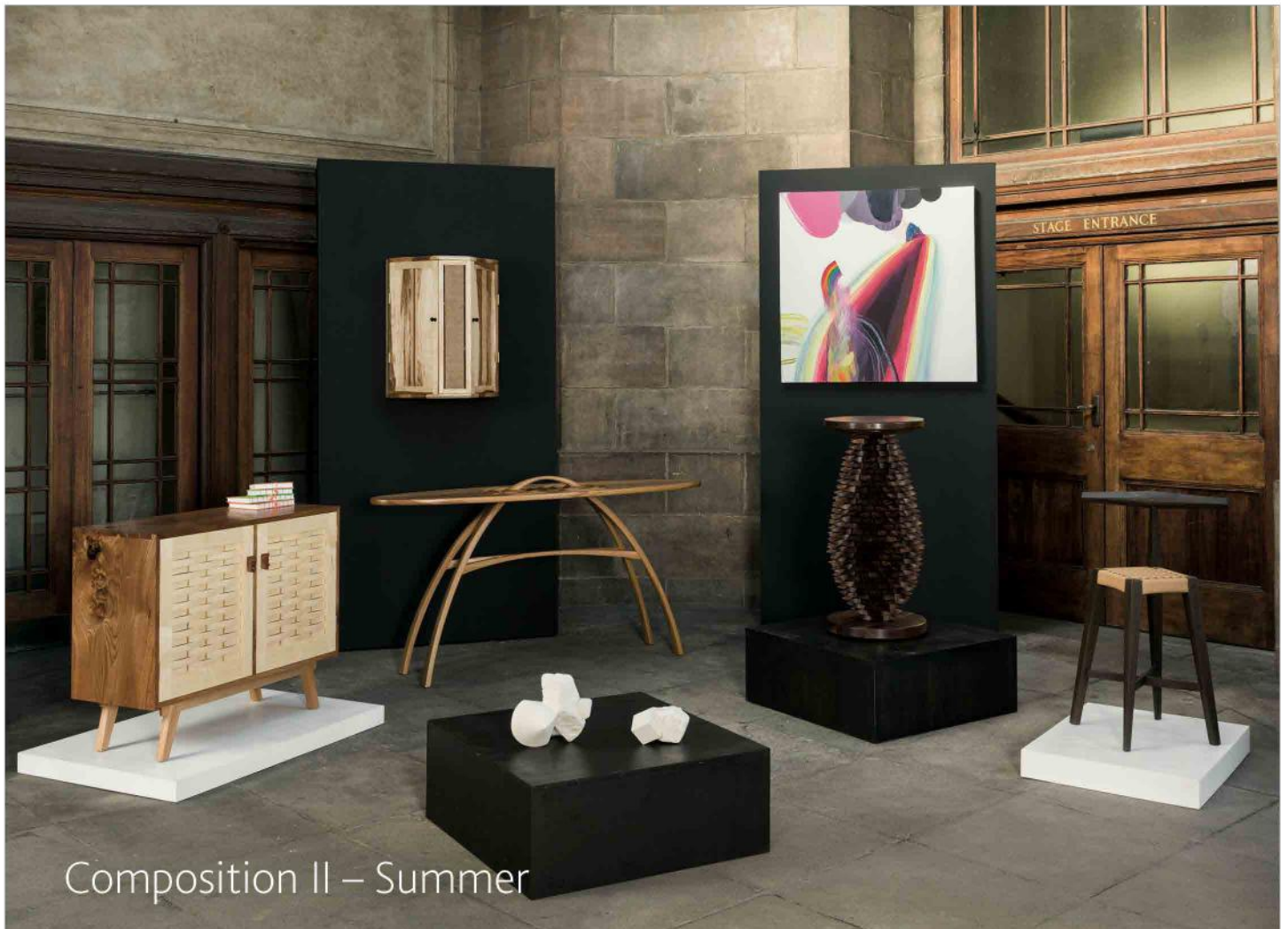


Photo: Gabriela Silveira

Composition II – Summer

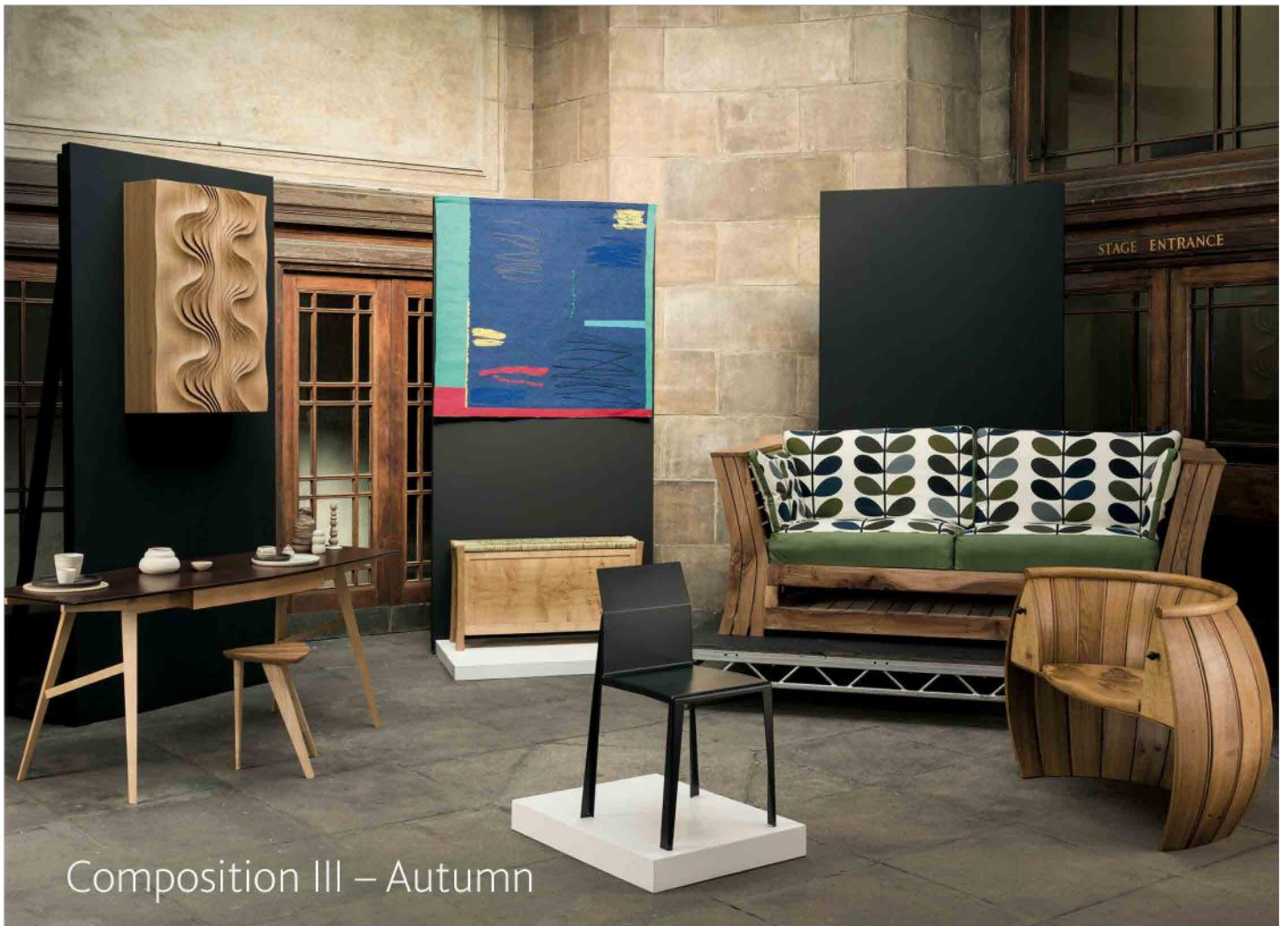
Photo Tina Sorensen



Nicholas Denney
Agrell Stool
 Design Innovation Award

This collection of impressively executed, unique designs demonstrates the creative prowess and diversity of approaches. Imaginative and striking responses to the challenge of the lockdown theme of the show, can be observed in Tom Addy's 'Isolation Chair', which puts a contemporary twist on the traditional archetype of the hooded chair; Janie Morris created a bespoke 'Love Desk' for a couple to work opposite one another, with sliding storage compartments and utilised reclaimed waste Formica to create polychromatic, abstract patterns; Anna Nichols made herself a compact, functional desk that is an intriguing, asymmetric structure comprised entirely of waste timber off-cuts – signaling a commitment to sustainable design.

Photo Gabriela Silveira



Composition III – Autumn

Photo Tina Sorensen



Jonathon Rose
Soft Kist
Scottish Forestry Award for Best Use of Ash

Prizes:

SFMA's annual awards for Craft Excellence and Design Innovation were won by Duke Christie and Nicholas Denney respectively. Jonathan Rose was awarded a prize for the Best Use of Ash (sponsored by Scottish Forestry) and Duke won the Makers' Choice prize. The ingenuity and care embodied within all the crafted furniture exhibited online enhances the quality of life of the end-user. In a time of manifold global and national crises, these acts and objects are priceless.

Acknowledgments:

The Scottish Furniture Makers Association would like to thank Scottish Forestry, City Art Centre and Leith Theatre for supporting #ADJUSTADAPT21



Photo Gabriela Silveira

Composition IV – Winter

Composition I – Spring

Juli Bolaños-Durman *Powerful Ordinary Bonds*
 Nicholas Denney *Agrell Stool*
 Lou Davis *Beyond*
 Simon Harlow *Scott's Chair*
 Kirsty MacDonald *Lunar Horizon Desk*
 Ronnie Payne *Computer Desk*
 Jonathan Rose *Soft Kist*

Composition II – Summer

Felicity Bristow *Hand Bound Journals*
 Stephen Finch *Warp & Weft*
 Daniel Lacey *Still Water Table*
 Max McCance *Diatom 2 Table*
 Isabelle Moore *Woven Oak Stool*
 Rowan Paton *Melting Rainbow*
 Mella Shaw *Rare Earth*
 Jack Sheahan *Trapezoidal Cabinet*

Composition III – Autumn

Duke Christie *Speyside Cabinet*
 Alice Holttum *Mog's Place*
 Isabelle Moore *Folded Metal Chair*
 Julija Pustovrh *SANDSCAPE*
 Angus Richardson *Rush-seated Oak Kist*
 Angus Ross *The Sutherland Chair*
 Fiona Rutherford *Find the Ways*
 Simon Whatley *Skewed Writers Desk & Span Tripod Stool*

Composition IV – Winter

Amanda Baron Glass *Laig Bay*
 Roland Fraser *Marshalling*
 Molly Kent *Doubt Plagues Me*
 Adrian McCurdy *Twisted Chest*
 Eoghann Menzies *Mairidh Side Cabinet*
 Janie Morris *The Love Desk*
 Jonathan Rose & Jennie McCall *Aurora Light*
 Chris Scotland *Chainsaw Kiss X*
 Rhona Taylor *Find the Ways*
 Mike Whittall *Tales from the East Desk*

Composition V – Spring

Tom Addy *Isolation Chair*
 Nicholas Denney *Polychromatic Concrete Table*
 Rob Elliot *Flow Desk & Chair*
 Katie Rose Johnston *MANIFESTO Elk Candelabra/Ikebana Pond/Raw Vase*
 Daniel Lacey *Sylvestris*
 Anna Liebmann *Nut Basket*
 Anna Nichols *Lonely Corner in the Room Table & Three Legged Stool*
 Gavin Robertson *The Phoenix Cabinet*
 Alasdair Wallace *Clawed Console Table*
 Yellow Broom *YB22 Series*



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Photo Gabriela Silveira



Composition V – Spring

keeping it local

By Anna Nichols

Photo Tina Sorensen



Anna Nichols *Lonely Corner in the Room Table & Three Legged Stool*

