



# Building the **Future**

## Supplying premium timber built on trust

Building the future means that within our organisation, we are empowered – and tasked – with shaping a timber supply chain that will meet the demands of the future. We will use this document to demonstrate the value of trading with National Timber Group and how we have earned our place as the nation’s leading timber supplier.

This overview intends to provide a concise summary of the scale of our operation, current timber legislation, supply chain, the benefits of partnering with National Timber Group, our memberships, sustainability goals and finally our vision for the future.

## Why use timber?

Timber is a natural renewable resource that can be replanted and managed sustainably. Trees absorb and store carbon dioxide, making timber a low-carbon alternative to plastic, glass, steel, and concrete. Using more timber in construction projects lowers a building’s embodied carbon while reducing construction times and transport costs. Timber products can be reused and recycled multiple times before being used for energy recovery, contributing to a circular economy.

Choosing certified timber promotes responsible forest management practices including reforestation and biodiversity conservation, while reducing the risk of unfair wages and poor working conditions in the supply chain and protecting local community rights.

National Timber Group sources both home-grown UK timber and imported timber from reputable suppliers selected for their environmental and sustainability credentials. By using timber from well-managed forests, our customers help reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and support healthy ecosystems.

## What is the scale of National Timber Group?

National Timber Group employs 1,300 staff trading out of 47 branches across England and Scotland. Our brands include: -

- Arnold Laver
- SV Timber
- National Timber Systems
- Thornbridge Timber
- Rembrand Timber
- Orchard Timber
- Scotia
- Glow insulation

## Where does our timber come from?

National Timber Group is a true global sourcing business with source material and finished products being imported from Europe, North America, South America, Africa, and East Asia.

NTG has approximately 1,500 timber suppliers of which 10% are UK based. We are a leading timber specialist in the UK and founding members of the Timber Trade Federation, now Timber Development UK (TDUK). We have fully adopted TDUK’s Responsible Purchasing Policy to ensure that the integrity of our supply chain is always protected.

## Timber legislation and business

Our regulatory landscape has grown increasingly intricate. In addition to responsible sourcing, product safety and performance are now critical elements of modern trade. The UK is no longer part of the European Union. Members who once enjoyed the free movement of timber between the EU and the UK now face stricter checks, and UK businesses bear increased responsibilities under UK Timber Regulations (UKTR).

We work closely with our suppliers and risk analyse where our direct imports originate. International self-declarations alone are not sufficient, and we have the responsibility to: -

1. Identify where our timber is sourced by country
2. Confirm that source regions/forests are subject to the risk level of the country of origin
3. Confirm timber harvesting geo-coordinates with the EUDR, a European regulation designed to combat deforestation and forest degradation
4. Confirm specifications and timber treatments are correct and labelled correctly for UK building regulations.

As well as UK Timber Regulations, National Timber Group also supports: -

### Construction Product Regulations (CPR):

Which is the framework governing compliance and standards for construction products, emphasising safety and performance attributes.

### The Climate Change Act:

This legally binds the UK government to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to net zero, equivalent to at least a 100% reduction from 1990 levels, by 2050.

## Why choose National Timber Group?

The UK continues to be a world leading importer of timber. National Timber Group is a leading distributor in the UK and continues to support national housebuilders and supply chains. This activity involves working with architects and specifiers, tier 1 & 2 contractors, as well as supporting major utility and infrastructure projects.

We take a solution-based approach to build projects and continually look at ways in which we can add value to our customers. Approximately 30% of our timber products are either specially manufactured or machined to provide a bespoke product solution for our customers.

We strive to make sure that our timber products meet modern performance standards, comply with regulatory requirements, and align with our customer expectations.

## Why TRUST National Timber Group?

National Timber Group sources timber products correctly and we are operationally transparent about our timber product declarations. National Timber Group vigorously checks all timber declarations and specifications, both in paperwork and in origins, so that our end user/contractors can have peace of mind and certification that the timber we supply: -

- ✓ Has been thoroughly vetted in origin for our carbon footprint
- ✓ Has true and accurate product declarations
- ✓ Has true and accurate product specifications (e.g. fire-retardant treatments)
- ✓ Has a product classification that meets UK building and compliance regulations
- ✓ Has been certified correctly, and our customers have access to technical specifications on request.

National Timber Group is regulated by audit compliance from the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS). The OPSS is part of the UK Government's Department for Business and Trade, responsible for the safety of consumer products and the regulation of measured standards.

National Timber Group is regulated with the United Kingdom Timber Regulation (UKTR) and the Department for Environmental Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). DEFRA is responsible for environmental protection, food production and standards, agriculture, fisheries, and rural communities for the entire United Kingdom.

National Timber Group continues to adhere to all audit compliance measures passed through both the OPSS, and Customs and Excise, supporting the enforcement of DEFRA's legislation.

**A good example of their legislation is the current stance on Russian timber**, whereby the UK timber industry is prohibited to purchase products such as Siberian Larch due to current UK sanctions on Russian timber origins.

National Timber Group holds International Organization for Standardization (ISO) certifications at each of our major distribution depots. The ISO certifications relate to: -

- The requirements for a quality management system (QMS). ISO9001
- Designing and implementing an environmental management system (EMS). ISO14001
- Occupational health and safety management systems at work. ISO45001

**Meeting regulatory requirements and customer expectations can be complex without support. National Timber Group is a member of the Forest Stewardship Council, Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification, Timber Development UK, British Woodworking Federation, and a partner with the Supply Chain Sustainability School.**

## 1. We are members of the FSC®

**The Forest Stewardship Council®** is an international, non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting responsible management of the world's tropical forests. The FSC certification programme covers over 160 million hectares of the world's forests. The internationally recognised certification system allows consumers and businesses to support wood, paper and forestry products that are manufactured whilst supporting responsible forestry.



