

# Whitney sawmills

Small diameter log production and its  
markets

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Manager  
Whitney Sawmills



- 50 acre whitney site bought in 1989 by Willie Bullough
- Regional and national decline in sawmills
- Having been involved in furniture making and joinery Willie Bullough starts a sawmilling operation





**WHITNEY  
SAWMILLS**

- Low start up costs
- Taking advantage of available timber
- Recognising and understanding the markets that are available to you



UNIQUE WORKS British Handmade Furniture by Uniqueworks








WOODLAND  
HERITAGE



from  
woodland  
to  
workshop



WHITNEY  
SAWMILLS








**WOODLAND  
HERITAGE**  
for the future of British woods

- Registered charity established 27 years ago by two cabinet makers 'keen to put something back'
- Adage: grow trees, use wood
- Patron: HRH The Prince of Wales since 2005
- A membership organisation with members across the entire timber supply chain – growers and users – appeals to both businesses and the general public
- Raised over £2.5m towards research into Acute Oak Decline (AOD), much carried out at Welsh universities



- Horizontal forrester saw mainly cutting beams and cladding to order







## BEAMING GRADE OAK

- GIB Grown in Britain Certification



## PLANKING GRADE OAK

- Butts selected from beaming parcels waiting to be planked during winter months







## DOUGLAS FIR

- Nice uniform straight logs



## Transport

- Full load of 24 tonnes of logs being delivered into the sawmill





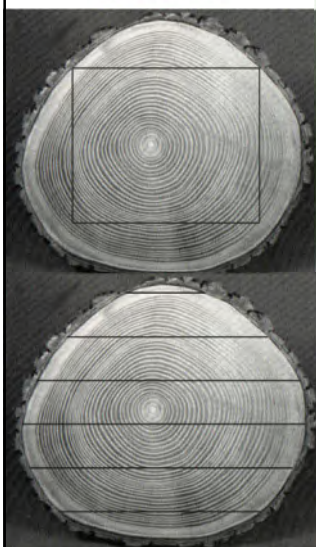
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- For smaller batches of logs a mobile sawmill can be much more cost effective
- Reduces the transport costs



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## BEAMING FROM SMALL DIAMETER LOGS



- Box beams the most stable and best yield
- Through and through sawn log





## COST AND MARKET VALUE

	AVERAGE COST OF LOGS/M3	EXPECTED STOCK VALUE /M3	SALES VALUE/M3	AVERAGE MARK UP	
BEAMING OAK	€ 260.00 - € 320.00	€ 780.00 - € 960.00	€ 1,281.00 - € 1,475.00	64% - 54%	THESE FIGURES ARE BASED ON 33% YIELD BUT CAN DROP TO 25% YIELD FOR SOME OAK PRODUCTS BETTER YIELD WITH DOUGLAS 40-50%
BEAMING DOUGLAS FIR	€ 107.00 - € 137.00	€ 260.00 - € 340.00	€ 602.00 - € 680.00	132% - 100%	
CHARACTER GRADE OAK PLANKING	€ 320.00 - € 365.00	€ 533.31 - € 608.31	€ 1,165.00 - € 1,281.00	118% - 111%	ALL FIGURES FOR PLANKING ARE BASED ON 60% YIELD AND FOR PLANKING FROM 27MM -54MM
PLANKING OAK	€ 365.00 - € 550.00	€ 608.31 - € 916.63	€ 1,440.00 - € 1,870.00	137% - 104%	
PLANKING DOUGLAS FIR	€ 137.00 - € 183.00	€ 228.32 - € 304.99	€ 780.00 - € 890.00	242% - 192%	
ASH	€ 122.00 - € 180.00	€ 203.33 - € 299.99	€ 815.00 - € 1,165.00	301% - 288%	
SYCAMORE	€ 122.00 - € 360.00	€ 203.33 - € 599.98	€ 815.00 - € 1,165.00	301% - 94%	
FIDDLE SYCAMORE	€ 370.00 - € 915.00	€ 616.64 - € 1,524.94	€ 1,750.00 - € 3,000.00	184% - 97%	

The Minimum dia we tend to saw to is 300. Its possible to saw smaller than this but in timbers with sapwood like oak it becomes less viable.



## Oak

- Majority of demand for timber at Whitney Sawmills is for oak
- 80% of our seasoned timber sales is for oak with the other 20% shared between ash, elm , sycamore , cherry and douglas fir
- Oak can be difficult to dry
- Young oak is often very sappy
- Suitable for flooring , as well as door and architraves

## Ash

- Ash felled in winter
- Needs to be converted same year otherwise timber discolours
- Prone to stick mark and worm so stock needs to be sold as soon as possible
- There is no difference between the sapwood and heartwood in ash. The crown boards produce beautiful flowery grain patterns and the centre or quarter cut boards produce very straight grain which has the best bending capabilities of any home grown hardwoods
- Can be thermally modified for external use



Unique projects:  
Whitney provided  
the timber for  
local furniture  
maker Andy Dix's  
range of wooden  
bicycles







## Sycamore

- Stable and easily dried
- No discernable sap wood
- Widely used in kitchens
- Perfect for painted furniture
- Rippled sycamore is much prized for musical
- Can also be thermally modified



## Alder

- Stable and easily dried
- No sapwood
- Good imitation to mahogany
- Perfect for sauna manufacturers



## Douglas Fir

- Strongest home grown softwood
- Good constructional material and good cheap alternative to oak
- easily dried
- Very decorative
- Becoming more in vogue
- Larger trees more suitable to planking

**THE END**