For the past eleven or so years, I would say that 95% of my own work has been made using locally sourced timber. For ADJUST/ADAPT I created the Lonely Corner in the Room desk entirely from the collection of hoarded off-cuts and waste hardwoods that I'd collected over time. This particular design is an open framework structure and I decided that its final form would be strictly determined by the dimensions of the individual pieces of timber that I had available to me.

I fell in love with wood turning at 16 years' old, starting at school and in my dad's garage and I've been inspired to start up my own wood turning classes. I've been so pleased to see more women taking up my courses and the mixed demographic of people; learning something new and having fun at the same time.



Photo Anna Nichols



FIFE'S LOCAL FOREST CULTURE AND ENTERPRISE

Time to Grow and #BuildBackbetter

Over the last decade, people have begun to understand, value and consciously purchase local food from high streets, farm shops, box schemes, street markets & online ordering systems such as NeighbourFood. Lowering food miles is now a well-known concept. ***So might there be a case for lower wood miles as a concept for millers and makers of wood products to follow? And what healthy and exciting benefits might grow and flow from that?***

Fife food - a regenerative story

Fife has been something of a pioneer in good local food initiatives: Pillars of Hercules and Scotland's Larder in the 80s & 90s; Ardross in 2005; the "Fife Diet" in 2008; followed by Centre for Stewardship's "Our Mutual Food" report on how to better grow, process & distribute food in the region and Food from Fife (2010). Ten years on, whilst still much we need to change, Fife region is a leader in the field of local food and addressing the Climate Emergency - with Fife consumers and producers alike recognising the benefit of lower food miles. So why not similar principles for wood miles?

Fife's local wood enterprises - an unfolding story

Fife is currently less well known for work in our forests and local production of timber products - than it is for local food. However over the last 20 years that has begun to change. Two particular places illustrate the unfolding story:

Inzievar

Just over 20 years ago, Jim & Maggie Birley established a small charity called Dynamic Wood in their West Fife woodland near Dunfermline. It's aim was to revitalise local woodland culture and they quickly carved out a niche. In the absence of any local wood market, Maggie and Jim tapped into their passion for social enterprise with support from the "New Deal" government training scheme. They soon progressed from hiring in a mobile sawmill to establishing ***Scottish Wood*** as one of Scotland's most respected local sawmills selling sustainably sourced local timber - showing how to combine ethics, a well organised workforce, thoughtful customer service and a passion for re-connecting people to the beautiful qualities of wood.

Falkland Estate has also been taking steps, on the site of the ancient Forest of Falkland, to revive forest culture underpinned by a commitment to: steward our place; value good work and host people who visit. The Estate manages much of its woodland in continuous cover forestry, welcoming over 250,000 visits a year. Its charity ***Falkland Stewardship Trust*** has a strong commitment to delivering rural skills training & has managed Our Bright Future project across a range of sites in Fife: increasing the confidence & wellbeing of teenagers; supporting modern apprentices (inc. trees and timber awards); and enabling some young people to establish their own enterprises from its Woodland hub. Falkland also inspired Reforesting Scotland's "A thousand huts" campaign and related projects over the years such as Woodworks and Simple Shelters. It has created one of Scotland's first new hut sites with plots for fifteen huts.



