

Brighter future

for Woodlands from New Timber Technology

The application of a new technology could lead to the creation of a new industry in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire and the revitalisation of woodlands and forestry across the region.



The Greenwood Community Forest, supported by the East Midlands Development Agency and the Forestry Commission, recently commissioned a feasibility study by the Building Research Establishment into the viability and sustainability of an enterprise using local timber, based on a technology called 'Green Gluing'.

Green Gluing takes lower grade hard and soft woods, such as are normally rejected in timber production, and converts them into usable timber lengths. Most importantly, whilst wood usually has to be dried or seasoned, this process allows it to be glued when it is still wet, or 'green'. High class joinery from oak and sweet chestnut,

character flooring from oak and ash, internal mouldings from oak, ash, sweet chestnut and birch, agricultural joinery from oak, and work & table tops from ash, sycamore and birch, are just a few of the products that could eventually be made from local timber.

The study, the first of its kind in the UK, has been investigating the supply of timber and its types in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, looking at issues such as accessibility, quality, extraction costs, current and potential woodland use, and plant and labour requirements.

The study indicates that the timber resource and circumstances in the study area would support Green Gluing enterprises being set up. Dean Skrabania, Greenwood Community Forest Project Manager, said "With the study demonstrating the potential for a viable business, this is great news for woodland owners and forestry ... If Green Gluing can add value to what is either a wasted resource, or ends up as firewood or chipboard, then it will encourage growers to plant and manage neglected woodlands - as well as safeguarding and creating new jobs in forestry, and in a new Green Gluing enterprise".

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