NTG England's certification covers all businesses located in England, NTG Scotland's certification covers all businesses located in Scotland.

*A list of all our FSC certified products is available on request.*

## 2. We are members of the PEFC

**The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)** is an international non-profit organisation, operating independently to advocate for sustainable forest management through rigorous third-party certification.



Engaging across the forest supply chain, PEFC upholds excellence in forest practices, ensuring that both timber and non-timber forest products adhere to the most stringent ecological, social, and ethical benchmarks. PEFC stands as a universally recognised brand, with its iconic 'green trees' logo, allowing customers and consumers worldwide to easily discern products sourced from sustainably managed forests.

The PEFC is more prevalent in the northern hemisphere setting international guidelines and, as PEFC members, we align our values with theirs.

## 3. We abide by TDUK's Responsible Purchasing Policy (RPP)

The primary focus of RPP is guaranteeing that all timber in the UK is sourced legally, as well as ensuring all timber products are fit for purpose and precisely described. It also ensures businesses can quantify and act on their carbon emissions.

Timber Development UK (TDUK) is the UK's largest timber supply chain body. TDUK connects and supports businesses to, quite simply, help to build a better world with timber products. Their objectives include connecting the supply chain, leading best practice, and accelerating a low-carbon future.



The wealth of knowledge and experience National Timber Group has collectively is widely respected and our affiliation with TDUK strengthens our position to help shape and focus our activities in a dynamic and sustainable way. We will use their new digital system to assist us in reducing risks in our supply chain.

#### 4. We are members of the BWF

The **British Woodworking Federation (BWF)** is the UK's trade association for the woodworking and joinery manufacturing industry, with the ability to influence policy, standards, and regulations.

National Timber Group continues to be a member of the BWF and the BWF Fire Door Alliance trade associations, with active members of the group sitting on the Fire Door Alliance Committee. We continue supporting the growth of this sector, helping to develop future talent and focusing on sustainable construction products.

The BWF has had effective initiatives spanning windows, staircases, doors, and fire doors, advocating timber's advantages while aligning with the Construction Leadership Council's initiative and transformation agenda (Construct Zero) aimed at achieving net-zero carbon emissions.



#### 5. We are affiliated with Supply Chain Sustainability School

National Timber Group is a Partner and Gold member of the Supply Chain Sustainability School, a learning platform based on sustainability. The fundamental aim is to upskill those working within, or aspiring to work within, the built environment sector.

Supply Chain Sustainability School covers three core pillars of sustainability - environmental, social, and economic - with the ethos of making industries more sustainable.

There is training available on key topics including: -

- ✓ Energy and Carbon
- ✓ Operational Excellence through lean thinking
- ✓ Procurement



#### Our sustainability goals

At National Timber Group sustainability lies at the heart of our operations and environmental commitment. We will continue to protect our forests and woodlands to ensure their health and longevity for future generations.

Our primary objective is to reduce our impact on biodiversity and ecosystem health through sustainable forestry practices. We promote responsible sourcing by ensuring our timber comes from sustainably managed forests, certified by credible standards such as FSC or PEFC.

We are committed to continuously monitoring our on-site activities to minimise environmental impact. Our efforts focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, minimising operational waste, and championing circular economy principles throughout our supply chain. By prioritising sustainability, NTG provides our customers with high-quality timber products that align with their values while reducing environmental and social impacts.

As a company dedicated to reducing our impact on the environment, we have implemented initiatives aiming to prevent waste and decrease our greenhouse gas emissions such as our:

- 100% hybrid/electric employee car scheme for company vehicles
- GoGreen Sustainable Waste Management
- Goal of 0% to Landfill
- FutureTrack carbon management and emission monitoring

National Timber Group will continue to strive towards a sustainable future and limit our negative effects on the environment.



#### Timber truths: deforestation and the black market

At National Timber Group, we are committed to sustainability and transparency throughout our supply chain.

One critical issue facing the timber industry globally is deforestation and the prevalence of the black market. Deforestation, driven by illegal logging and unsustainable land-use practices, poses significant threats to local communities, our planet's biodiversity and contributes to climate change. NTG recognises the importance of combating deforestation by promoting responsible forestry management and supporting initiatives that protect our forests.

We remain vigilant against the black market in timber, which not only undermines legal and ethical business practices but also fuels environmental degradation and social injustices. Our commitment to our customers includes ensuring that our timber products are ethically sourced and legally compliant, helping to combat deforestation and support sustainable forest management practices worldwide.

## Our vision for the future

At National Timber Group our vision for the future is firmly rooted in sustainability and responsible stewardship of our natural resources. We are dedicated to advancing our commitment to environmental conservation and social responsibility.

Our goals include:

- Improving timber sourcing by partnering with certified suppliers who adhere to stringent environmental and social standards.
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions across our value chain through innovative practices and investments in renewable energy.
- Promoting a circular economy and reducing operational waste by working with our supply chain and developing end-of-life initiatives.

Additionally, we are focused on enhancing transparency and traceability across our supply chain to ensure that our customers can trust the origins of our timber products. By prioritising sustainability, we aim to make a positive impact on the environment while delivering high-quality timber products that meet the needs of our customers today and for generations to come.

National Timber Group will continue to ensure that the information we produce abides by the Code for Construction Product Information (CCPI), designed to elevate standards and promote clarity, accuracy, and accessibility in product information across the industry.

National Timber Group will continue to support the Anti-Greenwash Charter. This outlines the criteria we uphold across our organisation to ensure that any environmental claims made about timber products and services are legitimate and supported by evidence.

## References

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