Small is beautiful and possible

Whilst Inzievar and Falkland both offer hopeful signs that “small is beautiful”, (ref. E.F. Schumacher) the mixed legacy and tenacity of industrial “bigger-is-better” forestry means that those involved in human scale forestry and wood-processing have to work very hard to prove that “Small is Possible” (ref. George McRobbie). The dominant paradigm is to treat timber simply as a commodity to be traded on national or international markets. Despite a few policy nods towards localism, there is currently limited political will to support micro-businesses in rural areas. Willie McGhee and Guy Watt’s 2018 paper on the Economic Contribution of small-scale woodland businesses (Forest Policy Group 2018) highlights their importance in rural Scotland and the need:

- To understand the scale and nature of contribution that woodland related micro-businesses make to local economies & how money circulates in a rural economy.
- For national forestry, social & economic policies to include measures to support woodland micro-businesses given the fragile nature of economies in rural areas.

Seeding the stories of the future

With all the recent disruptions and challenges of climate change and inequalities, now is the time to invest in skilling-up young people with the best combination of traditional and new technologies. From my experience over the last decade, there is no shortage of young people ready, willing and able to make the most of our local woods if enabled to do so. And I believe Fife as a region is well placed to build a concerted regional approach that will help make local woods work for people and nature, drawing from:

- Fife’s strong commitment to address the climate emergency and skills;
- The track record of Fife Rural Skills Partnership over the last decade;
- Tried & tested action on the ground (e.g. Inzievar and Falkland Estate);
- Early work on Climate Action Tree Planting, using Fife Council land, with communities and organisations like Rural Skills Scotland;
- New hut sites at Carnock Wood, Saline and Cash Wood, Falkland;
- Scottish Forestry as the agency that supports forestry in Scotland.

Whilst everyone knows that food is harvested from the fields and can end up on our plate a few food miles from where it was grown, far fewer Scots have stories to share of wood being felled, milled and crafted into useful and beautiful objects, furniture or local buildings. Organisations like ASHS and Scottish Furniture Makers Association are consciously crafting

that story - but Scotland needs more places and people on the ground willing to show and sell what can be made of the remarkable qualities of local wood.

Building a field of learning in the forest of the future

Focusing in on Falkland we’ve been exploring new ways of using our fields and forest as a resource and place where people can come to see, taste and practice regenerative ways of living, learning and working. As parts of our economy fall apart at the seams, we’re keen to stitch together new ways of stewarding the land & restoring the fabric of our society. Our work is rooted in a local place within a region steeped in a rich history and cultural traditions of the cooperative movement.

A visionary project that encapsulates our ambition is to turn redundant playing fields into a place to host great events where people will:

- Playfully learn in a landscape steeped in nature and culture;
- Begin truly building back better using low carbon technologies;
- Enjoy tasting healthy local, organic & seasonal food and drink;
- Restore a culture of working together for the common good;
- Collectively foster community well-being, skills and confidence.

From 6th to 10th September 2021, we hosted a first successful Build School, providing a deep dive experience for a community of makers keen to learn how to build with locally sourced, natural materials. The event was led by a small team of the UK's most experienced, sustainable and inspiring designers, builders & makers in the art and craft of building with earth, turf and timber:

- Becky Little of Rebeearth leading an introduction to earth building
- Daniel Postma of Archaeobuild creating a beautiful turf bridge
- Duncan Roberts with Mary Kelly and Hannah Thomson leading a timber frame building course, using the Walter Segal method.

Combined with evening talks, shared meals, camp fire conversations and great camaraderie, the event surpassed our hosting teams expectations.

Coming soon

From 9th to 13th May 2022, Falkland will host our second Build School culminating in Scotland's first Hut Fest on Saturday 14th May. We are also keen to work with ASHS, Reforesting Scotland, Scottish Furniture Makers, Scottish Ecological Design Association and other sector leaders to create an engaging programme of design, building and planning talks, demos and learning circles. Further details will be announced in January 2022.

Save The Date

Register your interest to be among the first to hear more about the ***Build School*** and ***Hut Fest*** @ <https://falklandestate.co.uk>

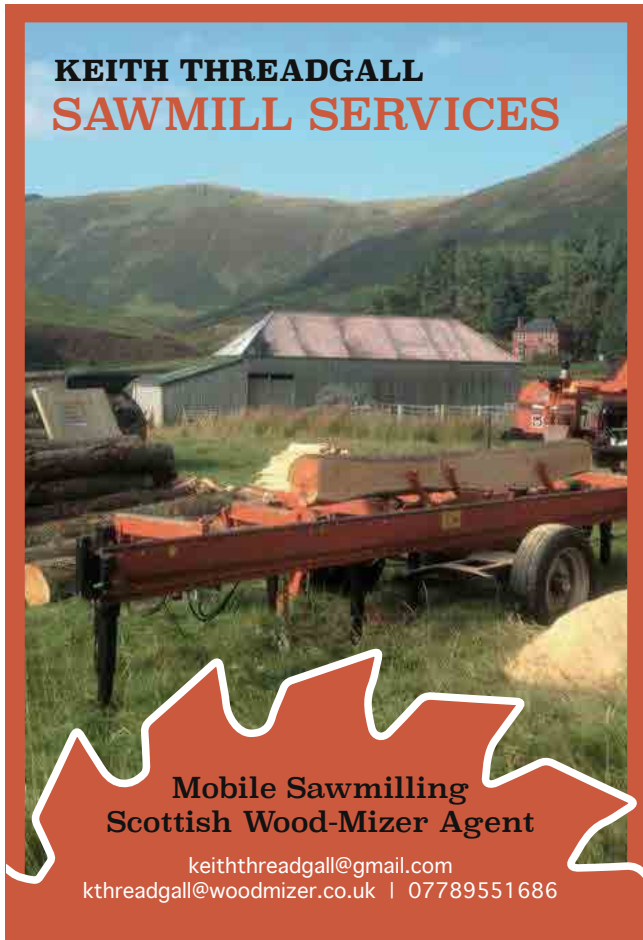
<https://falklandestate.co.uk/falkland-events/hut-fest-and-build-school-2022/>

Or follow us on Facebook and Instagram @FalklandEstate for up to date announcements and to see more of what we are up to.



Written by,
Ninian Stuart





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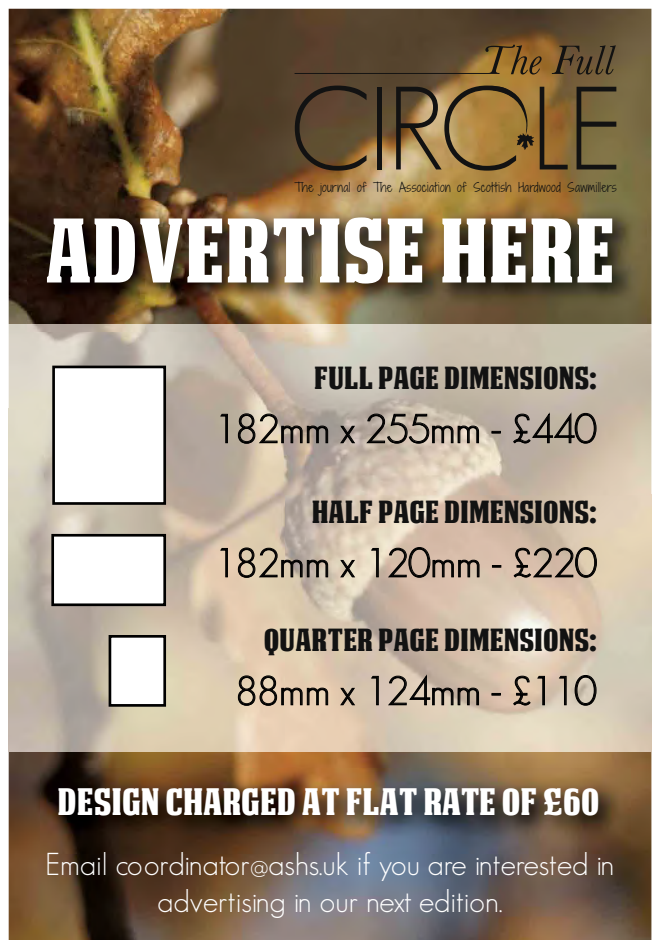


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AN INTERVIEW WITH ANDY DUDLEY

Andy Dudley started at Global Recycling Solutions Ltd in 2004 as a mobile engineer. Coming from a John Deere agricultural background he progressed through the company, eventually settling in the role of Technical Consultant.

In May 2019 Andy was offered the opportunity to run the sawmill sales of Norwood and Frontier Sawmills, alongside his technical role. His background gives him a unique edge and allows him to advise customers on all aspects of sawmills, from purchase right through to technical support.

The company has seen sawmill sales grow dramatically, with Global supplying customers throughout the UK. Andy comments, "We have varied customers including hobbyists, Arb companies that are diversifying into sawmilling and established business customers who work with wood, right through to customers who solely mill full time at expert level. Some of our customers mill and supply glamping pods. Other customers use milling to generate a second income from what would otherwise be wood waste."

Overall, customers are looking for reliability, ease of use, cost effectiveness and after-sales support.

Lockdown gave people more time to study what was on the market. It may have also given them the chance to broaden their scope of work and the opportunity to add something extra to their business. Andy comments, "Lockdown definitely made the arb industry busier, a lot more trees were taken down and planking wood seems to have commanded a higher value than getting rid of wood chip for biomass. The shortage of sawn timber has pushed people to take matters into their own hands and mill timber for their own needs."

One Global customer based in the South carried out a timber project during lockdown and discovered that it was more cost effective to buy in virgin timber, purchase a sawmill, mill all his own timber and then re-sell the mill when he had finished his project.

Norwood Sawmills are a modular sawmill, allowing add-ons to be acquired at any point after purchase. This opens opportunities for companies and individuals to expand their sawmill options, as their business grows and finances allow.

Andy comments, "You can take a basic HD36v2 and add options, as and when required, and turn the mill into a higher spec model." He adds, "Norwood Sawmills are proven in the marketplace and have been around for 30 years plus. The North American build is favoured in the industry because of the quality, robustness and company guarantee."

There doesn't seem to be any stopping the milling industry. Andy comments, "We've been a dealer 3 years and have seen our sales increase year after year. This proven track record leads us to believe that even after the sawn timber market recovers, sawmill sales will still be as popular, if not more. This year, we've currently done the same number of sales in 9 months that we previously did over 12."

A popular first question from customers is, "Which sawmill do I need?" Andy comments, "My answer to such an open ended question is what is the max diameter you need to mill and does it need to be mobile? Once I know that, model specific advice is quite straight forward."

Andy comments, "For those looking to get into milling, YouTube is the place to be. The Norwood Sawmills YouTube channel is especially excellent for showcasing models, options, assistance with assembly and fault finding. The guys featured on this channel have many years' experience in running bandsaw mills."



Andy comments, "In 2021, we have seen an update on the three current models of the Norwood Sawmills bandsaw mill, with v2 versions being released. We are hoping by the end of the year to have released the newest model in the range, the Lumber/Max HD38, along with the much-anticipated LX26, log planer/moulder."

To register your interest on any of the Norwood Sawmills product line or to ask advice, contact Andy directly on 07764 986912 or 01476 568384, option 3.

Global Recycling Solutions Ltd, Units 5-7
Ruston Road, Grantham, Lincs, NG31
9SW. Website: www.globalrecycling.eu

HOMEGROWN TIMBER SURVEY ANALYSIS

4c Engineering were commissioned by Highlands & Islands Enterprise to carry out a landscaping investigation to get an overview of the current Scottish supply chain of timber and timber products, by means of a literature review, survey of builders and architects, and interviews with a cross section of the timber industry. The purpose of this was to highlight any areas where future development might allow for an increase in the value of the Scottish timber resource. This first article covers the survey findings.

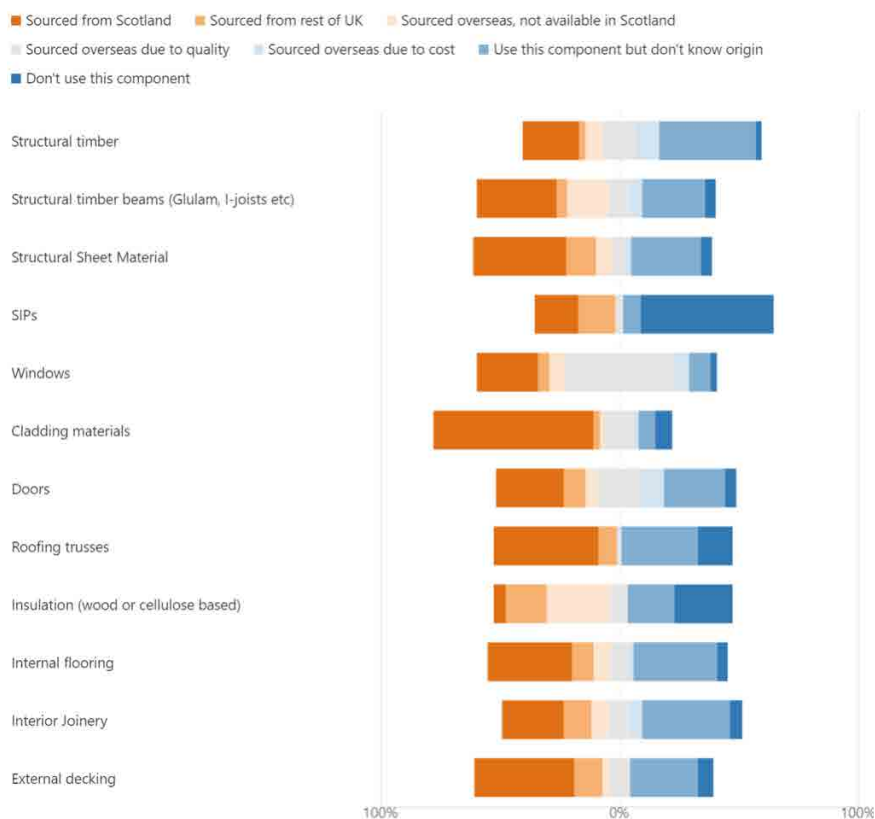
To get a better understanding of the awareness of and demand for different timber products, a survey was carried out of companies involved in the design, commissioning and construction of buildings. Just over 100 companies were contacted by phone to introduce the survey, and then the link was emailed through for them to complete. 44 people completed the survey; of these 30 were architects, 5 builders, 6 timber frame manufacturers, 1 chartered building engineer and 1 oak framer. All but one respondent were based in Scotland; about a third were from Highland with the remainder spread from the Borders to Shetland. The companies ranged from having been in business for between 1 and 40+ years; and had a range of outputs between working on 1 house build project a year to over 500 annually.

The companies were asked if they were responsible for specifying the materials used in the build, and if they were responsible for purchasing the materials. All the architects responded that they would specify the materials but only 4 of the 29 were then involved in purchasing decisions. The builders and timber kit manufacturers were virtually all responsible for both specifying and purchasing the materials; with just one builder not involved in specification decisions.

I. Where timber products are sourced from, and why

Summarised in Figure 1 below. Interesting points:

- Architects are less likely to know where the materials they specify are coming from compared to builders and timber frame manufacturers (which is probably linked to the fact that architects don't generally make purchasing decisions).
- Builders are more likely to use Scottish timber (75% of their responses were timber from the UK, which was mostly from Scotland); whereas timber kit manufacturers were equally split on timber from the UK and sourcing from overseas due to cost, availability or quality).
- None of the timber kit manufacturers use SIPs.
- 5 out of the 6 builders source windows from Scotland; whereas 18 out of 23 architects sourced them from overseas, mostly citing quality as the reason. There was a similar breakdown for doors (a regular challenge for this kind of question is the actual source of the components - it may be sold by a Scottish reseller, but actually manufactured overseas)



- Half the builders and 2 of the timber kit manufacturers state they don't use roofing trusses. Nearly everyone who does use them sources them from Scotland or the rest of the UK.
- Only two companies source wood/cellulose insulation from Scotland; compared to 7 from the rest of the UK and 13 from abroad.
- There is an interesting point to note here when considering "source" - for many of the respondents we believe this is most likely the local vendor rather than manufacturer - as an example, cellulose insulation is not manufactured in Scotland, yet several respondents referenced sourcing it here.
- Cladding, Decking, Flooring, Roofing Trusses, Engineered Beams (presumably JJI-Joists) and Structural Sheet Material (presumably OSB) are the strongest in terms of local supply.

Figure 1 – Survey results – timber sourcing

2. Materials & Components Used

Summarised in Figure 2 below. Interesting points:

- CLT is mostly used by architects; timber frame manufacturers and builders rarely use it, other mass timber systems are significantly lower down the familiarity/use scale.
- Glulam - all the timber kit manufacturers regularly use it; and most of the architects specify it at least occasionally. The builders had a mixed response with how much they used it.
- Relatively low levels of general knowledge about different insulation types.
- Timber cladding (thermally/chemically modified) and roofing shingles - low levels of knowledge about it by timber kit manufacturers; and none of them are used much by builders.
- Conversely, whole/part sawn logs for timber beams are commonly used by builders and timber frame manufacturers; and less well used by architects.

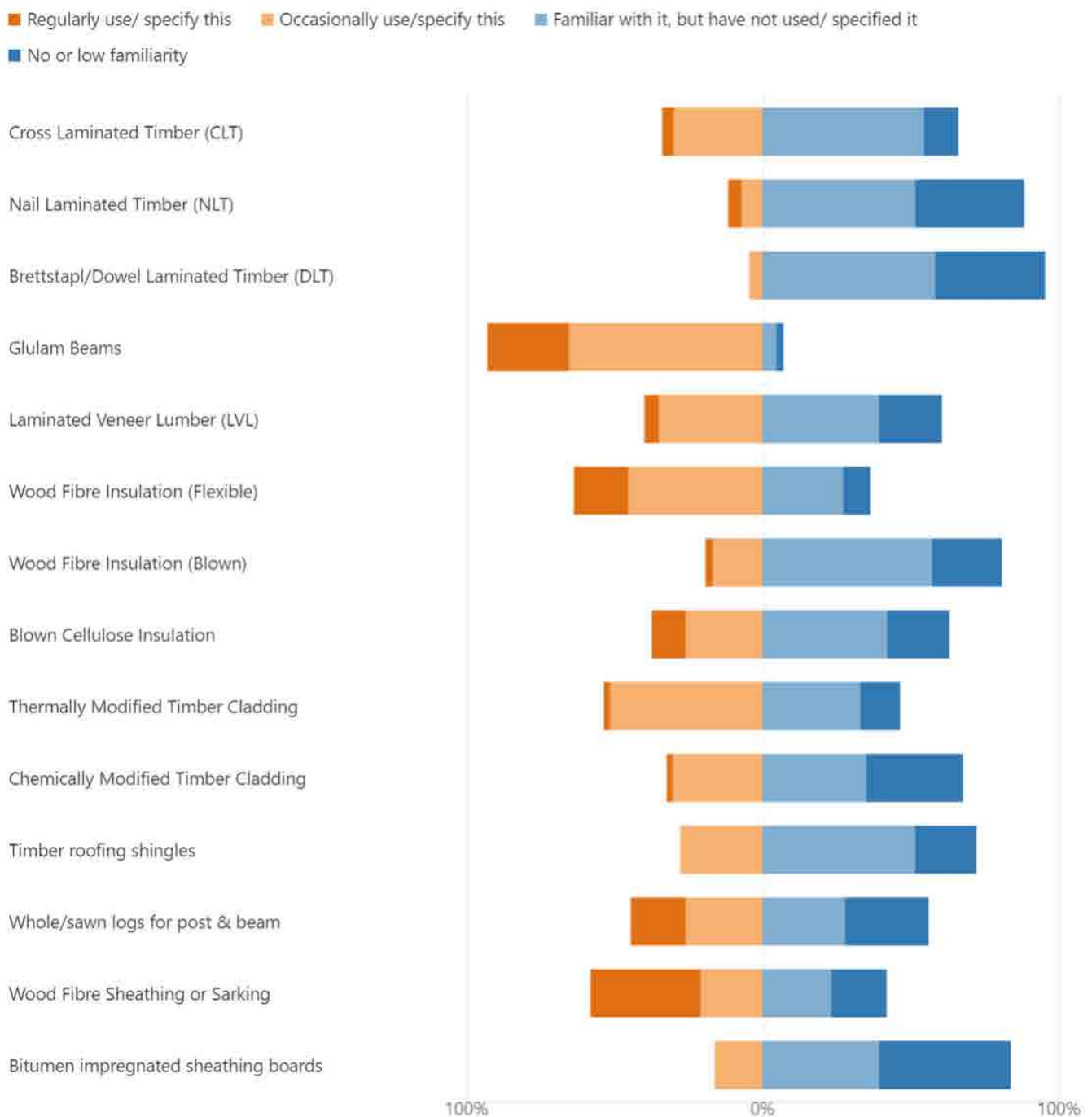


Figure 2 – Survey results – materials and components used.

3. Materials + Components Desired

“Are there any other tree derived products that you don't currently use, but would be interested in if they were available locally, or are there any particular materials that you think should/could be produced from the timber resource here?”

- Eight respondents would like to see Scottish wood fibre insulation, with one noting its relevance to refurbishments as well as new build.
- Eight respondents would like to see CLT available from Scotland.
- Six respondents would like to see local structural timber (C16/24), although there is a general perception that climatic and forestry limitations mean this could be hard to achieve.
- Two respondents mentioned glulam.

Other suggestions were:

- wood grain flooring;
- sawn oak for timber frame, oak and Scottish hardwood cladding;
- high quality doors and windows especially Alu-Clad products;
- larch shingles;
- modified timber materials as an alternative to Larch cladding;
- recycled timber from other uses eg. Whisky casks.

4. Importance of Factors for Construction Professionals

How important are the following factors to you when sourcing a material?

Quality & Sustainability are clearly the top priorities, followed by Cost and Energy Efficiency/Ratings. Locality of Source is moderately important, but falls behind the big four.

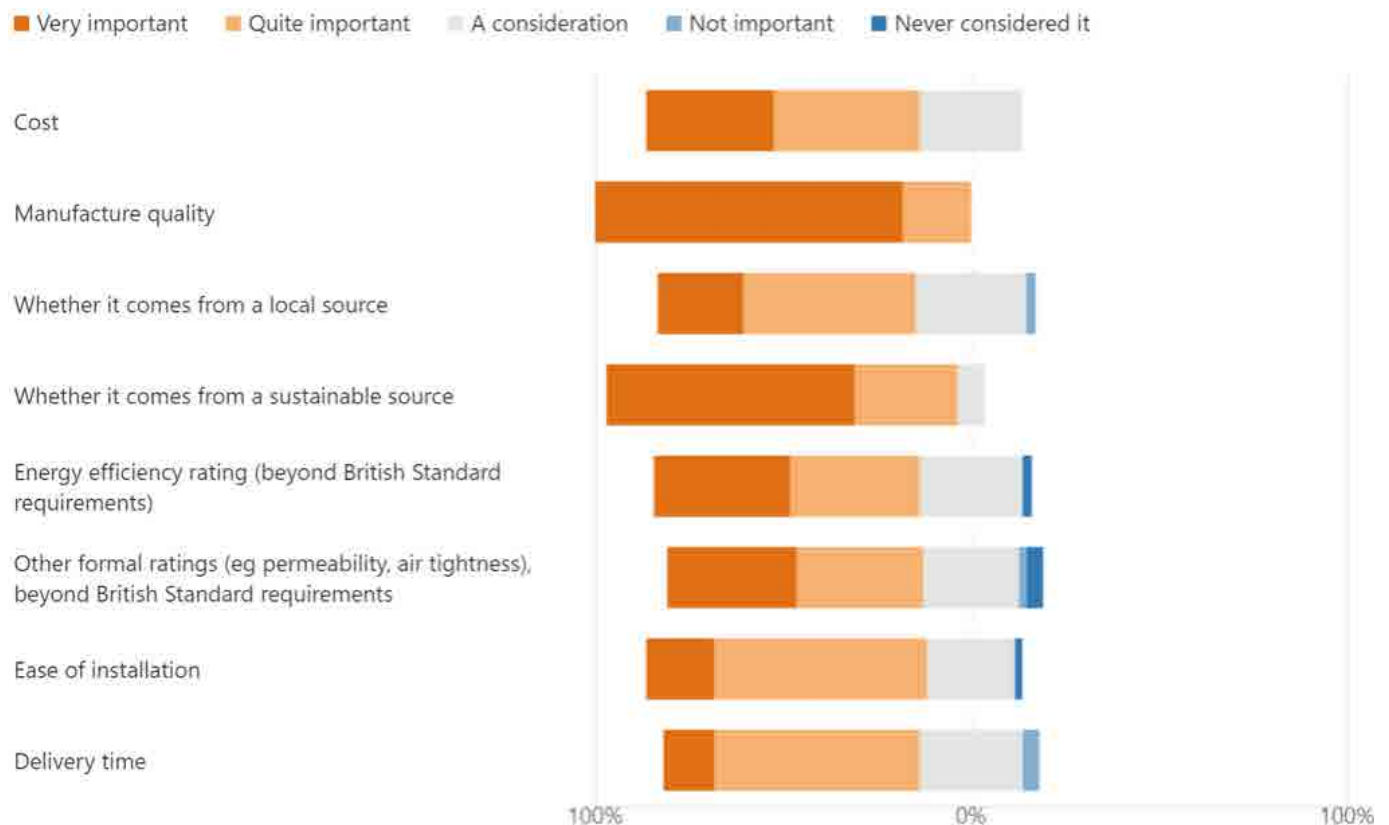


Figure 3 – Survey results – importance of material factors for construction professionals.

5. Importance of Factors for End Customers

How important do you think the following factors are to your customers?

From a client perspective, Cost moves up to top position, followed closely by Quality, then Sustainability and Local Sourcing. This again emphasises that any domestic product needs to compete on its "own two feet" against imported alternatives.

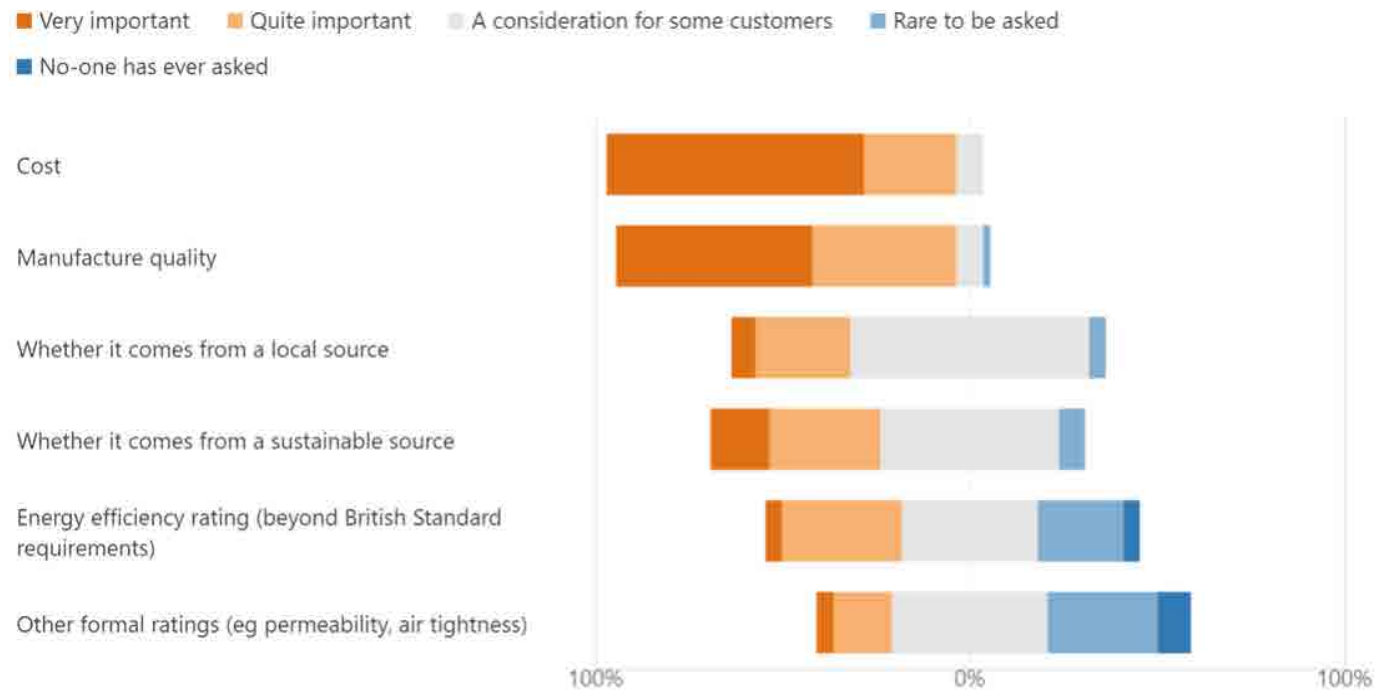


Figure 4 – Survey results – importance of material factors for end customers (perception of construction professionals)

6. Interest in Timber Materials and Components Portal

“Would you be interested in an information resource or portal that showcased niche timber products or materials that were from less commonly used species, and/or produced in smaller quantities?”

- 33 respondents said yes
- 6 said maybe
- 2 said no
- 2 people made the point that the information was already out there; one referencing www.brettstapel.org

7. Other Notes or Comments

Are there any other notes, comments or suggestions that you would like to make on the availability of local timber materials/components?

- We would prefer to use homegrown timber if there was a reliable supply to meet our production demands. We have used homegrown timber in recent years, but there is currently not sufficient volume available to meet our production demands. Homegrown timber is also not currently available at a competitive price (compared to timber supplied from Sweden) - in previous years homegrown has been competitive.
- I had a timber supplier being very cynical why we would buy Scottish timber which bends and twists so much. I would say we have been generally lucky with the timber we have received.
- Collaboration is the key.
- Sustainability, cost and quality all matter
- We have always struggled to get prices and consistent unencumbered supply of woodfibre insulation materials. I have tried sourcing these

only to experience very poor supply of pricing e.g. you can have this at x cost but it needs to be full pallets or lorry loads etc

- As mentioned before Blok Build choose Medite SmartPLY for their OSB cassettes because of the superior quality to the likes of NorBord. Please contact them for more details.

- We have tried to use home grown timber on many occasions but have too often found it not high enough quality.

- Local timber products only likely to be developed in the context of high levels of targeted funding for small and medium sized businesses. And, of course, availability of sufficient local timber other than Sitka spruce and Scots pine. It starts with the trees, the resource. Insufficient funding for timber broadleaves over decades has left us with an insufficient resource.

- We use local small Scottish sawmills very often in the ASHS organisation

- We can generally find one with the availability in the species we use and will cut to bespoke sizes and small quantities. A few of them can do visual stress grading and milling to particular profiles.

- It's good to have these available

- Better supply of timber based products through local Merchant distributors. Please do not make these niche products. Need to get them into the everyday construction market place.

- Stress grading and quality control, Certification, regularly available supply at equal or lower cost than imports

- Need more dissemination of information

- When building timber frame, very few specialist suppliers offer wood fibre insulation - generally foam insulations are all that is available from a mainstream supplier. This may change with the current anti-plastic sentiments.

- Alu/timber composite windows are available locally - but cost cannot compete with Scandi imports

- Most of the timber imported into Shetland comes via the 2 main building merchants on the islands - Build base & Jewsons

- See A&DS Material library which we have contributed to on Scottish Timber construction and www.johnngilbert.co.uk innovation section for our research.

- The architects for the UEA's Enterprise Centre in Norwich were horrified to discover that the locally sourced timber from Thetford Forest was transported by the timber frame contractor to Ireland for processing/ machining, etc. before returning to site. Supply chains for the whole process from growing/ felling to finished product need to be considered.

- We would use CLT a lot more if it was easily available and comparable in cost to a Passivhaus SIPs system when comparing the costs: CLT + insulation + erection. We have tended to find that the CLT cost including erection but excluding insulation and membranes is comparable with the costs of a 150mm SIPs kit delivered with insulation, but excluding erection costs. Once the insulation and membrane supply and fit costs are taken into account the cost of the CLT approach is perhaps 10-15% more, but it is possible to create better, more interesting, architectural designs that don't require complicated steelwork with a CLT system. So despite the (presumably increasing) complexities of importing CLT kits from abroad we do still use it sometimes as it makes better spaces, but the client has to be on board with using the CLT system.

- Clients would like to view products in advance rather than just being sent a sample from anywhere and also gain from suppliers knowledge.

- There is a general lack of promotion of home-grown/produced products available. Suppliers/manufacturers do not tend to lead on localism since public procurement rules generally prevent local bias. Public agencies must take the lead on promoting local products and companies even if it costs more.

- We use CLT from Spain. So many Clients and even builders think that truss manufacturers in Scotland use Scottish timber.

- We would heartily adopt a more local procurement process of high quality timber for structural post and beam use, though the UK (and Scotland) lag behind the continent on quality, availability, sustainability and cost. Radical reform is required in this country with regards land ownership and the planting of quality hardwood and redwood, rather than the tax-incentivised plantations of non-native conifers that have blighted the Scottish landscape. Growth of quality timber for structural use is slow yield, requiring 50-100 years for return on investment. The incentive to do so is unlikely to appeal to private land owners, with a Government led land and policy approach required for radical change. We would lend our support to any such movement.

- We struggle to source quality large section Scottish timber and we are usually offered French Oak as readily available alternative

- Kitchen, doors and high performance windows

8. Survey Outputs

From the above we can see that there is considerable interest in the following as domestically provided, and noting the following actions already underway:

1. Wood Fibre Insulation:

Scottish Forestry have a project underway on this (Julio Bros Williamson/ENU).

2. Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT):

Demonstrator project underway with CSIC;

Mass Timber Alliance has been preparing relevant briefing papers working towards a UK Mass Timber Handbook.

3. C24 Graded Structural Timber:

Grading work by SIRT/Dan Ridley-Ellis on modified grades to maximise use of UK home grown timber (eg Cl6+)

4. Glulam:

Unaware of any live initiatives for Scottish produced Glulam, even at bespoke/small scale

5. Flooring:

Unaware of any live initiatives, however several smaller mills are providing domestic timber flooring.

6. Sawn oak for timber frame, oak:

This is on-going with smaller sawmillers.

7. Scottish hardwood cladding:

Vastern Timber in England have done some interesting work developing thermal modification of English Hardwoods for cladding.

8. High quality doors and windows especially Alu-Clad products:

This is a regular requirement, on the (perceived?) fundamental leap in quality that is available from overseas - needs investigation as to why there is such a difference. Likely more than just the raw materials - technology/investment.

9. Larch shingles:

Shingles as cladding don't seem to be particularly commonly available in Scotland, although they can be provided by smaller sawmillers, and are promoted by ASHS.

10. Modified cladding materials as an alternative to Larch cladding:

As mentioned in point 7 above, various modification/treatments of cladding provides increased durability and dimensional stability compared to raw material, thus extending the range of materials that can be used as exterior cladding.

11. Recycled timber:

An area often overlooked by the forest sector, is a potentially untapped resource in the recovered/recycled timber. There is precedent for this on various scales, often with a community/social enterprise angle, and this is worth further exploration given recent material availability and price challenges.

Although the sample size here is fairly small, and the information is therefore as much anecdotal as statistically representative, it does provide a useful insight into the mindset and priorities of those who will specify, purchase and install timber in a domestic construction context. From the work above we can see that while locality of supply is a factor, it is generally behind price, quality and performance. As we move into an economy shaped by Brexit, Covid and the climate emergency, the cost availability of imported materials and components are increasing, so the challenge for domestic supply is delivering competitive performance/quality, and making sure that the customers are fully aware of their local options.



Written by,
Peter MacDonald
4c Engineering, Inverness



WOOD-MIZER SAWMILLING SYSTEMS ADD PRODUCTIVITY AND SAVE OPERATION COSTS

Wood-Mizer Sawmilling Systems combine several sawmilling machines in one system to produce timber in a more controlled and efficient way. These systems are designed and customized for each customer and their specific requirements. They may range from the LT70 sawmill remote line to SLP1/SLP2 Smart Log Processing to the advanced TITAN Log Processing Sawmilling System. Wood-Mizer has an experienced and dedicated team of engineers to develop various sawmilling systems that produce more timber and less waste, reduce installation, operation, and maintenance costs, and lowering labor requirements.

Watch the online presentation of a sawmilling system featuring the LT70 HEAVY DUTY sawmill with a Remote Control station, the EG300 Multitrip Board Edger, and the associated material handling equipment, including a log loading ramp, a sorting table, and a driven chain conveyor. The host of the presentation is Adam Kubiak, Wood-Mizer Industrial Sales Manager, one of the top engineers with Wood-Mizer.

<https://youtu.be/hnFw5GK4oIU>

The Wood-Mizer LT70 HEAVY-DUTY Sawmilling System

The LT70 HEAVY-DUTY sawmill joins the best features of two well-known Wood-Mizer machines - the LT70 sawing head and the industrial WM4000 sawmill bed. By combining these components in one robust unit, Wood-Mizer developed an efficient and fast sawmill while retaining low-cost maintenance and ease of operation.

"Wood-Mizer customers can choose between two types of sawing heads - the standard head with a cutting capacity max. of 95 cm log diameter and the wide head with a cutting capacity max. of 105 cm log diameter," explains Adam Kubiak.

The sawing head is powered by the standard electric motor 18,5 kW (25 HP) or optionally by 22 kW (30 HP).

The distance between the blade guide rollers is 73 cm on the standard head and 86 cm on the wide, which means that the maximum cant width can reach 64 cm and 78 cm, respectively. Two 24-inch (over 600 mm) belted blade wheels use 38 mm wide and 477 cm long sawmill blades. There are two blade guides, the left one is moveable (and paired with the LubeMizer cleaning unit), and the right one is fixed. "The standard blade guide has a roller which deflects the blade about 6 mm, and two guiding blocks support it. This solution provides much precision during the cutting," says Adam Kubiak.



"The recommended blade tension parameters are informed on the sticker, next to the manual hydraulic pump. Sometimes sawmillers add too much tension to the blade when they can't get a straight cut. We don't recommend it, as it affects the blade life, head performance, bearings, etc. Instead, the operator should check if the blade is sharpened and set correctly, or if the blade guide and blade wheels are well adjusted," reminds Adam.

A Clear View from the Remote Control Station

The LT70 HEAVY-DUTY sawmill has a remote control station located conveniently at the beginning of the line, allowing the operator a clear view of the sawing process. "On the left side of the log, the operator sees the log clamp and log turner, and on the right, he sees the vertical side supports. The control station sets up in a convenient place near the sawmill. For better visibility, we recommend installing the control panel on an elevation," instructs Adam Kubiak.

The operator panel features the following control functions:

1. A power feed drum switch
2. A potentiometer for adjusting sawing speed
3. A drum switch for sawhead up/down
4. Two buttons for starting and controlling the debarker
5. A switch for adjusting the blade guide arm
6. SW10 Networks for automatic board thickness adjustments.

Customers can select one of three types of electronic control units - an SW10 Networks, Accuset, or a PLC control module.

The sawing head connects with the operator station by electric cables in a flexible cat track or curtain. "When you have some extra space in the workshop, it's a good idea to have the electric cables installed on a curtain with steel posts because in this case, the cables remain clean from the sawdust. If you decide on a cat track, you have to take some effort to clean up the cables after each work shift," explains Adam.





The HEAVY-DUTY bed

The bed from the WM4000 sawmill transforms the standard LT70 sawmill into an industrial machine. "The steel tube itself is the same across all Wood-Mizer sawmill models - from the LT20 up to the WM4000, but the difference is in bed cross-section design," explains Adam. "Here, the bottom part of the section is very solid with thick steel plates. These sections are adjustable. They are roof-top shaped, additionally stiffened, and three bolts support every bed section. These bolts are not only for strengthening but also for aligning the bed. The construction was designed for very tough industrial operations, and it's almost impossible to damage it physically," assures Adam Kubiak.



The industrial bed features a set of hydraulic equipment for easier handling of large and heavy logs. There are two standard hydraulic packages - the AHSH2 and the AHSH4. The simpler one, AHSH2, consists of 3 vertical side supports, each built on a double rod made from high-carbon steel with chromium coating and the main clamp on a double rod. There is also a log turner and two power rollers supported by two hydraulic cylinders for controlling and positioning the log on the bed.

"In the AHSH4 hydraulic pack, the customer also gets a set of pull-down clamps that are useful when you cut long logs. After releasing the stress accumulated in the wood, the cants might be deformed. With these clamps, you can hold the material flat on the bed and cut the material straight," explains Adam.



The LT70 HEAVY-DUTY has a board removal system with special fingers and chains for removing the ready boards automatically from the sawmill and a short conveyor belt for transferring the ready timber to the next equipment such as the sorting table in this example

The Material Handling and Timber Processing Equipment

The LT70 HEAVY-DUTY sawmilling system includes several accessory machines for log processing automation:

- a log loading deck
- a sorting table
- a chain conveyor
- EG300 Multirip Board Edger.



The loading deck is available in two lengths - 3,6 m and 6 m, and in two widths - 1,55 m and 3,8 m. "The deck may be equipped with 2 or 3 transportation chains to feed irregularly shaped logs or short material," informs Adam Kubiak.

The sorting table consists of 3-meter-long modules with an option to extend it up to 9 m. Each module features heavy-duty power rollers to transport the material forward and cross-chains for directing the material to the left or right side. This configuration has a gravity slide on the right side and a chain conveyor forwarding material from the sawmill to the edger on the left side. It's 2,4 m long with three chains, but Wood-Mizer can redesign it according to customer needs.

At the end of the line, there's the EG300 board edger. This machine is available with two types of electric motor - 15 kW (20 HP) and 18 kW (25 HP). It can process boards up to 60 mm of thickness. The edger has two circular blades; the first one works in a fixed position, and the second one is moveable and equipped with a laser sight for better visual control of the edging process. It is possible to add up to 5 blades on the shaft and operate a multirip machine.

Customized Sawmilling Line Configurations

The process begins with log loading to the sawmill bed using the log deck. Once the log is on the bed, the operator uses the hydraulic log turner and power rollers to position it optimally for the initial cut. Then the operator activates the blade and the debarker. After making the initial cut, the slab is moved backward by the board removal fingers and chains to the short conveyor belt. It automatically passes the slab to the sorting table, and from there, it's directed to the right side, to the gravity slides. The process repeats for the next cut, but the unedged slab goes to the left side, to the EG300 board edger. The operator can

easily make edged boards with definite width, as the EG300 has the laser sight. Customers can further upgrade the sawmilling lines by adding more units, for example, adding a chain conveyor transporting the slabs from the sorting table to the right to the MR200 Double Arbor Multirip for further productivity increase.

Wood-Mizer Sawmilling Systems allow for the gradual expansion of the production line, improving its performance and raising it to a high industrial level.

If you would like to learn more about the best sawmilling system for your application, please contact the local Wood-Mizer Sawmilling Specialist at <https://woodmizer.co.uk>



LT70 HEAVY DUTY SAWMILLING LINE WITH EG300



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